

W E D N E S D A Y , 1 6 ^{T H} N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 6

Lake Rotoiti Community News



Upcoming events & important dates

Wednesday 16th

November: Kaka lecture.
DOC meeting room, 7pm

Wednesday 30th November

MTB trails trust update
meeting. DOC meeting
room, 7pm

Mondays, Wednesdays and

Fridays 10-11am: Sport
Tasman circuit training,
Community Hall. Gold Coin.
Lois 0226010642

Tuesdays/Thursdays 7pm

Seido-Karate, Community Hall
Graeme 02108534088

November 25th Deadline
for next newsletter

CIVIL DEFENCE

What better time to add some info to the newsletter about civil defence and good community-based responses to natural disasters?

Did you know that St Arnaud has a local Civil Defence team. Their purpose is to provide leadership and assistance when our community may need it most. They meet to ensure plans, facilities and the links with regional Civil Defence and other agencies are up to date. The most recent meeting was on the Friday just before the earthquake!

This is our team:

Russell Ferens (Local Controller)

John Wotherspoon (Alternate Local Controller)

Malcom McConochie

Ingrid McConochie

Phil Crawford

(We will be looking for more team members soon)

Please remember that we are a small isolated community and in a big event will largely need to take care of ourselves and look after each other. It is vital that each household is well prepared for a range of potential disasters from earthquakes to floods, fires and massive snow dumps.

Best info for putting a plan in place is on the Civil Defence website www.civildefence.govt.nz

LAKE ROTOITI SCHOOL NEWS

The Seniors have spent time this term working on an exciting new project! The Destination Nelson Lakes Committee have been planning a book exchange which will be situated within the village and they have asked the children in the senior class to paint it. Following a period of research, collation of ideas and discussion they came up with an exciting design. They are in the process of adding the finishing touches – hopefully you should all see the fruits of their labour shortly and will enjoy the experience of exchanging books within the village.





Daniel and Keanu add a splatter effect to the tree branches on the Book Exchange

The Juniors' farm visit links with the ongoing learning that is happening in class regarding Spring. If anyone has any items for their nature 'Spring' table, we would be pleased to receive them. We have had flower blossoms, nests, eggshells – any objects of interest like these are fantastic as they help to stimulate discussion and provide focus for writing tasks.

Giles has recently been involved in discussions with the NZTA regarding the safety of SH63 in the winter months – particularly the section of straight road leading out of the village towards the bridge and on towards the junction to Tophouse. This is of most concern to use at school because of the bus having to use this stretch of the road very early in the morning in icy conditions.

Whilst NZTA acknowledge that the road is a hazard, they are looking for hard evidence to build a case to move the roadworks necessary up the priority list (in this case, resurfacing the road to eliminate the camber which has caused accidents on frost and ice over the last couple of years). We believe that locals may have had near misses on this patch of the road and we have been told that compiling these incidents would help to build a case (as would details of any unreported accidents). If you have concerns, or have had worrying experiences, on this patch of road, please contact Giles – gilesp@lakerotoiti.school so that he can pass on the details to the relevant personnel.

Finally, if anyone has any outstanding cups and trophies still at home after last year's Prizegiving – please return them to school as soon as possible. It's great when we

are able to hand a pre-engraved award to the children on the night itself.

By the time of the next newsletter we will have hosted Field Day at school and our Year 7 and 8 students will have visited Wellington; we're sure that they will have some news for the next edition!

Giles, Nicky, Emma, Tracy, Fran and Stephanie

Badminton

...has now finished for the season.

We will start up again once daylight saving finishes. Many thanks to all who joined us this year, looking forward to seeing you all next season

Ed and Nicky Shaw



Julian McGaveston

Registered Electrician

For all your Domestic, Commercial and
Rural Electrical Requirements

T: (03) 5224488 M: 021 566645 F: (03) 5224698

E: volzelectrical@silkweb.net.nz

2227 Wakefield-Kohatu Hwy, RD2, Wakefield 7096

Rotoiti Property Maintenance

- Gardening
- Light General Engineering
- Tree & Hedge Trimming
- Landscaping & Design
- General Property Maintenance
- Water Engineering and Irrigation
- Waterblasting paths, deckings etc.



Phone: Richard Thoms

03 5211 083 or 021 288 6664



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

EXCITING SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ROTOITI/NELSON LAKES VISITOR CENTRE

Based on last summer's visitor numbers and Tourism New Zealand's passenger arrival data, we are gearing up for yet another busy summer season. We are planning to engage extra help to deal with the increased visitor pressure at Nelson Lakes.

We are looking for expressions of interest to fill the following positions in the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre:

- **Visitor Centre staff** – We are looking for people with a positive attitude who like dealing with people in a busy and fast paced environment. The work involves general customer service, visitor information, issuing permits, booking campgrounds and huts, retail sales and basic office administration. If you are not scared of computers and phones, have a good general knowledge of the area and you are available 3-4 days a week, this might be just the job for you!
- **Volunteer Visitor Centre hosts** – this position is about talking to customers about local walks, activities and the Department's work to ease the pressure during the busiest times in the Visitor Centre.

If you would like to be involved in our work, please contact the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre before Friday the 18th November 2016.

Phone: 03 521 1806, E-mail: nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

DOC News

Freedom Camping, Teetotal Camp and the Village Link Track

Some may have noticed there are ground works underway around the Teetotal ice pond area. The last couple of summers has seen a big increase in people freedom camping in that area. While we supported this the numbers through last summer meant the grassed areas turned to mud and with other issues like fires and random toileting it became apparent that we need to take closer control. We are in the process of upgrading the surface, installing a water line and an extra fully-accessible toilet and will run this as a standard (\$8 pp) campsite checked daily through the summer months. This has become even more necessary with price increases nationally at serviced DOC camps such as Kerr Bay and West Bay which could direct even more people that way. The gravel car park a few hundred metres along the Teetotal Road will be available as an overnight freedom camping site for self-contained vehicles only as there are no toilets or water. Further down the road will likely get some increased freedom camping pressure. We are not legally able to designate widespread bans on freedom camping but with the unmaintained state of the road past the first carpark, and with very limited water the pressures should at least be fairly widely dispersed and if the risk of fire builds up we can always close the road to vehicles.

Also underway and connected (literally) is the new Village Link Track which will join the Teetotal Camp and the walking/bike trails that go off that, to the village via the end of Beechneast Drive. This has been wanted since the landowner between Teetotal and the village closed the informal access through his land. The new track, currently under construction, was made possible as a condition of subdivision and has legal easements over the private land at either end with the bulk of the track on the public conservation land. This will be a real asset for St Arnaud residents, bach holders and visitors alike providing a link for walkers – with or without dogs- mountain bikers and campers from the village to the Teetotal Recreation Area. The track will have a 1.5m wide surface with some of that gravelled so that people and bikes can comfortably pass each other. You will notice a good few zigzags at the village end of the new track to keep a good riding grade and ensure the track climbs above the private land boundary which is well up in the bush. Thanks to the TDC for significantly contributing to the cost, Edridge Contracting for the digger work at a 'mates rates' and Alan Eskrick and others as volunteers from the MTB Trails Trust for

POSITION AVAILABLE

Account handler with marketing experience required to execute full service local media campaign.

Suit copywriter or art director with wider agency experience.

Initial twelve month term with potential to continue if considered mutually successful.

Part time contract position, hours and rate to be negotiated.

Please email your CV to wdhealthtrust@gmail.com.

marking the route through and cutting the line ahead of the digger. The new works at the ice pond end will accommodate the track past the camping areas to connect to the rest of the Teetotal trail network. The track has 'closed' tape across the Beechrest Drive entrance which will remain in place until the track is completed. Please don't go onto the track as it is not safe while there are diggers and chainsaw operators working on the track. Not sure when the track might open with the current weather slowing progress but we will keep you posted and have a low-key 'opening' of sorts.

Public meeting - MTB Trails Trust's update: MTB around St Arnaud

Everyone is welcome to an update from the MTB Trails Trust on progress of local MTB trails and their plans for the next stage of trails.

Speakers from the Trust are happy to answer questions from locals, and they are very interested to hear your feedback.

When? 7:00 pm on Wednesday 30 November 2016
 Where? DOC meeting room (behind the Visitor Centre)

More information is available from the DOC Visitor Centre - 03 521 1806 or nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

Have you checked out details of the local trails? www.doc.govt.nz - Key Word: mtb trails St Arnaud

Volunteer camp hosts wanted

Would you like to spend time with friends or family over the holidays, but don't have enough room at your house? How about suggesting they volunteer as a camp host at lovely Kerr Bay or West Bay campgrounds.

Camp hosts must:

- enjoy meeting people as they will be the face the Nelson Lakes campgrounds to people from all over New Zealand and the world;
- have knowledge of New Zealand
- be practical and friendly;
- have a caravan, motor home or tent

The duties involve checking in campers with bookings, selling tickets to unbooked campers; making visitors feel welcome, and answering questions about the district. No cleaning or maintenance is required.

Days are largely your own until duty starts at 4:30 pm. Take time to read, fish, ride the mountainbike tracks, walk, sail, kayak, or just sit in the sun and soak up the world famous view.

Sounds like you or someone you know?
 Contact Tracey on 03 521 1072 or
nelsonlakesvolunteers@doc.govt.nz

Evening Lecture - Kaka

Learn about South Island Kaka and their management in the northern South Island

Dr Ron Moorhouse, a former DOC research scientist will talk about kaka found in the Nelson Lakes area, kaka protection, and Kaka management plans for the top of the South Island.

Date: Wednesday 16 November 2016

Time: 7:00pm

Location: DOC Meeting Room, behind Visitor Centre

Contact: DOC Visitor Centre, 03 521 1806 or

nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

Everyone is welcome



This newsletter was produced with the help of the Rotoiti District Community Council, Department of Conservation and Mark & Tania Gill. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday November 25th at 5.00pm.

Please send all items for inclusion to Giles Panting

gilesp@lakerotoiti.school.nz