

THE PHANTOM

Spring 2019



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From The Chair: Libby Fletcher

Opening Day

Many of you will know that Peter Watson from the Landing Café died recently; it was Peter who organised the pipe band for the opening of the fishing season. The LTRA were keen to keep the tradition going so stepped in and the weather gods were kind and the rain held off until after the band had played. The following day was pretty miserable unfortunately, although I am told that the fishing was pretty good.

Power Pole Upgrade

By now you will have received the letter from Unison, advising that they will soon be upgrading approximately 7 km of overhead network that runs from the junction of Mead Road and Tarawera Road, then along Spencer Road. The upgrade will involve replacing the existing power poles and overhead conductors, including 1.5 km of low voltage (400v) conductors. It is a large-scale project,

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with 87 poles being replaced, so it has been broken down into two stages to minimise disruption during the busy Christmas holiday period.

Stage 1 – October 2019 to mid-December 2019: From the Mead Road and Tarawera Road junction, up to 2 Spencer Road.

Stage 2 – Early February 2020 to May 2020: From 2 Spencer Road to 400 Spencer Road.

See Page 4 for comment on this by Pete Fahey.

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

As mentioned in our Winter Phantom we hoped to have the Cultural Impact Assessment very soon. We still have not received a copy. Te Arawa Lakes Trust held a Hui on Tuesday 15 October at the Millennium Hotel, Rotorua to receive the Cultural Impact Assessment for the proposed Tarawera Sewerage Scheme. Unfortunately neither Glenn Snelgrove or I were unable to attend this Hui.

Kariri Point and Landcare

Work continues on Kariri Point and you may have noticed the large pile of mulch in Boatshed Bay – this is being used for the path around the Point. Bay of Plenty Regional Council have donated 500 trees to plant on Kariri Point. There will be further felling of the acacias in the coming months.

The Mausoleum

It was brought to my attention recently that the area surrounding the mausoleum has been cleared and we appreciate that this work has been done with the best intentions. When we had the initial meeting with the Trustees of Kariri Point regarding the track around the Point, we were asked not to take the track close to the Mausoleum and we were asked not to do any restoration work there for the following reasons:

The land on which the mausoleum stands does not belong to the Spencer family. The mausoleum does, but not the land beneath it. Tuhourangi allowed the Spencer family to place the mausoleum on that site, because of their early connection to the church Hiona that once stood there, before moving up to Te Mu.

The person or persons clearing up at the mausoleum should only be cleaning and maintaining the structure and a two metre curtilage around the building. They should also be a member of the Spencer family descendants or someone working for them.

Tuhourangi have buried other koiwi (skeletal remains) that have been found in the general Tarawera area in unmarked burials near the mausoleum.

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The wider area around the mausoleum is thus regarded as a wahi tapu by the Tuhourangi people. The public can still go up to visit the mausoleum but must respect the wahi tapu status of the immediate area around the mausoleum.

Fundraising Events

We are looking forward to the fundraiser for Tarawera Pest Control at the Black Barn on Saturday 26 October. We are extremely grateful to Glenn and Shelly Barbour for so generously offering us the venue. All funds raised will go towards the purchase of rat traps which will be placed along the foreshore of the settlement at Tarawera. **(See Ratmeister's report on Page 17).**

The Tarawera Spring Fair on Sunday 27 October is always a great day. The LTRA will have a stall there and we will have a number of the committee there who are looking forward to talking to you about the various projects we are involved with. A special thanks to the small committee that organise this fair as it is a huge undertaking.

Local Authority Elections

Congratulations to Steve Chadwick on being elected for her third term as Mayor and to Dave Donaldson as Deputy Mayor, congratulations to all the returning Councilors and to the new ones. The LTRA will continue to work closely with the Lakes Community Board and are pleased to see Phill Thomass and Nick Chater back and two new members Jennifer Rothwell and Sandra Goodwin from Lake Okareka.

I hope you all a very happy Labour Weekend and for those of you travelling to Tarawera for the weekend have a safe trip. What a glorious view of blossom from my kitchen window—spring is here.

With best wishes,

Libby



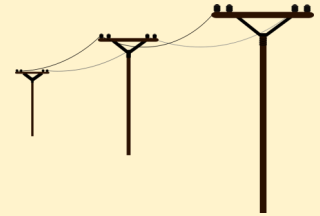
Underground Power: Pete Fahey

In early September Libby Fletcher and I met with a representative from Unison. He wanted to update us on the planned replacement of 87 out of 121 power poles along Spencer Road. The first stage will be completed prior to Christmas and stretches from south of the Buried Village and goes as far as the start of the settlement on Spencer Road. The second stage is planned to start in February 2020.

This might be an opportunity for the community to consider whether having the unsightly powerlines that clutter the landscape currently might instead be replaced with underground power. It could be another 60 years before the opportunity arises again.

Obviously, there are some questions that need answering before any decision or recommendation to Unison could be made. For example ...

- ◇ Is there sufficient interest from the community to explore this option?
- ◇ What would the cost be?
- ◇ What funding options are available?
- ◇ Would we want fibre incorporated?



