

This newsletter is produced by a small volunteer editing crew to help keep our community connected and informed. We welcome your contributions!

Please send your newsletter items to:
rotoitinews@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue:
5pm Friday 2nd Feb 2024

You can view and download previous issues at
www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters.html



St Arnaud Rural Women would like to thank our wonderful community and surrounding area, plus the holiday makers for their generous support for our Annual Book Sale, Treasure tables and Devonshire Teas, held on 2 January.

The funds raised will be put back into various community projects.

Over the past years St Arnaud Rural Women have donated funds to Nelson/Marlborough Rescue Helicopter, Nelson/Tasman Hospice, Lake Rotoiti School, Friends of Rotoiti, Westport Disaster Funds, Gisborne Disaster Funds, Rotoiti Yachting Group, Rotoiti Fire Brigade, Rotoiti Playgroup, Rotoiti Exercise group, Casting for Recovery, plus numerous gift baskets and cards.

Next meeting: 9th February 1.30pm. New members are always welcome. Contact Marg Anderson for more information.

Coming up

Fri 9th and Sat 10th Feb – Tuna e Hoe waka ama event, Kerr Bay. <https://maitahi-outrigging.org.nz/event/tuna-e-hoe-ana-waka-ama-race/>

2nd and 3rd March – NZ Antique and Classic Boats show, Kerr Bay. <https://www.nzclassicboats.com/>

9th and 10th March – Rotoiti Powerboat Regatta, Kerr Bay. <https://www.nzpba.com/>

Sat 23 March – Nelson Events Alpine Lodge Loop the Lake Race (start at Kerr Bay, 9.15am) <https://www.nelsonevents.co.nz/loop-the-lake/>

Thursdays 10am - 12pm Playgroup. Community Hall. Ph Kirsten 0220445829. Gold coin donation.

Photos: Tui, D. Price. Flirt, D.S . Hamlett. Robert Ridge cushion plants C. Doogue.

Note: regular notices about fitness related activities are listed in a separate box later in the newsletter



Wasp poisoning is about to happen through the village and at various other places. Please read the notice with maps at the end of this newsletter.



Free Delivery in St Arnaud

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Foxhill Roadworks

Following the road construction work completed late last year at SH6, Foxhill, Fulton Hogan will be installing a new guardrail, around Tidd Road from **Tuesday 16th January to Friday 2nd February** to improve safety at the site.

To keep our crew and road users safe, stop/go controls and temporary speed restrictions of 30Km/h will be in place Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, and from 7am to 1pm on Saturdays. Work to maintain the new surface while the guardrail is installed may also be required on Sundays.

While work is not in progress the road will be open to both lanes with a 50kp/h speed limit and cones in place. For your safety and the safety of our road crews please drive carefully and stick to the temporary speed limits.

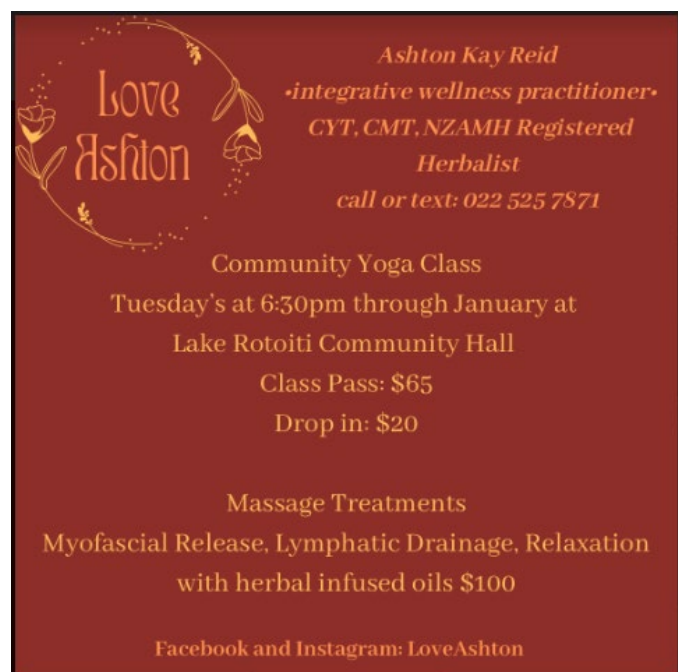


PLAYGROUP

Playgroup meets Thursday mornings
10am - 12pm at the community hall, all
preschoolers welcome.

Many thanks to St Arnaud
Rural Woman for your on
going support

For any inquiries please contact
Kirsten on 0220445829



Ashton Kay Reid
•integrative wellness practitioner•
CYT, CMT, NZAMH Registered
Herbalist
call or text: 022 525 7871

Community Yoga Class
Tuesday's at 6:30pm through January at
Lake Rotoiti Community Hall
Class Pass: \$65
Drop in: \$20

Massage Treatments
Myofascial Release, Lymphatic Drainage, Relaxation
with herbal infused oils \$100

Facebook and Instagram: LoveAshton

LOCAL HAPPY St.Arnaud CHICKEN EGGS!
Order your weekly EGGS:
\$10 dozen : Pick up from Main Road Box
Turn Off to Nelson.
Email : koru@nym.hush.com
Mmm- yummy omelet!

