

Deadline for next issue:  
Friday 11 April 2019

Please send your newsletter  
items to: [rotoitinews@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters)



## Lake Rotoiti School News

Kea Kai wishes to give a huge thanks to all parents and awesome community members that contributed their time, effort and baking to our fundraising weekend. (The extra baking was amazing by the way!!!)

Also a huge thanks to The Alpine Lodge for the use of their head chef Jamal's wonderful pulled pork, the St Arnaud Village Store for the use of their freezer space, and of course Pete Rainey (Classic Boat event organiser) for once again giving us the opportunity to raise the funds for our kids. The goodwill in our amazing community is priceless.

What an amazingly busy weekend and perfect weather to boot. SO fantastic for our wee school and wonderful to have the wider community joining in the fun!

Thanks again and hope to see you all next year!  
Anna King and Janine Basalaj

## Coming up

**2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April:** School camp  
at Mistletoe Bay

**13<sup>th</sup> April:** Alpine Lodge  
Loop the Lake race  
[www.nelsonevents.co.nz](http://www.nelsonevents.co.nz)

**25<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am:** Anzac  
day service, Community  
hall.

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.15pm:** Rotoiti  
District Community  
Council meeting. DOC  
meeting room. All welcome

**Alternate Wednesdays:**  
Village trapping group.  
Meets 10am at DOC, all  
welcome; call Pip 5211130

**Last Monday of the  
month:** Alpine Flash Mob  
social singing group. Call  
Jan 5211999  
[jathomsonart@gmail.com](mailto:jathomsonart@gmail.com)

**Sundays 10.30 am  
Lake Rotoiti Chapel**  
services are run by locals  
and non-denominational.  
Everyone welcome.

**Sundays 3pm Rotoiti  
Hub:** Christian worship  
and prayer. Locations vary.  
Nigel or Sarah Calder  
0274413776

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

Photos: swan and mirror-  
lake by Gabi Czoma;  
Sunflowers by Ingrid  
McConochie.

If you have a great photo  
that you'd like to share  
with the newsletter, please  
be in touch  
[rotoitinews@gmail.com](mailto:rotoitinews@gmail.com)



## SECURITY

DOC staff would like all residents to please respect the 'no thoroughfare' signs at either end of the staff carpark behind the visitor centre. There are some bach-holders who like to use this area as a shortcut to the lake track. Please go around the front of the visitor centre instead.

## DOUBLE-SET TRAP DEPLOYMENT

Part of the summer's workload for the biodiversity team was replacing all 849 traps in our Rotoiti stoat trapping network, with new trapboxes. The existing trap boxes were getting worn out and it was time to replace the entire network and upgrade to the current best-practice which is two traps mounted in one box.

As with all of the landscape-scale biodiversity protection work that we do, this trap changeover is being conducted as an experimental trial that will contribute to DOC best-practice. Using funding from the Tiakina Nga Manu (Battle for Our Birds) programme, we will compare the efficacy of the current DOC best-practice double-set trap box with a 'run-through' design; the two designs alternating along every trap line. Friends of Rotoiti ran a small pilot trial on their Rainbow line which showed potential for the run-through design to catch more mustelids. The current trial will show if this is the case over a wider landscape, using double-sets.

All trap boxes are designed to guide the target animals over a trap (in this case, the DOC200), while excluding non-target animals. For us the most important non-targets are kiwi, kea and weka. The DOC best-practice boxes involve two mesh baffles at each end with carefully-sized offset holes, so a weka or kiwi can't get a beak into a trap. The run-through box design works on the principle that it may be more attractive to stoats to be able to see a way through the box in a straight line. The ends are protected by a much less visual mesh, and the distance to the traps is theoretically too long for a bird to reach in. The traps are aligned the same way and there are ramps to guide the animal up and in for a humane kill. Huge piles of boxes were delivered partly assembled, and the remaining assembly work was completed in our workshop during spring.

The double-set boxes are heavier, longer, and take more work to 'bed in' than the old single-set traps. They are attached to the ground, and the traps inside are carefully

calibrated so that they will catch an animal in a certain weight range without accidentally setting off the other trap in the box. So, the work for us to deliver these traps to the network was physically hard and also quite exacting. Even with the help of helicopter drops at strategic points, it required a big team effort, usually in groups of 6 or 8. We've been sending our monthly volunteers away stronger and fitter than they have ever been before (this equals not-quite-broken!).

Even though it's now double-trouble for the stoats out there we are expecting the trap network to be overwhelmed by huge numbers of rats (over this autumn and winter) and stoats (in springtime) in response to the current fall of beech seed. This will provide lots of great data for comparing the trap boxes but we are not looking forward to seeing the effects of high rodent and mustelid densities on our wildlife. Watch this space for more about that.

Thanks to the volunteers that have worked the hard yards alongside us both in the workshop and on the hills during this long, hot summer. Thanks also to Phil and Fiona Borlase who last year kindly let us fly fadges of traps from their paddock.



