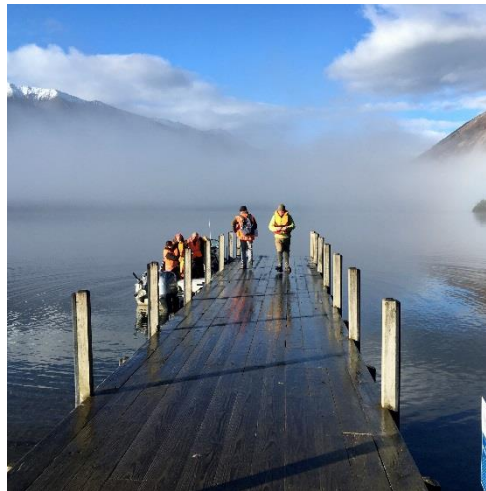


Deadline for next issue:
Friday 29 January 2021

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



From your local erudition - Happy New Year!

...and welcome to another year of community newsletters.

This year the newsletter will again be produced and distributed to our email list every fortnight. You can deduce the date of the next newsletter from the blue box in the top left of each newsletter. Thanks to our helpful local postie Mark, we also deliver paper copies for those not able to receive email files. Please be in touch if you would like to take advantage of this.

The purpose of the newsletter is to enable the Rotoiti community spirit to thrive, and for us all to be more connected. We found ourselves rather busy during the L4 Covid lockdown of 2020, helping to keep people connected. We welcome your contributions in words and pictures about what's been happening, what is to happen, and also your celebrations of / musings on our home.

Your newsletter editors are all volunteers; we take turns to compile and distribute the newsletter in our own time. If you'd like to join our erudition (that's the collective noun for editors – debatable of course), please call or text Sandra 03 5211078 or 0272042329. There will be an introduction to the system and help through your first time editing. It's easy for anyone used to computers.

Cheers from Sandra, Tracey, Sandie and Jackie

Coming up

Fri 12 & Sat 13 February
Tuna e hoe ana outrigger
canoe racing event, Kerr
Bay <https://maitahi-outrigging.org.nz/about/annual-regatta-at-lake-rotoiti/>

Sat 6 & Sun 7 March
Antique and Classic Boats
Show, Kerr Bay
<http://www.nzclassicboats.com/>

Sat 13 & Sun 14 March
Powerboats Regatta, Kerr
Bay
<https://www.nzpba.com/>

17 April Alpine Lodge Loop
the Lake race.
<https://www.nelsonevents.co.nz/loop-the-lake/>

Sundays 10.30 am
Lake Rotoiti Chapel
services are run by locals
and non-denominational.
Everyone welcome.

Note: see later in the
newsletter for fitness
related activities.

Photos: BBG – G. Czoma.
**Early morning at the
jetty – S Field. Swim – N.
Crawford**

We would love to print your
photos here!



Just because you see a lot of them here – doesn't mean they aren't rare!!

It's sometimes easy to take very special things for granted. Take some of our local wildlife, for example.

Looking into the lake from the Kerr Bay jetty, one would think everything is going well in tūna / long finned eel world (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*).

Take a closer look. Quite a few tūna have nasty injuries and scars.

DOC received reports of eels being lured out of the water with food, touched and prodded, had rocks thrown at them, and some have mouth injuries indicating they may have been caught. In one very troubling incident, a tūna was found on Lake Road with signs of a spear-type injury.

Many of the tūna you see are between 50-80 years old (and some are older).

There are still many mysteries about the life cycle of tūna, but as best scientists can determine:

- New Zealand longfins breed only once at the end of their lives, making a journey of thousands of kilometres from New Zealand to their spawning grounds near Tonga. Their eggs (female eel produces between 1 and 20 million) are fertilized in an unknown way.
- The mature eels then die, their eggs floating to the surface to hatch into very flat leaf-like larvae (called leptocephalus) that then drift along large oceanic currents back to New Zealand. This drifting is thought to take up to 15 months.
- Upon arriving in New Zealand, the larvae undergo a transformation into glass eels, like small transparent adult eels.
- Glass eels occupy estuaries for their first year, during which they develop colouration and become elvers, which resemble small adult longfin eels.
- The elvers migrate upstream, where they develop into adults – and the cycle starts over...