If you would like the LTRA to explore this option in more depth can you please register your interest by talking to us on the LTRA stand at the Spring Fair (Sunday 27 October) or alternatively email your thoughts/ideas to ltra@xtra.co.nz

Weed Swap (*No! Not that kind of weed*)



Sunday 27th October at the Spring Fair, Stoney Point

Once again the BOP Regional Council will be at the Spring Fair so bring along a weed from your property and exchange it for a native seedling and do your bit to improve Tarawera. Look around your section and see if you have any: Old Man's Beard, Tradescantia (Wandering Willy), Agapanthus, Spindleberry, Flowering Jasmine, Gorse, Flowering Cherry, Cotoneaster. If your property is pristine and weed free—pinch one from your neighbour and do yourselves both a favour.



If you're uncertain whether a plant is a weed or not you can email Council and they can help identify it.

Please email your enquiry description (including high resolution photographs if possible) to STOP.PESTS@boprc.govt.nz.

Community Centre Connections: Claire Stewart

There's always something happening at the Community Centre ...

Friday Nights



Every Friday from 5.00 PM, locals meet at the Community Hall.

All welcome—BYO drinks and snacks.

Christmas Carols

Save the date for this popular event: Sunday 22nd December



Membership fees

Are an important way to cover the basic costs of keeping the building going. Thank you to all for your contribution last year. If you have not done so already, we're asking for your contribution again with a minimum \$20 donation per family. This fee will go towards the basic running costs of the building.

Membership subscription 2019/20- \$20 per family

Payment by internet banking to:

Account name: Lake Tarawera Community Group

Account number: 03-0415-0068074-000

Reference: Please include your name

Do you know someone who would like to join? Forward this email to them and tell them to respond to laketaraweracommunitygroup@gmail.com with their details.

Community Hall Scheduling and Rental

The hall is available to community members for hire.

Hall Rental Fees

Child's birthday party or similar event half day:

\$30 (member) \$50 (non-member).

Council or similar external 'commercial' group:

\$150 base rate for half-day hire.

If you would like to hire the hall please contact Paul Twigden on 07 362 8141

Community Centre: Guy Fawkes Evening



NOV 8TH | 5PM

GUY FAWKES POTLUCK DINNER & BONFIRE

COMMUNITY HALL (475 SPENCER RD)
FOR SHARED DINNER.
ALEXANDER RESERVE FOR BONFIRE ON
DARK (WEATHER PERMITTING)

BBQ AVAILABLE FOR USE.
BYO FOOD, DRINK, FIREWORKS

The Tarawera Project: Fish and Game

Lake Tarawera is one of those destinations that old timers speak of with a glint in the eye while recalling the halcyon days of NZ angling and folklore. In recent times the lake fishery has been on a declining conveyor belt and we have been approached by angling groups to arrest the slide. We were told that smelt no longer dimpled the surface of the lake morning and night, and much akin to animals in the paddock, the fishery may have been suffering due to our stocking levels being too high.



Like all lake systems, Tarawera goes through periods of good and bad growth, but in recent times it's experienced more downs than ups. We are unsure of what exactly the issue is but are certain it's far more complicated than the most visible factor of how many fish are being released each year.

*Matt Osborne
sorts through
a sample*



Part One:

So, in 2019 we launched a research programme to investigate Lake Tarawera's food web. This is a programme being run in conjunction with Dr. Simon Stewart of the Cawthron Institute, and Professor Troy Baisden of the University of Waikato, who is also Chair of the Rotorua Lakes Society.

We have been out on the lake quarterly, collecting food web samples including lakebed (benthic) invertebrates, smelt, bullies, koura, kakahi (freshwater mussels), snails, weed samples, phytoplankton, and zooplankton. These are being collected from three mid lake and four shoreline sites with differing habitat. We have also received samples from angler-caught trout to examine how energy is being transferred through the food chain.

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Fish & Game Councillor Ken Coombes helps collect samples from the bed of Tarawera



Part Two:

Also, under the umbrella of Tarawera research, we have started an in-depth monitoring programme of the smelt fishery within the lake. In the Rotorua lakes fisheries, smelt are the main component of rainbow trout diet and therefore a key component of trout growth. We are using acoustic monitoring equipment to calculate the amount of prey

present twice yearly – April and November (pre and post lake turnover). This programme is being undertaken in partnership with DOC Taupo Fishery and NIWA.

We are hoping over time to be able to look at changing trends in food source availability and be able to forecast what is likely to happen ahead of time. This will not only forewarn anglers of downturns and improvements but may also allow us to make management changes ahead of time that minimize the impacts of the projected downturn.

Reprinted with permission from Andy Garrick, Manager, NZ Fish and Game—Eastern Region

<https://fishandgame.org.nz/eastern/>

Pine Pulling: Mount Tarawera



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY 2020



Join other locals for a rewarding day ridding our lovely mountain of wilding pines. It's a tough but enjoyable day and a great opportunity to go up Mount Tarawera. Places are limited. Age 15+

Further details to follow in the Summer Phantom

To register your interest

please email Fiona McAllister at: fiona@betterwords.co.nz



Whitebait: Geoff Thomas

The whitebait season runs from August 15 to November 30 and in the Bay of Plenty they can be caught at river mouths like the Rangitaiki at Thornton, and the Kaituna at Maketu.