---

## Local water deliveries



Contact Adrian Briggs if your water tanks are getting low.

021 2291109.

[briggs\\_adrian@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:briggs_adrian@yahoo.co.nz)

---

## News from Rotoiti District Community Council

It was a good turnout at the meeting on Friday 22 February, with the previous Chair, Dougie McConochie and previous Secretary, Brent Higgins being recognised for their time over previous years.

A summary of Minutes from 22 February 2019 meeting:

- possible alternative route for TA walkers from Red Hills to the Village
- request for signs for the village asking drivers to slow down
- big thanks to Rural Women for their support to volunteers during the Pigeon Valley fire
- update on the fire and fire fighting efforts by St Arnaud volunteers and DOC staff
- update from DOC Operations Manager on operations in Nelson Lakes National Park
- update from Cr Stuart Bryant for Lakes/Murchison for Tasman District Council on fire and drought
- update on community hall toilets on Main Road
- one way bridges across Buller River and Speargrass River action to be requested from NZTA to make these safer
- update of local phone list and Welcome Packs for new residents
- progress of fundraising for Rotoiti Lodge
- update on Dark Sky proposal - long term project
- request to remove portaloos at truck stop at TeeTotal
- request to follow up with TDC on rabbit infestation in the village
- potential reinstatement of fire break on Peninsula

Minutes have been circulated to the Executive Team of the Community Council however if you would like a copy, please email the Secretary, Sandie Hutchinson at [rotoiticommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rotoiticommunitycouncil@gmail.com).

The next meeting will be held on Friday 3 May at 7.15pm at the DOC Meeting Room (behind the Visitor Centre). If you could please send through any agenda items by 28 April to the email address above. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there - its a pretty relaxed atmosphere!

The Rotoiti District Community Council welcomes quotes from anyone who is interested in erecting two signs - one before Bridge Street "Welcome to St Arnaud, please drive carefully in our village" and a sign south of the village. Please send quotes through to [rotoiticommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rotoiticommunitycouncil@gmail.com) by 30 April 2019 for consideration at the meeting on 3 May.

### House available for rent in St Arnaud

4 bedroom unfurnished house on quiet street in the village - available now.

Log burner, 2 separate lounges, kitchen and dining combined, separate toilet, and single garage. Part of the section is fully fenced.

Bond required.

\$275 per week

Please contact Jo Joice on 027 571 1497



### Restricted Fire Season

Fire and Emergency New Zealand declares a restricted fire season, effective from 08:00am, 21 March 2019 in the following area(s):

- All of the fire zones 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 of the Nelson/ Tasman Fire District. In general this covers all of the Nelson City and Tasman District Council areas.

A permit is required to light a fire in open air in these areas.

See [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) for types of fire which have been authorised as not being fires in open air and do not need a permit.

Any fire permits issued during a restricted fire season are suspended if Fire and Emergency declares a prohibited fire season, or prohibits fire in open air, in the area(s).

**Ian Reade**  
Principal Rural Fire Officer  
Nelson Tasman

To check the season status for your location please visit [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) or call 0800 658 628.

Further information about fire seasons is available on [www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz)



**BE GET STAY**  
**ACTIVE**

**Regular activities in and around St Arnaud**

**“Circuit Breakers”** exercise group  
 Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10 am,  
 Community Hall  
 All welcome, gold coin donation  
 Gael 0272804078,

**Seido-Karate**  
 Community Hall  
 Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners  
 Contact Toni Calman 035390681  
 Gold coin donation

**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

**CLARK Contracting**  
 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



## Alpine Yoga and massage

Ashton is taking yoga again, starting Monday April 1st at the Alpine Lodge (underneath the backpackers; the previous café space). Doors open 15mins prior to class time; bring your own mat or borrow. Drop-in rate \$12 or locals class packages available. See Ashton Kay Yoga on Facebook for full details.

### Alpine Yoga Timetable

	6:00-7:15am	2:30-3:30pm	5:30-7:00pm
Monday			Yin
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday		Rejuvenate	
Friday			Yin Yang Flow
Saturday	Greet the Sun		Yin Yang Flow
Sunday	Greet the Sun	Rejuvenate	

### 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).

Contact: [rotoitinews@gmail.com](mailto:rotoitinews@gmail.com)



# Sport and Recreation Update

## March 2019



**Fantastic Spot Prizes Include:**  
Be Seen From Beautiful Richmond

**PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED!**

### SPORT TASMAN MUDDY BUDDY

#### Adventure Fun Run – March 31st 2019

tasman.school Aporo Rd, Tasman  
[www.tasman.school.nz](http://www.tasman.school.nz)

Enter online \$15 per person / \$40 Family  
Enter on the day: \$20 per person / \$30 per family

Race Starts @ 10 am  
Sign in between 10.00 – 11.00 am

- \* 1km Lap
- \* 1 lap Kids / Family Fun / Open
- \* 2 laps Intermediate Girls / Boys / Open / Work Place Challenge
- \* 3 laps College Clash of the Codes / Mud Addicts

