

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 24 April 2020

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



Coming up

All manner of events – all
at your house!

**Photos: Kereru; Richard
Thoms.**

**We'd love to print your
photos here. Send to
rotoitinews@gmail.com**

Message from our Emergency Response Team

The sun is shining and the birds are singing. I am heartened by the way in which the larger Lake Rotoiti Community has embraced the Level 4 lock down and are not just doing it but doing it well.

We have now completed 16 days of Lock down not just as a community but as a country and as you may have heard a few days ago there is cautious optimism, what we need to remember is that cautious optimism is just that cautious optimism. We must keep the effort up all the way to the finish line otherwise what we have achieved so far will be for nothing.

- Stay at home, save lives (don't travel for the Easter Break)
- Don't travel by vehicle unless for essential purposes (supermarket, medical etc.)
- Be kind to essential workers – they are helping make sure we can all live safely in our bubbles.

It is with some disappointment however that I have been hearing of bits of rumour and gossip circulating that speculate about individuals who may have Covid 19 in our community. I would like to say that this is not helpful or needed.

As always keep safe and if you would like to talk with me please make contact.

Russell Ferens and The Team
Nelson Lakes Civil Defense Emergency Management



We've made it through the first two weeks of the COVID-19 shutdown. It's been great to see locals out walking on the tracks around the village to get some fresh air.

What is not good to see are dogs at the lakefront and on the tracks, as well as bikes on the tracks within the Nelson Lakes National Park (NLNP). We are as a community fortunate like few others are in the extent and quality of the exercise opportunities right on our collective doorstep. There are plenty of great places for walking dogs and cycling without breaking the law.

DOC staff are not on duty at present in line with the Government's strict rules for the lockdown. However, the laws relating to activities on public conservation land remain in force. DOC asks for your help to protect the place we all love.

As a reminder to everyone, the following are prohibited within Nelson Lakes National Park:

- dogs - includes in vehicles, on tracks, Mt Robert Road and at the lakefronts,
- bikes – all types of cycles, motorised or non-motorised, human-powered or electrically powered are prohibited on all tracks,
- drones – prohibited everywhere.

Please contact me, John Wotherspoon (jwotherspoon@doc.govt.nz or 027 839 7139) if you see anyone partaking of those activities. Under Level 4 restrictions we can't follow up ourselves but the Police can and have given me an assurance that they are very happy to do that. Information that will help DOC and the Police take these matters further are the date, time, location and details like the name of the person, vehicle registration, description of dog, etc. Don't have the Police as a visitor during the lockdown.

If we can't ensure that people behave, under the current provisions, we are able to close all access to all tracks. It would make it simpler to administer but I don't want to do that.

For clarity, on the southern side of SH63: Dogs and bikes are permitted only on the track between Ward Street and Lodge Road, the Moraine Walk between Lodge Road and the turnoff opposite the Teetotal Camp and the track next to the Alpine Lodge and

then heading upstream (Black Valley Stream) behind the school and across the bridge.

John Wotherspoon
DOC Operations Manager

Name needed for new community asset



Chipper on its transport pallet waiting for assembly by Robbie Thomson.

(Ed. Note: The chipper is the new asset here. Robbie the chippie is already a community asset)

The new Community Chipper arrived just before lockdown. It has been waiting for a rainy day and assembly of its 750kg of bits!

Once assembled, the harder part will be to work out operating procedures and remuneration.

Then it will be out to the Green Break and to places near you that have excess flammable vegetation.

It needs a name. Could the children and young at heart send their name suggestions to the newsletter?

Rotoitinews@gmail.com (before 24 April 2020)



Hello all,

I hope this latest message from your local Police finds you all well and enjoying some old and perhaps some newly found hobbies.

I'd like to resolve any misunderstanding around the issue of Murchison and St Arnaud area residents travelling through to Richmond to source needed groceries and any medicinal needs from a chemist.

The situation is that no resident will be turned around by Police if they are legitimately travelling with the purpose to obtain necessary groceries and or necessary products from a chemist.

Police are out patrolling the roads and Highways supporting and when necessary enforcing the Government imposed Covid-19 response lock down and I think it is already clear the reasons for this.