Once a resource that was so plentiful that surplus whitebait were fed to chickens or dug into the vegetable garden as fertiliser, 'bait has become a rare delicacy, a luxury for those who have to buy it. In Auckland supermarkets you can pay \$25 for 100 grams, equating to \$250 a kilo. And that is only enough for a couple of miserable fritters that will be more flour and egg than fish. A true whitebait fritter, according to the aficionados, will have just enough egg to bind the tiny fish. Add a dash of salt and pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice and you have a dish fit for royalty. And whitebait is usually on the menu when royalty does make the journey from London.

The term whitebait is a generic one, applied to myriad tiny fish all over the world. An imported variety is available in the frozen food sections, but the white 'Chinese whitebait' are tasteless when compared to the real thing. Buyer beware.



A hopeful whitebaiter checks his net

In this country the term covers the juveniles of several different species of the galaxiid family, known as kokopu. There is the banded kokopu, and the very rare, short-jawed kokopu, giant kokopu and dwarf kokopu also koaro and inanga (the most common). The banded kokopu and koaro are found in Lake Tarawera, but live in deep water and are rarely seen.

It is the conversion of native bush to grassland and the deterioration in water quality that has contributed to the demise of the different families, along with the destruction of reeds and grasses by grazing stock along river banks where the adult fish lay their eggs. Their reproduction is a fascinating story, where the adults live secretive lives hiding under banks in dark pools deep in the bush. In autumn these fish, which may be only 10cm long, journey down to the estuarine waters of their natal rivers and streams, to deposit bunches of eggs covered in a protective sticky membrane on overhanging grasses inundated by the highest tide of the month. They remain high and dry until washed by the next high tide when they hatch and the helpless hatchlings are swept out to sea where they grow quickly in the nutrient-rich salt water. Predators exact a heavy toll, and the survivors return in spring to the fresh water to migrate up the rivers to repeat the process. It is these returning juveniles which white baiters search for so eagerly, and they are joining sea-run

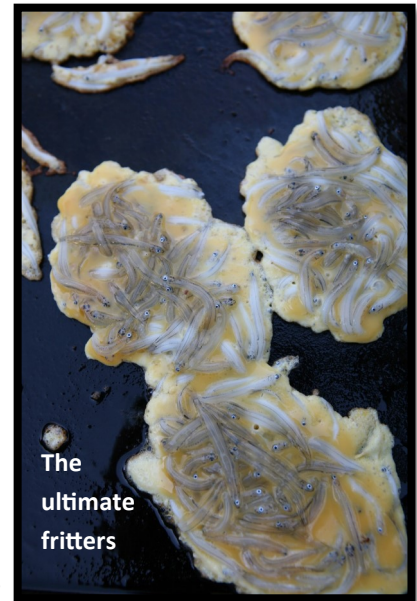
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trout, kahawai and birds which feast on the long, thin fish which are poor swimmers. Theories abound as to the best fishing times, but an incoming tide is acknowledged as the trigger when the fish use the surging current to combat the river currents. Moon phases and weather all come into the equation.

The best known catch in recent times was when All Black coach Graham Henry was trying to track down Stephen Donald as the fifth-choice first-five for the World Cup final at Auckland in 2011. "I couldn't find him," said Henry. "Then Jerome Kaino said 'I know how to track him down' and he called Richard Kahui, who was Beaver's (Donald) best mate and told him to get Beaver to give me a call. When he rang I said, 'what are you doing?' He said he was whitebaiting. I told him : 'Bring some whitebait and you can play in the World Cup final.'

"He brought eight kilos of whitebait and fed the whole team," he said.

