THE PHANTOM

Winter 2023



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Chair Report: Libby Fletcher

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Phantom. I do hope that you have all been well, warm, and dry. It has been lovely to see many families enjoying the school holidays here.

Lake Levels:

Several people have contacted me regarding the high lake levels and the fact that the walking track along the foreshore in some places is under water, other parts where the track has collapsed into the lake, and asking what the Council are doing about it. Yes, the Council are concerned but unfortunately with the unbelievable flooding recently at Rotomā and Rotoehu those areas are the priority; as yet we have not had a meeting with the Council to discuss the issues.

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Cell Phone Tower:

On Tuesday morning 18 April, Cabinet Minister, Ginny Anderson visited the cellphone site. Also in attendance were members of the Rotomahana Parekarangi 6G3B Ahu Whenua Trust, the cell tower is sited on their land. Representatives from Crown Infrastructure Partners, Spark, Vodaphone (now One NZ), and 2 Degrees were also there. You will have noticed the sign on the site opposite the Lockwood at the start of the settlement. This was dedicated and Minister Anderson planted a Kowhai.

Cell phone coverage now covers the Buried Village, Te Mu Road, Boat Shed Bay and many parts of the lake. However, there is still patchy coverage in certain parts of Spencer Road. I believe that several people have installed boosters to try to improve the coverage and others are still using the internet for cell phones.

Sewerage Scheme

On Tuesday afternoon, 18 April, there was a whakatau (a welcome ceremony) also held on the Rotomahana Parekarangi 6G3B Ahu Whenua Trust land, prior to Stage One of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme starting. To mark the occasion Mayor Tapsell (pictured right), planted a Kowhai Tree.



Fulton Hogan started the pipe installation on Tarawera Road to the existing Okareka sewer pipe,
Tarawera wastewater will be channeled through the existing Tarawera Road pipe to the Rotorua
Wastewater Treatment Plant. This work is now complete, and work has started at the end of Spencer
Road and Fulton Hogan are progressing well.

Members of the LTRA committee continue to work closely with the Infrastructure Team at Rotorua Lakes Council. See page 10 for their update.

(Continued from page 2)

Tarawera Landcare:

Due to weather the working bees at Kariri Point have either been called off or just a few have come along which is not surprising under the circumstances. However, a very hardy group working at Otumutu Lagoon have been dealing to the ginger towards Solitaire Lodge. Last week a number of cheery trees were cut, poisoned and mulched on Ronald Road.

Clarification:

Fiona and I received several calls relating to the Annual Report in the last Phantom, as people were concerned that it incorrectly stated there was no Spring Fair. The Annual Report was for the year ending **September 2022**, so it was referring to October 2021 when the fair had to be cancelled due to Covid.

Tarawera Sailing:

On Saturday evening Tarawera Sailing held a great fundraising event with Rob Waddell as guest speaker.

The evening was a great success, the hard work that went into organising this event I am sure will be recognised in the funds that they raised for their new chase boat. See page 13.

Regards

Libby





DOC Update: Catherine Noble





Cyclone Damage to Tarawera Trail:

A project is underway to reroute part of the Tarawera Trail which has been damaged by bad weather. A section of track between the Landing and Hawaki Bay initially suffered storm damage and was then deemed irreparable after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Following Cyclone Gabrielle and the Kawerau earthquake swarm the DOC team assessed all of the tracks and assets in the Rotorua District for damage.

All tracks and campsites are open except for the Eastern Okataina Walkway which remains closed due to significant rockfalls.



Native Vegetation Removal:

The Department is investigating substantial unauthorised vegetation removal from within the Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve. In this instance, the suspected offender has been identified.

Scenic reserves administered by DOC under the Reserves Act 1977 are to protect and preserve areas of scenic interest, beauty, natural features or landscape. It is unlawful to remove wood or plants, whether alive or dead, from a scenic reserve. This includes windfallen trees which have an important role in forest ecology. The maximum penalty for removing wood from a reserve without authority is imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

If members of the public observe vegetation being damaged or removed from DOC land, please call 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)

Conservation Week:

Conservation Week 2023 is being held 14-20 August 2023. This year's theme is Take Action; this could be taking the leap to join a volunteer conservation group, initiate your own project, or even commit to taking a walk in the great outdoors!

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For a list of all the walking, hiking and camping opportunities on DOC-administered land visit www.DOC.govt.nz

Community groups that are holding working bees during Conservation Work, or would like to host an event showcasing their projects are encouraged to visit www.DOC.govt.nz to upload details of on how the public can join in and participate.

