

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 21 June 2019

Please send your newsletter
items to: 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



Lake Rotoiti School News

This week we thought we would share some writing from the tamariki, based on our recently cross country. Tamariki from Ngà Tui ran from the Lake, along Black Valley Stream and around the field a few times. Meanwhile Ngà Piwakawaka ran a few laps around the field. We certainly had some very fast runners - and they will be representing the kura/school next week at Rabbit Island. The Rabbit Island race is for Year 5 - Year 8 runners only.

Author: Max K

I'm nearing the end of my race, my heart is beating as fast as the fastest piston engine in the world. My head is aching like a freight train rolling through my head.

I feel like I'm a boiling pot about to explode. I can hear people cheering me on now, it feels like the world depends on me and for a second my puffing turns into a smile. I run over the finish line and collapse.

Author: Daniel

I could hear people yelling and the river slamming against the stones. I felt the bushes slapping angrily against my arms.....

Author: Jakin

My legs pumped faster and faster. The sound of everyone cheering for me when I ran past the cones was rewarding. My throat was as dry as a desert and my body flopped to the ground as I watched my friends finish the race.

Author: Rebecca

I took a heavy pant. I could smell the finish line. I felt like a cat was voraciously scratching my throat. Someone was in front of me, I took a long, painful, gut pinching stride to pass them.The stitch came in a flash. It was like being shot. The finish line was in sight and my legs were moving like an eggbeater.

Coming up

School Board Meeting

Lake Rotoiti School
25th June 2019

Matariki event

27 June 6.30pm
Everyone welcome, meet in
Kerr Bay (see ad)

Village Trapping Group -

Pip Berkett 521 1130 or
Julie Robilliard 521 1874

Sundays 10.30 am

Lake Rotoiti Chapel

services are run by locals
and non-denominational.
Everyone welcome.

Sundays 3pm

The Hub

Christian Worship Group

Contact Nigel or Sarah
Calder 027 4413776

Yoga and Massage at

Alpine Lodge
Phone Ashton 022 525
7871

Alpine Flash Mob:

Last Monday of each month
Contact Jan 521 1999

Sport activities are listed
in the ACTIVE section of
the newsletter.

Photos:

Fungi, Clover – Rachel
Lamborn

Kerr Bay in flood – Gabi
Czoma

Thank you

A huge thank you to Jan, our wonderful librarian, who is taking on new adventures. Jan has kept our library organised since 2014. She quietly sneaks into the school every Monday morning and makes sure the library books are in good order for the tamariki at our kura. Thank you Jan for all the mahi and certainly the organising of returns.

Thank you also to the Midgley's who have helped to fill the woodshed. The fires will be burning in both the Library and Ngà Manu O Tane.

Maths Big Day Out

This term we are wanting to connect math to real life experiences. (Making math authentic). To do this we will be contacting businesses in the local area, asking if they can assist our tamariki to develop an understanding on how math is used in the business world. We are interested in a variety of businesses, including building, mechanical or the service industry. We will be asking if tamariki can visit your workplace and experience math on the job. If you are able to help us in any way please send Sue an email, or phone the school/kura.

Our P.R.I.D.E Stars

This term we have been working on rights, respect and the big one - responsibility. Tamariki have selected their stars. See below. Charlie, Jasmine, Caitly, Ben and Nina.

He rōpū mahi whakahirahira. Great effort team.



Te Reo

I am presently gaining 'expressions of interest' for anyone who wishes to learn basic Te Reo, such as greetings, sentences, tikanga. I already have a list of those who have made contact, and will be in touch soon. For those who are keen, please let Sue know.



Librarian Vacancy at Lake Rotoiti School/Kura

As we have farewelled Jan, we have a position vacant for a librarian. This is for 1 hour per week. If you have a passion for reading, enjoy sifting and sorting this could be for you. Please contact Sue principal@lakerotoiti.school.nz 03 521 1830



WILDING CONIFER WEEDS, NORTH BEEBYS

By now we expect that St Arnaud residents will have noticed the hilltop of dead and dying trees on the skyline looking east from the top of Kerr Hill.

After consideration of all the control methods available (including harvesting), this patch of wilding Douglas fir was sprayed by helicopter at the end of January 2018. Altogether 90 ha was sprayed and the results are now very visible.

In this area at the northern end of Beeby's Ridge, experimental plantings from the '70s have grown up and infilled into a 10-15m high, Douglas-fir-dominated forest full of wilding conifers of all ages. This forest is seeding and its position in the landscape gives wilding conifer seeds a clear path in a strong westerly wind, directly to the Porters flats area of the Red Hills. In that area DOC staff have been controlling Douglas fir seedlings at an average density of 400 per hectare, aiming to prevent wilding conifers taking hold in the same way. The Porters area, as with the rest of the Red Hills, is home to many species of threatened plants; just one indication of how unusual and special the Red Hills is.

