

Kotahi Reo

One Voice



Whiria te Tāngata Weaving the People Together

Winter 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Minute with Dave
Spring Fair details
Harbourmaster Team Update
Freshwater Biosecurity Update
Winter '26: Cast Your Line
Pest Control – The Ratmeister
Landcare
Lakes Security Newsletter
Identity Jim Liggins passes
Libby's King's Service Medal Investiture
Hautapu
Tēra Te Auahi
Mid Winter Christmas at the Community Hall
Lake Tarawera Photo Exhibition

PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

In this issue:

A Minute with Dave	3
Lake Tarawera Spring Fair	4

LAKE

Harbourmaster Team Update	6
Freshwater Biosecurity Update	9
Winter '26: Cast Your Line	15

LAND

Pest Control – The Ratmeister	17
Landcare	18

COMMUNITY

Lakes Security Spring Newsletter	20
Identity Jim Liggins Passes	23
Libby's King's Service Medal Investiture	25
Hautapu	26
Tēra Te Auahi – 10 – 14 June 2026	27
Mid Winter Christmas at the Community Hall	29
Tarawera Quiz Time	32
Lake Tarawera Photo Exhibition	33
Get Involved	35
Heart Defibrillator Locations (AED's)	35
Helpful Numbers	36
Community Calendar	37
Closing Remarks	37
Answers to Tarawera Quiz Time	37

Join Our Community Database

If you're not yet in our database and would like to be, email ltra@xtra.co.nz and tell us you want to be added to the database to receive this quarterly newsletter!

MEET YOUR LTRA COMMITTEE

Below you'll find the contact details for each of your LTRA committee members. We're always keen to chat about your ideas, feedback, or anything related to the lake, land, and lifestyle here at Tarawera.



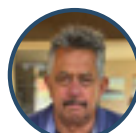
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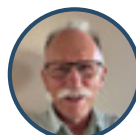
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A minute with Dave

As winter gives way to spring and the days begin to lengthen, there is much happening around our community and our lakes. This edition of Kotahi Reo comes at a time of renewed activity, reflection, and anticipation for the months ahead.

One of the most significant developments of recent weeks has been the High Court decision regarding Rotorua Lakes Council's handling of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme and the installation of infrastructure near Lake Rotokākahi (Green Lake). The judgement found that aspects of the process were unlawful, raising important questions about consultation, decision-making, and the protection of sites that hold deep cultural and historical significance.

While the case centred on Lake Rotokākahi, the implications extend well beyond the immediate parties involved. It serves as a reminder of the importance of meaningful engagement with tangata whenua, transparent governance, and ensuring that major infrastructure projects are undertaken in a way that respects the values and heritage of our communities. As residents of the Tarawera area, many of us have followed these developments closely and will continue to take an active interest in how the Council responds to the Court's findings and the lessons that are learned for future projects.

Looking ahead, spring also brings some of our most anticipated community events. For anglers, 1 October marks the opening of the new fishing season. Lake Tarawera remains one of New Zealand's premier trout fisheries, and many local families and visitors alike will be preparing boats, tackle, and holiday plans in readiness for those first early morning casts. We wish everyone a safe and successful season and encourage all users of our waterways to show courtesy and care for both fellow lake users and our precious environment.

We are also looking forward to the annual Spring Fair over Labour Weekend, one of the highlights of the community calendar. The Fair continues to be a wonderful opportunity for residents, bach owners, friends, and visitors to come together, reconnect after the quieter winter months, and support local causes. Whether you are helping behind the scenes, running a

stall, volunteering, or simply attending, your participation helps make the event such a success year after year.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes to our community and to this newsletter. Together, we continue to celebrate and protect the special place we are fortunate to call home.

Steele

David Steele
LTRA Committee Member



JOIN US AT THE Lake Tarawera Spring Fair!

**Sunday 25 October 2026 at Stoney Point Reserve
10am start**



CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR

Get ready for a wonderful day out at the Lake Tarawera Spring Fair! We're excited to invite you to join us on Sunday, October 25th, 2026, commencing 10:00 am. You'll find us at Stoney Point Reserve, Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera. Main parking is at Rangiora Bay and mobility parking is available at Stoney Point.

It's the perfect opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping! We'll have a fantastic array of stalls featuring:

- Pottery
- Wood Turners
- Preserves, Coffee and Baking
- Bric a Brac
- And a wide selection of other delightful Christmas gifts and loads of activities for the kids (and adult kids)!

If you have anything to donate – big or small, or full bottles for the tombola stand please phone: Carol 0274423333

Delicious Food & Treats Await!

Come hungry and enjoy tempting selection of food stalls. You'll find everything from delicious baking and preserves to savoury treats and a much-needed coffee truck, plus so much more!

Famous Sailing Auction

Don't miss our Sailing Auction, starting at 1:30pm! There will be some fantastic items up for grabs.

A Note for Our Boating Friends

If you're planning to come by boat, please note that we kindly ask boaties to use the alternative parking areas at Boatshed Bay and Bayview Road on both Saturday and Sunday.

Supporting Our Community

Every dollar raised by the Lake Tarawera Spring Fair Committee will be donated directly to local community organisations, so your participation helps make a real difference!

The Lake Tarawera Spring Fair is run on behalf of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA).

We'd Love Your Help!