Church Notices

Lake Rotoiti Chapel

Sundays 10.30am

Rotoiti Street, St Arnaud

Services are run by locals and are non-
denominational. Everyone welcome.

Contact Ali/Sue 03 5211 110

Rotoiti Hub

Sundays 10am

Local spirit-led Christian worship, equipping
and encounter.

More details and enquiries:

Nigel /Sarah 027 4413776

or Kay 035211261 / 0273072820

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 of \$30
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).

Friends of Rotoiti Update

A December newsletter is available to view on the FOR website:

<https://www.friendsofrotoiti.org.nz/news/2023/12/29/december-2023>





Local Carpenter now available for all your building requirements
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Your Invitation to support
Friends of Rotoiti
 and the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project
 at Nelson Lakes National Park,
 South Island, New Zealand

We are a group of conservation volunteers who work with the Department of Conservation to control weasels, stoats, ferrets, mice, rats, wasps, possums and feral cats.

Over the past 20 years Friends of Rotoiti Volunteers have removed over 40,000 pests by maintaining and improving an impressive 52 kilometres of trap lines around the Rotoiti Village Area, Rainbow, Speargrass, Whisky Falls and Tophouse.



www.friendsofrotoiti.org.nz
SUPPORT US TODAY

BE | GET | STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Mondays and Wednesdays 10am Casual exercise class. Community Hall. Gold coin koha for the hall. Julie 0272385597

Mondays 7pm Badminton. \$3 per person to go towards hall and shuttle-cocks. Racquets available, all welcome! Ed 03 5211106

Seido-Karate

Community Hall

Tuesdays 5pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 5pm – General Class

Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation

Wasp control in the Nelson Lakes district

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is planning to use targetted wasp baiting methods to reduce wasps on public conservation land in the Nelson Lakes district in January /February 2024.

Why should we control wasps?

Vespid wasps/wāpi (Figure 1) are now one of the most damaging insect pests in New Zealand's natural areas and their numbers seem to be increasing. Introduced wasps threaten our native birds – particularly in honeydew beech forests where they kill chicks as they emerge from their eggs and take honeydew, which is a valuable energy source for birds such as kākā, tūī, and korimako (bellbird).

High densities of wasps exert intense predation pressure on native invertebrates, in particular native caterpillars and orb web spiders. Wasps could contribute to the decline of threatened insect species and affect the ecosystem function through removal of insect pollinators and prey sources for other species.

Wasps attack honeybees, raid their hives and rob their honey. Other effects include lost honey production, the cost of replacement bees and higher pollination costs for horticulture.

Wasps pose a significant threat to human health – over 1300 people each year seek medical treatment for wasp stings and many wasp stings are unreported.



Figure 1: Common wasp, *Vespula vulgaris*

Why is DOC doing this work?

A key role for DOC is to conserve New Zealand's natural ecosystems to ensure they are healthy, functioning and provide a safe place for public recreation.

How will DOC control wasps?

The Department will use a toxic wasp baiting method which exploits the social structure of a wasp colony. Vespex is a protein (chicken meat) bait, containing the insecticide fipronil which is placed in bait stations. The protein bait ensures that it is targeting wasps and will not attract bees but is only effective at times of the year when wasps are feeding on protein.

Bait stations are yellow or orange (Figure 2) and are placed 1.5 metres above the ground to avoid interactions with non-target species, such as weka. Worker wasps collect the bait from stations and return with it to their nest. They feed it to the queen and the developing larvae, therefore poisoning the entire colony within a short time. The bait stations are filled once during the summer and all remaining bait is removed after three to seven days.

This method has been trialled under strict conditions in Nelson Lakes National Park and proven to reduce wasp populations and cause little adverse effects to other species.



Figure 2: Bait stations containing Vespex wasp bait

Timeframe

To maximise the benefit to conservation, the bait will be applied when the wasps are known to be feeding on protein and the weather is suitable – fine and preferably sunny to ensure wasps are active. Bait will

be applied by DOC between mid-January to the end of February 2024.

What areas will be targeted?

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project (RNRP) Mainland Island covers approximately 5000 ha of public conservation land on the western slopes of the St Arnaud Range in Nelson Lakes National Park and in Big Bush Conservation Area. Wasp control will be carried out over approximately 1600 ha of the RNRP for biodiversity protection purposes.

In addition, wasp control will be undertaken in the St Arnaud village and at key recreation sites and popular tramping tracks in Nelson Lakes National Park and around Murchison for public safety purposes.

See attached maps for the areas to be treated in this operation.

What safety measures are there?

DOC will be working closely with the manufacturer of the toxic bait to ensure that the control operation is managed rigorously, applying the best practice and procedures developed at Nelson Lakes National Park. This includes the practice of removing the bait that the wasps have not eaten, using a monitoring programme to ensure bait is applied at the correct time and the overall success of the wasp control.

If you have any questions or require further information about the operation, please contact:

Ricki Mitchell
Supervisor, Biodiversity
Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
ramitchell@doc.govt.nz
03 521 1806