So, if you have to travel through to Richmond and are stopped by Police on route please clearly communicate the reason for your travel.

It is preferred in the interests of limiting potential exposure to Covid-19 and supporting our local economy and jobs for local people that we utilise our local stores as much as possible.

Going to Richmond does increase the overall risk to our community so I urge anyone travelling through to go prepared with adequate hygiene resources like sanitizer, a face mask and gloves and ensure that when possible only one member of any bubble or family group travels through.

We as a community are doing so well with this - the hardest restriction on personal movement and productivity - that 99.9% of us have ever experienced and I'd like to again say that Josiah and I are greatly heartened by the community resolve to stay true to the task.

I hope this message now resolves any misunderstandings around this issue and now sets out some clear guidance.

Let's beat this bug!

Ngā mihi nui | Kind regards, stay well and be kind to one another.

Matt

Matthew Elliott
Senior Constable
Murchison

Further information on Covid-19 from NZ Government - <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

For COVID-19 advice and support, contact the Healthline team (for free) on 0800 358 5453 or +64 9 358 5453 for international SIMs

Check your fire alarms

Our awesome Lake Rotoiti Fire Brigade was called out yesterday (Saturday) to a house fire.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/120968179/cabin-destroyed-by-fire-in-nelson-lakes>

It's a timely reminder for us all to check fire alarms are working, that power-points are not overloaded with all the working-from-home, and that chimneys are clean.



**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"*



A recent visitor

Two residents have been in touch with sightings of an unusual visitor to their Rotoiti properties, obviously attracted by garden kowhai trees but then getting stuck into other yummy treats on offer:



In Richard's tree



In Marg's tree



And at Marg's feeder

An antidote for locked-down kids: NATURE

Here's some fun ideas for the kids over the next couple of weeks we are in lockdown.

- Take time in nature but stay close to home
- Time spent in nature keeps us fit and calms the mind. We must all look after ourselves and loved ones during this time.
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 choose a quiet location close to home, keep a safe distance from others and follow all government guidance.

Type the address [in blue](#) into your browser to get more information or google.

1. Five things to do in your bubble

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/50things>

How about going exploring at night (with a grownup), taking imaginative photos, having a picnic?

2. Toyota Kiwi Guardians – Places

We have a TKG site right in St Arnaud! Here's your chance to explore the Bellbird and Honeydew tracks and have a cool adventure.

For the map: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/all-sites/south-island/nelson-lakes-national-park/> (or google Kiwi Guardians Nelson Lakes)

3. Kiwi Guardians – Actions

Kiwi Guardians has a stack of fun things to do with stuff you'll find around the house. Have a go at tracking rats and mice, building a weta house, or be a weed warrior.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/take-action/> (or google Kiwi Guardians Actions)

4. Learn at Home

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/learningfromhome>

Here's a heap of fun activities for children and all fun-loving adults. (Adults need to get outside as well and some of the suggestions here will make a walk even better.

Learn more about the night sky. Go on a nature treasure hunt. Make a leaf rubbing. Keep a nature journal. Take Phunky Photos.

More ideas for curious kids – and adults – in the next newsletter.

Would you like to try Nelson Orienteering Club's course around the village? Email Tracey (tgrose@dooc.govt.nz) for a copy of the map as a pdf file.

Locked down in St Arnaud this Autumn? What an opportunity for some weed control in our gardens!

To protect our beautiful natural areas surrounding St Arnaud, the *Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* (RPMP) includes a St Arnaud Village pest programme for the control of six pest plant species which are currently spreading into the natural areas (see the RNRP for a map of the area).

DOC (when not in lockdown) is working with the Tasman District Council (TDC) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to do the same on public lands. You can help protect our surrounds by removing these species from your garden:



Darwin's Barberry (*Berberis darwinii*)

An evergreen large spiny shrub from Chile and Argentina. Has orange flowers and black berries during summer and autumn. These are eaten by birds, spreading the seeds. The young seedlings can establish

and displace native plant species in frost-flat shrublands, regenerating forest and mature beech forest edges.



