

THE PHANTOM

Winter 2019



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From The Chair

Libby Fletcher

Our new editor Fiona suggested that we introduce a winter edition of the Phantom as there was a long gap between Easter and Labour Weekend. Reading through some very old copies of the Phantom I discovered that there used to be a winter edition.

Sewerage Meeting

Thank you to all of you who attended the sewage meeting at Queen's birthday, there was a great turn out. Unfortunately there is little to report since that meeting and we are hoping we will have the Cultural Impact Assessment very soon.

Kariri Point and Landcare

There has been quite a bit of activity around the lake during autumn and early winter, the weather has certainly helped. Landcare has been very active and if you have been onto Kariri Point recently you will have seen that Treescape have been in and felled a number of the acacia trees and we have had two working bees on the Point in July. Two weekends ago we had a team of four from Treescape who were extremely generous and gave up their Saturday to come and work free of charge. They bought in a huge

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From The Chair

Libby Fletcher

(Continued from page 1)

mulcher and spent four and a half hours tidying up the foliage and small branches and there is now a good covering of mulch around the entrance to the Point. We have also cleared an area on Rangiuru Bay Road, which was covered in Old Man's Beard and convolvulus.

Civil Defence

We have recently formed a small sub committee for Civil Defence and have met with Council to discuss the plan.

Water Quality

Terry Beckett and I recently met with Professor Troy Baisden from Waikato University – this was a very good meeting and some excellent work is being done on our behalf.

Transfer Stations: Glass waste

Recently I attended a Lakes Community Board Meeting and there was discussion around reducing waste into the landfill in Rotorua. You will all be aware that we now have three large skips for glass: green, brown and clear. I was horrified to learn that if just a **few of the wrong coloured glass bottles are put into the wrong skip, the entire skip is contaminated** and its contents then have to go to the landfill rather than being recycled. So in the interests of reducing waste in the landfill please be mindful of where you put your bottles.

Local Authority Elections

As Chair of the LTRA, I have been told on numerous occasions by Rotorua Lakes Councillors, that very few Tarawera ratepayers vote in the Local Authority Elections; your committee believe this election is important and urge you to make the effort. **See page three for details.**

With the fishing season now closed and the school holidays over, Lake Tarawera is quiet but I have noticed every day there are fly fishers in Rangiuru Bay. Keep warm and dry and 'flu free.

Finally I would like to give a big thank you to the Buried Village for the support they give to the LTRA.

Best wishes,

Libby Fletcher

Local Authority Elections: 12 October 2019

Do you live in one area and also pay rates on a property in another? You may qualify to vote more than once at the local authority elections on **12 October 2019**. If you live and vote in one council district, but also pay rates on a property in another district you may be eligible to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector in that other council district.

THE RATEPAYER ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSES ON 16 AUGUST 2019

Eligibility to enroll, or be nominated, will depend on individual circumstances. In each case only one ratepayer elector can be nominated, irrespective of the number of properties owned by the firm, company, society, trust partnership or ratepayer in a council district.

A firm, company, trusts, corporation or society, which pays rates on a property, may nominate one of its members or officers as a non-resident ratepayer elector, provided that the nominator and the person nominated are both registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses, which are outside the council district within which the property is situated.

In the case of partners, joint tenants and tenants in common, who collectively pay rates on a property, one of the group may be nominated, to be entered on the ratepayer electoral roll. Again, the nominated person and the nominator must be registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses, which are outside the council district within which the property is situated

To enrol, check or update your enrolment details go to www.elections.org.nz or call 0800 36 76 56

To register for Rotorua as a non-resident ratepayer go to www.rotorualakescouncil.nz.

- Scroll down and click on **Vote 2019**. Click on **Enrol to Vote**
- On the **Enrol to Vote** page under **Non-Resident Ratepayer Roll**, download and print the form
- Or pick up an enrolment form from the Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Centre, Rotorua
- Or request a copy by phoning 07 348 4199 or 0800 666 049
- Or Text 3676 to have a form sent to you

Please give serious consideration to the issues affecting our Lake Tarawera community, particularly in regard to sewerage reticulation. It is vital we elect a council who will ensure this happens in a timely and cost effective manner.

If you have further enquires please do not hesitate to contact Libby Fletcher at ltra@xtra.co.nz

Community Centre Connections

Claire Stewart

Kia Ora all,

Just a reminder regarding the community centre.

Membership fees

These are an important way to cover the basic costs of keeping the building going. Thank you to all of you 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



Our Family's Lake Tarawera Connection

Claire Stewart

In the early 1920s when Harold Tahana Thomas first came to Lake Tarawera, he would not have imagined that almost 100 years later, his mokopuna would still be enjoying this special place.

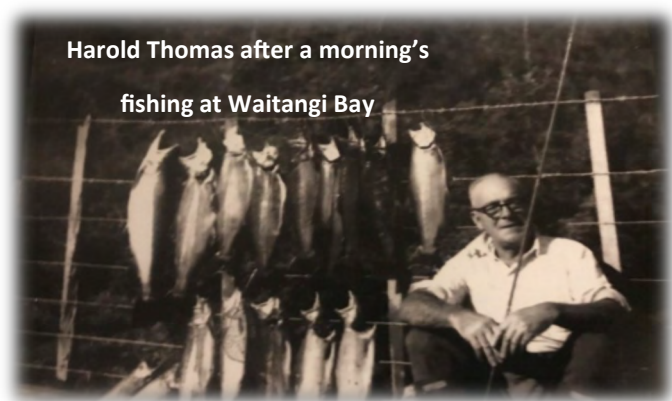
Spencer Thomas Stewart and Penny Clare Stewart, five generations later, fishing in Waitangi Bay as he once did, watching the fish spawn in the stream as he once did. Growing up at this place that he saw all the potential in.

