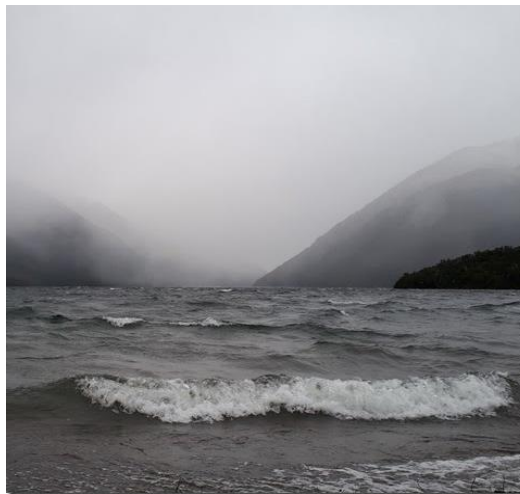


Deadline for next issue:
Friday 23 October 2020

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



Fire Break

Give Yourself a Break! Note a change of emphasis here? It's not just about us but YOU as well.

Fire doesn't discriminate. It will burn anything you've got if given a chance. My series of 'Give us a Break' articles have been careful, so far, not to be alarmist. In reality, St Arnaud is a village with large quantities of combustible vegetation in close proximity to houses.

If a fire gets a hold it will be all but impossible to contain. The recent tragic events at Lake Ohau are a salutary reminder of the danger fire presents. The best outcome would be no loss of life but large parts of the village are at risk. Ohau had much less vegetation than we do.

Please, before summer:

- clear your properties of dead vegetation, and
- keep your grass short, your firewood stored away from the house.

Imagine flaming branches blown onto your property and against your house. What do they have to set fire to? Remove it.

Plan your ongoing fire risk reduction. We are happy to help you with this.

Coming up

Saturday 17th October
1:00pm

Blechynden Shelter
Rural Women's Women
Walk the World family walk
– details inside

Wednesday 28th October
7.15 pm

Community Hall
Rotoiti District Community
Council AGM - details
inside

Saturday 7th November
630pm

Nicholls Farm
Bonfire night – details
inside

27-29 November
Marahau Family Weekend
Marahau - details inside

13 November
Entries close of Lake Rotoiti
Photography competition

5 December
4:00pm
Lake Rotoiti Community Hall
Lake Rotoiti Photograph
Competition & Twilight
Market

Photo credits: Fungi –
Rachel Lamborn; falcon –
Lynda Pogson

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

- Encourage less flammable shrubs and trees by clearing around them to allow space and light.
- Progressively remove kanuka and manuka (both highly flammable) and encourage other plants such as the broadleaf Griselinia to take their place.
- Keep vegetation well away from buildings.
- Maintain a 4 metre-wide access for fire appliances and have a water supply.

There are some pamphlets available at the fire station which give detailed advice on how to protect your property. Pop in and see Wattie when he's there.

Parts of the Tasman District have had less than half their usual rainfall. At the Lake we will be lucky to get 75% of our recent historical average precipitation. The last three summers have been progressively drier so we go into this summer at more risk of fire than ever before.

The 'Greenbreak' on Lodge Road is an attempt to slow a fire from that direction and buy us all time to respond or evacuate – this is one of a number of initiatives to be introduced to the village to reduce fire risk.

We are working on this break every second weekend and we need your help! There are tasks to suit everybody.

- Unfortunately, we can't use child labour for health and safety reasons but anyone aged 18 years or upwards is most welcome.

We work in two shifts and would welcome you for as long as you can give us.

The first shift is from 9am to 12pm, the second from 1pm to 4pm – on both Saturday and Sunday every fortnight. Next scheduled fire break days are:

17th and 18th Oct.
31st Oct and 1st Nov
14th and 15th Nov.
28th and 29th Nov.
12th and 13th Dec.

The community chipper is working well and is available by arrangement to chip your pile of branches.

If you would like to help with the 'Break' or need any advice on reducing your fire risk, please don't hesitate to contact:

Robbie Thomson 03 521 1999 or 021 295 0305
 robbiethomson55@gmail.com
Brian Erasmus 027 384 4464
 blerasmus@hotmail.com



Kowhai – the native flower of spring

You know when spring is in the air - the days get longer and warmer. One of the vibrant native plants heralding spring is Kōwhai (genus *Sophora*).

New Zealand has eight species of *Sophora*. Most grow to about 8m, and the size of the leaves and flowers vary by species.



Flowers



Seed pods

The very distinctive seed pods appear after flowering. They appear almost segmented, and each contains six or more smooth, hard seeds. Most species have yellow seeds, but *Sophora prostrata* has black ones.

Many species of kōwhai are semi-deciduous and lose most of their leaves immediately after flowering in October or November, but quickly produce new leaves. Flowering of kōwhai is staggered from July through to November, meaning each tree will get attention from birds such as tui, wood pigeon and

bellbird. Tui are very attracted to kōwhai and will fly long distances to get a sip of its nectar.

