

Deadline for next issue:

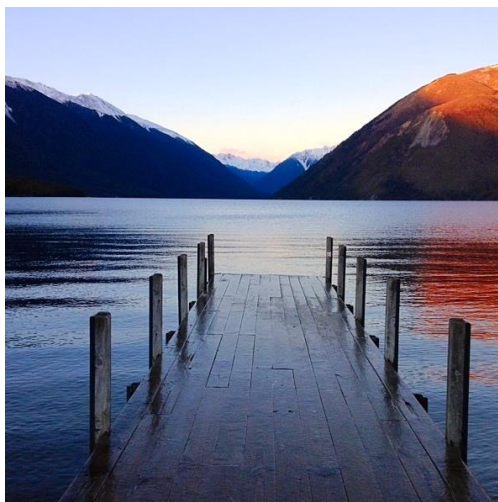
Friday 27th January 2017

Please send your items for inclusion to rotoitinews@gmail.com

This newsletter was produced with the help of the Rotoiti District Community Council, Department of Conservation and Mark & Tania Gill.

You can download a copy of previous newsletters from:

www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters



Coming up

Saturday 4th Feb: Artwalk Rotoiti. Kerr Bay 10am-4pm

10th and 11th February: Tuna E Hoe, Kerr Bay waka ama event. Zoe 021 923 611

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Seido Karate, Community Hall, 7pm. Beginners welcome. Graeme 5211022.

Welcome to this new-look newsletter

As you can see, Gabi has given the Lake Rotoiti Community News a make-over, but the look is not the only thing that changed.

The newsletter now has its own e-mail address for receiving articles and advertisements – no more having to remember who is editing the next newsletter. The e-mail address is rotoitinews@gmail.com

The editing team has changed too. After at least 15 years of coordinating production of this newsletter, Ingrid McConochie has handed the reins to Sandra Wotherspoon. Ingrid remains on the editing team along with Gabi Czoma and Giles Panting. Tracey Grose and Jan Thompson are joining us to lighten the load, and we farewell Phil Crawford from the team, with thanks for his reliable and cheerful service.

The newsletter is a community service, and the editing and distribution is all done by volunteers. Production is supported by the Tasman District Council via the Rotoiti District Community Council. DOC and Lake Rotoiti School contribute to photocopying costs of the newsletter, and Mark and Tania Gill volunteer their expert postal delivery service every fortnight. Sarah Welland ably administers the email distribution list for those without access to a paper copy.

We will do our best to keep the newsletter relevant, interesting, balanced and newsy. We can only do this if our community contributes news. All contributions are welcome, so send them in!



Tuna e Hoe Ana

Paddling with the eels

the unique alpine waka ama experience

Each year, Maitahi Outrigger Canoe Club hosts our Tuna E Hoe Ana event, a waka ama regatta at Lake Rotoiti. This year, the dates are set for Friday and Saturday the 10th and 11th February 2017 from Kerr Bay.

We would like to invite the local community to come and give paddling a go on Saturday 11th February. We will provide all the gear, instruction and safety briefing - all you will need to do is to wear appropriate clothing (e.g. quick-dry, polyprops, etc.) and be willing to give it a go. You will need to be at the registration tent located near the waterfront in Kerr Bay at 11.30am and we will aim to have you on the water by noon. We are planning a short race to give you a taste of how much fun waka paddling is. I hope you can join us.

For more information, please contact Zoe by email: maitahi.president@gmail.com or call/text 021 923 611



Contributing to the newsletter

Please send your contributions in the following formats:

- Advertising and notices sized to fit the newsletter columns. Accepted formats: MSWord, PDF or JPG.
- Full page ads incur a fee - \$30 (b&w) or \$70 (colour). This is a contribution towards photocopying costs. Please pay at the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre.
- Articles: plain text submitted in MS Word format, or in the body of an email.
- Photos: JPG files up to 5MB, attached to an email (not embedded in text).

