

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 9th April 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



Coming up

17 April 2021

Alpine Lodge Loop the Lake
Race

<https://nelsonevents.co.nz/loop-the-lake>

25 April 2021

ANZAC Day Event
Details to follow



**Photos: Swim; Nicky
Crawford**

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

Lake Rotoiti School News

On the 15th of March the whole school went into town to see the Science Roadshow and we followed this up with everyone giving rollerskating a go.

At the Science Roadshow the students discussed fair testing and got to watch some chemistry experiments. This was followed up with hands on time with a range of interactive science and technology equipment.

We have not finished this busy term yet as we have our school camp coming up in the last week of the term. The children are looking forward to camp as we had to cancel last year due to lockdown.

The school pool will be closing on the 7th of April so could all fob holders please return them to the school office after this date.



The Big Day Out

By Max Bauer (5yrs)

Yesterday I went to the Science Roadshow.

I saw a thing that you push the button and when you push the button fire comes up.

Then we went to the park and we ate our lunch.

Then we went roller skating and Arnav fell over 4 times and I only fell over 1 time.

Then we went home.

The Awesome Day Out

By Sophie Jordan (8yrs)

Yesterday Lake Rotoiti School went to Waimea

Intermediate because we were going to the Science Roadshow and there were some cool things there. There was a fire tornado, it was 10 cm long and it was so cool.

There was honey tasting and it was so good. Then we had to go to the buses and went to the playground and ate our lunch quickly. Then we went to the roller skating rink and got our skates fitted and got them on. We went roller skating and I hurt my butt when I fell over. Miriam came and helped me up, I put my feet on her feet and she pulled me up. Then it was time to go.

CIRCUITS, SIX YEARS ON

Six years ago, two thousand and fifteen
A group us were really quite keen
A meeting was held which started it all
An open to all Circuits and fitness class
To be held thrice weekly in the village hall.
A fad that some of us thought would pass.

Little Lois soon got us all going
And we went along without really knowing
What activities she had in store
Weights and stretches and so much more
A group of women and just one man
People came and went there was no plan

But Lois left us for pastures new
We weren't really sure what we would do
But up stepped Gael with her many mean friends
Cats and cows, dogs and donkeys
Sumo wrestlers, woodchoppers and ballerinas
Jumping Jack and happy babies
She introduced us to them, every one
Telling us they'd be so much fun.

Why can't she see the pain on our faces
And on the following days in other places?
As music blasts around the hall
"You can do it" she will call
And "you're half way there"
Although we don't know where.

And although we're not cut any slack
For six years now we've kept going back

*A Poem by Brenda
Celebrating 6 years of
Circuit class at Lake
Rotoiti*

Update on plans –

Murchison St Johns Ambulance

Recently we had St John New Zealand return to further discuss the proposal first brought to our Community in February.

St John have heard our pleas and in follow up have created a new model based on the specific needs of Murchison.

They have recognised our unique needs here, in fact

A good electrician.



Shane Steel

Qualified industrial, commercial & domestic electrician

(e) shane@agoodelectrician.co.nz

(m) 0273202335

Servicing Saint Arnauds and greater Tasman district

Hi there folks! My name is Shane, I am a qualified and experienced (13 years) electrician currently situated in St Arnaud until November 2021. I would like to offer my services to this region. No job is too big or small, and my rates are competitive without the additional travel costs of non-local tradesmen. I look forward to getting to know this community.

Available for Rent

Large lifestyle block + 3bdrm home available
5 mins from St Arnaud village on Korere -
Tophouse rd.

Plenty of room for kids and animals.

For more info please contact Jack on 0277149234

there are only 4 other communities in NZ in the same 'boat', that being greater than 75 mins from the nearest hospital.

As such they have created a new 'division' for isolated communities.

This model looks as follows:

8am to 8pm – 1 x EMT and First Responder or EMA (or other qualified PAID St John Employees)

Paid for 1 hours and any time on call outs, on call for further 11 hours (12 hour shift in total)

This will cover off 75% of all call outs that they receive.

4 days on, 4 Days off roster.

Retaining our Ambulance.

8pm-8am (night shift)

2 x Volunteer first responders in partnership with Prime and FENZ

They will also advertise for and recruit an RSO to be the coordinator to get this new model up and running within our community.

As this is a completely new model within St John there are many moving parts while they nail down the finer details.(and I apologise if I have made an error in any of the St John 'terms' used for their staff)

This is a fantastic outcome for our Community when you consider the original proposal.

We would like to say 'Thank You' to St John for working with us to provide an outcome that is hopefully beneficial for everyone involved, their willingness to listen and compromise.

I'm sure we will all agree, is much appreciated.

This leads into the following – St John will be looking for volunteers to work alongside existing volunteers and our amazing PRIME and FENZ teams for the '8pm-8am' shifts.

Lets continue to show St John our community spirit – If you can volunteer even for 1 night a week, after work then please consider it. There will be accommodation available in town if you live in a valley to make volunteering easier.