The wood of kōwhai is dense and strong and has been used in the past for tools and machinery.

Kōwhai are not naturally found around the St Arnaud area. Any plants you see in the village were planted here. They grow east of Kōwhai Point and west of Speargrass Station.

❖ What is te reo Māori for **yellow**? Kōwhai!!

Follow the noise of the tui to see a particularly healthy kōwhai growing outside the Visitor Centre; it's in full bloom now.

Lakehead hut refurb finished. Finally!

One of the longest refurbishments of a local DOC hut is finally complete.

The work started at Lakehead Hut, at the southern end of Lake Rotoiti, in March. COVID lockdown intervened putting the work back by several months. The Visitor Assets team finished the comprehensive upgrade recently.

While we were stocking up on groceries and getting our heads around the lockdown, the Team were onsite to secure the hut and bring out tools and equipment on the morning Level 4 came into effect.



Photo: Paul Dulieu (DOC)

Work done on the hut includes a clearlite roofing over the porch and deck, better fixing of the bunk platforms to the wall, new bunk facings, some ceiling lining, repainting of the roof, new aluminium windows throughout and new under bench shelving.

The hut will be painted inside, and floors vanished soon.

Lakehead Hut is a great overnight tramp for children, new trampers or if you only have a short time to get away. It's about 3 hours walk, or 8-ish km, from Kerr Bay. From there you have options for trips into the Travers Valley, around Lake Rotoiti, or return to Kerr Bay.

Adult hut tickets are \$15.00 for this serviced hut (Visitor Centre, 03 521 1806).

Birdsong

The next edition of **Birdsong** is due soon.

Birdsong takes you behind the scenes of the work undertaken by local DOC staff, volunteers and partners. You'll get project updates, facilities developments, research results, community engagement and plans for the future.

Subscribe to get the newsletter delivered to your email box.

Previous newsletters are archived at:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/newsletters/birdsong/>

The link to subscribe is in previous newsletters or contact the Visitor Centre (nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz or 03 521 1806).



ROTOITI DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting to be held

Wednesday 28th October

7:15pm at the Community Hall

Everyone welcome

Brian Erasmus
Secretary



In conjunction with the Lake Rotoiti
Photography Competition on

Saturday 5th December

Rural Women St Arnaud is hosting a

Twilight Christmas

Art and Craft Market

featuring locally made, good quality
art and craft.

If you, or someone else you know is
interested in booking a space please
contact Jan (janthomsonart@gmail.com)
or 03 521 1999.

Tables/spaces are \$10, with all profits
going to the Nelson Tasman Hospice and
Friends of Rotoiti.

Spaces are limited, so please book as soon as
possible.

Entries will be judged by
Craig Potton, Todd from Pacific Portraits
and Nikki Morrell

Great prizes.

Remember – you must enter by 13
November.

The entry form and more details are on
the St Arnaud Rural Women Facebook or
call Sjaan on 021 286 1016.



Police are looking for:

Melissa EWINGS aged 31 years



Melissa was last seen in the **Clarence Valley** on Sunday 20th September 2020.

Contact the Police if you have information on her whereabouts.

Kaikoura Police 03 319 5038 or 111.

Thanks from Joanna Orwin

Thanks to all those who came to my book launch.

I appreciate the friendship and support of the lake community. If anyone who couldn't come but would like a copy of "Shifting Currents", I'm here until 22 October.

Just phone or text me on 021 0220 6327*

NOTE - CHANGE OF VENUE



St Arnaud Rural Women

You are invited to our annual community walk

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

Saturday 17th October

1:00pm

Blechynden Shelter

(near Kerr Bay campground). No dogs!

We'll go for a walk in the national park for about 1.5 hours on easy tracks, then meet back at the Shelter for a cup of tea.



This event highlights the great work done by the **Associated Country Women of the World**, an international non-governmental organisation representing more than 9 million women in more than 80 countries around the world. Rural Women NZ belong to ACWW.

ACWW invests in women's empowerment by funding small-scale, women-led projects in rural areas. We work with grassroots member societies around the world, and with local partner organisations, who collaborate with beneficiaries to create and implement projects.

Please bring a plate to share and a gold coin donation for ACWW (<http://www.acww.org.uk/>).

For more details

Tracey - 021 475 514 or Sjaan - 021 286 1016.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

St Arnaud Rural Women New Zealand

DESSERT EVENING

Wednesday 21st OCTOBER

7.00pm

St Arnaud Community Hall

*Sponsored by Top of the South Rural Support
Trust*

*The aim of this meeting is finding a sensible
pathway enabling sustainably produced food
for our region and to relax and enjoy time
with friends and neighbours.*

**Guest speaker - Mayor Tim King – TDC's
approach to government environmental
regulations.**

**Ministry for the Environment - Martin
Workman will Zoom in to answer
questions**

Please have questions relating to issues.