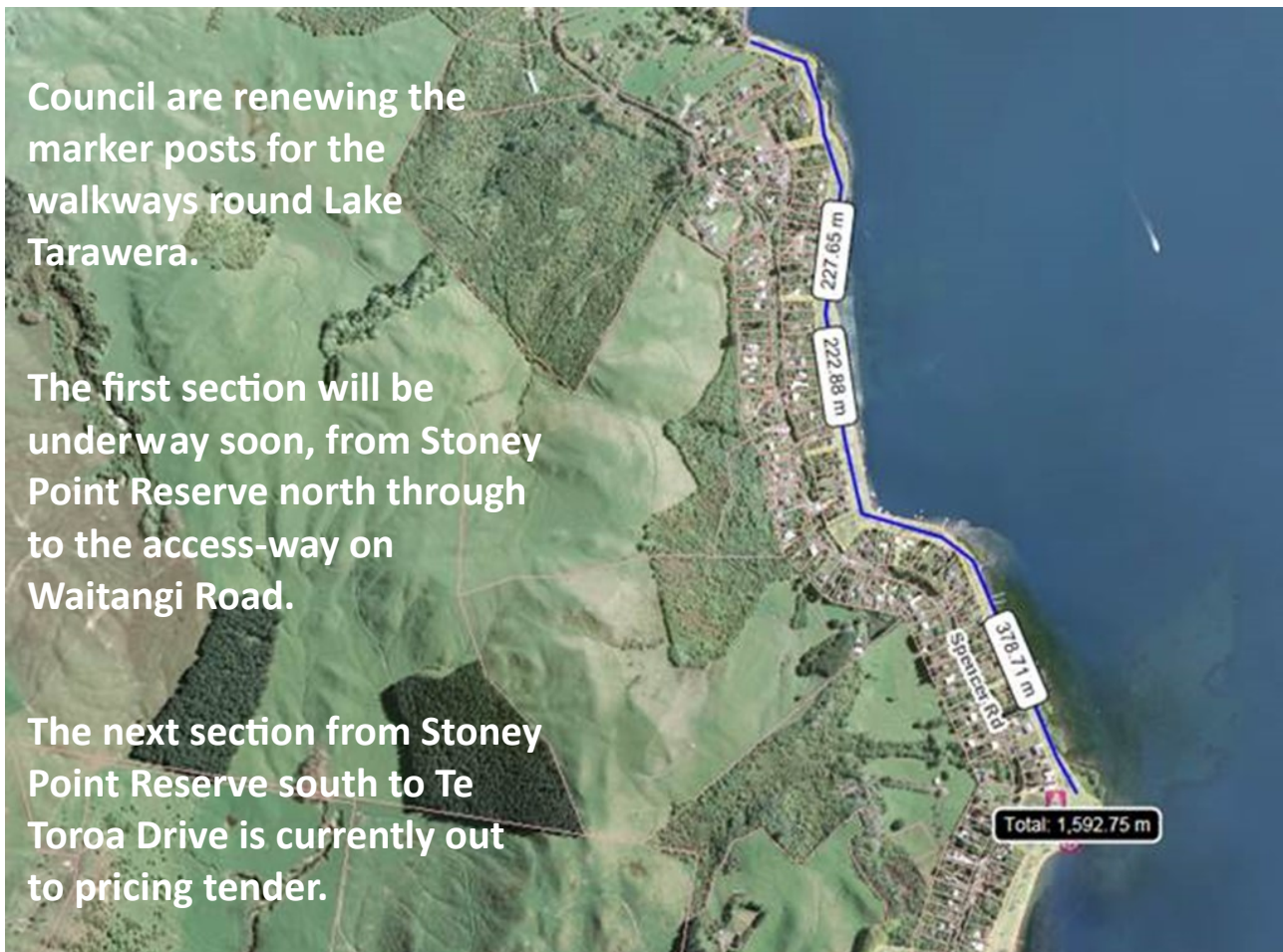


Rotorua Lakes Council: Walkway Markers

Council are renewing the marker posts for the walkways round Lake Tarawera.

The first section will be underway soon, from Stoney Point Reserve north through to the access-way on Waitangi Road.

The next section from Stoney Point Reserve south to Te Toroa Drive is currently out to pricing tender.



Tarawera Landcare (TLC2115)

Weedmeister

It is hard to know where to start, there are so many things going on in this area.

1. After a successful application to The RDC Neighbourhood Matching Fund we received half of the money to buy a quad bike and trailer. (Seen below with a load of mulch for the Kariri Point pathway). The LTRA, Pest Control and Landcare contributed the balance. This bike is shared with Pest Control and has already moved firewood for sale and 23 m³ of mulch.



Pete Fahey and trusty sidekick Jess, in Rhonda (aka the Red Honda), with a trailer load of mulch ready to spread on the pathway at Kariri Point during the August working bee.

2. The Regional Council has supplied us with 500 native plants to use of Kariri Point and Rangiuru Bay. A lot of time has gone in with preparation of the sites ready to plant in early November. Plans are underway for a planting day for these 500. We have learnt from previous planting efforts and realise both the site prep and post planting care is critical. The quad bike will help with this by being able to cart water if we have another summer like 2019.

3. John Paul College (via Mark Chapman) have for a number of Sundays, supplied us with some of their Duke of Edinburgh students to help with the site prep at Kariri Point. Their help has been very welcome and they have made a noticeable difference.

4. Flowering Cherries. The annual scourge of flowering cherries continues as does our efforts to reduce their number. In the last month we have drilled and injected hundreds of them as well as stump swabbing an equal amount. We are providing assistance to the Regional Council as they are very keen to reduce their number around the lake. If any of you have cherries you want dealt with just ask. *Plus cherry makes excellent firewood!*

5. Lakeside walking track. In association with pest control we are working with the RDC to extend the length of the lakeside walking track in order to extend the line of bait stations and pest traps and improve an amenity that many enjoy.

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6. We are talking with Unison about the issue of the two or three yearly chopping of trees that encroach on Power lines. I am not sure anyone would suggest they do a good job of tree trimming and it is a cost that eventually gets passed onto the consumer one way or other. Our discussions are around removing the encroaching trees and replacing them with suitable trees that will not get to more than three metres and therefore not need trimming.