This event is made possible by our amazing community, and we're looking for friendly volunteers to lend a hand on the day. If you're able to help out, please send an email to laketarawerafair@gmail.com – we'd be so grateful for your support!

We're looking forward to seeing you, and remember it's a cash only Fair.

CAN YOU HELP?

**Lake Tarawera Spring Fair
Sunday 25 October - Labour Weekend**

The Lake Tarawera Spring Fair Committee are looking for some help at the fair. There are a number of jobs on the day or the day before : such as traffic management, directing stallholders, help setting up, putting out signs...

They would appreciate any time you can give to help out. This would help our little committee enormously.

If you are willing to help, please email laketarawerafair@gmail.com

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PHOTO: Roly Bagshaw
Harbourmaster, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

Harbourmaster Team Update – Winter 2026:

Kia ora koutou,

Winter has well and truly settled in across the Rotorua Lakes, bringing those crisp, clear days and some beautiful lake views. It is a great time of year to enjoy the water, but the colder conditions mean we all need to be even more mindful of safety. Lake temperatures have dropped, and an unexpected fall into the water at this time of year can become serious very quickly.

If you are heading out, please take a few extra minutes before you launch. Check that your vessel is well-maintained, look at the latest weather forecast, carry two waterproof ways to call for help, and wear your lifejacket. With fewer people out on the water during winter, assistance may not be close by, so preparation really is your best friend.

For the Harbourmaster team winter is also a busy time for servicing assets and checking that our signs and navigation aids are in the right place and fit for purpose. Around the lakes this includes boat ramp and beach signage, navigation buoys, beacons, and particularly the yellow 5 knot buoys. If you notice any maritime signage that is damaged or missing, or a buoy that appears out of place, please let us know so we can follow it up. (Call 0800 5KNOTS, 0800 556687)

One of the simplest ways we can all help keep the lakes safe is by knowing the 5 KNOT RULES. That means keeping your speed under 5 knots when you are within 200 metres of shore, a beach, a wharf, jetty, ramp or other structure. You must also slow to 5 knots when you are within 50 metres of swimmers, kayakers, paddleboarders or other vessels. Pretty

common-sense stuff, and the rules are there to protect everyone sharing the water.

Saturday 25 July was World Drowning Prevention Day, a global initiative led by the World Health Organisation. As a country surrounded by water, and as a community that treasures our lakes, we all have a part to play in building a strong culture of water safety. Whether you are boating regularly, taking the whānau to the lake edge, swimming, fishing, kayaking or heading out on a paddleboard, a few simple choices can save lives. Last year, 74 people lost their lives to drowning in New Zealand. Each of those deaths represents a family, a group of friends and a community forever changed.

The numbers are sobering. In 2024, 90% of craft-related drowning fatalities involved people who were not wearing a lifejacket. 73% were adult men aged 25 years and over. Many incidents involved preventable factors such as not wearing a lifejacket, swimming alone, alcohol or drug impairment, or overestimating swimming and boating ability.

The message is simple when it comes to lifejackets: wear it, don't just carry it. Most water emergencies happen suddenly and without warning. Having a lifejacket onboard

is not enough if you end up in the water unexpectedly and can't reach it. Whether you are on a boat, jet ski, kayak, paddleboard, dinghy or raft, the safest lifejacket is the one you are already wearing.

This year's World Drowning Prevention Day campaign also highlights two important reminders: Fall in? Float First. If you unexpectedly enter the water, try to float on your back, control your breathing and conserve your energy until help arrives. See someone in trouble? Flotation First. Throw or provide something that floats rather than entering the water yourself.

From all of us in the Harbourmaster team, enjoy the lakes, stay warm, and stay safe.

Written by Roly Bagshaw
Harbourmaster, Bay of Plenty
Regional Council Toi Moana



“I’M NOT GOING FAR”



***No lifejacket
No excuse***



**TOI MOANA
BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL**



Freshwater Biosecurity Update – Winter 2026:

Despite less people on the water over the winter months, efforts to protect the lakes from freshwater biosecurity threats continue.

Kia ora koutou,

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY, CERTIFY COMPLIANCE

The annualised results for the levels of self-certification and compliance of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) rules for not bringing freshwater pests to a waterway are now available.

Encouragingly the percentage of vessels and trailers found at boat ramps who have self-certified has increased to 48% which is up from 28% the previous year. While there is still room for improvement, the trend indicates that the self-certification behaviour is slowly becoming embedded. The number of people going online to complete the self-certification

form has also increased to 2,255 forms being completed.

The number of failed physical inspections remain relatively low at 12% but anything other than 0% is always a concern.

Boat ramp inspections will resume again in the coming months.

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY REMINDER

Whether you're launching a boat, dropping in a kayak, or hauling out a paddleboard, keeping our Te Arawa lakes pristine comes down to this one crucial requirement before moving between waterways.

Checking means physically removing every single piece of weed, plant fragment, or mud from your hull, trailer, anchor, and gear before leaving the ramp.

Cleaning requires thoroughly flushing boat bladders, live wells, and cooling systems as well as the boat & trailer itself. It is also vitally important to remember that as well as checking cleaning and drying your vessel, the same principle is to be applied to associated equipment like wetsuits, waders, anchor ropes, and anything else that has touched the water.

Drying. Finally, dry everything completely. if gear remains damp inside or out, pests can survive for days and hitch a ride to the next lake. Leave to dry for 48 hours. Taking these few extra minutes, every single time ensures our lakes stay healthy & beautiful for generations to come.