**Gavin O'Donnell - Federated Farmers -
Key points from Prof Paul Moughan's
address to AGM.**

**Wrap up - Richard Kempthorne Chair
RST**

Don't miss this local event!

RSVP to Marg Anderson by 14th October
(number of attendees needed for catering) on
03 521 1864 or email: avarestbnb@xtra.co.nz.

Marahau Family Weekend

27-29 November

Marahau Outdoor Education Centre

*Fun-filled weekend at the beach, food, fun,
chatting, sun and loads more!*



*All welcome come for the weekend or for
the day!*

*For more info ring Sue 521 1110 or
ali-sue.nicholls@xtra.co.nz*

*Please let me know if you're coming by
20 November (for catering)*

Cottage to rent

2 double bedroom cottage.

**Fully furnished, warm modern
building. Recently renovated. Heat
pump.**

**Situated next to St Arnaud tavern.
\$300 per week. Long term rental
period.**

**Contact Johnny
021 423 401 or**

john@mcguinness.co.nz



Tophouse Historial Inn Vacancy

We are looking for 1or 2 people (willing to job share)to do casual part time over our busy summer season.

Includes: Helping clean and make beds in our Cottages and in The Guesthouse.

Also helping out with the restaurant when required.

We would like a trustworthy person(s) who will fit in with our Family friendly Team.

During Tourist Season it is a 7 day a week operation , approximately 4 hours a day.

Please apply to ,
Miles & Helen Anderson.
PH: 5211269



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M: (021) 566 645

E: julianmcgaveston@icloud.com

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\$180**

**Come and experience Pilates as
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- Improve your energy, agility & posture
- Be leaner, stronger & fitter
- Correct imbalances & create a strong foundation to prevent injury



Contact Lisa on 021 202 4034



ControlCentrePilates



MAT PILATES

"In 10 sessions you'll feel the difference, in 20 sessions you'll see the difference, and in 30 sessions you'll have a whole new body"

~ Joseph Pilates

New 10 week term

Mondays 5.30pm basic/int

Thursdays 10.00am basic

Starting 12th October

At Lake Rotoiti Community Hall

\$120 per term (less \$12 for Labour Day Monday)

Sign up and receive a complimentary one-to-one equipment-based Pilates lesson at my home studio in St Arnaud (worth \$75)

Contact Lisa on 021 202 4034

Quail Eggs

My quails are still laying through the winter.



If you would like some cute eggs for your salad or whatever you come up with, please let me know.

\$5 for a dozen.

If you would like a jar of pickled quail eggs, available in different flavours for \$ 7.

Did you know that quail eggs are supposed to help with allergies?

Phone 021 420 766

Cheers, Ina

Bonfire Night

Saturday 7 November

6:30pm

*Starting with a potluck BBQ tea
Followed by bonfire and fireworks
at Ali and Sue Nicholls' place!*

All welcome!

For more info contact Sue

521 1110 or

ali.sue.nicholls@xtra.co.nz

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday

Lake Rotoiti Chapel, 10.30AM,
Rotoiti Street, St Arnaud

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

Thursday & Sunday

Rotoiti Hub, 3 pm

- Holy Spirit lead worship, encounter, revelation and ministry.
- Phone Nigel and Sarah 027 441 3776 or Jane 027 332 8096 for info and location.

Lou's Hair, Beauty & Massage

Available up at St Arnaud in the community centre on Thursday 22nd & Thursday 19th November.

I'm travelling from my business in Tapawera to offer these services monthly.

- Women's Dry Haircut \$40
- Men Haircut \$25
- Child's Haircut \$20
- 40 min Massage \$50 1 hr Massage (Sports, Trigger Point, Relaxation)
- 50 mins Foot Reflexology \$60
- Eyelash Tint \$20 Eyebrow Shape \$15 Eyebrow Tint \$15 Eye Trio \$40
- Nail File & Paint \$30
- Half leg wax \$30 Bikini wax \$25
- Facial \$60

22 years experience in Massage and Beauty

Look forward to meeting you! Epos available

Phone Louise Simpson to book an appointment Ph 0272522039

BE GET STAY

ACTIVE

Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Badminton
Mondays 7pm
Community Hall
Gold coin donation to cover hall and shuttle cocks.
Ed/Nicky Shaw 521 1106

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

Pilates
Community Hall on Mondays at 5.30pm and
Thursdays at 10.00am. Contact Lisa 021 202 4034

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

Alpine Yoga (all levels) & Massage
Alpine Lodge
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am
Contact Ashton 022 525 7871

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- ✓ Deer / Sheep Netting
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- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ Thinning to Waste
- ✓ Tree Felling
- ✓ Scrub Cutting
- ✓ FIREWOOD FOR SALE



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