The story and connection of the Stewart family to Lake Tarawera started with Harold and continues to today. It's a story we are very proud of as Stewarts and one we would love to share a small part of with you.

Harold was a keen hunter and angler and when he first started coming to area in the 1920s and he used to camp at the Blue Lake and take day trips to Lake Tarawera exploring the lake on his dinghy.

Once the road from the Blue Lake was more accessible, Te Wairoa Landing became the favoured camping spot.

However getting there was not easy; it was a two day trip from Auckland, often using chains to get over the Bombay and Mamaku hills.



Harold fell in love with Waitangi Bay which he visited by boat. It was the ultimate place to hunt and fish – bush clad right to the lake edge. He negotiated with a titled lady who was an absentee owner and eventually purchased the 40 acres of land at Waitangi Bay from her in 1946. He cleared and farmed the property, later purchasing another 40 acres from the Playne family, who still own farmland stretching back to Lake Okareka.



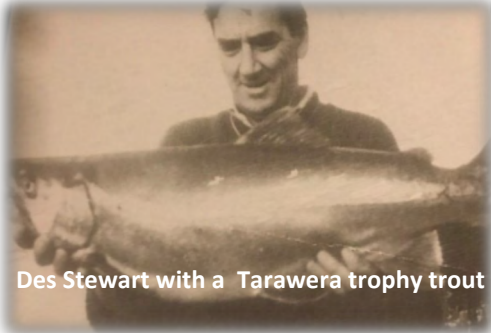
Harold needed a dwelling on his newly cleared land, so he transported a US army hospital building from Cornwall Park in Auckland. He floated it by barge from The Landing and placed it on the site where Waitangi Lodge is now situated. This dwelling, fondly known as 'The Cottage', was later dragged up the hill to where it is still situated on the point of Waitangi Bay. At least two similar buildings were brought down at the same time,

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one being Don Winstone's cottage at Rangiuru Bay and Dr Lawrie's at Stoney Point, recently replaced.

In the late 1940s, using a bulldozer, Harold Thomas, Ronald Miller, and Nat Playne put in the pumice road from the Landing turnoff to the end and the settlement grew with more houses throughout the 1950s.



Des Stewart with a Tarawera trophy trout

Harold's children: Hal (Geoff Thomas's father), Bruce, and Dorothy (Don Stewart's mother) enjoyed many happy childhood holidays from back as early as the Blue Lake days in the 1920s. Their children, including Geoff and Don, grew up holidaying at Waitangi Bay.

Dorothy and her husband Des owned the cottage on the point, and holidayed there from the mid-1950s, for over 30 years. They eventually built a home on Waitangi Road (now owned by John and Stephanie Clark). Their daughter Anna and her husband Bruce Smith now own 'The Cottage'.



The cottage after being moved to its current location

Don and Clare Stewart moved from Auckland in 1980 and built a house at 295 Spencer Road, and lived there for almost 40 years. Their children Dane, Gina, Andrea and Simon, another generation, continued to love this area. This home is now owned by Dane and Claire Stewart. Claire (Jnr) also has special ties to the land, having been brought up just down the road at 267 Spencer Road with her family, the Coopers.

Claire and Dane met at The Landing, married at Waitangi Bay and are now bringing up Spencer and Penny (pictured right) in this wonderful place.

This land has many stories to tell. Five generations of memories with many more to come.



Don Stewart with another Tarawera monster



Fishing Report

Geoff Thomas

At dawn on October 1, hundreds of trout fishermen will drop their lures into the water or cast fly lines into the current in the Ohau Channel, where a shotgun blast signals the start of fishing in the new season on the Rotorua lakes.

The season starts in many places all around the country, but as a lot of water now remains open to fishing throughout the year, the opening has special relevance on lakes which have been closed to fishing for the last three months. And Lake Tarawera is one of the most popular. But anglers will set out in runabouts on the three big lakes – Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera – eager to get their lures in the water at 6 am. Harling with a sinking fly line and a smelt pattern or a red setter will be popular for the first few hours. Many anglers also slow troll with lines which sink only a metre or two, but prefer a combination of lures on the end – perhaps a pink cobra with a smelt fly on a short dropper a couple of metres up the leader. There are different

ways to rig such combinations but a swivel is the easiest with the dropper tied to one eye, or even attached to a second swivel which is free sliding on the line.

The boats will follow the contour line where weed beds fall away to the depths, and if the wind chops the surface, this method will continue to produce strikes throughout the day. Otherwise the surface lines will be replaced by lead-core trolling outfits with five or six colours put out, and a long trace. Again, the fly-lure combination can be used effectively on deep lines. The lures will vary from the cobra in different colours, Tasmanian devil or the old stand-by, the black toby. Smart anglers will use a variation until they find the one which works best, perhaps starting with a black and gold toby in low light, then changing to a green-silver



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one as the sun rises. Other colours which work well in the cobra-devil range are fluorescent pink, green and yellow and traffic light. When trolling for trout on the lakes the wind should always be taken into account. For example, more fish will be hooked when travelling with the wind as the boat can be steered more accurately than when battling a headwind. So if fish are hooked on a particular run, like along the edge under the mountain on Tarawera, then when the run is finished the gear can be brought in and the boat run at speed back to repeat the run.

Other anglers will try jigging, drifting outside the drop-off and dropping a trace with a lead sinker or jig on the end, and a couple of flies on droppers above it. But this method will become more effective as lake temperatures rise, peaking in December and January.