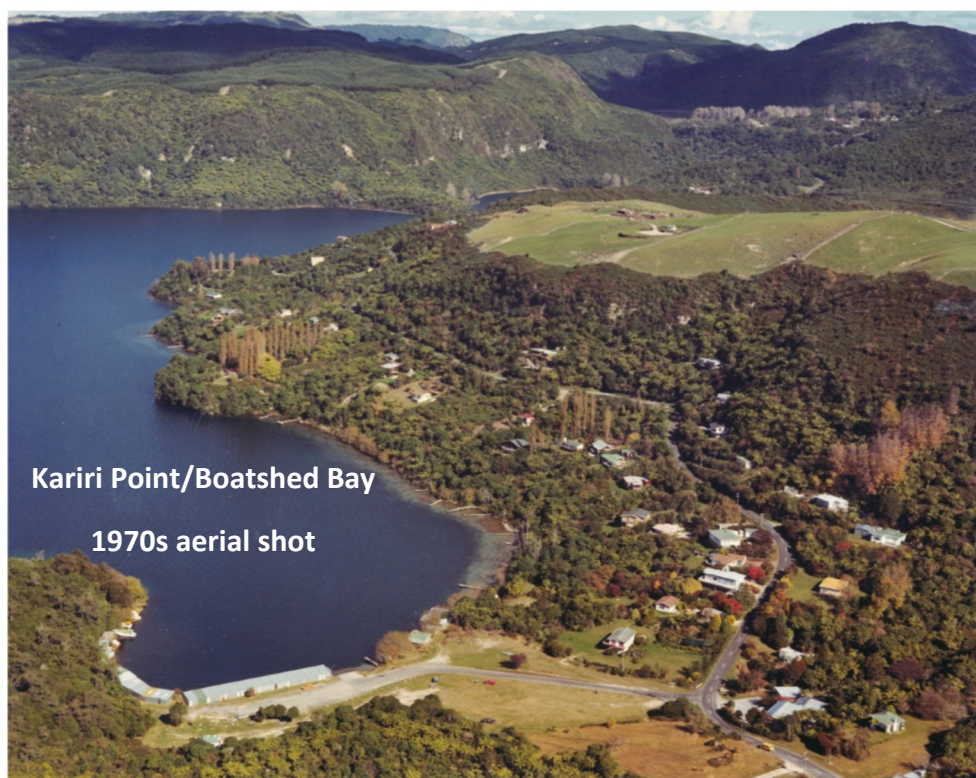
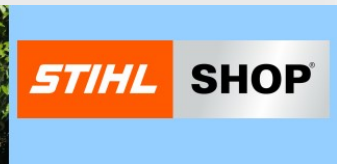
7. Thanks go out to all of the people attending our monthly Working Bees, it always amazes me what a group of motivated people can achieve.

8. Last thing: Our plan is to use the quad and trailer to move firewood out of Kariri Point and other places, split it and sell for funds to continue our Landcare work. We will be putting out a flyer soon to advertise the sales. Buy now and you'll have a great stash for next winter.

Thanks again to Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate, Treescape and Stihl Shop for supporting our efforts



Remember the Stihl Shop in Rotorua give anyone associated with Tarawera Landcare 2115 a discount by way of a donation - so be sure to get your toys serviced there.



Transfer Station: Clarice Cleanup

Remember ...
It's a Transfer Station
Not a Dump
Please use it properly
Don't be a Chump!
Unsorted recyclables
Busted old bicycles
Mouldy ripped sofas
The broken toasters
Dispose of them properly
Not just dropping them
Don't leave it for others
We're not your mothers!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PICTURES?

The transfer station is not a rubbish dump where you can cast off any old junk. If the item isn't suitable for one of the recycling receptacles

and won't fit in the Council issue rubbish bags then you need to find another way to dispose of it. Click on this link to see what you can and can't dump:

<https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-services/rubbish-and-recycling/services/transferstations/Pages/default.aspx>



Non-standard items can be disposed of at the Transfer Station on Thursday & Sunday from 1.00 pm—4.30 pm.

This is a community resource that we are lucky to have—let's value it. Your guests and tenants are your responsibility. Please ensure they know to sort their rubbish and recycling and to use the correct bins. Leaving boxes of unsorted glass is just lazy and happens too often. We have another busy summer ahead—let's ensure this facility remains tidy, clean and works for us.

A Word From the Editor: Fiona McAllister

There's a lot of info about local happenings in this edition, so I hope you enjoy reading all about them over what may be a rather busy Labour Weekend. We are pleased to have so many of you supporting the Fundraiser at the Black Barn and although I've personally had something of a rugby bypass, I'm sure on the night—*even I will be a bit excited* to see the All Blacks in action! Probably.



Thanks for the positive feedback on the Winter Phantom although I was slightly mortified when I realised I'd used an image of the wrong kind of trout in Simon Stewart's story. My apologies serious trout fishers. Readers enjoyed the old photos and stories of the past so please send me yours.

Sailing: Dave Townsend



Interested in learning to sail or keen to refresh your skills?

Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust will be commencing their 2019/20 season at 2 pm on Sunday the 24th of November, from their base at Cliff Road.

All are welcome to attend and join in.

With over 20 yachts available there is sure to be one for you whatever your age or skill.

