

# THE PHANTOM

Summer 2021



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## Chair Report: Libby Fletcher

Hello everyone,

Despite Rotorua being in the red traffic light setting in the COVID-19 Protection Framework, it is great that we can now welcome friends and family for Christmas. Hopefully it will be relatively normal, especially as we see what is happening with Omicron around the world.

### Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme

By now you should have received the joint letter from Rotorua Lakes Council( RLC) and TRILITY, detailing the work required on your property during the design phase of the Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme.

I have been advised that TRILITY has had sufficient responses to allow them to start visits. These visits will be to undertake assessments at Tarawera. If you wish to make an appointment for

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a property inspection or discuss things further, you may email the TRILITY team at [TaraweraSSinfo@trility.co.nz](mailto:TaraweraSSinfo@trility.co.nz)

TRILITY plan to be available between Christmas and New Year: 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> December and they will also be available from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 onward. These visits will continue until early March 2022.

We recommend you contact TRILITY. With better access to our properties, the more robust the design and binding works costs can be, to fully inform ratepayers by early 2022.

If your property is rented, please would you inform the tenants of the proposed visits and surveys.

Stavros Michael will be giving an update on the Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme at the LTRA AGM on Sunday, 09 January 2022. #

## Spring Fair

Sadly, the Spring Fair had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19 but the small Spring Fair Committee hope to be back bigger and better next Labour Weekend. There was a great deal of disappointment that it was not held, both with Tarawera property owners and the wider Rotorua community, as it is an event that everyone very much looks forward to.

## Trout Smoke-off

Like the Spring Fair, unfortunately we have had to cancel the Smoke Trout-Off due to being in the red traffic light setting. Hopefully we will be able to host this again next year.

## AGM

Anyone who wishes to nominate a person for the position of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, or committee member must have filled out a nomination form and had it signed. **It must be forwarded to the secretary at [ltra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ltra@xtra.co.nz) not less than four days prior to the AGM.**

On page 6 in the newsletter is a nomination form and a proxy form for the AGM plus an Agenda for the meeting. The AGM will be on Sunday, 09 January 2022. This year the meeting will be held outdoors, and **we require everyone to show their My Vaccine Pass before entering.**

## Tarawera Landing Redevelopment

A grant of \$293,000 was awarded to RLC by the Government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund in 2019. A portion of that funding was used to upgrade the public toilets at the end of 2020 and the remainder will be used for the wider redevelopment along with investment from RLC.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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All going well the redevelopment will take approximately four months beginning on 10 January. All works are weather dependent and on any Government restrictions due to COVID-19.

Why is the work beginning so early in the year? RLC acknowledges that the work will be disruptive during the busy holiday period, however, due to resource consent conditions, work in or around the lake is only permitted between 01 January and 01 May each year. This is due to the dab chick breeding and then trout spawning seasons.

The plan for redevelopment aims to address issues such as parking, safety, access, and awareness of the significance of the area to mana whenua and the Rotorua district. The plan aims to address these issues while maintaining the natural character of the areas and enhancing the environment.

What are the known issues?

- \* Damaged or aging infrastructure
- \* Limited parking layout
- \* Safety of pedestrians in parking areas
- \* Safety of swimmers near boats as they enter and exit the water
- \* A lack of general awareness, acknowledgement or understanding of the cultural and historical significance of the reserve
- \* Access and protection of the wāhi tapu rock site (adjacent to the reserve) needs to be maintained and enhanced

***Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.***

***Libby***



## A Word From the Editor: Fiona McAllister



Hopefully many of you (understandably frustrated) Aucklanders will be joining the rest of us at Lake Tarawera for a long overdue celebratory break over the summer period. It certainly feels like a long time between drinks! Unfortunately COVID-19 has seen the cancellation this year of the Spring Fair, the Christmas Carols, The Great Tarawera Trout Smoke-off and the Pine Pulling. Roll on 2022.

The Ratmeister and I spent a few weeks travelling over 4000 kilometres around the South Island in November and had a great time. I hadn't visited many of the places for almost 40 years so a lot of it felt very fresh and of course parts were virtually deserted due to COVID-19 restrictions. We were astounded by the lack of road kill on the West Coast—although perhaps that too was symptomatic of the lack of human traffic. Weeds however, were much more evident—the usual suspects of course—flowering cherry, old man's beard, broom, gorse jasmine and lupins galore. Pretty but pesky. On that note, please take the time to read Rachel Howell's piece "The Silent Invasion" on page 13. There are two parts to a problem—the problem and recognising you have a problem. As you will see we can all play a part in helping resolve a big problem right here—literally in our own backyards.

### AED's

In addition to the AED defibrillator located at the Fire Unit at Stoney Point, we now have another available at 11 Rangioru Bay Road located on the wall of the front deck (and monitored by CCTV). See page 16. This is the farthest house on the right at Rangioru Bay as you look at the lake.