- As part of planning your next outdoor adventure find out about changes to conservation areas that might affect the safety or enjoyment of you trip by checking the **Alerts** page on DOC website.
- Two new toilets and steps are to be installed at Hot Water Beach camp in the autumn
- As a Reminder dogs, horses, vehicles including bikes and motorbikes, fires, removal of plants or animals, camping outside designated areas and hunting without a permit are not permitted in the Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve
- Bookings are required for both Te Tapahoro / The Outlet camp and Hot Water Beach camp. The booking link for both can be found on the DOC website. Bookings are not required for Humphries Bay.
- ♦ The DOC contractor has recently completed the annual control of Old Mans Beard on public conservation land from Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera to Millar Road, Lake Ōkāreka.



Images Page 4 and above: Post-cyclone trail damage being remedied on a volunteer day.

Many thanks to our volunteers

Message from Rotorua Mayor: Tania Tapsell

Greetings and warm wishes to you all as we celebrate Matariki this month, the māori new year. This is a time to gather with family and friends to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future. It was a pleasure to host the national Matariki ceremony here in our beautiful home of Rotorua that was broadcast live on TV and online from Ngongotahā mountain.

Council recently adopted our Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year that sets out what we intend to invest your rates in and how much this will cost. We had a strong focus on ensuring safe and reliable infrastructure which also reflects a commitment to protecting our environment and our lakes.

By the end of July we expect to have a more accurate cost estimate for Stage 2 of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme and will then investigate council's funding contribution policy and options. We anticipate providing an update soon and look forward to working through these next steps with you.

We have also been ensuring we plan well for the future, and consultation on our draft Rotorua Future Development Strategy (FDS) has just concluded. Through this work we can plan for the services and amenities needed to support our community and protect and preserved our natural environment as we grow. Council will be adopting a final plan in October.

Community safety remains a hot topic and continues to be a priority for our new Council. We have also partnered with Police to develop a community safety strategy with a focus on increasing visibility and responsiveness. We're already seeing positive results from this and will continue progress by investigating how Council can support community safety across the district.

In the meantime, you can also stay up to date with local news through our Rotorua Lakes Council Face-book page and website. Or contact council directly for information on projects and services: **07 348 4199**

or www.rotorualakescouncil.nz

Kindest Regards

Tania Tapsell



Tania Tapsell

Manukura | Mayor

E: tania.tapsell@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, 3029, Rotorua

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz





Mayor Tania Tapsell and Councillor Trevor Maxwell at the National Matariki Ceremony on Ngongotahā Mountain 14th July 2023

Tarawera Pest Control

Possums:

I have seen a few cheeky possums in my garden and even on my deck but by the time I had my rifle out the perps were gone down the gully. I can see from the chewings and pooh in my garden they are there and for some reason are a bit bait shy.

No one has mentioned possums being an issue lately. A good indication of possum density is the amount flattened on the road and lately there doesn't seem to be a lot ...

Rabbits:

Rabbits they are breeding well in this mild weather, one day last month I counted 12 at Kariri Point having a lovely time. Shooting is the only option for them as poisoning is fraught when the carcasses offer a tasty treat for any passing animals. I will be out again in the next month. If you know other places where they congregate email me and I will come and try and thin their numbers.

Rats:

Just when I was thinking we were turning the corner, we were, but into oncoming traffic! There have been heaps of rats around lately; a mild winter has helped their breeding and people are emailing and calling me about intruders in roof spaces.

Once they are in your ceiling you need to entice them out and at same time find out how they are gaining entry. Any overhanging branches, wires or poles that give access to the roof are enough. Once on the roof they run along the gutters and then hit the jackpot to get in under the eaves to a nice warm, winter holiday spot.

Entice them out with rat bait; nice tasty treats outside will bring them out especially in winter when food is not so easy to find for them.

If you have trouble with rats email me and I will see if I can help; historically the best option is to have a well-tended bait station. Keep them fed.

Lots of people have asked me about rat bait supply and why it is not as plentiful as it has been previously. I have mentioned this previously but here it is again.

This is the situation:

We use about 70 to 80 buckets of rat bait a year along Spencer Road.

The Regional Council funds us for about 50 buckets annually as part of their Pest Management plan. The extra 20 or 30 buckets are funded from donations, firewood sales, fundraising, the LTRA and our

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reserves. As time goes on we use more and more bait as we increase our baited area. Like so much in our society we need to come up with a plan to plug the funding shortfall, which amounts to about \$4,000 a year.

At our upcoming Pest Control AGM we will apply ourselves to this issue, amongst other pesty issues.