Any questions call Carol or Dave on 07 362 8489

The Great Tarawera Trout Smoke Off

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY DECEMBER 29 2019

- ♦ Don't miss this chance to show off your trout smoking prowess and donate to a worthy community cause
- ♦ Come along and enter the competition or just enjoy sampling some delicious local smoked trout
- ♦ All welcome
- ♦ **PROCEEDS TO THE TARAWERA COMMUNITY CENTRE**



Further details to follow in the Summer Phantom (out before Christmas)

Where Have All The Eels Gone? Terry Beckett

Lake Tarawera used to be renowned for the large eels that existed in the lake. In the 1960s and 70s I remember cleaning trout on our boat ramp at night and there were very large eels living under the boat ramp. These eels emerged at night to devour the fish guts. Some of these eels were more than one metre long with a circumference of a substantial round fence post. Some locals used to set lines to capture eels and many were 20-30 lbs in weight. Wading fly fisherman sometimes had eels attempt to eat trout that had been killed and were strung around their waist.

I have not seen or heard of any eels in Lake Tarawera in recent years – so where have all the eels gone?

There are two species of freshwater eels in New Zealand, the longfin and shortfin. The longfin is endemic to New Zealand and grows larger and usually is found further inland than the shortfin. Most of the eels in Lake Tarawera were longfins, although I have been fly fishing at the Te Wairoa stream mouth in the 1970s, and a well-known Taupo angler caught and released a small shortfin which had taken a marabou lure.

Longfin eels are very long lived, possibly 50+ years. Adult eels migrate to the sea in the autumn and journey many kilometres to somewhere in the tropical Pacific to breed and die. Young larval eels are



NZ longfin eel

(*Anguilla dieffenbachii*)

carried on ocean currents back to land where they ascend freshwater streams and rivers. Lake Tarawera is the only Rotorua lake which had a substantial population of eels as the elvers can ascend the wet rock face at the Tarawera falls and gain access to the lake. The difficulty of gaining access to Lake Tarawera probably meant that there was never a very

large population of eels in the lake and the difficulty of returning to the sea to breed meant that eels were effectively trapped in the lake.

There was a commercial eel fisherman active on Lake Tarawera about 60 years ago and it is likely that this quickly decimated the population. However, it is likely that some elvers could still access the lake and it surprises me that eels are now not found in the lake.

Tarawera Spring Fair

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER 10.00AM

Stoney Point, Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera

**ARTS & CRAFTS, JEWELLERY, DREAM CATCHERS, CARDS.
IRISES, TARGET GOLF, REAL ESTATE, KIDS' STALLS, CHRISTMAS GIFTS,
NATIVE PLANTS ETC...**

**FOOD STALLS - INCLUDING CHRISTMAS CAKES, COFFEE, PRESERVES, RED-
WOOD BUTCHERY, SAUSAGE SIZZLE, BAKING, FUDGE, COFFEE TRUCK ... and
much more**

THIS IS A CASH FAIR – No EFTPOS

Variety Auction Commences 12 Noon

SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS



The Spring Fair is organised by the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association

Lake Tarawera Pest Control

THE RATS KEEP ON COMING! In what is normally a quiet period of rat activity over winter, they have continued eating and presumably breeding.

All of the ratters are reporting the same thing—a consistent level of bait station activity.

At Kariri Point I am up to 276 rats caught and what is interesting is the size of the rats has definitely decreased. Initially I was catching rats in the 400 to 600gm range but now they are more in the 100 gm range and definitely younger.

This shows what population density there is on 8 ha and that is not taking account of the rats that get killed by eating bait, I am using 10 kg of bait every 6 weeks on Kariri Point.

What is gratifying at Kariri, is with the removal of both pests (rats and possums) as well as weeds, there is a noticeable return of birdlife and we are also seeing an understory develop. That understory had previously been denuded by wallaby, possum and rat and rabbit activity. (although the rabbits are making a comeback).

If you haven't been on the 800 meter Kariri Point track recently, it is well worth taking the walk to see what has been achieved by mostly volunteer labour.

By the time you read this the planning for our Charity Fundraiser will be well underway, this event is to raise money for a string of rodent traps to run the length of the lakefront path. To do this we cannot use bait stations for fear of the bait entering the lake. The requirement is for specific tamperproof trap stations. At this stage we are not sure if we need to make or buy them, the requirement will be for between 60 and 100.

I thought I would give a bit of information on the Bait we use for Ratting and a bit of Rat Psychology.

Our ratting program uses a Bait called DITRAC it is an anticoagulant, accumulating in the liver and prevents the blood clotting. The bait is a cereal and wax based Bait that isn't particularly attractive to anything other than rats and mice. It is not a knock down poison the target needs to visit multiple times to eat enough to be fatal. Rats are especially bait and trap shy, the idea is the rat has a taste of bait (rats have no vomit reflex so cannot expel something they have ingested) Rat goes back to their comfy home under your house or in my ceiling and smells of newly eaten Ditrac. Other rats mentally note how chipper the newly arrived rat is on a diet of Ditrac. Studies have confirmed this link of bait smell on rat breath and perception of health in rat psychology.