This AED is on private property so please be respectful of the owners' privacy and do not enter the property to access the unit—except in an emergency.

**If someone's heart stops immediate CPR is the best thing you can do for them — if possible get someone else to go and grab the nearest AED while CPR is being given, and call 111.**

<https://www.stjohn.org.nz/first-aid/about-aeds/>

### New Year's Eve

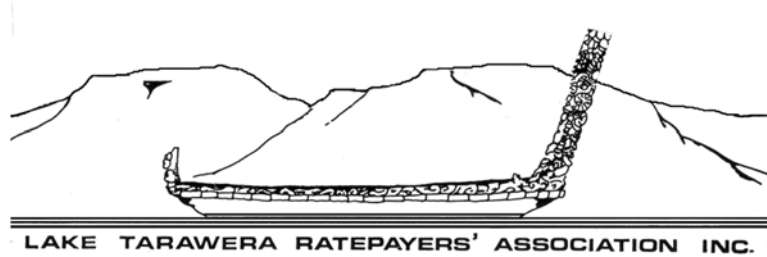
Friday, December 31st is New Year's Eve and no doubt many of you will be looking forward to PJ's spectacular fireworks display in Tarapatiki Bay.

A lot of time and money goes into this event, so to keep everyone safe and to ensure this event can continue PLEASE ensure you, your children, guests, tenants and animals observe the boundary tape and keep outside the area cordoned off.



If you'd like to advertise or share a story in the next Phantom, email me at: [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

**Best wishes to you all for a great Christmas and happy New Year—Fiona**



LAKE TARAWERA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association,  
being held on:

**Sunday, 09 January 2022, commencing at 10.00 am**

**At the Lake Tarawera Community Hall, corner Spencer, and Alexander Roads**

As we have a number of residents who are immune-compromised, the LTRA Committee are taking a cautious approach. In the orange traffic light setting in the COVID-19 Protection Framework, the meeting will be held outdoors, and we require everyone to show their My Vaccine Pass before entering and to scan the COVID-19 QR code at the Community Centre or to sign in manually.

**AGENDA**

- ◇ Welcome and apologies
- ◇ Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> AGM held on Sunday, 17 January 2021
- ◇ Matters Arising
- ◇ Chairman's Report
- ◇ Financial Report
- ◇ Election 2021 Committee
- ◇ Update on Sewerage from Stavros Michael, Rotorua Lakes Council
- ◇ General Business
- ◇ Other Business: Any other matter raised at the AGM will be recorded and referred to the incoming committee to action
- ◇ Guest Speakers



## LTRA PROXY VOTE AGM 2022

I (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Of (Tarawera address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Being a financial member of the LTRA Inc. hereby appoint:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

To be my proxy at the AGM of the above association to be held on Sunday, 09 January 2021

Signature of person requesting proxy: \_\_\_\_\_

## LTRA COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM 2022

I (name of nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_

Of (Tarawera address of nominator) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Being a financial member of the LTRA Inc. hereby nominate (name):

\_\_\_\_\_

For the position of: Committee Member/Chair/Secretary/Treasurer, of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Assn. Inc. (Please circle the position)

Nominator's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Centre Update: Claire Stewart

### Christmas Carols

Sadly due to the restrictions around COVID-19, the Christmas Carols at the Community Centre have been cancelled.

### Regular events

- ♦ Tai Chi Weekly: Mondays 9.00 am -10.30 am.  
Contact Alison Walker if you are interested in coming along on: [aire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aire@xtra.co.nz)
- ♦ Friday Night Drinks: Every Friday from 5.30pm. All welcome. BYO drinks and nibbles.

### Working Bees on the hall buildings and grounds

Held the first Sunday of every month at 10.00 am. #



### Membership Fees

If you're not already a member or if you need to renew your annual membership fees please find the details below. This goes towards the upkeep of the hall and also ensures you get member rates for hall hire and invites to all events.

#### ***\$20 Payment by internet banking to:***

***Account name: Lake Tarawera Community Group***

***Account number: 03-0415-0068074-000***

***Reference: Please include your name***

If you know someone who is a member who is not receiving our emails please forward this email and ask them to [click this link to subscribe.](#)

### Hall Hire

Murray Dillner is the contact for hall bookings. Please contact Murray if you would like to book the hall for an event on [murrayedillner@gmail.com](mailto:murrayedillner@gmail.com)

#### **Fees for hall rental are:**

- Child's birthday party or similar event, half day: \$30 (member) \$50 (non member).
- Council or similar external 'commercial' group—date rate of \$250 or \$200 for not for profit organisations.

Hall hire is a key revenue stream for the centre to ensure we can cover basic costs such as insurance and building warrant of fitness.