Seido Karate

Karate will be starting for the year on Tuesday January 17th at 7pm in the Lake Rotoiti Community Hall. Complete beginners are welcome, for more information call Graeme Andrews on 03 5211022

The NZ Defence Force

- intends to conduct mountain flying training within the Richmond, South Marlborough and Dip Flat areas on the **12 and 16-19 January 2017, and from 30 January to 7 February 2017.** Activities will include low level flying and may include the use of smoke for marking landing sites. This training is essential to maintain the Search and Rescue capability of our defence force in the service of the people of New Zealand.

The Tree Doctor

Available for -

*felling *form pruning *reductions
*thinning *hedge trimming* tree removals
16 years experience, references available.

Insured

For all aspects of tree care

Call Chris 02102647942

thetreedr@yahoo.com

DOC News

Norovirus on the Travers-Sabine Circuit

Many would have heard by now that the Travers Sabine Circuit (tramping track) has been affected by a gastro' bug which was suspected of being a highly contagious norovirus. On Friday 13th January the District Health Board confirmed that a test they made on a faecal sample showed it was indeed a norovirus. So, some Q and A then.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms were reported as vomiting and/or diarrhoea for a day, followed by a day feeling weak. Some reported headaches or nausea without being sick. Altogether a very unpleasant illness, but all recovered enough to continue tramping the circuit.

How does the virus spread?

This bit gets nasty. The virus is transmitted person to person with no animal stage. It can't be caught from a hut water supply unless human faeces or vomit have somehow got into the water tank – very unlikely. It is however highly contagious. When ill people are vomiting the virus can be spread through the air in fine aerosols that are breathed by others, and it also settles onto nearby surfaces. It can also be spread to hut surfaces by people not washing their hands effectively after a diarrhoea or vomiting episode. Hard surfaces can stay contaminated for several days, so door handles, benches, tables, and mattresses can all be potentially contaminated and the virus can be caught by someone visiting a hut where someone was recently ill. Recovering people can be contagious for up to two days after their symptoms cease, and the virus can easily spread from one hut to the next as people feel better and continue on their way.

How and when did it get on the Circuit?

Norovirus is commonly in the community and is often responsible for an illness that sweeps through a family. A trampler must have been exposed to the virus and was ill at some point prior to entering the Travers Sabine and brought it in while they were still contagious. The first we heard of it was when our roving volunteer warden reported ill trampers in the West Sabine Hut on 30th December. He was walking anticlockwise around the circuit (the reverse to which most walk it) and was told there had been people ill in John Tait, Upper Travers and Blue Lake huts during the previous two days. The earliest

report we subsequently had was from someone ill at Upper Travers Hut on 24th December.

What have we (DOC) done about it?

The duty Health Protection Officer of the District Health Board (DHB) was contacted immediately for advice on what we might be up against and what to do about it. On the afternoon of the 30th, every helicopter-accessible hut was visited to ascertain how many places and people were affected, and to drop off anti-viral cleaning supplies and warning/hygiene notices. We sent a message out via media release, web pages, visitor centres across the upper South Island, and to all concession holders. We assisted one large group of 16 kiwis off the circuit at Lake Rotoroa on the morning of the 31st December and housed them in an empty staff house where they could essentially quarantine themselves away from others. Thirteen of that party became ill.

There was then a lull of several days before more cases were reported on 4th of January. In consultation with the District Health Board, track-end signs were installed and we sent a message across various media that strongly advised trampers not to use the Travers-Sabine huts. This was aimed at limiting the numbers of people affected and spreading the bug further. The following day a DOC team visited 13 huts on and adjacent to the Circuit to clean and spray each hut and toilet with a bleach solution. Further supplies of bleach spray and new notices were left for hut users. On that day we met one person recovering from the illness (who kindly supplied the sample for testing). There have been a few further cases reported to the visitor centre as late as the 8th January.

So is it over and can it happen again?