The other rats link that learnt smell with safety and to an extent lower their guard.

From my experience it is very rare to see a dead poisoned rat; they lose condition and weight before they die and go in search of water.

On a more positive note I am loving the birdsong in the morning and evening which shows that whatever we are doing *it is* working.

Regards

The Ratmeister



Lake Tarawera Wall and Desk Calendars



Wall calendar \$30, Desk Calendar \$15

All photos taken by Sophie McKenzie - John Paul College, Year 12,
Photography student

To order email Sophie - waverider@xtra.co.nz

Fundraising for a class trip to China in 2020.
Will be at Lake Tarawera Spring Fair

A Blast From The Past



This great picture appeared in the Weekly News in either 1954 or early 1955. It shows Don Winstone's first ski boat *Roma* in Rangioru Bay with Don Winstone driving. The skiers are Hugh Noakes (stepfather of John Moodie) and John Bates (Libby Fletcher's father). Descendants of all three men are still very much involved at Tarawera. (Picture supplied by John Moodie).

Introducing Your LTRA Committee Members

COMMITTEE MEMBER: RICHARD NOKE

My earliest memory of Lake Tarawera was of the Buried Village and the sewing machine in the poplar tree. I distinctly remember thinking it a stupid place to leave your machine but perhaps if I looked a bit further on there may be more interesting things like bicycles or toys in other trees.

We often holidayed in Rotorua as children, it was a fairly exotic place compared with my hometown of Marton. Yes you are right—we didn't get out much!

It wasn't until 2012 when I came on a winter's day (dodging some sort of responsibility) that I saw the property that would eventually become my second home. I wanted to build a house to meet the Passive House Institute of Germany performance standard after having experienced this quality of construction in Europe. Site orientation is a huge consideration and this was as good as I would get.

The house was finished in 2016 and alas we came close to the standard, however not close enough for certification, but that is another story.

I own a company that distributes fruit packaging mainly for kiwifruit but also summer fruit, persimmons, feijoas, tamarillos and oysters. Based in Mount Maunganui, we distribute all around New Zealand and also to Japan, America and Australia.



In 1984 I went to Japan to work for a Kiwifruit importer and then a Kiwifruit grower, having studied business and horticulture at university. I have been back to Japan about 40 times since then and always stay with the Ide family in Shikoku. I am lucky that my job allows me to visit Japan so frequently.

What keeps me coming back to Tarawera? The environment which encompasses the flora, fauna and the community.

Where is my happy place? I define this as somewhere I totally lose track of time. Kariri Point with a bottle of stump swab in one hand and a rat trap in the other. I am trying to do my bit to rid the community of rats and pest plants. I enjoy the science and problem solving part of both ratting and pest plant eradication.

As for fishing I have a lot to learn!

Introducing Your LTRA Committee Members

COMMITTEE MEMBER: FIONA MCALLISTER

Although I live primarily at Mount Maunganui, I know Tarawera will one day be my permanent home. My first memory of the area was driving to the end of a dusty, gravel Spencer Road in our old Humber 80 as a young child. Our family holidayed often in Rotorua, or at the Blue Lake Camping ground, during the May school holidays. The crystal clear water of the lakes always taunted us as it looked so beautiful and enticing but was freezing cold and we three kids were never game to swim. Summer holidays were spent camping north of Auckland and our swimming was only done in the sea.

A native Aucklander from the North Shore, I have lived in Mount Maunganui for the past 11 years with Richard Noke, my partner (and fellow committee member). I run the 'back office' for Richard and do a bit of proofreading and editing as well as some volunteer work. I am also your Phantom editor so I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Genealogy is a favourite hobby of mine and I am also a committee member and newsletter editor for the Papamoa branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The old 'bach' (*more like a hut*) on the property here was basically made of car packing cases and with a cracked clear lite roof and zero insulation, it was a very humble and extremely cold abode. So cold, that we only stayed in it twice before demolishing it and building a very well insulated house. Unfortunately it just missed meeting the German Passive House Standard due to incorrect climate data but is warm and cosy. It's an easy commute from the Mount and we find ourselves spending more than three months a year at the lake as we love the lifestyle, environment and of course the people. We bring our cats and chickens too—they know it's their second home and adapt well.

We have made some very good friends at Tarawera and really value the sense of community that is here. Being involved with projects like Landcare and Tarawera Pest Control (as well as projects on our own property) to help improve the environment we're privileged to have here, is very rewarding.

In May this year I was fortunate to join our Tarawera neighbours, Jocelyn and Henry van der Heyden, as we trekked to Everest Base Camp. A challenging but enriching experience despite me getting bronchitis! Here I am on the way up, although this is not Mt Everest I'm pointing to. I also enjoy walking, hiking, running, boot camp and have just started yoga.

And I'm a very novice, occasional fisher ...





Buried Village Heritage Cards

Get yours today!

Our Heritage Cards offer great benefits to local community members. By purchasing or renewing (if your old one has expired) for **\$17.50 per year** you get

- **Village Entry for 12 months**
- **10% off full paying guests with cardholder**
- **10% off full retail price in the Gift Store**
- **10% off Food & Beverage at Smith & Co**

To sign up, pop in and say Hi to our friendly team. Bring with you some ID to prove you live in the Rotorua area

Not valid with any other offer

Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assoc. Current Committee

Chair: Libby Fletcher libby@ultimatenz.com

Secretary: Martin Wiseman martinwiseman@dlpiper.com

Treasurer: Don Stewart dsnairnfisher.co.nz

Committee:

Terry Beckett: becketts.tb@gmail.com **Jane Spear:** janespear2011@gmail.com

Peter Fahey: taraweralandcare@gmail.com **Richard Noke:** nokemeister@icloud.com

Allen Hunter: allenhunter@hobec.co.nz **Fiona McAllister:** fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Rotorua Lakes Community Board Contact:

Chairman: Phill Thomass rlcb@thomass.net

Lake Tarawera website: www.laketarawera.org.nz

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

Useful Numbers

Emergencies: Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

Tarawera Fire Unit: Brett Bosley 07 362 8378/Dave Townsend 07 362 8489

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

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

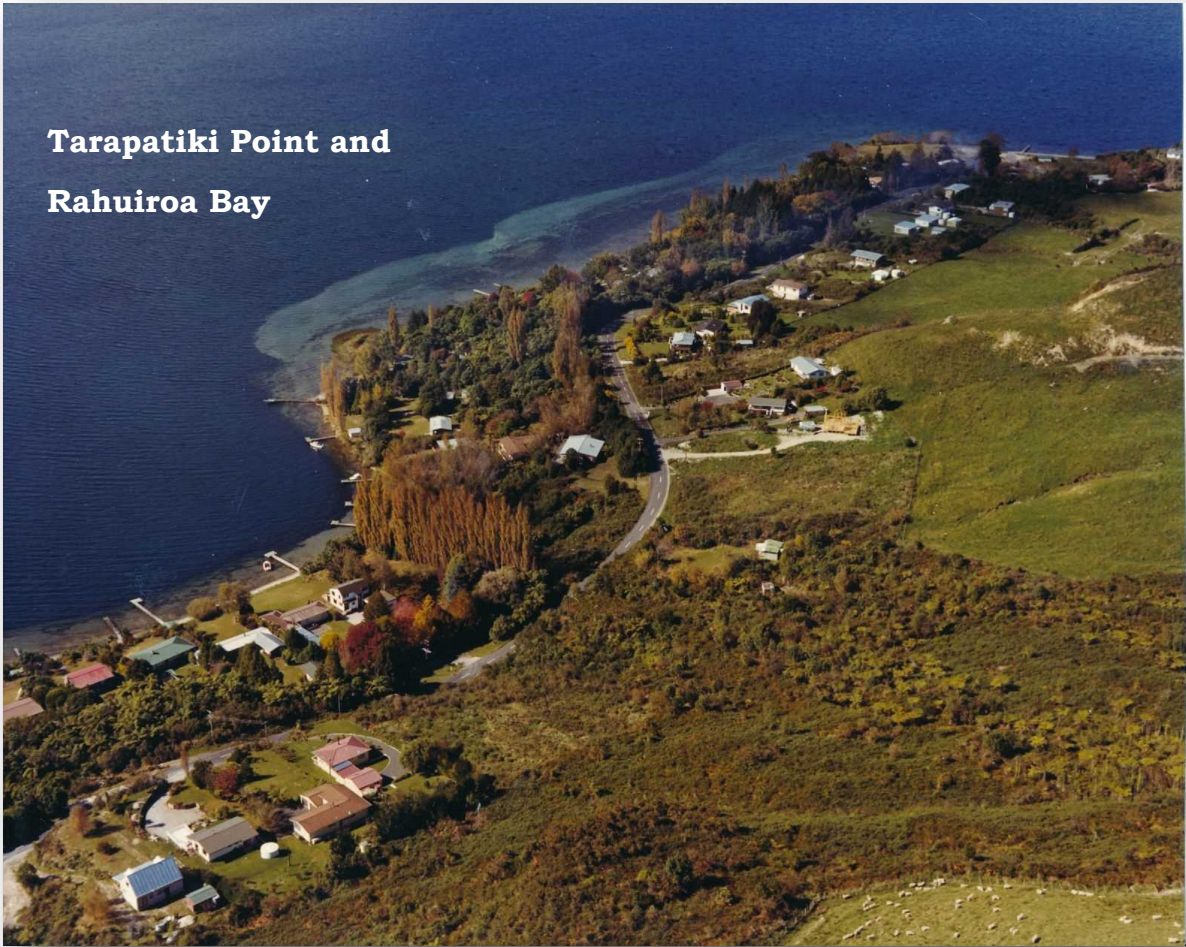
Rural Delivery -Jan & Glen Harmer: 07 349 1254/022 153 6894

Security – Bos 07 362 8378

Vet Services – Vetora (Cnr of Marguerita St and White St, Rotorua): 07 348 2152 (Ph 24/7)

Aerial Scenes from the Seventies

**Tarapatiki Point and
Rahuiroa Bay**



**Waitangi Road and
Spencer Road**