Lake Ōkāreka Boat Ramp Access Pilot scheme

Lake Ōkāreka has been selected as the site for a pilot project exploring new ways to protect our lakes from freshwater pests such as gold clam, which can spread between waterways on boats and trailers. The lake was chosen because it has a single public boat ramp, strong community support and a history of successful weed control work.

As part of the pilot, Bay of Plenty Regional Council is supporting Lake Ōkāreka Community Association (LOCA) to develop a Biosecurity Pathway System that would check whether boats have moved between lakes and, where needed, require decontamination before they can use a boat ramp.

The project has been strongly championed by LOCA Chair Neil Oppatt, who as project lead, has played a key role advancing the concept. One feature being explored is a "home lake" scheme for regular lake users. Boats that stay on the same lake would use an electronic seal to show they have not visited another freshwater waterway, allowing them to launch without repeated decontamination. Boats travelling between lakes would need to be cleaned and cleared before launching. The pilot would combine electronic seals and automated boat ramp technology to help reduce the risk of freshwater pests spreading. Testing and evaluation is expected to take place over summer and throughout 2027, with lessons helping shape future lake protection efforts across the region and potentially New Zealand.

Protect Our Lakes & Rivers

Sign up to the national Check Clean Dry newsletter.



Stay up to date with the latest news, stories, and updates from the people and organisations working to protect New Zealand's waterways from invasive freshwater pests such as gold clam.

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe.

Gold clam community update

It's been three years since gold clam (*corbicula fluminea*) was discovered in the Waikato River. An extensive programme of research, education, and surveillance has subsequently been actioned to stop its spread. In the Bay of Plenty we have included gold clam in the Regional Pest Management Plan to

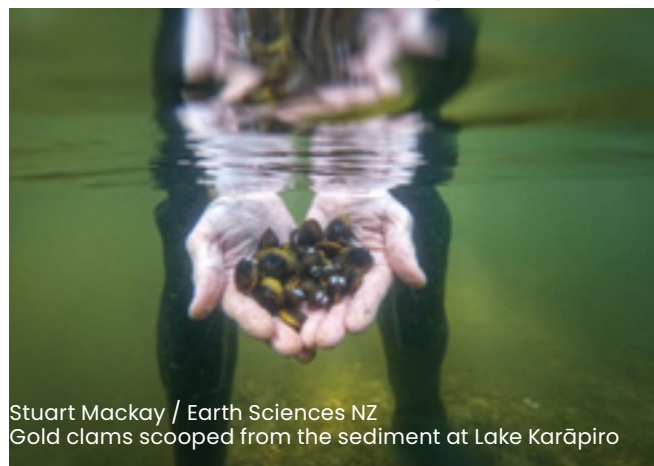


ensure the rules and resources are in place to prepare and act quickly if needed.

No clams – national surveillance results

During April and May, Biosecurity New Zealand coordinated a surveillance programme for gold clam and three other high-risk freshwater mussels not currently in the country. Around 65 lakes, rivers and other water bodies, from Northland to Southland, were surveyed by different partners, including Te Arawa Lakes Trust locally. Testing was done using a simple plankton net method to detect larval clams and the great news is that there were no new detections of gold clam or the other three mussels anywhere across the country.

Gold clam national research update



Stuart Mackay / Earth Sciences NZ
Gold clams scooped from the sediment at Lake Karāpiro

Crucial to the ongoing containment and control of gold clam is research. Earth Sciences NZ (ESNZ) undertakes an extensive research programme. As part of the programme, they produce an e-newsletter (search [niwa.co.nz](#) stopping gold clam programme). Key highlights in the latest edition include:

- Investigations on how gold clam could affect New Zealand's lakes and rivers if they become more widespread.
- Examining the impacts on water quality, nutrient cycling, oxygen levels and algal blooms.
- Exploring implications for drinking water treatment and freshwater management.
- Looking at how gold clams interact with native species and whether fish help spread them.
- Investigating whether pūkeko may feed on gold clams instead of native kākahi.
- Testing control methods, including lakebed barriers and underwater sound technology.



Benthic barriers research

Written by Rex Fairweather,
Biosecurity Officer Marine, Bay of
Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana



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cramped holidays into comfortable ones,
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family actually lives.

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section?

**Let's make room for more.
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John Goad 022 524 5741
Steve Webb 027 300 9804





PHOTO: Geoff Thomas
Trout are larger and in top condition, but it seems there are fewer fish in the lake.

Winter '26: Cast Your Line

Many locals agreed that towards the end of the last season the fishing was very hard, and that was our experience also. In fact records of fish caught on our boat showed a catch rate of less than half a normal season, and we are talking a lot of trout.

The big question, of course, is why? Trout don't suddenly become smart and stop taking lures or flies. They are motivated by very basic instincts – to feed and, when mature, to spawn. So why the hard fishing, with some trips resulting in not one strike which is very unusual?

I suspect there are not as many trout in the lake. This is purely speculation as it is impossible to measure the population. But let's look at the facts.

When liberations of year-old fingerlings from the hatchery were 15,000 a year, the proportion of liberated trout was 70%, as confirmed by catch data.