Music in the Mud! Food, Coffee, Silent Auction

All details and registrations at [sporttasman.org.nz/sporttasmanmuddybuddy](http://sporttasman.org.nz/sporttasmanmuddybuddy)



### Group Fitness Classes

Sport Tasman offers a range of fitness classes at Saxton Stadium and Richmond Town Hall. Prices vary for each class with the option to purchase concession cards at a reduced price. Many of the classes offer a child friendly environment with a play area for your under 5's. To find out more about what's on offer check out [sporttasman.org.nz/facilities](http://sporttasman.org.nz/facilities) Or give us a call Saxton Stadium 538 0072 or Richmond Town Hall 544 3955

### Training Space for hire at Saxton Stadium



Are you a Personal Trainer or Strength & Conditioning Coach struggling to find a space to hire to run your own business or looking to set up? Look no further, Saxton Stadium has a great space for you called THE SHED.

Contact Nicole Shand on 538 0072



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson-Tasman

### CITY2SAXTON

#### 10km Fun Run/Roll/Stroll

7 April 2019

Raising funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson-Tasman

For all event information head to [sporttasman.org.nz/city2saxton](http://sporttasman.org.nz/city2saxton)

Help us raise valuable funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson-Tasman. Run, roll or stroll your way from Victory Community Centre to Saxton Fields! All forms of wheels welcome—although only Under Sies on bikes.



### No more Mummy Tummy

6 week pregnancy and postnatal course

#### Starting 8th May 2019

Maintain strength throughout your pregnancy or regain strength and stability post pregnancy.

Classes Wednesday 10.30-11.15am

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

\$60.00 Registration

Limited spaces so get in quick!

Contact —Saxton Stadium 538 0072  
[stadium@sporttasman.org.nz](mailto:stadium@sporttasman.org.nz)  
[sporttasman.org.nz/saxtonstadium](http://sporttasman.org.nz/saxtonstadium)



## Farmer Registration Process

Four simple steps to receiving free pest control.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (NZDA) has launched its 'NZDA Farmer Assist' program throughout New Zealand. This program has been developed to provide farmers and landholders with a simple way of finding qualified NZDA members to undertake shooting as part of pest control activities. This service is provided at no cost.

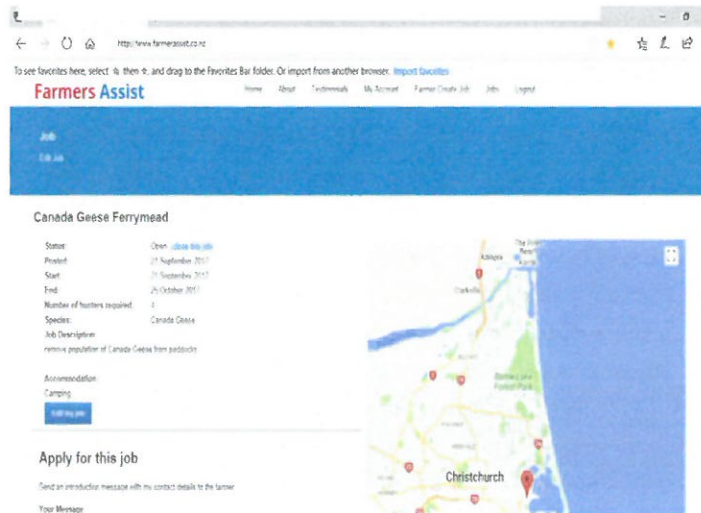
The program has a unique online portal that acts like an introductory service. Farmers and landholders simply register and then use the program's job board to seek assistance to deal with problem wildlife on their properties. Once the request has been added to the jobs board, only registered members approved for the program can respond to the request. Farmers then simply choose which member/s they want to contact after viewing submitted applications.

For extra peace of mind, all NZDA members participating in the NZDA Farmer Assist Program are covered by the Association's \$10m public liability insurance policy. Members involved in the program have committed to a strict code of practice that incorporates safety, animal welfare and ethical shooting.

Members must undertake an assessment to display a professional-like shooting standard.

- 1 Sign-up via online portal**  
<http://www.farmersassist.co.nz>
- 2 Place a request (job) for assistance**
- 3 Receive and then review applications**
- 4 Select member/s of your choice**

For more information go to  
[www.farmersassist.co.nz](http://www.farmersassist.co.nz)



## Farmer Testimonials

One aspect I never considered was , when we have accredited hunters on the property, they are also policing against poaching as they are aware they are the only authorised hunters on my property. *Ian B Canterbury*

The two shooters I had here could not be faulted. They did an excellent job, and all gates were shut properly, etc. I think the program is a great asset in helping reduce the plague proportion of pest animals at the moment. *Tracey W, Newstead*

A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his act they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the fact.

— Aldo Leopold. The Sand County Almanac.

Based on the Successful Farmer Assist program developed by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia