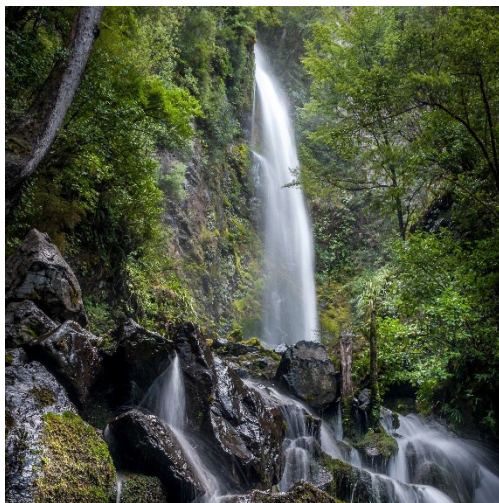


This newsletter is produced by a small volunteer editing crew to help keep our community connected and informed. We welcome your contributions!

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

Deadline for next issue:
5pm Friday 3 February 2023

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



Coming up

Sat 28th Jan 5.30am - Black Dog Endurance Swim starts. Kerr Bay.

Sun 29th Jan Orienteering South Island Champs. West Bay and Teetotal.

Fri 10, Sat 11 Feb – Waka Ama Tuna e Hoe event, Kerr Bay

Sat 4' Sun 5 March – Antique and Classic Boats Show, Kerr Bay

Fri 10 March – Secondary School Waka Ama racing event, Kerr Bay.

Sat 11, Sun 12 March Powerboats Regatta, Kerr Bay

Photos: Boats – N. Crawford. **Whiskey Falls, Tui, DOC.**

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

Lake Rotoiti News Schedule for 2023

Newsletter date (Monday)	Notes	Newsletter date (Monday)	Notes
9 Jan 2023		10 July	School hols 1 July – 16 July
23 Jan		24 July	
7 Feb	Tuesday after Waitangi	7 August	
20 Feb		21 August	
6 March		4 September	
20 March		18 September	
3 April	Easter Friday 7 Apr	2 October	School hols 23 sept – 8 Oct
17 April	School hols 7 Apr – 23 Apr	16 October	
1 May		30 October	
15 May		13 November	
29 May		27 November	
12 June		11 December	School hols from 20 Dec
26 June			



Black Dog Swim

Freshwater Lake Rotoiti
28th January - 5th February

20 year old George Glover is challenging himself to swim 15 loops of Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes. George will cover 300km over 8 days in his challenge of raising \$100,000 for Mike King's I AM HOPE charity.



He has set a goal of raising \$100,000 for Mike King's I Am Hope charity throughout the coastal challenge, supporting the charity's work by providing positive attitudinal societal change around mental health throughout New Zealand, and funding private care and counseling for young people stuck in the mud on waiting lists.

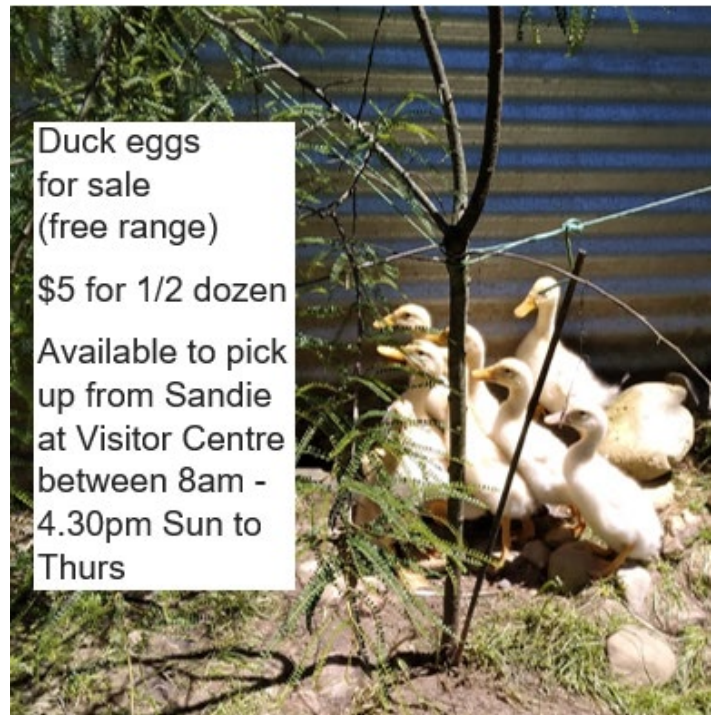


Be sure to scan the QR code and donate to a great cause!

donate at <https://givealittle.co.nz>



Look out for the Black Dog Swim support team who will be lakeside at Kerr Bay throughout the swim. George will be in the water a lot of course, accompanied by a kayaker and other support boats. Please watch out for them! You can also be in touch with the team via Facebook and Instagram @BlackDogSwim.





Do you like geckos? If the answer is yes, then read on! My name is Arti and I am a recent addition to the Rotoiti community, and I would like to take the time to introduce myself to you. I am a zoology masters student studying at the University of Otago, and I have come up to the Nelson Lakes area for 5 months to study geckos for my thesis. More specifically, how the invasive wasps in this area are impacting the green geckos. I am mainly looking at gecko behaviour, and how this is impacted by the density of wasps, and whether the presence of wasps can alter the behaviour of the geckos. The other side of it is the resource competition, because wasps use up a lot of resources in the Nelson Lakes National Park, including honeydew and invertebrates, which are vital resources for green geckos. Most of this information has never been researched, it is all theory that invasive wasps are causing a population decline in green gecko populations around the country, so my study is the pilot study for this, and we could find some very important data for gecko conservation!

