

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 23 June 2023

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



Coming up

Sunday 18 June

Mid-winter swim – see notice

Rainbow Ski Field

Opening Day 1 July 2023
(subject to weather/snow conditions)

2nd Wednesday of the month –

Friends of Rotoiti village trapping at 10.00am – contact Pip 027 5211130

Photos: Whiskey Falls. I. Biertumpfel. Kerr Bay Jetty. K Whyte. Fungi. B Williams

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

Lake Rotoiti School News

Winter has finally arrived in St Arnaud, and we had some beautiful frosts. The children have been enjoying finding and playing with ice. And with this new season we would also like to welcome our two newest students Rees and Zach Lloyd. Rees is in the senior room and Zach is in the junior room. We also had Bethany start as a student teacher in the senior room. She will be with us for a few weeks.



With the loss of 2 school bus drivers at the end of the term, we are looking for people who are able to join us from the beginning of Term 3.

The role is rostered, and flexibility of days is possible.

Drivers need to have a current 'P' endorsement (including recent medical check), and a current first aid certificate. The school is prepared to fund these for suitable applicants.

Please contact Mike or Dominique if you are interested.

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

A couple of weeks ago, the junior classroom went on a trip to Nelson to visit the trampoline park and have lunch at the beach playground. This was a well-deserved break from our routine.



Last week the New Zealand Navy Band came to St Arnaud and performed for our school and the wider community. They played a great mix of traditional songs, as well as modern hits the kids knew well. We are so lucky to get opportunities like these for our children.



For the last few weeks, the children have been practising for an upcoming cross-country competition. A big thank you to Frith for not only training with the children, but also hosting this event. Keep your eyes peeled for photos and announcement of winners in the next newsletter.

With the ski season starting next term it is time to start thinking about ski gear. To help with this on Friday 23rd of June we will be hosting a ski sale and potluck dinner here at school.

So if you need some gear, want to sell some gear or just want a night out. Doors are open at 4.30pm.

Ngā mihi nui
Mike and Miriam



Rodent control at home

It seems that we have had a partial mast of beech trees at Rotoiti this year. We are still waiting for results from our beech seed fall sampling that we do March to May each year – especially information on how much of the seed that fell is viable. This is important because only the viable seed represents a food source.

The May rodent tracking at Rotoiti has returned elevated tracking levels for rats and mice, and the Friends of Rotoiti have also noticed higher-than-usual catch numbers in their village rodent traplines.

Beech seed as an energy source enables rodents to continue breeding for longer into the winter, and so we are likely to have more rats and mice around our homes and outbuildings this year.

It is best to use appropriately housed traps rather than poisons when dealing with rodents at home. This is because

- traps are cheap, effective, and humane
- when housed in an appropriate trapbox, they are safer for pets and non-targets like birds
- you get a really good idea of what rodents are around your property when trapping. When poisoning you don't get the same insights – the animals go away to die, and sometimes they die in bad places and make a bad smell for ages.

Friends of Rotoiti have rat traps and boxes that are perfect for the job, for a small donation if you like. Please email Wayne Sowman if you are interested in having a trap at your place in or near St Arnaud - wayne.julie.js@gmail.com

For larger areas and huge numbers of mice, it can be more effective to use poisons and if you are considering that or already using poison then please read on. There's also good information at Predator Free NZ

Using toxins to control predators on your property – choose wisely

There are a number of readily available rat poisons for controlling rodents. Most of these poisons are anticoagulants.

Some of these poisons can cause secondary poisoning of native birds like morepork, weka and kea, and domestic animals like cats, dogs, and chickens. They can also build up in the environment as they are transferred from prey to predator. This is called bioaccumulation.

Anticoagulants can be divided into two categories - first generation anticoagulants and second-generation anticoagulants.

First-generation anticoagulants are most effective with multiple doses, have a lower risk of secondary poisoning and a lower risk of bioaccumulation. The best practice for using first generation anticoagulants is to use a bait station (bait stations should be used for all rat poison to exclude other animals) and keep it stocked with the poison continuously for five days. Rodents need to eat the poison over a number of days for it to be effective. First generation anticoagulants include coumatetralyl, pindone, warfarin and diphacinone.