Feral Cats:

Since I mentioned feral cats in the last Phantom there have been a number of people asking about a strategy to deal with these pests. As we have seen with the much publicised 'Feral Cat Hunt' in the South Island this is a vexed issue. I now have three live-capture traps that we will use in areas where local feral cats known to lurk. From my experience, a truly feral cat is easy to spot but a newly dumped Tiddles and Fluffy not so much—is the cat I have caught someone's pet or has it been dumped by a thoughtless owner? I have two cats and would not like to think of them being caught in a trap and if they were I would hope someone would use all means possible to locate their owner.

I would like to see us agree on a protocol for capturing and dealing with feral cats which are yet another destructive pest we do not need. Please consider keeping your pet cats locked in at night.

Wasps:

The tally of wasp nests killed this season is 27 and a couple of them were big — *like suitcase big!*We have the formula to deal to them so as soon as you see a nest contact me and I will come and sort it. However, wasps are mildly wily and their HQ is sometimes hard to find, unfortunately most people locate them by mistake by walking on them, mowing over them or something similar.

The Ratmeister (& Wasp Meister)





Tarawera Landcare 2115

The weather has got the better of us for the last two monthly working bees at Kariri, unpaid work in the rain, however noble the cause, is no fun!

While the monthly working bees at the south end of town have been drowned out, the weekly Wednesday work has rolled on, fuelled in part by more stable mid-week weather.

Anyone who is vaguely familiar with the Otumutu Lagoon area will recognise the progress that has been made in 18 months. The blackberry infestation is all but gone, replaced with low growing sedges but unfortunately some of our tree plantings have suffered from wet feet and failed to thrive.

Generous support from the Regional Council with plants and weed killers, Fish and Game who helped with plant selection to benefit the spawning trout, Lakes Council who make sure we were not breaking any rules, manawhenua who gave our work their support, but most of all the people who have consistently given their time and energy to making this all happen.

I am constantly amazed at how much can be achieved when a group of motivated people get together!

BEFORE—January 2021

Here you can see just one view from the bridge, looking NW, the progress before and after. Often you will spot trout in this stream.

The work along underneath what I call "The Rusty Roof House", in Otumutu Lagoon, continues to rehabilitate the area by removing the flowering cherries, spindleberry, willow and now ginger, replacing with native species along to Solitaire Lodge end where there is way more ginger and a huge infestation of jasmine that I think will occupy us for a long time yet.

AFTER—July 2023

If you are free on a Wednesday morning from 9am to mid-day you might like to join our crew and see why we enjoy it - and experience the satisfaction of improving our local environment.

Rotorua Lakes Council Update

Reticulation Infrastructure Progress

Stage 1 of the scheme commenced in April 2023 with a formal whakatau by Tūhourangi tāngata at Te Anga Tokiniho, a land trust block. We are pleased to report that Stage 1 is advancing well under Fulton Hogan, incorporating the installation of the new network's mains and pump stations, linking Tarawera sewage catchment to the existing public sewerage network.

Pipe installation from the high point on Tarawera Road to the existing Okareka sewer pipe, covering approximately 1.8 km, is now complete. From here, Tarawera wastewater will be channelled through the existing Tarawera Road pipe to the Rotorua Waste Water Treatment Plant.



Pressure testing of the pipe installed near the Tawa Mountain Bike Car Park.



Two lengths of pipe being joined by 'electrofusion' welding.

Looking ahead, the installation of the main sewer pipe along Spencer Road will continue for several months, with traffic controls established for safety; we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Following this, we will initiate the boundary assembly's installation for each property,

signifying the point where the property's future sewer pipe will connect to the mains road pipe.

Main sewer pipe installation is complete from the northern end of Spencer Rd to the Cliff Rd junction (1.5 km total) – the red line shows installed pipe. The main sewer pipe will continue from Cliff Rd to Stoney Point over next few weeks.



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Sewer main alongside electrical conduit for the fibre communication between the pump-stations.



Flush point at the very start of the sewer main at the end of Spencer Rd.



Valve for flush point.



Contractors and RLC Engineering Cadet undertaking the pressure test.



The first 900m section of the main from Spencer Rd to Alexander Rd being pressure tested.

In response to community requests, Council had previously pursued a lump sum price for Stage 2. However, the cost was deemed too high without further assessment of the construction market. Council instigated open market tendering for Stage 2 alongside Stage 1 construction, to identify the most economical method for Stage 2 construction.

With tendering now closed, we anticipate costs for Stage 2 to be available by 28 July 2023; a community update will be provided. At the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on 6 September 2023, Council will consider options to proceed with Stage 2 and another community update will be provided at this time.