If you have any further questions regarding the Lake Tarawera Community Group please contact Claire Stewart on [clairemariestewart@gmail.com](mailto:clairemariestewart@gmail.com)

***Regards***

***Claire Stewart***



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www.collabelectrical.co.nz

**We regret to announce the Great  
Tarawera Trout Smoke-off has been  
cancelled this year due to  
limitations around COVID-19 which  
will adversely affect the event**



**We look forward to your support of this  
popular event next year**



**January Pine Pulling  
on Mt Tarawera**

**Is cancelled due to  
restrictions around  
COVID-19**

Thanks to those of you  
who registered

**WANTED**

**Empty 15 litre water bottles for protecting  
new native plants from rabbits at  
Kariri Point and Rangioru Bay**



**Please drop off to 214 Spencer Road,  
Lake Tarawera**



# Lake Tarawera Pest Control

Last month I mentioned the rat situation we are dealing with, not exactly plague proportions but there are plenty of them; the consensus is this is down to a mild winter. Rabbits too are seen in numbers greater than normal, same thing ... mild winter I suspect.

## The parade of evil doers are:

1. **Rats:** Our rat bait usage is well up on normal for this time of year. My own seven stations are consistently being cleaned out and for the first time I have seen dead rats in the garden.
2. **Rabbits:** They are a pain and while looking cute they are incredibly destructive, just when I think I have cleaned them up in one area - more appear. It is not safe to poison them in our semi-rural area and shooting is the only way to deal with them. Pat Thorpe's son cleaned up 22 in a relatively small area which gives an idea of the population density. (And he got a stoat which is more than I have done!)

Anyone who has a rabbit issue, please contact me and I will come around and shoot them.

3. **Possums:** They don't seem to be such a problem at the moment, there are a few that are outsmarting me but their day will come. Same as with rabbits, if you have an issue I will set some traps to catch them.

4. **Feral Cats:** I have been made aware of a number of feral cats along Spencer Road. Feral is code for dumped domestic cats. If they become a problem we will need to run a program to control their numbers. There is a protocol around this which in part involves:

- a) Pre feeding under camera surveillance, to see what is out there and what bait they respond to and identifying the cats. Feral Cats will dominate a given area to the exclusion of 'Bella' and 'Max' but they are very leery. We can identify them by their markings.
- b.) Informing the neighbouring land owners to keep Tiddles and Smokey indoors at night during the trapping time.

In November I was on holiday in the South Island and as we travelled around it is gratifying to see the efforts communities like ours are doing to control animal pests. I am a sucker for a well-made box trap and bait station.

I realise from travelling the country that we have one hell of a back yard here, the proliferation of bird life at Tarawera is something I have not seen outside of a nature reserve and we need to do what we can to preserve it.

**Rat Bait:** Last month I mentioned the new recording procedure for anyone taking rat bait: WHO is taking it, WHAT are you taking and WHERE is the bait being used. I am sorry to say this is still not being done correctly.

Short answer is, if we don't do it right—our bait supply will be cut by the Regional Council and we will be forking out \$150 a bucket for bait and will be back to the days of rat infestations.

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**PEST CONTROL AGM:** I have tried many times to make this happen and at every turn COVID or something linked to COVID has torpedoed my plans.

I live in hope the traffic light will be green for us to feel safe congregating at the Community Centre to talk rodents early next year.

Soon I will be emailing a **Permission Slip** for you to sign and email back, this is you giving us permission to enter your property to service your bait station. I will also ask some questions on number and location of the stations.

*I wish for a rodent free festive period*

**Ratmeister**



## Tarawera Landcare (2115): Pete Fahey

One thing about all this rain is that all the planting done on Kariri Point this year has got off to a great start and our previous plantings have also really made the most of the warm wet conditions. I think we are in for a warm, damp summer that will ensure that everything is well and truly established.

It would be fair to say that no additional plantings are necessary. All we need to do from here is to keep on top of the old man's beard and other nasties that conspire to undo all the good work.

The working bees are just as popular as ever—I think it might be the attraction of the morning teas ...

There is always a great turnout and a huge amount of satisfaction at the achievements to date.

Of particular interest is the work BOPRC is about to contract out. They have allocated \$5k towards employing an abseiling business to attack the pests on the cliff face facing the lake. There is a lot of old man's beard and cotoneaster which is unreachable from the top and too dangerous to be tackled by working bee participants. The money allocated is not sufficient to complete the job in this year's budget so the LTRA has chipped in a further \$3k. In total this should be sufficient to break the back of it, in this financial year. The work is planned to commence in February.

The walking track has proven to be very popular with lots of traffic, which in itself is very satisfying.

Following on from our success at Kariri Point the next focus is Otumutu Lagoon and the infestation of blackberry and honeysuckle.

It is our intention to start at Otumutu early in the new year with a working bee. BOPRC have a management plan for the area and we will be using this as our guide.