For dedicated fly casters seeking solitude many of the back country streams and rivers also open to fishing on October 1, but checking water conditions in advance is always a smart move for many waters can be affected by rainfall at this time of year.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust

Nicola Douglas

Selling Your Property

Te Arawa Lakes Trust have been approached by several property owners who are currently selling or planning to sell their property and whose jetties or other lake structures were pre-existing at the point of the 2006 Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act.



Some real estate agents and potential buyers are seeking a more familiar document that confirms the rights and non-charging regime and have asked whether TALT, as the owner of the lake bed would enter into a lease that essentially confirms the pre-existing rights that are contained in the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act. TALT is happy to consider any requests from owners who are thinking of selling and will work with you individually to seek to have this in place prior to your property going on the market.

Requests can be made to consents@tearawa.iwi.nz. We will also work through offering this to all other affecting owners over the next 12 months.

Lake Tarawera Fire Unit

Susan Cutler

Welcome to a round-up of what has been happening in our Fire Unit over the past few months.

Long Service Presentation

You will be pleased to know that Brett Bosley (Bos), our Rural Fire Controller and local security officer, was recently presented with his medal for long service and good conduct - for continued service to our Fire Unit - at a function at the Rotorua Fire Station. A great achievement!

Training

*We had an informative session with the Water Taxi - thank you to Dave Walmsley who took us through the process of loading our fire gear and what is required should we need to use their services for a lake incident. Fire and Emergency provides us with a Water Safety Kit (lifejackets, helmets and water rescue gear), for use when working around water.

*Five of our crew did a weekend Co-Responder course with St John. This is a more advanced First Aid course and we now have a very comprehensive Medical Response Kit for our vehicle. Further personnel will be doing the course at a later stage.

*We attended two large controlled burn offs in Reporoa and Mangakino. Observing and participating in these types of incidents provides good learning opportunities.

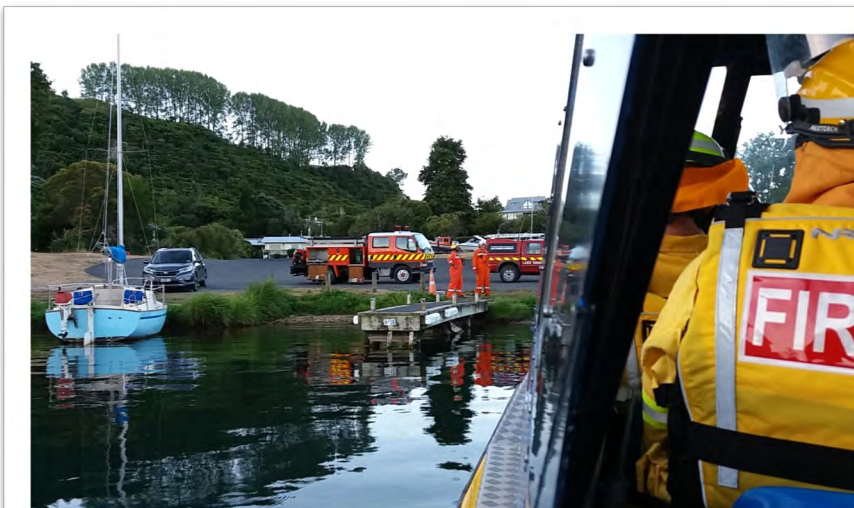
*Several took part in a pack test - carrying a 20kg pack over 4.8km in 45 minutes.

*Two of us assisted (as helpers and patient), at a Road Crash Rescue Challenge at the National Fire Training Centre, in Rotorua. This is a national competition for full-time firefighters with amazing scenarios - seeing how the 'professionals' extricate people from crashed vehicles and treat their patients.

*Latterly three of our members participated in a four-day Volunteer Recruit course in Whakatane.



Brett (Bos) & Carolyn Bosley



Fire Training with the
Lake Tarawera Water Taxi

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Callouts

Scrub fire; accidental alarm activation at a Book-a-Bach; fire at Brunswick Park - stood down. Bos also attended a motor vehicle accident on Boatshed Bay hill - car v versus car - foreign driver wrong side of road; and a rescue from Hot Water Beach.

Home Safety

A reminder - **please do not put ashes in the rubbish bags**. Embers can reignite, hours, days, weeks after you think the fire has been extinguished.

Civil Defence Preparedness

Something to think about:

- ◆ Do you have a plan in the event of a power outage? We do have them occasionally - some long, mostly short. A number of you will remember the power cut after the storm, in January of last year. No power for almost three days.
- ◆ What supplies do you have? Lighting, torches, batteries, lanterns, gas cookers, a wood burner you can cook on, barbeque? Food supplies, bottled water?
- ◆ Where do you get your water from? Your water tank - can you access water from it? Does it have a tap on it? Communication - do you have an analogue phone which works in a power cut? Mobile coverage?

And Finally - PLEASE ensure your property has a street number, clearly seen day and night. It makes finding you in an emergency so much easier! Thank you.

The LTRA are currently working through the Civil Defence plan and looking for volunteers to be involved. If you can help please email your details to: ltra@xtra.co.nz



A couple of months ago Totally Tarawera, (Lake Tarawera Water Taxi) had a fire emergency training on Lake Tarawera with our local fire brigade. The idea was to look at how we would handle a fire emergency where there was no road access the likes of over the lake. We have been asked to be one of the boat transport options here at Lake Tarawera.

The training went well and we were able to fine-tune procedures and actions to make things happen as quickly and efficiently as possible in a fire emergency.