Solving the Mt Richmond Forest Park wilding conifer problem is the objective of a stakeholder group that involves DOC, Councils, some private landowners and production forestry companies. Under this umbrella group, DOC is collaborating with Nelson Forests Ltd in the North Beebys – Motueka river area. Parts of the production Douglas fir blocks in the Motueka river/Jansen bridge area will be early-harvested in the coming year, and the blocks will be replanted in *Pinus radiata*, which in this area does not pose such a weed threat. NFL are also removing the non-productive

wilding Douglas fir from their leased production forestry land where its position poses a seed rain problem for conservation land.

It has taken decades for this weed problem to emerge, and likewise we expect it to take decades to solve with a lot of work yet to be done. The eventual aim for the killed Douglas-fir areas at northern Beeby's ridge is regeneration into native forest.



After control has started 2 patches of dead wilding Douglas fir patches are visible. May 2019 (photo D Chisnall)

STORM CAUSES A MESS AT LAKEFRONT

Visitors to Lake Rotoiti saw for themselves the mess heavy rain and a strong southerly can cause at Kerr Bay.

Thank you to Philip Borlase for removing the debris so promptly.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE ROTOITI NATURE RECOVERY PROJECT MARCH TO MAY 2019

Stoats and weasels

We have been checking our new double set traps on a monthly basis. In March nine stoats were caught, with four of these in boxes with other catches with one a double stoat catch. Two weasels were also caught in March. In April nine stoats were again caught, with five in boxes with other captures, with one double stoat capture. In April two weasels and one ferret were caught.

Possums

Possum traps are also checked monthly with 13 possums caught in March and ten in April. Possum monitoring using waxtags left out for seven nights was carried out in Big Bush and the St Arnaud Range in March.

Waxtags are an unscented block of wax mounted to a tree with a glow in the dark tab attached. Possums in the area will be attracted to the glow in the dark tab and bite onto the wax block leaving teeth impressions. This monitoring is carried out every two years to determine the possum activity level, with the RNRPs aim to keep this below five percent.



Example of a waxtag

Kaka Monitoring

The four kaka chicks hatched from Krusha's nest over the summer are still being seen around the St Arnaud track in the RNRP. These chicks are being monitored weekly to determine their movements.

Kiwi Acoustic Monitoring

Acoustic recorders for monitoring great spotted kiwi were placed out at the end of February by FOR and DOC staff and pulled in two weeks later. Of the twenty recorders placed out only one failed to record. Recordings collected from these will be analysed for kiwi calls over winter by FOR volunteers.

Lizards

In March alpine skink monitoring was carried out on the St Arnaud Range. Last year caught no skinks were found which was disappointing, however this year 13 individual skinks were caught. Identification of species has not been confirmed.

In March a survey for Cupola gecko was carried out. Cupola gecko have only been sighted twice.

Rodent Monitoring and Beech Seed

Tracking tunnels to measure rodent activity indices were carried out in the RNRP in May, with Rotoiti rat tracking indices measured at 71%, and mice 16%. These are both very high and a big increase on the February result of 14% rats and 3% mice. This is not unexpected given the high amount of beech flowering and seedfall.

In the RNRP beech seeding is measured in two ways. The first is undertaken by the Science team who use a helicopter to sample branches out of the top of trees and count the amount of seed present.

In addition, the RNRP undertakes seed tray monitoring, with trays positioned under trees to catch seed as it falls. This allows us to monitor the amount of beech seed that actually ends up on the ground each year, and how much of this is viable seed. We are halfway through our beech seed monitoring and results so far show high amounts of red, silver and mountain beech seed and high viability counts.

This means there is lots of seed on the ground providing a food source for rodents and as shown in the tracking results rat and mouse numbers have increased substantially.

Monitoring at Rotoroa where no pest control is carried out will be undertaken soon, however we expect this also to be high with rat tracking.

Tussock Monitoring

Monitoring of tussock flowering up Mt Misery at Lake Rotoroa was undertaken in February with high amounts of flowering recorded on the tussock plants monitored. As a result we can expect high amounts of tussock seed in alpine areas which may influence mice numbers in these areas.

Five Minute Bird Counts

These were again undertaken at Lakehead, Rotoroa and on the St Arnaud Range track to add to our long-term monitoring of bird abundances in the RNRP.

CARDS GALORE

Looking for cards??



I have a very large collection of quality greeting cards for sale which I have imported from the UK.

Priced from \$2.00 each.

Contact Tracy Younger on 0278927630

or tracyyounger0603@gmail.com.

Check out my website - www.tycards.online

*A position has become available for
cafe/shop assistant at St Arnaud
Alpine Store.*

No experience necessary.