Nearer the time I will send out an invite to participate in beautifying the area.



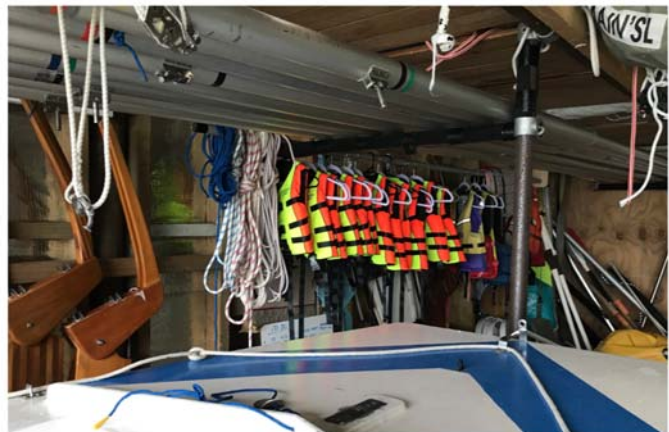
Rangiuuru Bay Reserve before (2019) ... and after (2021)

# Tarawera Sailing: Ray Gatland



The new season began with Registration Day on 14 November combined with a working bee to clean all the boat hulls after winter. This was very well attended by both young and adult sailors and their families including many newcomers. By the end of the day, we had a gleaming fleet and a wet but happy crew who were able to enjoy homemade lemonade from Pat Thorpe, along with freshly made scones with jam.

Preparations for the new season included refurbishing rudders and centreboards for our training yachts and improvements to the rudder mountings. In addition, we are very proud of our brand new life vests donated by power company Mercury, which are a hit with our young sailors. They are highly visible on the water and an ideal style for sailing.



So far, we have enjoyed several Sundays of light to moderate conditions, allowing the 'learn to sail' programme to get away to a good start. We are very well supported by adult helpers on shore and on the water in our safety boat. The helpers play an essential role during Sunday sailing, providing safety supervision, coaching, managing boats leaving and returning to shore, rigging and packing up. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Our last session before we broke for Christmas, was Sunday, 19 December and we resume on Sunday, 9 January 2022.

**For any enquiries, please contact Carol Gilchrist  
on 07 3628 489.**





## King of the Lake: Monday 3 January, 2022

### Lake Tarawera 'King of the Lake' Sailing Race

Meet at Te Karamea Bay – Cliff Rd Reserve at 1.00 PM

The triangular course is to Twin Creeks–White Cliffs and back to Te Karamea Bay

Be ready to argue about handicaps at 1.00 PM

\* This annual challenging race is for experienced sailors

\* Bring your boat, a gold coin for the booby prize  
and race for the King of the Lake - Old Gold Trophy

Any queries phone Pat Thorpe – 07 362 8341

## The Silent Invasion

Most of you are familiar with the great work that has been going on at Kariri Point over the last few years, which has made such a massive positive impact on the birdlife and native bush on the peninsular. However, I wanted to bring to your attention an invasive weed issue that may be closer to home for many of us.

In Tarawera, we have a few invasive weed species that we need to attack *now* so that we stop further damage to native bush and stop some of these weeds from completely taking over. Most of these species are coming from ***our own back gardens***.

Yes, our own gardens are one of the big risks to Tarawera's native biodiversity.

New Zealand's environmental watchdog says that many garden escapees are spreading out into native bush and threaten to forever transform native ecosystems "beyond recognition" without greater intervention.

A recent report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment describes the march of invasive weeds across the landscape as a "slow-motion botanical conquest", largely hidden from public attention and drowned out by the plight of our native birds and other animals.

Unlike their animal compatriots, native plants have a public relations problem. While the destruction



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of birds by stoats, weasels, and feral cats is well understood and reviled, the struggle of their botanical equivalents rarely rates a mention – there is no '**Predator Free 2050**' for plants.

**So as a community we need you to do your bit ...**

**Please go out into your gardens, especially areas that border native bush and check for invasive weeds.** The most common in our area are Jasmine, Old Man's Beard, Honeysuckle and Wild Ginger.

The first three are all climbing weeds and can completely devastate the bush; they literally smother and kill native plants from ground level up to canopy, can cause canopy collapse, and prevent the establishment of native plant seedlings. Ingress into established forest is rapid.

Here is a little detail about each invasive weed:

#### Jasmine:

Grows rapidly over the forest floor, and into the sub canopy and canopy, forms dense, long-lived masses, stems layer profusely and runners spread long distances. Smells nice but it is a dangerous garden escapee.



#### Old Man's Beard:

Grows rapidly, forming dense, heavy masses that dominate canopy of any height. Stems layer profusely, and it produces many long-lived seeds that spread by wind. Old man's beard is making its way further down Spencer Road as time goes by. It can be seen in many locations along the road.