Ensuring safe and robust infrastructure for our communities is of utmost priority for Rotorua Lakes Council. We are dedicated to providing the Lake Tarawera community with a modern wastewater management and disposal system that optimally safeguards the health of the lake and that of our people, both now and in the future.



Enjoy your boat next summer - don't have it stuck in the shop getting repaired!



Let our Festival Inspire You!

From Friday, November 10th to Sunday, November 12th, between 9:00am and 5:00pm, explore the fascinating, unique selection of 40+ gardens in New Zealand's lake city and surrounding countryside.

Together we celebrate our region's natural beauty, from vibrant flowers to bountiful native plant life.

Ticket Sales | Rotorua Garden Festival (rotoruagardens.org.nz)

Tarawera Sailing Fundraiser: Carol Gilchrist

The Tarawera community came together on Saturday night to raise funds for a new safety boat for the sailing school in a wonderful event sponsored and organised by Bayleys. Jenny Donne did an amazing job in the planning, publicity and organisation on the night. The community responded by filling the Community Centre for an evening of fun and fundraising.

Drinks were followed by outstanding guest speaker Rob Waddell. Rob provided a highly entertaining account of his rowing success and the two decades of his career following his single sculls gold medal at the Sydney Olympics. This included three Americas Cup campaigns with Team New Zealand and more recently his role as Chef de Mission for the New Zealand team at two summer Olympic games. Rob's story wove a mix of humour and anecdotes around a keen analysis of the ingredients to success - both at the highest level of sport and life in general. It was a great privilege to have Rob attend and speak at the event and the audience loved it.

Dave Townsend then led an auction of community-donated items ranging from lake cruises to gourmet food and clothing items, and everything in between. A painting of the sailing school boats on Lake Tarawera, painted especially for the auction by Pat Thorpe, fetched \$1000 after lively bidding. All in all the auction was an outstanding success and demonstrated the generosity of our special community, and its regard for the sailing school as one of our community treasures.

We are so grateful to the many contributors to the auction who include:

- Karen and Dave Walmsley Totally Tarawera
- Wayne Tomlinson Solitaire Lodge
- Rick Thorpe and Liz Stanway
- Susan Thorpe
- Sam and Gilly Charteris
- Dave Townsend and Chris Gilmour
- Margaret Dawe
- ♦ Ron Basket Thompson Marine
- Louise Armstrong
- Rob Waddell
- Arna and Damon Hagaman
- Pat Thorpe

Thank you all!

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The auction was followed by a buffet meal provided by Geoff from The Landing Café, which many people labelled delicious.

We are thrilled to report that the event raised in excess of \$9000 towards the new safety boat.

This second safety boat will allow us to manage more sail boats on the water when sailing conditions are challenging. It will make a huge difference to our safety response when weather conditions suddenly change. Importantly, the second boat will provide more opportunity for on the water instruction. In regular weather conditions, one boat can be dedicated to safety monitoring while the other can be used for coaching.

A big thank you once again to Bayleys Rotorua for all the hard work in making the event possible, and your long standing support for Tarawera Sailing.





ALTOGETHER BETTER

Residential / Commercial / Rural / Property Services

Tarawera Spring Fair: Sunday Oct 22 2023

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

To book your stall email: laketarawerafair@gmail.com

If you have items to donate to the Sailing Club Auction

Please call Carol Gilchrist on 07 362 8489



FOR SALE - an oldie but a goodie! TIN BOAT: \$750 o.n.o.

(from a long standing Tarawera family)

A great little, easy to use motorboat, ideal for fishing or for young kids/teenagers to enjoy getting out on the lake.



This amazing little vessel has been in the family for 45+ years. Measuring 3.7m long and 1.5m wide. Equipped with a 15hp Mariner 2-stroke engine currently running and starting well, has also had a new propeller fitted in the last couple years. Comes with the fuel tank pictured. Has front steering and engine controls in working order. The steering wheel has cracked and is currently taped together but still works fine. There is a small split in the hull at the front that lets a small amount of water into the boat; could potentially be fixed with some silicone (can provide pictures and videos). No boat trailer and the 'trolley' in the pictures is not included. Plenty more pictures and videos if you're interested.

Contact etzigan@gmail.com for more info & pics or call/text 021 0855 0656 to buy.

Interested buyers only please.