Contact Elaine (03) 5211 854 or drop in

Subdivision on Beechnest Drive

You may be aware of the proposed building sites in the wetland along Beechnest Drive, at the foot of Glacial Terrace.

Beechnest (2014) Limited, the owner of the land, is seeking to retrospectively alter the restrictive covenants prohibiting further subdivision of this land to enable the subdivision of ten further lots and the building of residential houses (some which would be elevated pole houses) to go ahead.

Some time ago, we as owners immediately adjacent to the land, were asked to consent to the proposed subdivision and we understand that all other landowners in the subdivision have more recently been contacted for the same purpose.

We have refused consent due to concerns including reduction in property values due to restricted views and outlook, concern for permanent damage to the wetlands and clear breach of the restrictive covenants upon which we relied when purchasing our lot.

We want to stop this development, protect the outlook and value of our properties and the wetland which we had always understood would be set aside and not built upon. If you would like to support us, would likemore information or would simply just like to express your views please contact:

Alexandra Unterberger minxi@me.com

or Erin McLeod ph 022 010 0214

or Gisela Purcell ph 021 828 823

Matariki event ✨

Everyone in the community is welcome to join
Lake Rotoiti School celebrate Matariki

Meet at the Blechynden Shelter (eastern end of Kerr Bay)
6:30 pm ✨ Thursday 27 June

✨ We'll walk around one of the local tracks
together in the dark.

You are all encouraged to bring a small clear jar with a
tealight candle to add atmosphere to the walk.

St Arnaud Alpine Store winter hours

Monday to Saturday from 8.00am to 5.30pm

Sunday from 8.30am to 5.30pm

Fish N Chip shop is closed and will reopen on
Friday 5th July 2019

House available for rent

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

NELSON TASMAN COMMUNITY SPEED SURVEY

Central government has placed a focus on reducing serious injuries and deaths associated with crashes on our roads, not only by investing in road safety improvements, but also ensuring 'safe and appropriate' travel speeds. Of course the 'safe and appropriate' speed will vary for different types of roads, depending on their main use and characteristics.

Both Nelson City and Tasman District are starting work on reviewing the current speed limits. For speed limits to be effective, they need to be underpinned by community support and understanding.

That's why we want to hear from you.

Please take the time to complete this online survey. It's your chance to tell us what speed limits you think are safe and appropriate on the different types of roads we have across our region. Share with your family, community groups and neighbours.

Tell us what you think

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/public-consultation/current-consultations/nelson-tasman-community-speed-limit-survey-tell-us-what-you-think/>

This feedback will help us as we review our speed limits.

There will be a formal consultation process to follow if speed limit changes are proposed for specific roads.

Closing date: Friday 14 June 2019

ROAD SAFETY FUNDING

Tasman District Council have road safety funding available for young drivers in our region. This could go towards driver assessments (so they go for an assessment with a professional driver to get some great tips and advice and feel more confident on the road) and/or for learner licence courses for a group that want some help with learning the road code.

This is aimed at young drivers and is open to anyone that is struggling to get through the road code, or needs confidence with driving as it can affect people's employment and general quality of life.

If you know of anyone that may benefit from this please get in touch with Megan Bell of Tasman District Council, Technical Officer - Transportation (Road Safety Liaison) phone 03 543 8551 or email megan.bell@tasman.govt.nz.

Civil Defence Group needs your help

The local Fire and Emergency/Civil Defence group is currently looking at what resources may be in the village that can be used in an emergency situation.

Do you have skills which you could share if required?

These may include medical qualifications or experience, trade skills, languages other than English etc.

At this stage we'd just like to know what's available in the way of local talent and who we can call on to volunteer help if required. This is a small community but often has lots of visitors staying who we may need help with.

If you are willing to have your info listed, please contact Jan Thomson with your details:

janthomsonart@gmail.com

Ph 03 521 1999.

All information will be confidential to the emergency group.

The Tree Doctor

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16 years experience, references available.

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thetreedr@yahoo.com



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- ✓ Post and Rail
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ Thinning to Waste
- ✓ Tree Felling
- ✓ Scrub Cutting
- ✓ FIREWOOD FOR SALE



CALL CHIP CLARK 027 832 9490



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Badminton

Mondays 7pm

Community Hall

\$3 per person to cover hall and shuttle cocks.

Ed 521 1106

"Circuit Breakers" exercise group

Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10 am,

Community Hall

All welcome, gold coin donation

Gael 027 280 4078,

Seido-Karate

Community Hall

Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 6 pm – General Class

Graeme 521 1022. Gold coin donation

Yoga – all levels

Alpine Yoga and massage

Ashton 022 525 7871



PR Construction, your local building company, building world class, sustainable, eco homes throughout New Zealand.

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Call Leighton to discuss your ideas 021301154

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

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Small 1.5 ton Bobcat digger.

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small or large amounts.

Phone Stuart Davidson

03 5211225