#### Honeysuckle:

Fast growth rate. Climbing with intense smothering habit. Forms dense, long-lived masses. Tolerates range of conditions. Very long stems which layer profusely. Can cause canopy collapse. Honeysuckle



(Continued from page 14)

has a fragrant smell but it is a vicious garden escapee. There are multiple locations along both Tarawera and Spencer Road where infestations are reaching detrimental levels.



### Wild Ginger:

Long-lived, fast growing and forms deep rhizome beds (which look a bit like edible ginger roots – but are not edible!) Seeds are dispersed widely, and rhizomes resprout from any fragment left behind.



Our local native bush is especially vulnerable to these infestations where it neighbours our gardens and back yards.

I would like to start a database of which properties have infestations of these invasive weeds, so we can understand how big the problem is, monitor the situation and help property owners remove them.

If you find any of these invasive weeds in your garden or in native bush bordering your garden or nearby, please email me at [weedstarawera@gmail.com](mailto:weedstarawera@gmail.com) with details. I can then send you more information on what can be done to remove these weeds. Landcare can also supply stump swab to kill these weeds.

We need to act now to ensure the native bush that we have neighbouring our homes stays healthy for the birds and our future generations to appreciate.

Thank you for reading.

**Rachel Howells**

**(Spencer Road local and passionate weedbuster!)**



**Merlin Sheffield**  
*Registered Electrician, Rotorua*  
**P** (07) 362 8572  
**E** merlselectrical@gmail.com



**AED 1** (Heart Defibrillator)  
Lake Tarawera Fire Station  
(Secure external cabinet  
by front door)

**Stoney Point Reserve**  
**151 Spencer Road**  
**Lake Tarawera**



Phone - 111  
(Does not require phone reception)  
for cabinet combination  
from Ambulance  
Communications 24/7

**AED 2** (Heart Defibrillator) - no phone needed  
11 Rangioru Bay Road, Lake Tarawera

This is the farthest house on the right of Rangioru Bay as you look out to the lake  
Access across Rangioru Bay Reserve or down Rangioru Bay Road





## Rotorua Lakes Community Board: Phill Thomass

As I write this article we are getting ready to welcome all our 'part-time' residents and holiday makers back to our lakes, especially our Auckland-based friends! Looking across my lake (Rotoiti) reminds me how lucky we are, those of us who are permanent residents, to live in such a wonderful place even while COVID-19 impacts on the ability of many of our neighbours to visit.



ROTORUA LAKES  
COMMUNITY BOARD  
fb:@lakescommunityboard

While Auckland has done it hardest, Delta has also affected us here in Rotorua. Our own shorter level 4 and 3 caused much hardship, and the absence of Aucklanders has greatly affected Rotorua's economy. For the Community Board also, as happened last year, we have again lost months where we were unable to meet, and once we were able to, the public wasn't able to attend our meetings at Council. We also haven't been able to hold our usual public workshops. Still, the Board has continued to work hard on your behalf over the year.

At last summer's LTRA's AGM the issue of the rundown state of the toilets at Stoney Point was raised. I'm pleased to say that the Lakes Community Board has agreed alongside Council, to co-fund a significant refurbishment of these toilets in this financial year (which ends June 2022). We have had an initial concept drawn up, which has been amended and improved after an on-site inspection and discussion.

The Tarawera community has also been clear that you would like improvements made to allow for safe spaces where people can walk alongside Spencer Road, starting with a continuation of the existing footpath to Stoney Point. In the past no funding has been allocated for similar requests from both the Lakes and Rural Community Boards' catchments. In this year's Long Term Plan (2021-2031) such a fund was added. However the priority for this fund in the coming year is to rectify a situation in Mamaku where raw sewage runs alongside and on to a street. I do hope that we can address Tarawera's requests in the next year the fund is available.

As well as directly funding projects, the Community Board also has influence over Council projects around our lakes. Traditionally we have seen such lakes-based projects at least partly supported by Tourism Infrastructure Funding from Central Government, the absence of international visitors over the last two years has severely affected planned projects. One project that has continued is the improvements happening at The Landing. The next stage of work will commence there mid to late January. Not an ideal time I know, but there are a lot of constraints on Council as to when they can work beside and in our lakes, including spawning times, so we've had to count back from when the work needs to be finished by.

I have been honoured to be included as a member on a number of Council's Funding Panels, and this year have been pleased to be able to support a number of well reasoned applications for funding around our Lakes. Being on these panels is a really nice part of my job as I get to see so much great work done by groups in all our communities.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank everyone who engaged with the Long Term Plan process this year, whether submitting or attending the Council workshops. Your input and opinions had a very real effect on Councillors and saw a softening of attitudes. This enabled your association and the Board to successfully advocate for a working group to be established which is looking at possible funding options for those who cannot afford lump-sum payments.