Tūna are subject to threats in parts of the country where they don't have the protection like here in Nelson Lakes National Park. The numbers of individuals and the age structure of the population is impacted by:

- commercial fishing (there is a quota management system for tūna),
- structures like dams and weirs blocking their way,
- turbines and propellers,
- water pollution and water quality;
- water abstraction from rivers, and
- other threats.

Tūna are classified as '*At Risk – Declining*' due to impacts on the population outside protected areas.

Tūna are omnivorous (eat meat and plant material) and are opportunistic feeders. Their diet as small eels largely consists of insect larvae. When eels become larger, they also feed on fish, including galaxiids, trout and aquatic invertebrates, as well as plant material.

Tūna have a great source of food in lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa.

They can feed themselves and don't need help.

How you can help protect tūna in Nelson Lakes NP?

- Don't feed them!
- Take care putting your boat in the water and starting your boat's motor at the jetty.
- Don't hook one when you are fishing.
- Don't lure the tuna out of the water with food.
- Don't poke and prod them.
- Report anyone causing harm to the Visitor Centre 03 521 1806 (office hours) or 0800 DOCHOT / 0800 362 468 after hours (emergency hotline).

Did you know?

Tūna in Nelson Lakes National Park (Rotoiti, Rotoroa and the rivers including the Buller to the Park boundary) are *absolutely protected*.

Causing any injury or death can be an offence and there are strong penalties for such actions.



Like tuna, Black-billed gulls/ tarāpuka (*Larus bulleri*), seem numerous because we can see quite large flocks at the lakefront and on the lake. However, they are a *truly* threatened species.

They are classified as ‘*Threatened – Nationally Critical*’ being the most severely threatened facing an immediate high risk of extinction.

Tarāpuka share that status with species like:

- Chatham Island black robin
- Black stilt/kakī
- Chatham Island tāiko
- Haast tokoeka (kiwi)
- Kākāpō
- Orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki karaka
- White heron/kōtuku

You’ll understand rangers “get a bit peeved” when we tell people not to throw stones at them, or let their children chase them, or take their dogs away, or put their drone in the car, or suggest they don’t drive fast through a flock of them, or speed around them on the lake and the visitors tell us they are just %\$@&* seagulls!

What can you do to help?

- Take the time to enjoy the amazing wildlife we have here – observe their behaviour and learn a bit more about their story;
- Tell people to take care around them - on land or on the water;
- Get involved with a group like Friends of Rotoiti;
- **DO NOT feed them – ever.**
- Don’t throw away food scraps or leave rubbish.
- Report anyone causing harm to the Visitor Centre 03 521 1806 (office hours) or 0800 DOCHOT / 0800 362 468 after hours (emergency hotline).



Wasp control – early stages



DOC staff and Friends of Rotoiti are in the planning stages for the annual wasp control operation.

The Recreation Team treated the Sabine and D’Urville hut toilets (Lk Rotoroa) last week in response to complaints about the number of wasps.

The plan is to undertake a control operation targeting both biodiversity protection in the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area, and to protect visitors on the main tracks within the Park and at key visitor sites.

Staff are monitoring wasp activity and will be keeping an eye on the weather forecasts over the next few weeks. The operation usually happens around late January to early February, depending on the weather and wasp activity.

More information will be provided.
Contact Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre
(nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz or 02 521 1806).



Julian McGaveston

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Red mistletoe – pirita – Cathy Jones nzpcn.org.nz

Summer Sensation – Pirita – Mistletoes

Take a few minutes over the next couple of weeks to see the seasonal display of mistletoes in the National Park (or, in your paddock, in some cases!). Five of Aotearoa's seven mistletoe species are found in Nelson Lakes NP, and it is the three large species that have been putting on their displays since before Christmas.