From the debriefing afterwards, it had been suggested we have a grid for the lake as it is sometimes difficult to

pinpoint a particular location if everyone does not know the official or local name for places around the lake. This would make it quicker and clearer when dealing with localised fires or person injured on one of the walks around Tarawera.

After discussion I thought it would be also useful for other authorities as listed below where the water taxi and others have been in some way involved in the past:

- ◆ Informing DOC of a location of a unofficial camping site on the lake where a fire is in use
- ◆ Locating a broken down boat somewhere on the lake
- ◆ Notifying Harbour Master of location when boating issues have occurred
- ◆ More accurately pinpointing the location of an ultra marathon runner who needs medical attention
- ◆ Locating a school group that has a person injured, with for example, a sprained ankle
- ◆ Assist in the pinpointing of a tramper off track that needs assistance by Search and Rescue
- ◆ Inform Fish & Game of location of suspicious behaviour

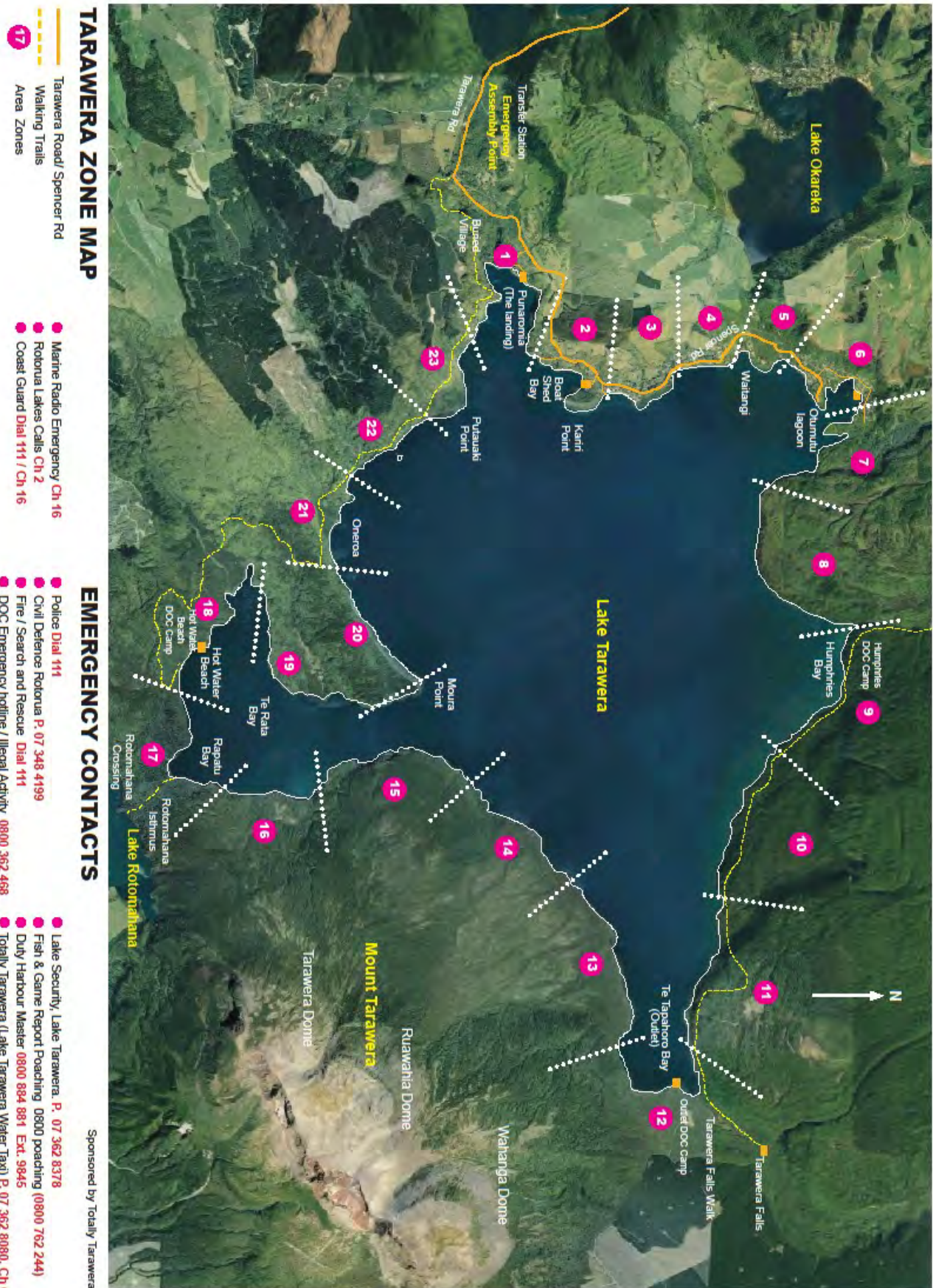
From this I have now designed an A4 laminated map broken into 23 zones which includes all the important and emergency contact numbers.

If any local residents, especially any boaties would like this free laminated A4 map we are happy to supply one compliments of Totally Tarawera.



Bos and the fire crew in a training exercise with Dave Walmsley and the Lake Tarawera Water Taxi

Keep on boat or in location where you can report a boat breakdown, forest fire, person lost or a dangerous or illegal activity



Sponsored by Totally Tarawera

Trout Growth

Simon Stewart

Recently Terry Beckett and Libby Fletcher met with Professor Troy Baisden at Waikato University and one of the many questions that Terry asked related to trout growth. Troy passed on the question to Simon Stewart; Simon has recently completed a PhD at Waikato University and has spent time at Tarawera doing research on trout growth. Below are the questions that Terry asked with Simon's response.