Finally, thank you to LTRA and especially your Chair Libby. The committee do a huge amount of work for your community, you are lucky to have such dedicated people in Tarawera!

Mere Kirihimete  
Noho ora mai

**Phill Thomass, Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board**

# The Tarawera transfer station

Using the local transfer station correctly helps to lower the cost to maintain the facility, and maximise the amount of waste that can be recycled.



## Disposing of household rubbish

Household rubbish goes into the red lid bins, in red plastic Council bags only.

To get more red bags, visit the transfer station during manned hours or call ☎ 07 348 4199 for more options.

## Household recycling

Recycling goes into the yellow lid bins. This includes paper and cardboard, aluminium and tin, and only plastic items numbered 1, 2 and 5 (due to limited onshore recycling facilities in NZ).

Items that are commonly mistaken as recyclable are foil chip packets, polystyrene, tetrapak (long-life milk packaging), plastic bags and gladwrap. Please put these in the household rubbish.



## Glass recycling

Glass recycling is sorted by colour.

Please remember to remove bottle caps and jar lids before recycling your glass items.

## Items for landfill

If you visit during manned hours (Thursday and Sunday, 1 - 4:30pm), you can dispose of green waste or rubbish for the Rotorua Landfill Refuse Transfer Station.

Fees changed in July 2021, after changes to the national waste disposal levy and Emission Trading Scheme by Central Government. You can find out more about this on Council's website.



Help us keep your local transfer station tidy by reporting illegal dumping, on ✉ [info@rotorualc.nz](mailto:info@rotorualc.nz) or ☎ 07 348 4199

**ROTORUA**  
**LAKES COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua



## DOC Update: Caraline Abbott

### Hot Water Beach Campground

With the support of local volunteers, Rangers have been busy preparing recreational facilities for the busier summer season. Hot Water Beach campground has received multiple site visits linked to the removal of the final composting toilet and a substantial rock fall which has seen the closure of five campsites. Day to day management of this campground will once again be taken care of by Totally Tarawera. **Booking in advance is required.**

### Check the DOC Website Before You Go!

The DOC website is updated regularly with information relating to site closures and hazards. When planning your visit, please check the DOC website prior to departure. Several sites in the Rotorua area have been temporarily closed for health and safety reasons at short notice. The website also serves as a booking platform for some DOC campgrounds which require booking in advance.

### COVID-19 Policy

Visitor facilities including huts, campgrounds, toilets and visitor centres are open under Red and Orange.

**From 15 December 2021, eligible people aged 12 years three months and over, must be fully vaccinated to use DOC huts and campgrounds.** This is to ensure those using huts and campsites don't put themselves or others at unnecessary risk while enjoying our great outdoors this summer.

### Red Bearded Orchid Numbers Continue to Increase

Many thanks to volunteers who supported the annual Red Bearded Orchid Survey. Results show an increase of around 15% on last year's survey results. These naturally uncommon orchids have been steadily growing at the monitoring site over recent years.

### Plant Me Instead!

During the warmer months, many of us will spend increased time in the garden. Weedbusters produce a useful resource for gardeners who seek native alternatives to common introduced species. Information is tailored to specific regions depending on the climate and includes visual guides to help with plant selection. Visit [www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz) for further information.



*(Continued on page 20)*

*(Continued from page 19)*

### Tarawera Trail

Volunteers also supported a planting day at the Tarawera Trail car park. Around 20 volunteers helped plant 500 native trees and shrubs, including kohuhu, lemonwood, manuka, koromiko, flax and toe toe. These plants are now being cared for by the kaitiaki who reside next to the carpark.



**DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)**

**Call 111 for all fire and search and rescue emergencies**



**A perfect morning out fishing—Richard Noke**





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- ♦ All other vessels, including personal water craft i.e. jet skis (PWC ) must abide by the 5 knot rules and keep clear of any vessels towing. **As towing vessels have priority in a ski lane, any vessel on the beach must be on the take off side of the access lane.**

What happens if ..?

- ♦ Non towing vessels speed through ski lane: **You will be breached!**
- ♦ Vessels beached or anchored in drop off zone, or in flow of towing traffic: **You will be advised to move out of area.**
- ♦ No observer...**You will be breached!**
- ♦ Observer under 10: **You will be requested to cease towing and you will be breached!**

**Break it down:**

- ♦ Each reserved area gives priority to the designated activity.
- ♦ Any vessel/water user may use the area, but must not impede any vessels using it for the designated activity.
- ♦ PWC (Jetski) areas—are for PWC's to play up and muck around ... just being a PWC!

What happens if...