An easily accessible and quite spectacular display of red mistletoe can be seen from the Black Valley Stream track between Kerr Bay and the link to Rotoiti Street (Chapel). Look up from the track to the other side of the stream.

Take care near the edge of the bank as it is steep and high. Stay on the walking track.



Mistletoes are semi parasitic plants with green leaves or stems that photosynthesise while relying on a host tree or shrub for a perching position, water and nutrients.

The five species found in the national park are:

- Red mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*)
- Scarlet mistletoe (*P. colensoi*),
- Yellow mistletoe (*Alepis flavida*)
- Dwarf mistletoes (*Korthalsella clavata* and *K. salicornioides*)
-

Threats

Native mistletoe populations have declined since the early 1900s mainly due to possums, deer and livestock, vegetation clearance, and the decline in native bird species that act as pollinators and seed-dispersers. Early accounts from the Rotoiti area describe the forest turning red with mistletoe flowers in the summer, and mistletoes growing down to ground level on natural forest edges.

If the decline continues, more local populations may disappear and, in the long term, species could go extinct nationwide.

DOC's work

Monitoring forest canopy *Peraxilla* and *Alepis* mistletoes is part of the Nelson Lakes' biodiversity team's work programme. If possum damage is ever seen on a monitored mistletoe, it is a clear indication to us that our possum control in that area is not good enough. Possum numbers need to be very low so mistletoes in the forest canopy can flower and fruit.

DOC prepared a national recovery plan to coordinate conservation efforts and to ensure the long-term survival of mistletoes throughout New Zealand.

You can help

Help saving these species by protecting mistletoes on your property.

- Be careful not to disturb mistletoes, their host trees or habitats when clearing or trimming vegetation, or doing earthworks next to host trees.
- Control possums, rats, and mustelids. Mustelid and rat control helps native bird populations, that are crucial in pollinating the flowers of the larger mistletoes, and dispersing mistletoe seed.
- Don't pick mistletoes.

For further reading and beautiful photos refer to https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/?quick_search=mistletoe



**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"***



**Master
Plumbers**
Representing Excellence



Vacancy, for the position of ;

Treasurer for the Lake Rotoiti Community Hall Committee.

We meet bi-monthly and are all
volunteers looking after our
wonderful community asset.

The task is not too onerous with only
a few transactions, but attention to
detail and an eye for figures would
be beneficial.

This position would suit somebody
with experience of accounts,
balance sheets, gst etc. The Hall
almost runs itself, but not quite..

Huge rewards for the right person!

Please call Richard 021 159 1590,
email rosbaston@xtra.co.nz or talk
to one of the Committee members
for more information on this exciting
opportunity.

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.

The Tree Doctor

Available for -

*felling *form pruning *reductions
*thinning *hedge trimming* tree removals
16 years experience, references available.

Insured

For all aspects of tree care

call Chris 02102647942

thetreedr@yahoo.com



Want to learn more about pest trapping methods?

The NMIT 'Predator Trapping Methods' workshop available online. First intake commences 2 Feb 2021.

Cost pp \$168.

Register online nmit.ac.nz/conservation

Delivered in partnership with DOC, this course provides the knowledge and skills to manage effective pest control programmes.

Designed for people wanting to be more active and knowledgeable about predator pest control. This course aims to provide an overview of New Zealand pest predators focusing on rats, stoats and possums.

The main focus will be on developing an effective predator control plan for your area (Community, farm, property) and the importance of monitoring, allowing you to work out the right methods to match the outcomes you are looking to achieve.

You will gain practical experience needed to trap successfully.

Lou's Hair, Beauty & Massage

Available in St Arnaud in the community hall

on **Wednesday 24th February**

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! Efpos available
Phone Louise Simpson to book an
appointment Ph **0272522039**

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

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

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