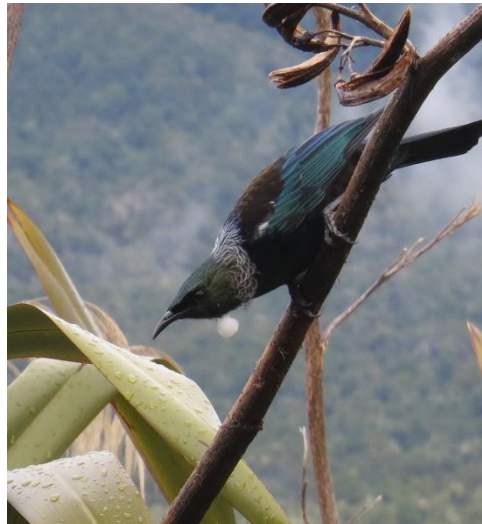


This newsletter is produced by a small volunteer editing crew to help keep our community connected and informed. We welcome your contributions!

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

Deadline for next issue:
5pm Fri 8th Dec 2023

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



Lake Rotoiti School News

Kia ora koutou,

Next week we welcome Abel back to the school.

Thursday 14 December is our last day of school for the term. We finish at 1:30pm. At 5pm we will have the yachts and BBQ at the lake for summer sailing. All welcome.

Fred, Bruce and Jeremy have started building the changing sheds. We expect the pool to open on 25 December for public use. It is possible the cladding will not quite be complete, but the changing sheds should be usable.

If you would like a pool fob, please contact the office at office@lakerotoiti.school.nz. There is a \$50 fee for the fob. Please don't use the pool until 25 December though. After school closes on December 14 there will not be anyone available to provide fobs.

The children continue to work hard towards the end of the year, and we continue to find fun and challenging activities. Between now and then there is a tramp, sailing, a fishing trip in Nelson, the Year 8 leavers camp, Rural Women Christmas decorations, Prizegiving, and the big water fight. Every year the children tell us we do too much in the 4th term but aren't we lucky to live where we do.

Ed Shaw took the Year 7 and 8 students for woodwork last Friday and look what cool things they made:

Coming up

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

Book Sale, 2 January 2024 at the Community Hall – donations contact Marg 0274172690

Marahau Community Weekend 8 – 10 December contact Sue or Al 03 5211110

Photos: Tui, S. Wotherspoon.
Kotuku, Kerr Bay D. O'Connor.
Sabine Hut, D. Bauer

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

Lake Rotoiti Community News



Many thanks to Ed for hosting and teaching our senior students.

The Junior children went and visited Alison Higgins' farm to look at their very cute lambs, followed by a visit to Greta McGahan and her new foals.



Next week the Senior students hope to go over Fowler's Pass into the Waiau on a three day tramp. This is very weather dependant, but at present is looking promising. The money that was raised from the firewood cutting has paid for a helicopter return to school. Thanks to Russell and the Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Education Centre for the loan of some packs, sleeping mats and a sleeping bag for our trip. Please be aware that a helicopter will be landing on the school field between 2 and 3pm on Wednesday and keep clear of this area.

Having said all of that, we are already planning some fantastic activities for 2024.

Robbie is cutting the tree at the lake into slabs. If you want some, please contact Robbie.

Over the Christmas break the repaint will be completed. The new signage will also be put up. The school will be looking pretty sharp for the 75th Anniversary next year.

In 2024 it is the 75th anniversary of the school. We will be holding a celebration during Labour Weekend 2024, and we are calling for any stories that you might have of your past experiences at the school. We have a small committee headed by Ingrid and Alistair who are starting to put things together.

Please send anything to Dominique or Mike to pass on to our achivisit for publication.

mike.allen@lakerotoiti.school.nz or dominique@lakerotoiti.school.nz

Alistair Nicholls has kindly volunteered to coordinate the event, and Ingrid McConochie is sifting through the archives to write a small history of the school. If they shoulder tap you to help them, please say yes.

If you or anyone you know might like to attend, please contact the office to register interest.

Nga mihi,
Mike and Miriam.



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their continued support"***



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Maitahi Outrigger Canoe Club

Maitahi Outrigger Canoe Club is returning to Lake Rotoiti for the 15th consecutive year for their Tuna e Hoe Ana regatta. The 2024 edition will be held on 9th and 10th February.