There has been a significant increase in trout growth recently, which is presumably related to increased food supply. The in-lake smelt sonar survey in December 2018 and April 2019 showed good populations of smelt (although there is no comparative historic data to compare this with).

Great observation re the increased trout size thanks Terry. I've been waiting for Fish and Game data to come in but I was suspecting as much. As for the food supply, I agree but rather specific high quality food. I'm sure that you will have noted that this summer, Tarawera was much clearer than previous years. This is because there were fewer cyanobacteria in the surface water (which gave the lake that milky colour) over previous years.

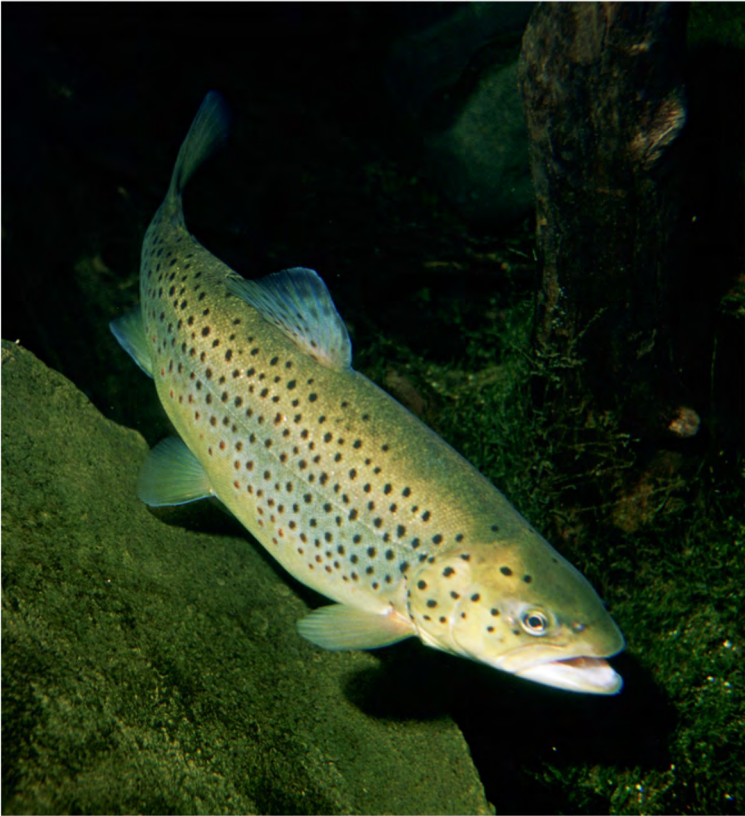
The consequence of less cyanobacteria at the surface is that more light penetrates down deep near the thermocline where diatoms tend to thrive. This is called the deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM) and is seen as a spike in algae abundance right at the thermocline. Diatoms are much more nutritious than cyanobacteria and is what really fuels zooplankton production in the central North Island lakes. My study in Taupo, showed that during the summer-stratified period, zooplankton diet was dominated by algae from the DCM, which is largely diatoms.

Large nutritious diatoms support large nutritious zooplankton in Taupo, we see that large copepods in particular strongly favour diatoms and their abundance is strongly linked to diatom abundance. When collecting zooplankton samples at Lake Tarawera this summer, I was amazed by the sheer number of large copepods. They were by far the most dominant component of the zooplankton community. This is very good news for smelt. Large zooplankton are more energy dense and easier to see resulting in better conversion of zooplankton biomass into small biomass.

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Essentially this is what we're looking at, in a broad sense, in the current one-year study with Fish and Game. We're doing seasonal diet analysis of trout, smelt and bullies and relating this to seasonal changes in lake productivity. This work is built around the hypothesis that the cause of the decline in the trout fishery around 2013 was driven by the sudden proliferation of surface water cyanobacteria



blooms which reduced the light getting down to the DCM this limiting diatom production. I suspect that this effect is particularly strong during early summer just as things are really ramping up - the lake has just recently stratified and is reaching optimum growth temperatures, there is still some nutrient available from the mixing, zooplankton abundance is tending to peak and smelt growth should be maximum. I suspect that a surface water bloom over this period will be far more consequential than during any other period over the year. Ultimately understanding this period of time may

be critical in adapting stocking management of the lake. The work that we're doing this year though is quite broad (we're covering our bases in case I'm completely off on my hypothesis), so not all of this will be answered in the first year.

The in-lake smelt sonar surveys in December 2018 and April 2019 showed good populations of smelt (although there is no comparable historic data to compare this with).

Again, I haven't seen that data yet but if the population is remaining high between December and April that is a very good sign for the reasons described above. The initial acoustic work is very good for getting a relative estimate of smelt (i.e. more than last year or more than we tend to see in Taupo) but it takes a lot more work to get to the stage of estimating actual biomass. Fish and Game are working on this as I understand but it's hard to say much more without multiple years of data or actual biomass estimates.

Tarawera Landcare (TLC2115)

Pete Fahey

A couple of things to report of significance to Landcare...



Treescape have been on Kariri Point and have removed a large number of Acacias. We were amazed at the amount of work they got through in the time they were there. Subsequently, they volunteered (at no cost to the community) to give us a day to tidy up the piles Landcare volunteers had made. They arrived with an amazing bit of equipment ... a remote-controlled mulcher. The good thing about this bit of gear is that it could be backed up to the piles we had created at the last

couple of working bees.

Because of this, all of the mess from their previous work was cleaned up in a quarter of the time we thought it might take. The photos barely do justice to the clean-up job.

The really good news is that we still have money up our sleeve for further acacia removal.