Second-generation anticoagulants often only require a single dose. There is a much higher rate of secondary poisoning and a higher rate of bioaccumulation. The

Department limits it's use of second generation anticoagulants to areas where total eradication is achievable, for instance, off shore islands. Second generation anticoagulants include bromadilone, brodifcoum, flocoumafen, difethialone and difenacoum.

Cholecalciferol is a rat poison available that is not an anticoagulant. It is vitamin D3 and is toxic in high doses. It is also used for controlling possums. Although it is toxic to domestic pets, there is a lower risk of secondary poisoning than second generation anticoagulants.

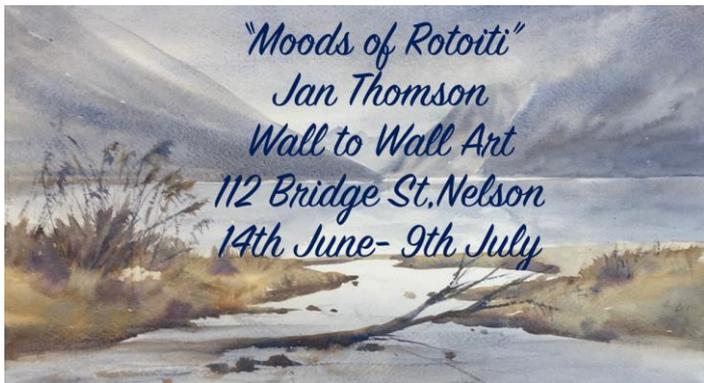
When buying your poison at the hardware shop, be sure to read the active ingredient.

Sunday 18 June Blue Duck Nude Midwinter Swim 2023



Welcome to the annual, legendary, family friendly, nude plunge into Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park. Join enthusiastic, misguided and returnee survivors at the East Jetty by the campground at Kerr Bay at 12.00 noon on Sunday 18 June.

For locals and visitors and you don't have to be nude. Phone 0277108229 or riverflat@gmail.com



www.janthomsonart.com

St Arnaud Phone List

The new phone list has been printed and distributed. Everyone should have one in their letter boxes now - huge thankyou to Mark (Courier) for

delivering these and to RDCC for funding the printing costs.

Bach Owners who do not have a PO Box in the Village, you can pick up a new list from Jan Thomson's Art Studio, 10 Range View Road, St Arnaud.

Please note it is one free to each household, if you would like a second, they are \$2 each.



www.friendsofrotoiti.org.nz

Give Us a Break! Winter 2023

Good progress has been made on the GreenBreak.

We have got past the large snow damaged area (from 2008, opposite Russell and Fiona`s house) and are heading for the top of the hill! This area was hard going so the next bit will be great.

The planters are right behind us!

Many thanks for all those who have given their weekend time. Ward Street road reserves have been mulched back. This looks a bit raw just now but replanting will start in the spring.

At least now a Fire Engine might venture up there in a fire, unlike some of the more overgrown streets.

Excellent work has been done throughout the village by owners FireSmartering their places, but work on the Peninsula in particular, stands out. Well done.

A FENZ film team came in March to put together a video of our progress in protecting our village from fire. This will be used as an educational video to inspire other communities to achieve what they might need locally.

This will be released soon, featuring Kevin and Pip's place as an outstanding example of risk reduction! In fact Baxter Street is doing very well.

Wayne and Julie`s place is looking lovely, with a very tasteful clearout and new underplantings. Neil and Julie have been working on their place for a few years now and the results are pleasing. Open airy and sunny with plenty of lower flammability species for privacy and shade.

Local residents like these have set a wonderful example of what is possible with thoughtful fuel reduction and many of those who don't live here fulltime

have become aware of our vulnerability to fire and how they can work to improve their own properties.

The recently announced Parker Wetland Restoration is a great proposal and should work towards making a safer valley floor to the west.

Removing exotic silver birches and re-creating a wetland are worthy aims on the edge a residential area. The plants that usually inhabit a proper wetland tend to be low growing and low flammability, so having these instead of long cured grass and regenerating kanuka has to be a bonus for fire safety.

I am delighted to hear that DOC staff have warned against planting flammable native species. This will be a relief to many and hopefully boost the support required for this project.