Greater Bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*)

A perennial climbing vine from southern Europe with funnel shaped white flowers. Grows from a large rhizome and fibrous roots and is capable of smothering low-growing vegetation. It can easily regrow from

fragments of its rhizome or roots.



European Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

An evergreen tree from Europe that produces masses of red berries during winter. These are eaten by birds, spreading the seeds. The young seedlings are shade-tolerant and so can invade intact forests.



Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

A deciduous tree from central Europe and south-west Asia that produces large quantities of winged seeds. These are spread by wind over moderate distances and can establish on tussock grasslands, scrublands and forest land.



Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

A deciduous tree from Europe that produces red berries during winter that are widely dispersed by birds. The young seedlings are shade-tolerant and so can invade intact forest as well as wetlands and forest edges.



Russell Lupin (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)

A perennial herb from North America that produces colourful flower spikes up to 60cm. It produces large quantities of long-lived seed that form dense stands in river beds and wetlands. The banks of Black Valley

stream and shores of Lake Rotoiti are vulnerable to invasion by this weed.

All six of these species are sometimes planted as garden plants, from which they are all proven vigorous invaders from there. They could easily be in your garden. DOC bio team are asking for your help while we are in lockdown – please have a look in your garden for these pest species and if they are there, remove and destroy them. Good information on how to get rid of each of these species from your property is available on www.weedbusters.org.nz (except for greater bindweed and rowan. For bindweed the control methods for the related blue morning glory would be suitable). The weedbusters webpage also provides good advice on disposing of weed waste. This is an important step in weed control as some species can regrow from fragments (i.e. greater bindweed)

Some of these pest plants can be large trees and hard to remove. The DOC bio team is active in weed control

around the village and are keen to assist our neighbours where possible, so please let us know if you require help (email janewell@doc.govt.nz). Of course at present we are in lockdown at home, but when we are able to, we will come and help - with a chainsaw if needed.

Also keep an eye out for broom, gorse and old man's beard, and remove if you find them. In the RPMP there are sustained control areas for these pests which include the village, so they need to be controlled. Broom and gorse is successfully controlled in the Saint Arnaud and Howard area, but we do still find occasional plants popping up, which we remove before seed set. Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) has not been found in the village area before, however it was near Wairau Pass and still grows on Kerr Hill amongst the forestry, so could spread here. (NOTE: Native Clematis are similar to old man's beard, so please be sure of your identification. Old man's beard flowers over summer and produce white fluffy seeds over winter. The native Clematis flower from August to December and have fluffy white seeds over summer.) We are happy to help with ID if you want to send a photo.

If any of these pest plants occur on your property, there are legal obligations that these weeds are controlled. Look at the *Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* (RPMP) for further details (available from www.tdc.govt.nz). Thank you for working with us remove these pest plants and protect this beautiful village and surrounding landscape.

Further information on these weed species is available from Weedbusters (www.weedbusters.org/nz) and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (www.nzpcn.org.nz). Any questions or for further information, please let me know (janewell@doc.govt.nz)

Janet Newell, DOC Biodiversity Ranger



Julian McGaveston
Registered Electrician

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St Arnaud Alpine Store

We are open **8am -8pm 7 days a week**. If anything changes during these trying times, we will endeavour to let you all know as soon as possible.

We have an option for locals that wish to make private grocery orders through us; we can take grocery, bread, milk, seasonal fruit & vegetable orders with approximate delivery days being Monday, Wednesday & Fridays, this of course can be dependent on items being in stock with the suppliers, with everything going on at present & the demand on certain items being higher than usual, they may not be available immediately, we will certainly do our best for you all though. We really appreciate your patience & support.

You can call us on **03 5211854** with any questions or to make an order, payment will be discussed at the time of order.

We will still be keeping the store well stocked with our regular items, however if there is anything you need that you don't see on our shelves, please just let us know, we are always happy to help, if we can!

Please note that during Level 4 lockdown, it is a one in, one out policy in store, our staff & customers health & wellbeing is important to us, so please at the advice of the NZ Government & MOH, shop wisely for essentials, send one person from your household (Bubble) to shop, only touch what you intend to buy, use Paywave or Eftpos where possible & call us first before popping in if you are unsure we have something available.

Many thanks, Naveen & the Alpine Store Team.

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