Working with me is my field assistant Harriet, who is a wildlife management postgraduate student, and together we aim to understand how severe the impacts are and how we are able to conserve our geckos and keep them around for generations to come. The geckos in this area are absolutely gorgeous (as can be seen in the photo I took), and I am very excited to be working with them in this beautiful part of the country, and to be a part of this community.

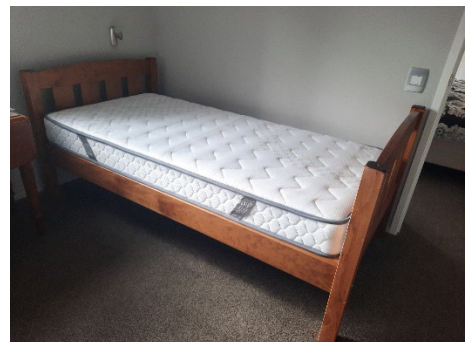
A good electrician.

- 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

For Sale



. 2 x single beds and mattresses.
Mattresses are near new and have had very little use.
\$100 per bed.
Can deliver. Ring Pip 027 521 1130

Religious notices

Lake Rotoiti Chapel,
Sundays 10.30am

Rotoiti Street, St Arnaud

Services are run by locals and are non-denominational.

Everyone welcome

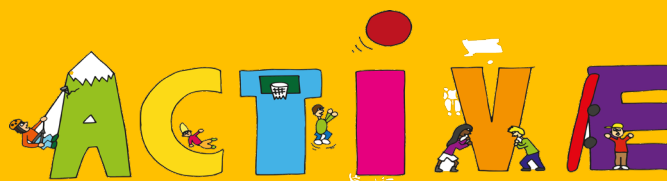
Contact Ali/Sue 03 5211110

Rotoiti Hub,
Sundays 10am

Local spirit-led Christian worship,
equipping and encounter.

Queries – Nigel and Sarah 0274413776, or
Kay 035211261/0273072820

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

"Circuit Breakers" exercise group
Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10 am,
Community Hall
All welcome, gold coin donation
Gael 027 280 4078

Fit It Wednesdays group exercise. Bring water,
mat. Community Hall, Wednesdays ☺ 6-7pm. Lou
0210414913

Seido-Karate
Community Hall
Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners
Thursdays 6 pm – General Class
Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation

PLAYGROUP

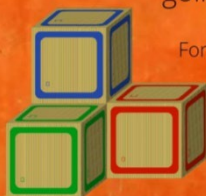


Playgroup meets Tuesday mornings
10am - 12pm at the community hall, all
preschoolers welcome.

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



For any inquiries please contact
Kirsten on 0220445829



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



Larch firewood ready split

Please place your order soon for next Winter's firewood.

Dry kindling is still available - banana boxful for \$10

- Green Firewood** ~ Beech, Bluegum, Douglas Fir, Pine
- DIY Wood** ~ Logs of Beech & Pine, Bundles of Douglas Fir
- Fresh Birchfield Coal**
- Garden Goodies** ~ Fish Grow Compost, Barley Straw, Pea Straw, Linseed Straw **SOLD OUT**, Bark Nuggets/Chips, Sawdust
- Hire** ~ Tractor, Tip Truck, Logging Truck & Trailer, Woodsplitters

LONGFORD FIREWOOD

Ph: 0800 566 436 or Hamish: 027 279 8224
 Monday to Friday - 8am to 5pm (call, text or email first)
 Weekends by appointment
 E: campbellscreek@farmside.co.nz



Fire Risk

The fire risks are increasing locally, and so it is very important that fire prohibitions are observed. Teetotal has a permanent fire ban and there are restrictions on fires close to formed roads in the National Park. This includes **NO FIRES** in the DOC campgrounds, and anywhere on the Mt Robert Road.

Please feel free to point this out to anyone you see lighting campfires, and if people refuse to extinguish a fire, call 0800DOCHOT

Packets of antibacterial wipes— free to take away. Lots available at the visitor centre. Great for in the car and cleaning your phone. They are past their expiry date but seem to be still great at cleaning.



Servicing Murchison, St Arnaud and surrounding areas

Thursdays

Plumbing - Gasfitting - Drainlaying

Shared travel costs

Phone or email to book your job

03 543 8090 or 0800 301507

info@tuffnell.co.nz

We thank all our existing clients for their continued support"



Te Kaunihera o
te tai o Aorere

The latest issue of [Newsline](#) newsletter is out and available on the TDC website. It is published every two weeks. You can read it at the link and also sign up to receive it by email.

<https://tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/media-centre/news-and-notice/latest-newsline/>

Wasp control in the Nelson Lakes district

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is planning to use targeted wasp baiting methods to reduce wasps on public conservation land in the Nelson Lakes district in January /February 2023.

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, *Vespa 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 2023.

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:

Melissa Griffin
Senior Ranger, Biodiversity
Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
mgriffin@doc.govt.nz
03 521 1806