Winter is a great time to work on FireSmarting your property. The exercise keeps you warm and there is no danger of your machinery setting fire to anything.

So, please keep up the good work. Complacency is a killer, and the fuel doesn't stop growing!

For help or advice on FireSmart work, chipping or greenwaste disposal, talk to me or Brian Erasmus

Robbie Thomson 0212950305

Brian Erasmus 0273844464

items for sale

We've been having a tidy up and have the following items for sale –
contact Sandie 021 277924 or Craig 021 1144727

Michelin wheels 225/45 tubeless radial (4 wheels)

1 wheel is Pilot Sport 3



– no longer required as sold Hyundai i30 –
\$150 for all 4 wheels

Microwave \$30 (good condition) 52cm wide & includes glass plate



Mitsubishi Dehumidifier \$50



4 dining chairs – good condition with the odd scratch –
no tears in seat material \$50.00 for all 4 chairs



Massage wonder – great for those hard-to-reach places
like between the shoulder blades \$30



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).

Contact: rotoitinews@gmail.com

PLAYGROUP

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

Many thanks to St Arnaud Rural Woman for your ongoing support

For any inquiries please contact Kirsten on 0220445829

GROUP FITNESS

FIT IT WEDNESDAYS

Come & connect, have fun, & sweat to contemporary beats & various styles of exercise. All ages & levels welcome. BYO water & mats.

Community Hall | 6-7 p.m. | Gold Coin Koha

CONTACT LOU TO JOIN 0210414913

WORKSHOPS & DEMONSTRATIONS TRADE SITES AVAILABLE

Rural Readiness Expo

Alternative Energy → Communication
Animal Welfare → Resilience → Safety
Home Security → Food & Refreshments

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023
Wairau Valley Hall Complex, Morse St Wairau Valley

Wairau Valley Hall Community Trust acknowledges the co-funding of this project by the Ministry for Primary Industries

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
Contact Angela Woolf 027 303 8380
wvvalhubcoordinator@gmail.com

In an emergency and in everyday life-
Who will you call for help?

A good electrician.

- Industrial, commercial and domestic
- Generator installs and repairs
- Electrical motor installs and repairs
- Pump installs and repairs
- Power tool repairs
- Automation and control
- Solar and offgrid installs and repairs
- Motorhome installs and repairs
- Dairy electrical and pumps

Shane Steel
027 320 2335
shane@agoodelectrician.co.nz

Servicing St Arnaud and greater Tasman district

Aqua Tank Services

**Water Tank
Cleaning Specialist**

**Domestic/Rural
Professional
Reliable**



Kerry 0277477902
sheryllkerry@gmail.com
aquatankservices.net

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

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

“Body Movers” Monday at 10am – low impact/intensity, resistance based and fun feel good beats

All welcome, gold coin donation

Lou 0210414913

“Circuit Breakers” exercise group

Wednesday @ 10am at Community Hall

All welcome, gold coin donation

Gael 027 280 4078

Fit It Wednesday’s group exercise. Bring water, mat. Community Hall, Wednesdays ☺ 6-7pm. All welcome, gold coin donation

Lou 0210414913

Seido-Karate

Community Hall

Tuesdays 6 - 7pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 6 pm – General Class

Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation

Badminton

Monday at 7pm at Community Hall

Cost \$3 (hall hire & shuttle cocks)

Ed or Nicky 027 9311473 or 03 5211106



**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

Yes! I would like to support Friends of Rotoiti

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

As a non-profit group of volunteers, FOR need your support to continue predator control and maintain trap boxes, stainless traps and remote camera equipment which we use to monitor **KIWI, KAKA & KEA**.

- I would like to be an active Friends of Rotoiti volunteer – Please contact me.

Make a Donation for the calendar year Jan – Dec

- \$52 (\$1.00 per week) Donation to Join/Renew as a FOR supporter
- \$_____ Make a Donation

Payment can be made to Friends of Rotoiti:

Account 03-1709-0102228-00

(Please reference your name with payment or email friendsofrotoiti@gmail.com)

Claim your donation as a tax credit our Charities Commission number is CC49211

Please return to:
Friends of Rotoiti
PO Box 18
St Arnaud 7053

For contacts and further information
visit our website

www.friendsofrotoiti.org.nz