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You will be aware that we were successful with an application for funding from the Lakes Council Neighbourhood Matching fund (\$10,000). We have ordered a 500cc Honda Pioneer and trailer which will make access to work locations a lot easier than it has been. We will be able to extract firewood from otherwise inaccessible spots. We are grateful to a community member for using his farming connections to help us get a sharp deal.

We are planning to sell the firewood from the Point to help raise money to put back in by way of planting and equipment. The wood is wet at the moment but will be perfect by next winter. However there will be more about that later...



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.

Regards

Pete



STIHL SHOP

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

Introducing Your LTRA Committee Members

CHAIR: Libby Fletcher

My parents, John and Betty Bates had the great foresight to buy land at Lake Tarawera in the early 1950s. My earliest memories of Tarawera were visiting the Winstone family in Rangiuru Bay, where we had lunch. After lunch Mum and Dad walked along the bay and looked at several sections that were for sale. Before returning to Auckland the following day the Bates family were the proud owners of a section that had two army huts on it. In no time plans for the house were drawn up and builders set to work. Dad had the shell of the house built, the framing, wiring and plumbing completed and over the next few years he completed the house. Mum cooked in one of the huts, my brother slept in the other and I slept on top of the stack of timber in the middle of the house, until the house was completed.



Growing up we spent all our school holidays at Tarawera; it was an idyllic life, and there was not the wide open space there is today. There was bush right down to the lake with a narrow track along the bay. Mum would give us a good hearty breakfast each morning and we spent the days, swimming, boating, waterskiing, catching tadpoles and building

the most amazing huts in the bush. You were never short of company as there were so many families here, and longstanding friendships were made.

In 1979 my brother John and I bought the house next door, from Alan and Thelma Bishop. Alan was well known at Tarawera and he was responsible for getting television here. He was an electrician and erected a huge aerial over at the White Cliffs, but the reception wasn't great—particularly in the winter. The following summer our two families had a wonderful holiday here, my brother's family coming from Tokyo, everyone loved it; sadly John died the following summer.

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My children came here as tiny babies and greatly enjoyed growing up here with all the same activities and more as I enjoyed. I fondly remember the Christmas we had here just before Mum died, when we had four generations at the dinner table; it was so special.

In 2013 I moved permanently to Tarawera and it is one of the best decisions I have made, we have an amazing community, I feel very fortunate to live here. Since our very first visit to Tarawera I have not missed a summer here.

In 2014, I was elected onto the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association and was appointed Chair at the first committee meeting. That was a bit of a shock being the new person on the block. There have been a few challenges and it's been great learning curve for me, however we have a great and very supportive committee for which I am very grateful.

Just briefly, I was Chair of the Laura Fergusson Trust in Auckland for a number of years. I was involved in Inbound Travel in Auckland for 20 years and had my own business, Ultimate New Zealand, from 2000 to 2013.



KEEP TARAWERA SAFE

**Call Bos for a free, confidential assessment
of all your security needs**

PH: 07 362 8378

Email: brett.bosley@xtra.co.nz

**Local Resident for more than 20 years.
Actively involved in all emergency response.**

**RD5 RURAL DELIVERY
CONTRACTORS
Jan & Glen Harmer**



Town Pick ups/drop offs

**PH: 07 349 1254
Or text: 022 153 6894**

Introducing Your LTRA Committee Members

SECRETARY: Martin Wiseman

"Hi Phantom readers, I'm Martin Wiseman LTRA committee member and secretary. I've been on the committee since 2012 and, to be honest, only care about one issue – lake water quality and reticulation of wastewater.

My connection to Tarawera and the Rotorua lakes is through my father and grandfather who fished most of the lakes and streams and built a small bach at Hamurana Springs in the 1950s. I've been coming to the area on holiday since before I can remember.

We bought our modest place at Tarawera (number 16 up Ross and Suzy Keyworth's driveway) in 1998. We back on to the farm to the west, and to the east we have an unobstructed view of the whole lake and mountain. Apart from those attributes there is a drinks cabinet and a fireplace, so we want for nothing. We've also got a boat shed at boatshed bay which we share with Ross and Suzy.

Despite the best efforts of my father and grandfather, I have virtually no interest in trout. My passion for the lake and surrounds is about multisport, skiing and wake boarding. By reason of age and injury my triathlon days are over, but I have done three Xterra off-road triathlons and three Blue Lake multisport festivals at Lake Tikitapu, over the years. I still love putting on the tri suit and swimming open water in the lake and a ski or wake board early on a flat calm morning.

For work I'm a full time practising corporate lawyer at DLA Piper New Zealand and I'm country managing partner there too. I say I do two jobs for the price of one. I'm also Chair of Starship Foundation, the philanthropic arm of New Zealand's national children's hospital, Starship. The Foundation raises money to fund the national air ambulance and to fund additional equipment, research and innovation and overseas study and scholarships for the fantastic people at Starship who look after kiwi kids so well.

So that's me. It's not all about me though. I've attached a photo of my wife, Helen, having just been for a ski last January.



Introducing Your LTRA Committee Members

COMMITTEE MEMBER (Since 2014): Terry Beckett

In the 1950s and 60s, I started trout fishing from Munroe Bay on Lake Rotoiti, from Jack Johnson's property where my family used to holiday several times a year. Jack became my fishing mentor and regaled us with stories of the legendary size of trout at Lake Tarawera. When I got my driving license in 1960, I borrowed my mother's car and towed a small dinghy to Jack's place at Lake Rotoiti and began to explore Lake Rotorua, Rotoma, Okataina and Tarawera. We used to launch the dinghy at the Landing and harl off Hawaiki or Putuaki. At the time, fish in Lake Rotoiti averaged between four to six pounds and the lure of catching a monster at Tarawera was irresistible.

By a wonderful coincidence, I met my future wife at the Dorchester Ballroom dancing school about 1960 and soon discovered that her parents owned two properties on the lakeside at Tarawera. And so, began my love affair with Lake Tarawera and with my future wife. We married in 1969 and I spent many holidays at the Lewisham baches at 187 and 189 Spencer Road, before inheriting one of the properties and building our holiday home in 1986.

Spencer Road was unsealed in the early 1960s and Roy Harris was the only resident on the other side of the road at Boatshed Bay. Periodically during summer, fires broke out on this side of the road and burned the blackberry and gorse that thrived in this area. Locals rallied round to prevent any fire reaching Roy's house.

On arriving at the lake for the summer holidays the first task was to mow the lawns that had been untended for many months. My father-in-law, Edgar Lewisham, had a Gravelly mower that was a huge brute of a machine which required very careful manoeuvring to cut the knee-high grass. The second task was to dig a huge rubbish hole in a piece of vacant ground. These rubbish holes were very large and lasted all summer so were covered with soil each evening to discourage rats. Edgar used to place a post on the roadside to mark the location of each rubbish hole so we didn't dig up a previous year's rubbish.

There was a shop at Lake Okareka with petrol and a small shop at Te Mu which we used to visit to purchase ice blocks for our young family. There was also a mobile food van which drove along the road, and rang a bell to announce its arrival, which sold bread, milk and basic food items. Ironically, the community was better served then than today.

Like today, the lake level fluctuated considerably which made it difficult to launch boats when the lake level dropped. The solution was to hire a digger and trundle into the lake and deepen the areas around the jetties, a very effective practice that would be unheard of today! After septic tanks were installed on the property, I installed chicken wire shelves in the old outhouse shed and after moving it to a different location used it as a very satisfactory cold-smoke smokehouse.

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Climbing the mountain was an annual event that was much easier than today when the regenerating bush makes access difficult. Boats were moored anywhere along the lake edge where there was a largely unvegetated shingle wash and people walked directly upwards till reaching the saddle. There was very little vegetation and the major difficulty was the scree slipping away when you walked.

The fly fishing was wonderful in the 1960s and 70s. The Outlet fishery was especially memorable. Access was only possible by boat but during autumn there were up to 20 anglers between the mouth of the Tarawera River and the first bend in the river about 200 m downstream. Anglers used to wade as deep as they could and cast across the river before putting the rod underwater with the tip in the gravel to get the line down to the fish as there were no fast sinking lines. The river was much deeper than today, and it was impossible to cross the river except at the river mouth, well into the lake.

As a marine biologist I became very interested in the management of the trout fishery and wrote a small booklet "Trout at Tarawera" in 1976 for the LTRA. I was also responsible for initiating the angler-caught big fish project with Peter Mylchreest in the 1970s and 80s based at the Landing and Te Wairoa stream mouth. I also introduced jigging for trout to the lake in the early 1970s, modelled after my experience jigging in the Inner Hauraki Gulf snapper fishery. I have accurately weighed and measured every fish caught since the 1960s and forwarded this information to the relevant authorities.

Twice each autumn since 1974, I have a 'Boys Weekend' comprising several friends I went to school with and some recent additions. We have just celebrated our 87th event where anglers fly fish for three cups over the weekend.



Terry Beckett with Breakfast

Since 2006, I have worked with Waikato University measuring and sampling the approximately 30 surface waters flowing into Lake Tarawera. I have been ably assisted in this work by my wife, friends, iwi representatives and freshwater scientists. I have been involved in the various attempts to create an action plan for Tarawera beginning in 2006 and more latterly in the investigation into reticulating wastewater to the Tarawera community. I also organised annual summer yacht races for 20 plus years including the New Year's Day yacht race.



Bev Schubert



Richard Noke (Not taken by a drone!)

Lake Tarawera Pest Control

Any illusions anyone had that we might be getting on top of the rats was bought down to earth this season. Rats have been more than active. All of the “Ratters” report increased activity and the bait usage is way up from previous years. I have seven stations on my property and two of them are consistently going through six baits every ten days. Whatever way you cut it that is a lot of rodent activity.

At Kariri Point I run a more intensive control program using Bait Stations, Victor traps, Good nature CO2 powered traps and Doc 150 and 200 traps. With this trapping, most times I have the body of the rat or mouse at the end of it. So far I have caught 219 Rats, 7 mice (as an aside, I had never caught mice before this year, so not sure why they are here now) and 47 possums. Sure the 8 ha Point has not been intensively trapped previously but these numbers (which do not include the rodents killed by eating bait), give a good indication of what the rodent density is in the wider area. Anyone who doesn't think they have rodents around their property is dreaming—they are everywhere—and our task is to limit their activity.



People are asking me about wasps and I think this year has shown we need a program to manage them. I am working with the Regional Council for us to roll out a wasp baiting programme for 2020. Also with the RLC I am in the process of gaining approval to have a baiting line that runs the length of the lakefront walkway. I am looking at needing 50 bait stations to complete this task. This area has not previously been baited and has been identified as a hole in our baiting program.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Lynmore Primary School pupil, Hamish Chapman, and his father, Mark. Hamish is running a tracking tunnel program for us on Kariri Point, he has made the tunnels himself and is monitoring them. I will share the results in the next edition. When we have perfected the process, Hamish will put tunnels in other parts of Spencer Road for us to gauge the effectiveness of our trapping. This will provide quantitative data to add to the qualitative “I haven't seen any rats” and “there are plenty of native birds”. GO HAMISH!!

Finally, can you please email me on rats@eol.co.nz if you would like to be involved, or if you see or hear any pest activity, and I will attempt to deal with it or give you the tools to do so. If you have not already been in touch, can you also please advise me if you have any rat traps on your property (whether they are being maintained or not). That's all from me other than to thank the volunteers who keep your bait stations full, it is a necessary but a less than glamorous job.

Regards

The Ratmeister



Mount Tarawera Pest Plant Update

Ken Raureti

I'm not settling into winter, I'm looking forward to our next summer. Reflecting on our Wilding Pine Volunteer days last summer, what a great outcome. The statistics and numbers are but one part of the equation; the new friendships and renewing old friendships (the whanaungatanga, the hononga, our friendships) the opportunity to walk the Maunga, talk, laugh, kai, is the special added dimension.

Our Tarawera community 'Team Tarawera' pine pulling outing in January, (involving our 'Loyalty Cardholders/Frequent Flyers'), is always a special memorable day.

Over the summer we had 11 volunteer groups locked and loaded, but at the tail end of summer we had four weather cancellations so ended up with seven groups in total.

148 volunteers, 1148 man hours. Wicked, awesome! With a conservative estimate of 600 - 900 trees per person (I have people that actually count 1200 - 1400 seedlings) all the time, that's a total of between 88,000 - 133,200 seedlings that won't grace the face of the Maunga. I know I generally pull about 900 odd each trip, and I'm going at a slowing old man pace.



A FEW MEMBERS OF TEAM TARAWERA 'LOYALTY CARD HOLDERS': JANUARY 2019

PETE FAHEY, RICHARD NOKE, KEN RAURETI, FIONA MCALLISTER & DEBBIE MORRIS

In addition to wilding pines, wattles are another pest plant that we are trying to eradicate on Mount Tarawera. The wattle battle commenced in 2015. Although wattles can provide shelter for native seedlings and fix nitrogen, this leaches into the lake, negatively affecting water quality which is our motivation for removing them.

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Felled wattles and
cut & paste tools



As part of our Kaitiakitanga, we employ four to five people fulltime working on the mountain; in summer they are focused on eradication of wilding pines and in winter they are dealing to the wattles.

On Saturday July 27, we took a group of 20 across to Te Ariki on *Sophia* (Totally Tarawera tours) to pull and cut and paste wattles. This group of enthusiastic volunteers consisted of our people from Ngati Rangitahi, three staff from Regional Council, and five of our Tarawera 'frequent flyers'. Thousands of smaller wattles met their end as the group clambered over and around the 'slash' left behind by our workers who had previously felled the larger trees. It was a great day and everyone felt satisfied by a job well done at the end. A barbecue on the boat was a fitting end to a productive day.



A satisfied team post wattle destruction



Pest Buster

I would like to convey our thanks, our gratitude and our aroha to all our Team Tarawera whanau who contributed not only last summer, but in previous summers as well.

Ngā mihi,

Ken

(Editor's note: Ken's not just a pretty face—he cooks a mean Barbie too!)



Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association - Current Committee

Chair: Libby Fletcher

libby@ultimatenz.com

Secretary: Martin Wiseman martinwiseman@dlpiper.com

Treasurer: Don Stewart

dsnairnfisher.co.nz

Committee:

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Peter Fahey: taraweralandcare@gmail.com

Allen Hunter: allenhunter@hobec.co.nz

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Richard Noke: nokemeister@icloud.com

Jane Spear: janespear2011@gmail.com

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Chairman: Phill Thomass rlcb@thomass.net

Lake Tarawera website: www.laketarawera.org.nz

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



Richard Noke: Frosty morning at the Transfer Station

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)

CAN YOU HELP?

Long-term storage wanted for an 8 metre long boat, 2.5 metres wide on the trailer
(as pictured below), as our section is too steep to get a boat down onto.

We would likely use it four or five weeks of the year and it would be stored the rest of the time.
It would be taken out and moored at our jetty then returned to storage at the end of our stay.

Please contact Wayne: 021 240 0335 or email: wayne@welloral.co.nz



A Word From the Editor

Fiona McAllister



Hello from me, your editor. I thought it would be interesting to have some stories and images for the Phantom from days gone by. Not of all of us having been 'coming here forever' and it's fascinating to realise how much has changed. I put out a request for stories or images that tell a different story from the Lake Tarawera we know today and some of you responded. Thank you to those of you who did make contact and I apologise if I have not included your contribution in this edition, but as it has hit 30 pages, I decided I will save some from future editions. Claire Stewart has written a story (on pages 5-6) about five generations of the Stewart family at Tarawera. What's yours?

I would particularly like to receive your 'before and after' images —where you have recreated the same photo through the lens of today. If you are taking photos of your old photos, it's better if you can remove them from behind glass or photo albums first. Email: fiona@betterwords.co.nz



**Peter & David Tremayne
and their father at the trig
on Mt Tarawera 1954**



Pine pulling group

**Mt Tarawera Trig
2017**



**Geoff Wallingford &
poss. Twigdens &
Hardings Okataina
1958**



**David and Peter
Tremayne snorkeling
Rangiuru Bay 1956**

**Cliff Treadgold in dinghy
heading over to the Outlet
for a successful spot of deer
hunting with Peter
Tremayne 1958**



Locals Spotted at the Cricket World Cup & No. 10

Locals Jocelyn & Henry van der Heyden and friends, Earle & Debbie Morris enjoying time in England recently at the Cricket World Cup .



The Earl(e) of Tarawera (also known as Boris Morris) with fellow local Sir Henry, taking time out of their busy schedules, to visit No.10 Downing Street earlier this month.