That means 30% were recruited from natural spawning. Then about five years ago liberations

were reduced to 10,000, so if you take a third off 70% that is 23% from the total population. On this basis, the proportion of hatchery (fin clipped) to wild fish should be 50-50. This resulted in better growth which we saw in larger fish; to use a farming analogy not so many cows on the paddock.

Rainbow trout live for up to five years, so there are four year classes in the lake at any one time, but once they have spawned – at three years old – they are never the same. These are the long, thin slabs or kelts which we occasionally catch and are best knocked on the head and recycled as food for koura as they are eating food better utilised by young fish coming through.

What makes us suspect the population is down

is the proportion of marked (hatchery) fish we were catching towards the end of the season was not 50-50; in fact the last 10 fish we caught on the last week were all hatchery fish. While purely anecdotal, it does suggest there are fewer wild fish, recruited from spawning in the streams, and so the overall population may be down. This would explain the poor strike rate so many anglers reported.

One way to check this theory is to look at the data from the Te Wairoa trap.

All fish passing through the trap are weighed and measured and in some years around 2,300 fish are recorded for the whole winter. Fish and Game reported at the end of July that since April 1 when the trap was installed, 991 fish had been recorded, of which 42% were wild. Last year for the same period it was 1950 fish, and 27% wild. This supports the theory of fewer trout overall, but the variation in the proportion of wild fish is interesting; closer to the 50-50 split this winter. Fish and Game agree and put the reduced numbers down to natural variation in

spawning and higher harvest by anglers over the past two seasons; while hatchery liberations will remain the same.

This is all subjective speculation but I suspect it may have some relevance, and when it comes to trout fishing – “the gentle art” – isn’t such fireside discussion a large part of the allure? And wouldn’t it be satisfying to think that it was not our lack of expertise that resulted in our managing to avoid the fish so skillfully. As we often remark; there is a lot of water between them.

So what can we expect when the new season opens? On this basis, we are thinking fewer fish that are larger than normal.

Outdoors with Geoff is back on air. Sky Channel 83 at 5.30pm Saturday.

Written by Geoff Thomas
The Outdoors Adventurer



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

Pest Control – Winter 2026

RATS

Its fairly dull and boring in rat elimination world, under our Pulse Baiting strategy we pause for the winter and resume on Sept 1. Just as things are warming up.

Here is one gem, I put a trail cam to observe one of the bait stations, because it was being consistently drained of bait. Look what we found having a meal of bait, a stoat !



Not to be out done look at who else was in there feasting on bait after sticking its paw into the station.

If you have a station being constantly drained I would say there is a cheeky and maybe a bit of a sick possum nearby.

Because the bait we use works on active ingredient vs bodyweight the possum needs to eat a hell of a lot to die.



MICE

The recent mouse plague seems to have thankfully gone.

WASPS

We are all hoping the cold weather will curb the wasp population, historically a cold winter restricts the amount of queens that survive the winter.

POSSUMS & WALLABIES

I have a few pesky wallabies to match the equally pesky possums out the back of my place. Possums are way easier to eliminate than wallabies. I received some information from the Regional Council recently and they estimate there are over 1 million wallabies in NZ.

Written by Rat, Mouse & Possum Meister



Landcare

There are a few Landcare projects on the go.

OTUMUTU LAGOON TRACK

Carol and her Wednesday crew have done a stellar job on the pathway, clearing all manner of evil doers. We have learnt that it is no easy job but the results are fantastic, this is really good but it makes us all realise how much ongoing work is required to make it look this way. If you haven't walked that pathway it is a treat but be respectful of the landowners privacy please.

BOATSHED BAY TO RANGIURU BAY TRACK

These two photos show the work we have put in to clean this area up, it used to be a dumping ground for all sorts of weedy rubbish and now it isn't perfect but is far more of an amenity.



We are working at the Boatshed Bay end of the track, clearing out the weeds and felling the dead trees.



DDL have been a fantastic help with the heavy lifting and mulch moving. This photo was from our summer mulch laying session.

There is still plenty of work to do but it looks so much better than before.

ENTRANCE TO SPENCER RD

As you come into the built up area of Spencer Rd just before the entrance to Black Barn there is an infestation of blackberry along the roadway. We are negotiating with RLC, Regional Council and the various land owners in an effort to control the blackberry by mulching and spraying. The aim of this is to make for a more attractive arrival point, the start point is the area along the Road Reserve on the LHS as you drive along Spencer Rd.

If we can obtain all of the correct permissions the plan is to start with in the next few months.

LANDCARE AND PEST CONTROL SHED

We are in the process of negotiation with RLC over a potential site for a shed to house all of our Landcare and Pest Control equipment. As

it stands there is a lot of equipment, traps, bait, herbicides and other stuff, all spread out in various peoples garages and sheds. We have come to a point where this needs to be consolidated in one place and managed correctly in relation to Health and Safety protocols, especially with Herbicides and rodent Baits.

Written by Larry Landcare



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

Lake Security – Winter 2026

As the days get longer and warmer weather returns, our lakeside communities begin to come alive again.