Last year were blessed with fantastic weather as the Lake put on its best face for the visiting paddlers, some of whom had travelled from as far as the United Kingdom and Hawaii. Early morning mist on the water, blue skies and a noticeable lack of sandflies made it a race weekend to remember.

This year will be following the usual format with singles and doubles racing from Friday afternoon into the evening. That's usually followed by light refreshments at the Alpine Lodge.

Saturday sees the big six person canoes take to the water throughout the day before the 100 plus competotors and spectators head to Rotoiti hall for dinner and prize giving.

It's always a great weekend for our club and the visitors from NZ and around the world and we appreciate the great support we get from the people of St Arnaud and DOC. Fingers crossed for some more beautiful weather this year, but we will be on the water in just about whatever the elements can throw at us.

Tony Davies
Race Director
Tuna e Hoe Ana

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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

LAKE ROTOITI WATER TAXIS

Hello St Arnaud

Welcome to my little pre summer season/post winter season roundup. First of all our scheduled ferry runs will be starting on the 8th of December. Still only \$35-pp so cheap as chips, and one of the best value for money tourism experiences out there.

This winter season was very similar to most of the others except ice skating was a bit Ave. Mainly because when the ice came, I wasn't here to hire the skates out. Some people got a little bit grumpy about it though most people were pretty good. I was at my sister's house in Singapore so there was nothing I could do about it. It was good to catch up with my sister's (I've got one the Gold Coast as well) though my holiday was a bit crazy. The water taxi helped out with an American reality TV show adventure race over at Lake Rotoroa in October with Dudley and Charline who operate the Rotoroa water taxi which was very cool. I didn't want to get involved at first as in my early years operating up here, I got ripped off a few times by film crew's. I personally think that they expect you to get blinded by the light and therefore take advantage of it. However, this one was fine and I was contracted to the Rotoroa water taxi operation anyway.

Also, in October the Water taxi business was proud to take Witherlea School up and down the lake. Witherlea is my old school! I was educated at 4 schools and they are, Marlborough boy's college ,nuff said Fairhall,not a fan,. Petone Central circa 1984, run down, multi racial surrounded by post-industrial decay however quite a good school and enjoyed the few months I was there.

And good old Witherlea! Witherlea was a great school, though I wasn't too keen on it then. So was good to tell the kids about their school in the eighties when it was all about Bata bullet's, BMXs, Madonna and Ghost Busters!! I think as well there a lot of eighties kids like me who are now approaching 50 years old who have never had a tooth filling because we had place called the murder house!! And a lot of New Zealand schools had them! The kid's rightly or wrongly were petrified of them,.

This winter was great to get some time off, go snowboarding and surfing which once upon a

time I was quite good at, even doing the South Island circuit a couple of years in a row! But rubbish now! Also, a wee bit of flying as well as I have a private licence. I don't talk about it much because people get it all wrong and there are quite a few myths associated with recreational flyin. I get two types of questions. The first one's are from prop heads and it's great talking to them. The second ones are from people who have no interest in aviation but want to know how many hours one has? and then how much it costs per hour? They are more interested in my financial position so I'm not really keen on talking to them. As a single male I believe it's good to have a hobby that doesn't involve blue boats! Strangely, I don't enjoy flying domestically on Airlines. However, this has nothing to do with the airline and more to do with the other passengers especially if they don't have respect or etiquette. Alot of people still have a very socialist view of public transportation. That cheap a bit grey stalinistic model worked so well in the 1970s but not so well in the 2020s where people know their rights but not their responsibilities as considerate human beings. I also managed to whip down the West coast and then do the Tranz Alpine which I thought was a class act and totally recommend it. I was born in Westport in Buller hospital. When I was born my father used to own the old Nelson lakes parks service boat, so I guess I'm Like a eel, gone from the sea to the source!

Last week I also went canyoning with the crew from Canyoning Aotearoa. It has taken them three years to get me to do it. So, I finally did it and totally loved it. Though at times a little bit out of my comfort zone. I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is fit and able,.

Lastly the business is not operating on Christmas day, and we won't be starting till mid-morning on boxing Day as last year I think we did our first run at 7am on boxing day and I was over it before the day had even begun.

Anyway, St Arnaud have a great Christmas.

*Kind Regards Hamish
Lake Rotoiti Water Taxis*



MARAHAU
COMMUNITY
WEEKEND

8-10 DECEMBER

- BEACH
- SUN
- FOOD
- FRIENDS

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Servicing St Arnaud and greater Tasman district

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).



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