Community Centre Update: Claire Stewart

Regular events

Tai Chi Weekly: Thursdays 2:00 PM

For more info call Alison Walker 07 362 8151 or 021 100 5425

- Yin Yoga with Madelyn Skilton from Empower Wellness. Wednesday 6.00 PM
- Casual classes are \$20. Email empowerwellnessnz@gmail.com for more information.
- 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.

Lake Kids

Families at the lake have formed the group Lake Kids and try to get together for regular catch ups at the community centre. Join the Facebook group to connect with local families and find out about events planned: www.facebook.com/groups/ lakekids/

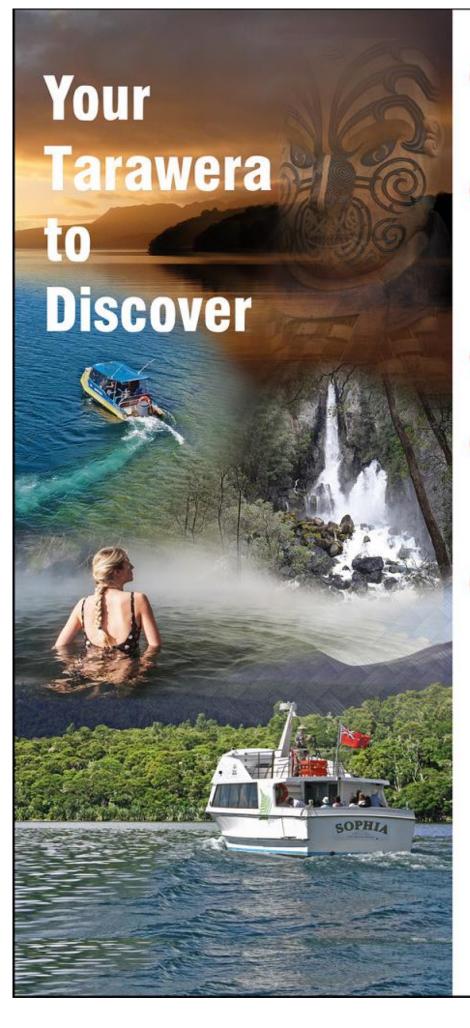
Membership Fees

Thanks to all those who have paid fees. Fees go towards costs such as insurances, building warrant of fitness, electricity and general maintenance and are paid annually. The hall also generates a small additional income from renting the hall to members and non members. Members enjoy the benefit of having this facility in the community and invitation to attend the community events which are run here as well as a discounted rate for their own rental of the hall.

If you have any further questions regarding the Lake Tarawera Community Group please contact Claire Stewart on clairemariestewart@gmail.com

Regards

Claire Stewart



- 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 with pickup
- 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



07 362 8080 info@totallytarawera.com www.totallytarawera.com

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 or 🗘 07 348 4199



The Tractor Book Exchange

Lift the tractor's lid and you'll find a lidded plastic box with an interesting array of books.

Feel free to browse, borrow or exchange a book but please clip the box lid down and secure the lift up part of the tractor so the books don't get wet.

In consideration of the owners, please park up on the grass beyond the driveway rather than in the driveway itself



WANTED

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



Please drop off to 214 Spencer Road,

Lake Tarawera

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 Rangiuru Bay Road, Lake Tarawera

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



Private Property—Please Respect

LTRA: Current Committee

<u>Chair:</u> Libby Fletcher libby@ultimatenz.com

Secretary: Martin Wiseman martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com

Treasurer: Richard Noke noke@eol.co.nz

Committee:

Terry Beckett: becketts.tb@gmail.com Ray Gatland: gatland@xtra.co.nz

Peter Fahey: taraweralandcare@gmail.com Jane Spear: janespear2011@gmail.com

Karen Walmsley: taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz Fiona McAllister: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Rotorua Lakes Community Board Contact:

Chairman: Phill Thomass phill.thomass@rotorualc.nz

Lake Tarawera website: www.laketarawera.org.nz

Phantom Editor: Fiona McAllister Email: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Useful Numbers

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Emergencies: Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

Tarawera Fire Unit: Chief Fire Officer:

George Gilmour 027 282 9034/07 362 8378 gilmour06@gmail.com

<u>Deputy Chief Fire Officer</u>: Steve Gatenby 0274 664 161 steve.gatenby@til.co.nz

Station Officer: Murray Dillner 021 290 0376 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

Rotorua Lakes Council: 07 348 4199 Bay of Plenty Regional Council: 0800 884 880

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 five AED Defibrillators on Spencer Road:

1 & 2/At Fire Unit-151 Spencer Road 3/The Community Centre 4/The Buried Village

5/ On the front deck of 11 Rangiuru Bay Road (last house on right of Rangiuru Bay Reserve)