Throughout this event we have communicated almost daily with representatives of the DHB who hold a responsibility to advise how to best manage these events. This kind of outbreak on a tramping circuit was new to them, being an 80km track network with many huts and people entering and exiting at different points. The number of people affected during this outbreak is estimated to be 40–45, and the time lag before we learn of a case has made the situation difficult to manage. The last case of illness we can be sure of was on the 8th January. The DHB is urging us to wait a few more days before we can say it is over.

Under the same conditions this outbreak could happen again. The huts require close communal living, eating, and

sleeping shoulder-to-shoulder with strangers in close quarters particularly through the peak summer season. It can only be the hut users who can prevent a similar outbreak occurring again. Firstly it is very important that if people have been ill they quarantine themselves for several days after their last symptoms rather than enter any tracks, camps etc where they can affect others. Secondly it demonstrated the absolute necessity of good personal hygiene – always washing hands with soap and drying after toileting, and again before preparing food.

I would like to sympathise with those whose businesses have been affected either directly or indirectly by this situation. Hopefully we can give the 'all clear' message this week. I would also like to acknowledge the support of DOC staff who gave up their holiday at short notice to scrub out huts and toilets, and help ill trampers. In particular I would like to acknowledge and thank Craig and Kerry Simpson, the water taxi operators on Lake Rotoroa, who have extracted many ill people from Sabine Hut at some risk to themselves.

John Wotherspoon
Operations Manager, DOC Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes



Julian McGaveston

Registered Electrician

For all your
Domestic, Commercial and Rural
Electrical Requirements

T: (03) 522 4488 M: 021 566 645 F: (03) 522 4698
E: voltzelectrical@silkwave.net.nz
2227 Wakefield-Kohatu Hwy, RD2, Wakefield 7096

Rotoiti Property Maintenance

- Gardening
- Light General Engineering
- Tree & Hedge Trimming
- Landscaping & Design
- General Property Maintenance
- Water Engineering and Irrigation
- Waterblasting paths, deckings etc.



Phone: Richard Thoms
03 5211 083 or 021 288 6664



RURAL FENCING AND FORESTRY SERVICES

- ✓ Wire and Batten
- ✓ Deer / Sheep Netting
- ✓ Post and Rail
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ Thinning to Waste
- ✓ Tree Felling
- ✓ Scrub Cutting
- ✓ FIREWOOD FOR SALE



CALL CHIP CLARK 027 832 9490

Holistic Massage Treatments Available

Phone Julie on 03 5211220 or 021886995 to organise a time to suit.

Each and every one of you is an individual. Your massage treatment will reflect this and be adapted to suit your unique needs.

\$60 per hour

Just some of the benefits of Holistic Massage may include:

- Pain, tension and discomfort may be reduced
- Possible improvement in mobility, flexibility and movement of the joints and muscles
- Promotes relaxation and may reduce stress and stress related conditions
- Soothing, calming and settling to the emotions
- Promotes healthy circulation of blood and lymph as well as efficient delivery of nutrients and oxygen around the body
- May improve skin and muscle tone
- Encourages the elimination of waste from the body
- May promote cell and tissue regeneration

ART WALK ROTOITI



Saturday 4th February 2017

10am – 4pm

Join the artists of Rotoiti - discover their art amongst
the Bellbird Walk in the Nelson Lakes National Park,
Kerr Bay, St Arnaud

Ina Biertümpfel – Jewellery
Anna King – Jewellery
Jo Midgley – Oil Painting
Barbara Smissen – Botanical Watercolours
Jan Thomson – Watercolour and Acrylic Painting

Nicky Crawford – Photography
Christine Marks – Fibre Art
Emma Panting – Painting
David Smissen – Ceramics

*NB – in the event of bad weather the
event will be postponed until Saturday 18th
February 2017- check out Art Walk
Rotoiti on Facebook for details.*

FREE ENTRANCE

 **creative**
communities *NZ*

Tasman District