Boats are back on the water, properties are being opened up for the season, and more residents and visitors are enjoying everything our lake has to offer. At **Lake Security**, spring is an important time for us too. With increased activity around private properties, holiday homes, jetties, boats and shared community spaces, our focus remains the same: **keeping your property, your community and your peace of mind secure.**

The winter season was a fairly typical one, I am happy to report there were no break-ins to any clients properties over the period, there were however other incidents and call outs I attended. These consisted of 3 motor vehicle accidents for various reasons including speed and winter ice. Several trees down along our roads, 4 accounts of people trespassing on private property where they shouldn't be, dealing with suspicious 'freedom campers'

including the well known one that had made Okareka reserves home for quite a while. The main incident over the past few months however was one very early Saturday morning when 14 trailer wheels were taken from boat trailers at Boatshed bay. Through use of the cameras along the road and assistance from those involved we managed to not only get them all returned but an additional 20 wheels were found and handed over to police to be reunited with their rightful owners around Rotorua. Other than that it was business as usual with late night patrols, monitoring cameras and keeping an eye out on the community!

Spring Security Check-Up

Spring is the perfect opportunity to take a fresh look at your property's security.

We recommend checking:

Gates, fences and access points for damage or

signs of tampering.

Security lighting to make sure entrances, pathways and vulnerable areas are well illuminated.

Cameras and alarms to ensure they are working correctly and positioned as intended.

Locks and doors on homes, sheds, garages, boats and other outbuildings.

Vegetation and visibility around cameras, lights and entrances — overgrown trees and shrubs can create unwanted hiding places.

Spare keys and access codes to make sure they are only held by people who still require access.

A few simple checks now can prevent bigger problems later.

Getting Ready for the Busy Season

With warmer weather comes increased movement around the lake.

Holiday homes begin filling up, boats return to the water, tradespeople and contractors become more active, and communities naturally become busier. That makes **situational awareness and good access control** particularly important.

If you own a lakeside property that sits vacant for periods of time, consider how your property looks when you're away. Secure valuables, keep access points locked, maintain exterior lighting and make sure your security system is connected and operational.

If something doesn't look right, **report it early**. Small observations can sometimes prevent larger incidents.

Security Is A Community Effort

One of the greatest strengths of a of our community is that neighbours look out for one another.

If you're at the lake and notice something unusual — an unfamiliar vehicle, suspicious activity, an unsecured property or anything else that doesn't seem right — don't ignore it. Your awareness could help protect not just your own property, but your neighbours' as well.

Anytime, day or night feel free to give me a call. At Lake Security, we believe effective community security is about more than responding to incidents. It's about **visibility, prevention, communication and building trust with the community we protect**.

A Fresh Season, A Fresh Start

Spring is also a good time to review your

property's security needs.

Has anything changed since last season?

Have you added a boat, shed, gate or other valuable asset? Have contractors or property managers changed?

If the answer is yes, I am always happy to help identify potential vulnerabilities and make sure your existing security arrangements continue to suit the way you use your property, or if you are interested in signing up to a security plan please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Here's to longer days, warmer evenings and another great season on the lake.

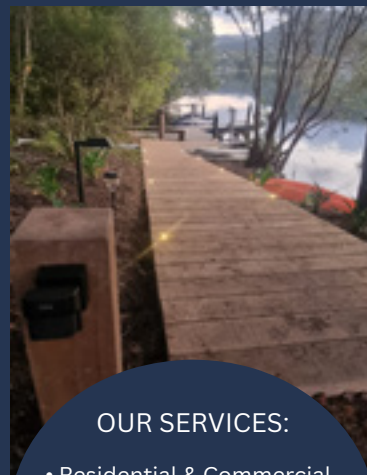
Thank you to the residents, property owners and wider community who trust **Lake Security** to help protect what matters most. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or want to report something around the community please don't hesitate to get in touch, day or night. **Stay safe. Stay aware. Enjoy the lake.** — George and Eden Gilmour

Written by George Gilmour
Lakes Security
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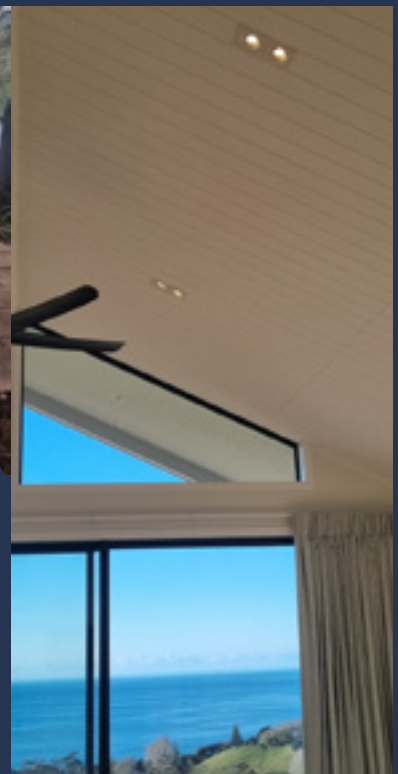
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Jamie McIntosh

022 173 9048 info@collabelectrical.co.nz



This is a plea for help from the Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust

The Tombola Stall at the Spring Fair is looking for
donations of bottles or jars of anything.

The children love sweets and the adults love wine!

Tombola is like a lucky dip. All containers are wrapped by Pat to
make it a surprise.

We are also looking for items to auction.

Spring Fair

25 October 2026

If you can help please contact, or deliver items to either
Pat -07 3628341 -19 Ronald Road or
Carol – 0274 423 333 -2 Alexander Road



PHOTO: Rose

Identity Jim Liggins passes

By Geoff Thomas

"I think I'll just have a little Jimmy!" Jim Liggins would say as poured himself a Jim Beam and Coke. That was always Jim's greeting, and his mates referred to him as Jimbo. Sadly Jim passed away on June 30, in his 82nd year.

From an old Tarawera family, Jim grew up spending holidays at the lake and inherited his love of trout fishing from his father, Jim Liggins Snr.

He always referred to his father by his nickname, Bones, and as a nine-year-old I was jealous of Bones when my father, Hal Thomas, told us how Jim Liggins had 'a magic line' he used to catch limits of big trout every day off the point across towards Humphreys. My old man was so impressed when Bones took out the American ambassador and caught him a limit of eight

big fish. As I learned a bit more about this trout fishing business later in life I realised Bones was way ahead of my old man, and had picked up the first lead-core lines when they were made legal in 1956.

Jimbo followed Bones in the business of extracting trout from the lake's waters. But he spurned the lead-line, preferring the old fashioned approach with a fly rod; harling a fly over the shallow shelf at White Cliffs – his favourite haunt. His father's runabout is still in the boatshed in front of the house; in perfect condition because Jimbo was a stickler for looking after his gear. We would discuss fly patterns, and always agree that you can't beat a Parsons Glory, Green Orbit or his favourite – Red Setter. Bones always had a Red Setter on one rod, and I remember many years ago Jimbo coming round and asking whether I could tie

him some Red Setters as you couldn't buy the right ones in the tackle shops. Now a true Red Setter has hackles which lie back along the red body, so it has a streamlined silhouette when wet. The problem with flies in the shops is they are tied by somebody in Vietnam or India. And there is a real shortage of Tarawera trout in those regions so the factory full of fly-tiers has people working from a model; a sample or a photo. And without an understanding of how the finished fly should look in the water it is impossible to capture the essence of the fly. Their hackles will be sticking straight out at right angles. No good in our book.



Jimbo had an actual fly that Bones had used, and to me it was the perfect Red Setter. In fact you wouldn't want to tie it on and drop in the water in case the trace broke and you lost it. I still have that actual fly – perfect in colour and shape (in the photo).



In recent years Jimbo would call me when he arrived at the lake from Auckland, and after telling me about his list of little jobs to be done around the place suggested we get together for dinner. The dinners were always lovely home-cooked meals with the trimmings, as Jimbo and Sherin realised Geoffrey lived by himself and probably didn't have many roasts with gravy and veges. You got that right!

The afternoons would be spent trolling on the lake and I got the impression that Jimbo was quite happy to leave his boat in the boatshed and join Wally Bain and me on our pontoon. I suppose two lounge suites, clear plastics all around and downriggers doing the hard work while you pour a Jimmy was the clincher. And we reminisced about good times growing up at the lake. You don't realise how valuable such times are until you will do no more.

So Jimbo, Here's to you Old Mate. I'll never see a Jim Beam again without a salute to you! And that Red Setter will always be treasured. As will the memories.





Libby's King's Service Medal Investiture

By Pete Fahey

I was lucky enough to be invited to Libby's investiture in May. It was held at Government House in Wellington which is a place I'd never been. The ceremony was suitably formal as you would expect, but also very 'Kiwi' in atmosphere.

Just to recap, Libby spent many countless, and often thankless hours and meetings over quite a few years totally focussed on getting the sewerage scheme over the line. As many will attest to, if it wasn't for her absolute dedication to the cause I'm pretty sure the scheme wouldn't have happened.

Rather than go on at length I just want to reiterate that her gong was totally deserved, I think the citation and photo say it all.

COMMUNITY

HAUTAPU

Waitoharuru | Tarawera Landing

11 JULY 2026 16:00AM



Mānawa mai te putanga o te ariki... Welcome, the appearance of the paramount star...

Mānawa mai te mātahi o te tau... Welcome, the first light of the new year...

Nau mai ngā whetū tapu o Matariki! Welcome, the sacred stars of Matariki!

On a beautiful, crisp Saturday dawn in July, more than 300 Tūhourangi uri and members of our wider community gathered on the shores of our tupuna rotomoana, Tarawera, for our iwi hautapu ceremony at Waitoharuru. Led by Dr Anaha Hiini, the group of karakia practitioners, all descendants of the three marae in the area with whakapapa connections to Tūhourangi, conducted the proceedings. Together, we came to commemorate and lament, while casting our hopes for the future. The ceremony was followed by the unveiling of two new pou whakairo, Hinemihi and Tawake, who now stand at the entrance to Punaromia, and a breakfast to welcome the new year. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone

who answered the call to gather and welcome the new year. Despite the crisp cold, it was our collective togetherness and shared identity that kept us warm as we welcomed the rising of Matariki and looked ahead with hope for the year to come. It was a beautiful and deeply spiritual moment, one that reminded us of the strength of our connections to one another, to our tūpuna, and to the whenua. Mauri ora – heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the new year.

Acknowledgement: Tūhourangi Tribal Authority Edited by Iris Arihi Harvey

Written by Iris Arihi Harvey
(Tūhourangi, Ngāti Wahiao, Ngāti
Ngararanui, Ngāpuhi)
LTRA Committee



COMMUNITY



Tērā Te Auahi – 10 – 14 June 2026

This year marks 140 years since the devastating 1886 Mount Tarawera eruption. Tērā te Auahi, a powerful contemporary theatrical production created by Te Whare Tapere o Te Arawa, brought this tragic and defining event to life through theatre, music, movement and kapa haka.

As an uri of Tūhourangi, watching Tērā te Auahi was an incredibly emotional experience. It made me deeply sad to witness the suffering and loss experienced by our tūpuna during the eruption.

Yet alongside the grief, I felt immense pride in seeing our history, whakapapa and stories portrayed with such authenticity and care. There were moments when I found myself in tears, and others when I could only sit in silence, taking in the sheer terror and devastation of what our tūpuna endured. I was also struck by the immense talent within our people; the performers, musicians, dancers

and kapa haka artists who carried this story with such strength and mana. The exceptional costuming deserves special mention, adding depth, beauty and authenticity to the production.

On the day I attended, the diverse audience, spanning all ages, responded with standing ovations and praise, describing the production as “world class” and “brilliant.” High praise also came from Cliff Curtis, who called it “as good as anything I’ve seen on stage in the world.” For me, Tērā te Auahi was far more than theatre. It was a poignant reminder of what our people endured, while celebrating their strength, survival and resilience. It is a story that deserves to be heard, remembered and carried forward. Ka mua ka muri — we walk backwards into the future.

If you never had the opportunity to see it, I highly recommend you do. Following its sell-out debut run, the production returns for an

extended summer season.

Dates: 15 January to 14 February 2027
(Thursday to Sunday weekly)

Venue: Sir Owen Glenn Theatre, Sir Howard
Morrison Centre, Rotorua

Tickets: \$55–\$69, available through
Ticketmaster.

Written by Iris Arihi Harvey
(Tūhourangi, Ngāti Wahiao, Ngāti
Ngararanui, Ngāpuhi)
LTRA Committee



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ROTORUA

COMMUNITY



Mid Winter Christmas at the Community Hall

It looks like a fantastic turnout for the Lake Tarawera Mid-Winter Christmas dinner at the Community Hall! Judging by the vibrant photos, everyone brought plenty of holiday cheer, great company, and festive spirit to a wonderful evening.









Tarawera Quiz Time

1. Where did the road name 'ALEXANDER' and 'RONALD' originate from?
2. Who designed the Tarawera Lookout memorial with a dot at the wrong end! What does it represent?
3. In 1986, after a Rotorua Council driver's strike resulted in masses of uncollected rubbish - who turned up with a 10 ton truck complete with a hoist and took the rubbish to the tip?
4. What is the Maori name for the White Cliffs area?
5. What was the very early speciality food at the Buried Village tearoom?
6. What are the names of the three 'Tarawera' domes?
7. What was the LTRA's annual subscription in 1969?
8. Who was the first Chairperson of the LTRA and who was the Secretary/Treasurer?
9. Who wrote the books ... 'Mission to Tarawera "Early Tarawera" and 'The Incoming Tide'?
10. Who audited the LTRA books in 1978 and his son in 1990?
11. Who was the person who designed and set up the Community garden?
12. Who was the PIRATE at a recent Tarawera Sailing Regatta?

Answers on page 37



Lake Tarawera Photo Exhibition

Kia ora Tarawera Residents
Bob Ebermayer here.

I'm a local at Lake Tarawera and have been a resident here for a number of years. Over that time, a number of friends and I have taken countless photos of our beautiful lake, our maunga and the surrounding area.

Over the years, we've talked about the idea of bringing some of these photographs together and putting on a Lake Tarawera Photo Exhibition — showcasing the amazing images captured by the people who live here and love this special place.

An Exhibition for Our Community

The exhibition would be open to any Lake Tarawera resident or local who has taken photographs over the years and would like to display them.

We are thinking that the Lake Tarawera

Community Hall could be an ideal venue for our first exhibition. There would be no admission charge and no registration fee for exhibitors. We may simply ask for a small donation from visitors or exhibitors to help cover any miscellaneous costs associated with putting the event together.

Volunteers & Organisers

We are looking for interested local photographers and residents who would like to:

- Display some of their favourite Lake Tarawera photographs.
- Help organise and set up the exhibition.
- Volunteer on the day.
- Join a small organising committee to help bring the event together.

You don't need to be a professional photographer — this is about celebrating the photographs, memories and perspectives of the people who live around our lake.

Framing Your Photographs

For photographs to be displayed, they will need to be suitably framed.

If you have captured an amazing image but haven't had it framed yet, a number of us have been using Harvey Norman for canvas and wood framing and have found them to be both good quality and reasonably priced.

We may even approach them to see whether they would be interested in offering a special discount for the exhibition.

Looking After Your Photographs

One of our priorities will be making sure everyone's photographs are properly cared for while they are on display.

We would likely use a simple registration number system, with a number attached to the back of each photograph so that every image can be identified and returned to its owner after the exhibition.

Further details around insurance, handling, security and displaying the photographs will be worked through as we develop the idea.

Where Could This Lead?

At this stage, no date has been set and there are still plenty of details to work out.

But perhaps this could become something bigger over time.

There has already been some discussion about the possibility of producing a Lake Tarawera photography book featuring some of the best images from the exhibition, or perhaps taking the exhibition into Rotorua to reach a wider audience next year or sometime in the future. For now, though, the idea is simply to get together as a community and celebrate the incredible place we are fortunate enough to call home.

Interested?

If you are a local photographer, have some photographs you'd like to display, or would simply like to help with organising or volunteering, please get in touch and let us know.