- ♦ Disagreement between users e.g other users in a PWC-reserved area complaining about PWCS: **Area is designated to PWC, so they have priority—no matter who arrived first.**
- ♦ PWC areas are for PWC's, not for water skiing/towing. **Vessels towing in PWC area: Must abide by 5 knot rule, this includes PWC's.**
- ♦ Ski reserve areas and ski/access lanes are for towing, **everywhere else the 5 knot rule applies to all.**



*Roly Bagshaw*

*Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes)*

## Bayleys Lake Tarawera Specialist – Jenny Donne

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas plus a safe and happy summer.**

**Contact Jenny for a confidential market appraisal anytime – I look forward to hearing from you.**



Jenny Donne  
Lakes and Residential Consultant  
B: 07 349 5356  
M: 027 385 0566

E: [jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz)

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**Another stunning Tarawera Sunrise: Anna Smith:**



# Te Arawa Lakes Trust

## Biosecurity 'front of mind' for summer period on Te Arawa lakes

As the weather warms up and the tantalising waters of Te Arawa lakes beckon avid boaties, biosecurity hunga tiaki from Te Arawa Lakes Trust will be out making sure the spread of aquatic pests and weeds are stopped in their tracks. This 2021/22 summer period is the second season that Te Arawa Lakes Trust is carrying out the **Check, Clean, Dry** programme around the Bay of Plenty.

The programme is funded by MPI and the Trust secured this resource following a successful programme in 2020/21. Two biosecurity officers will be out and about every weekend over summer, inspecting boats and lake users to ensure they're not unintentionally spreading aquatic pests between the lakes. In addition, Hunga tiaki will also be posted at certain boat ramps conducting self-certification inspections.



It is now a requirement that lake users self-certify that their vessels and trailers are free from freshwater fish and pest plants. The new rules are contained within the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan 2020 – 2030, which became operative last summer, and aim to ensure lake users take an active role in protecting the long-term health of the lakes.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust biosecurity manager William Anaru says the 2021/22 summer period is shaping up to be a busy one. "We want locals and manuhiri alike, to visit and enjoy our beautiful Te



Arawa lakes, but we also want to make sure we protect the health and wellbeing of our taonga. A lot of hard mahi has gone into improving the water quality of our lakes, including controlling the spread of pests that choke our native species. Our friendly biosecurity officers will be on hand all summer to make sure we take all the measures we can so we can continue to enjoy our lakes for generations to come."

Te Arawa Lakes Trust also wants to remind lake users that people can still gather taonga species under the bylaws, but they need to be issued a pukawhaka mana (permit) from Te Arawa Poutiriao (permit issuers).

Each of the individual nga taonga ika species has different restrictions relating to the size, catch numbers and methods which can be used. More details about the bylaw size and limits can be found at [gazette.govt.nz](http://gazette.govt.nz).

Inquire more about the permit process and apply via email:

[pukawhakamana@tearawa.iwi.nz](mailto:pukawhakamana@tearawa.iwi.nz)

**Te Arawa Lakes Trust's biosecurity team looks forward to seeing you all out on our lakes this summer.**



## Lake Tarawera Fire Unit: Susan Cutler

This year has been quiet for us, callout-wise, with only a few incidents - several tree-related, and a major electrical fault.

### Training

However, our members have attended a variety of courses provided by Fire and Emergency including: Safety around aircraft and monsoon bucket use, Radios, Emergency response driving, Light 4WD, Medical Co-responder course, Health and Safety, Fire Weather Index, Psychological wellbeing, Navigating to vegetation fires, Chainsaw use, External Attack (fighting structure fires from outside.)

Our crew covered a controlled burn down at Mead Road and one out at Highland Hills. Two of us were invited to a training day out at Ruatahuna.



In May, Hamish, Acting Area Commander in Rotorua, and Jillene, our Support Officer, came to do the Annual Audit. At a later date our members were invited to participate in formulating a five-year plan for the Station.

Our training night has recently been changed to Wednesdays at 7.00 pm. We'd love for you to join us - give our Rural Fire Controller, Steve Gatenby, a call if you are interested. Volunteers 16 years and over are very welcome. Unfortunately the recent mandate, put out by the Government, also affects us as well.

Once again, our training was suspended for a month because of COVID-19, and large numbers of courses around the country were postponed. Like the other emergency services, we are supplied with appropriate PPE in case of callouts, with strict rules for the use of them.

### Road/scene safety

In the event of a callout, the priority is always the safety of crew members, patients if applicable, and others working at or near the scene. If necessary, our Rural Fire Controller in charge of the incident has the authority to close the road temporarily. Once police arrive, they will take over the road control.

### Reminders

**Open fires cannot be lit anywhere around the lake - this includes the three DOC campsites. If you see**

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**a fire when you are out on the lake, do not ignore it. Please advise the people it is not allowed.** Fires must be completely extinguished and reported to DOC and Fire and Emergency via a 111 call.

Getting fire crews over to those areas is time-consuming and costly.