It would be great to hear from anyone who thinks this is a good idea and would like to be involved.

Ngā mihi,
Bob Ebermayer
bob@draftingservices.co.nz



GET INVOLVED

Help us spotlight what makes our community unique. We're looking for genuine stories—personal anecdotes, historical moments, or event recaps—that capture the heart and soul of our lake, land, and people.

Showcase your Photos

Send us your high-resolution photos that embody the spirit of our community to be featured!

Great Neighbour

Do you know someone who's going above and beyond or just being an all-round great neighbour? Let us know! Whether it's a grand gesture or a quiet act of kindness, we want to shine a light on the wonderful people making a difference in our community. This is your chance to say thanks very much.

NOTHING'S A SECRET

Life in our neighborhood is never short on comedy, especially those hilarious, blink-and-you-missed-it moments! If you've captured or witnessed a laugh-out-loud moment recently, we'd love to feature it. Just remember to keep the main character anonymous or use a fake name so we keep things light and friendly.

Bonus: The top story across our three categories takes home a \$50 voucher to Redwoods Butchery or Good Eastern!

Send us your best tales and help us build another fantastic issue!

Email ltra@xtra.co.nz

Heart Defibrillator Locations (AED's)

Lake Tarawera Fire Station	Stoney Point Reserve, 151 Spencer Rd	Secure external cabinet by front door and in the crews medical kit. Phone 111 (Does not require phone reception) for cabinet combination from Ambulance Communications 24/7
The Community Hall	475 Spencer Rd	Accessed through the main door with key from lock box or call George Gilmour for key ph 027 282 9034
The Buried Village	1180 Tarawera Rd	+07 362 8287
Rangiuru Bay - Privately owned	11 Rangiuru Bay Rd	This is the farthest house on the right of Rangiuru Bay Reserve as you look out at the lake. Access across Rangiuru Bay Rd. Private Property --- Please respect
Privately Owned	541 Spencer Rd	Corner of Spencer and Bayview Rd Situated on External wall at front door with all equipment required
Privately Owned	4 Bay View Rd	Available 24/7
Solitaire Lodge	16 Ronald Rd	Available Business Hours
Privately Owned	187 Spencer Rd	Available 24/7

Have you visited the LTRA website yet?

The LTRA website can be found at www.laketarawera.org.nz

WHAT'S INSIDE

LOCAL EVENTS: Check the Community Calendar for upcoming gatherings, Spring Fair, and celebrations. Got an event? Easily submit it online to share it with the community!

COMMUNITY GROUPS: Find and connect with local clubs, associations, and volunteer opportunities.

LOCAL NEWS AND UPDATES: Stay informed on important issues, project updates, and announcements.

Archived Newsletters: Past issues of Kotahi Reo – One Voice and The Phantom.

We invite you to explore and make it your essential hub for all things community!

Helpful Numbers

Emergencies

Police
Fire
Ambulance
111

Tarawera Fire Unit

Chief Fire Officer
George Gilmour
027 282 9034/07 362 8378
george06@gmail.com

Deputy Fire Officer
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

07 348 1000
1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua

National Poisons Centre

0800 764 766 (0800 POISON)
This is a free, 24/7 service for all New Zealanders

Rural Delivery

Jan & Glen Harmer
07 349 1254
022 153 6894

Security

George Gilmour
027 282 9034/07 362 8378
george06@gmail.com

Rotorua Lakes Council

07 348 4199

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

0800 884 880

Department of Conservation

07 349 7400

The Buried Village

07 362 8287
1180 Tarawera Rd

Editor Kotahi Reo – One Voice

Victoria Jantke
ltra@ltra.co.nz

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2026

25 Lake Tarawera Spring Fair

Join Our Community Database

If you're not yet in our database and would like to be, email ltra@xtra.co.nz and tell us you want to be added to the database to receive this quarterly newsletter!

Lake Tarawera Community Calendar: Share Your Events!

Keep our community connected! We're building a comprehensive calendar of events for Lake Tarawera and need your input. Send us details of any upcoming gatherings, workshops, or special occasions. Include the event's date, name, location, and time. Submissions can be emailed to victoriajantke@gmail.com or via the [LTRA website Community Calendar](#), just use the online form to have your listing on the website and in Kotahi Reo – One Voice.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Join us each week for:

Tai Chi: Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 AM
All levels welcome.

Friday Drinks: From 5:00 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

Keep up to date with upcoming happenings via the [Lake Tarawera Community Connect](#) and [Lake Tarawera Social Club Facebook](#) pages:

FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Originally a play centre, the hall remains a great place for young families to connect. If you're new to the area or looking to meet other parents, join the [Lake Kids Facebook Group](#)

CLOSING REMARKS

It's a Wrap!

And that's a wrap for Winter everyone. Again thank you so much for all your support to make Lake Tarawera so special. See you at the Spring Fair.

Steelo

David Steele
LTRA Committee Member



Tarawera Quiz Time Answers

1. Mr Ronnie Millar
2. Mr Keith Cooper ... It is a question mark – when will the mountain blow again!
3. Earl Morris
4. Moura
5. A scone with blackberry jam and cream
6. Wahanga, Ruawahia, Tarawera
7. \$20
8. Chairperson: Roy Harris, Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Tremayne
9. Morris Scobie
10. Des Stewart 1978 and Don Stewart in 1990
11. Owen Dawe
12. Dave Townsend