Thinking of lighting a fire, burning rubbish? Go online to “***Check its alright before you light,***” on the Fire and Emergency (FENZ) website, and follow the instructions to see if you require a permit.

Should the Fire Danger increase to an extreme level, we have two large Total Fire Ban signs to erect in the area to advise residents. **A total fire ban means that all fires are banned and any permits are cancelled, for the duration of the ban.** Luckily the signs were not required last year.

### Bos memorial

Dave and Angie MacKay have very kindly donated an artwork to the community in memory of Bos. It will be on display on the outside of the Fire Station for a time. Do go and have a look.

Let's hope many of you will be able to visit the Lake these holidays for a well-deserved break.

***Merry Christmas!***

## Rotorua Lakes Council: Mayor Steve Chadwick



Kia ora koutou and ngā mihi o te wā – Season's Greetings,

I hope this message finds you all well and looking forward to some rest and relaxation with family and friends over the festive season and summer.

It has been another challenging year for our district but we have also seen some momentum in key areas, including progressing the Tarawera wastewater scheme, an important project that is crucial to protect the lake and your community. It has been a long time coming and I'm pleased things are now progressing.

We have also seen progress on other fronts this year including in terms of housing with some momentum now gathering in terms of increasing supply. We've seen significant progress on key transformational projects like the lakefront, forest developments and key infrastructure renewals and upgrades, and the Waka Kotahi works on Te Ngae Road are also taking shape.

Partnerships and collaboration – with central government, iwi, communities and other key stakeholders – remains key for us and I thank Tarawera residents for their ongoing engagement with the council on work that matters to your community.

We look forward to continuing our work with you in the coming year and in the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful and safe festive season and all the very best for 2022.

***Steve Chadwick***

***Rotorua Mayor***



Have a  
wonderful  
Christmas  
and holiday  
from our Team.



- **Family or special occasion cruises with BBQ option**
- **Discovery Cruise to learn about the local history and the special places of significance**
- **Walk the Tarawera Trail**
- **Visit the Tarawera Falls. Noted by DOC as one of the best short walks in NZ**
- **We have mini brochures available for your holiday home guests on all our products**



**TOTALLY  
TARAWERA**

07 362 8080  
[info@totallytarawera.com](mailto:info@totallytarawera.com)  
[www.totallytarawera.com](http://www.totallytarawera.com)

## LTRA: Current Committee

**Chair:** Libby Fletcher      [libby@ultimatenz.com](mailto:libby@ultimatenz.com)

**Secretary:** Martin Wiseman   [martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com](mailto:martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard Noke      [noke@eol.co.nz](mailto:noke@eol.co.nz)

### Committee:

**Terry Beckett:**   [becketts.tb@gmail.com](mailto:becketts.tb@gmail.com)

**Ray Gatland:**      [gatland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gatland@xtra.co.nz)

**Peter Fahey:**     [taraweralandcare@gmail.com](mailto:taraweralandcare@gmail.com)

**Jane Spear:**       [janespear2011@gmail.com](mailto:janespear2011@gmail.com)

**Karen Walmsley:** [taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz](mailto:taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz)

**Fiona McAllister:** [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

### Rotorua Lakes Community Board Contact:

**Chairman:** Phill Thomass   [phill.thomass@rotorualc.nz](mailto:phill.thomass@rotorualc.nz)

**Lake Tarawera website:**    [www.laketarawera.org.nz](http://www.laketarawera.org.nz)

**Phantom Editor:** Fiona McAllister   Email: [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

## Useful Numbers



**Emergencies:** Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

**Tarawera Fire Unit:** Chief Fire Officer Steve Gatenby 0274 664 161 [steve.gatenby@til.co.nz](mailto:steve.gatenby@til.co.nz)

Station Officer Murray Dillner 021 290 0376 [murrayedillner@gmail.com](mailto:murrayedillner@gmail.com)

**Rotorua Hospital:** 07 348 1199

**Lakes Primecare Accident/Urgent Medical:** (1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua), 07 348 1000

**Poisons Urgent Info:** 0800 764 766/Non Urgent 03 474 7000

**Rural Delivery** -Jan & Glen Harmer: 07 349 1254/022 153 6894

**Security** – George Gilmour 07 362 8378 [gilmour06@gmail.com](mailto:gilmour06@gmail.com)

**Rotorua Lakes Council:** 07 348 4199

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council:** 0800 884 880 **AED DEFIBRILLATORS:**

**Department of Conservation:** 07 349 7400

**Fish & Game Eastern Region:** 07 357 5501

**Vet Services** – Barrowman & Goodman (110 Lake Rd, Koutu, Rotorua, 3010) 07 343 9090

**We currently have two AED Defibrillators on Spencer Road:**

**1/ At Fire Unit– 151 Spencer Road**

**2/ On the front deck of 11 Rangiu Bay Road (last house on right of Rangiu Bay Reserve)**