And finally 'THANK YOU' to everyone on here who shared, wrote submissions, opened up their families and pushed for St John to hear our concerns.

Sleep easy in the knowledge that we have our Emergency services in place.

A vertical advertisement for ControlCentrePilates. At the top is the logo 'ControlCentrePilates' in orange and white. Below it, a woman in a grey t-shirt is lying on a blue Pilates reformer, holding a strap. Another woman in a white patterned shirt is standing behind her, assisting with the exercise. The background is a light-colored wall with some greenery. Text on the right side of the image reads: 'Come and experience Pilates as Joseph Pilates created it'. At the bottom, there is an orange box with white text: 'SPECIAL OFFER 3 SESSIONS FOR \$120'. Below that, in a dark blue box with orange text: 'Equipped studio in St Arnaud Contact Lisa on 021 202 4034'.

Give Us A Break...

We are back working on the green-break to help protect the village from fire.

There are tasks for any adult of any fitness / ability and we would appreciate your help, even if just for an hour – it all adds up. All you need to bring are gloves, safety glasses and safe footwear.

Next working bees

– Easter Saturday 3rd April 9am-12 and 1pm-4pm.

Please confirm with Robbie if you can come and help – 021 295 0305

, robbiethomson55@gmail.com

Thanks! ☺

Clinker dinghy for sale

\$1350

Phone Stuart Robb 0272943633



We (Miles and Helen) have sold Tophouse and would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last 5 years. We are not leaving the area and are shifting to Beech Hill Rise.

The new owners are Clint and Helen Brough and they take over on the 1st April 2021.

Sebastian (and Angelina) will continue on the restaurant as he has been doing with Dinners only at present with bookings only.

For Bookings Phone : 03)5211269 or 0210712363

**Best Regards,
Miles & Helen Anderson**



Local huts get attention from the Backcountry Trust

The quaint and superbly located Lee's Creek Hut had a good freshen-up by the Backcountry Trust, a couple of weeks ago. Lead nails were removed from the roof as the hut is in a kea zone and they completed maintenance tasks.

Lee's Creek is about three hours walk from the Rainbow Road, plus 1 hour's walk from the Six Mile Creek if you don't have a 4WD or during times the road is closed. A swingbridge makes the crossing of the Wairau River *much* easier. You'll cross lovely grassy flats and walk through beech forest. The hut has four bunks beds, a fire and toilet. Water is from the stream. One blue/standard \$5.00 hut ticket will get a night at this lovely location.

Remember you are getting access to this area via Rainbow Station, so do the right thing and email Station Manager, Gene Thomas (gene@rainbowstation.co.nz) to advise you are coming and to make a payment for vehicle access.



Lee Creek Hut (Source NZ Trumper / trumper.nz)

Backcountry Trust's work in the area didn't stop at Lee's Creek. Backcountry Trust and DOC staff spent a week completing maintenance tasks at Hopeless and Cupola Huts. Once again, maintenance and removal of lead nails were on the 'to do' list. Paul Dulieu and Gareth Rapley, Nelson Lakes rangers did a chainsaw run from Hopeless Hut to Coldwater Hut, clearing windthrows and debris.

While we are talking about volunteer effort, Bob Chittenden and his team from the Nelson Ski Club along with the Lead Heads group are at Paske Hut in the upper reaches of the Rainbow River catchment this week. They are fixing some piles, diverting a small water course near

the hut, undertaking maintenance and replacing lead nails and guttering. Bob's team have finished their epic renovation of Connor's Creek Hut. A big thank you! We'd all like to thank Phil Cropp and Gene Thomas from Rainbow Station for their ongoing support of these projects.

Keeping Whio Safe

March is Whio Awareness Month, so this is a good time to talk about the work the local rangers do to protect whio in the region.

Whio have been reported occasionally in recent years in the fast-flowing and clear waters of the upper Sabine River. That's exciting news.

The 3,000 [Whio](#)/blue duck in Aotearoa are river specialists; one of the few waterfowl worldwide that live year round on fast-flowing rivers.

They are a key indicator of healthy rivers and streams. They require clean, fast flowing streams in the forested upper catchments of rivers to provide high water quality, low sediment loadings, stable banks, overhead canopy cover, and lots of varied invertebrate (insect) communities. The more breeding pairs of blue duck the healthier the river.

They are threatened by the usual predators, changes in water use and quality and sometimes by recreational users disturbing nests.



Whio/blue duck (Source © DOC)

In this district, Nelson Lakes biodiversity rangers work with their colleagues in Motueka to protect a population of whio in the southern end of Kahurangi National Park. Some of the rivers are prime whio habitat so a trapline was put in along the Fyfe River, and rangers undertake monitoring surveys during the year to see if new birds are pairing or breeding pairs are successfully raising chicks.

We also have another powerful tool to support whio protection: a four-legged ranger and his two-legged partner. Tarn, a very good looking five-year-old Vizsla/chocolate Labrador and ranger Brent Hartshorne are an experienced whio-tracking team who recently joined the Nelson Lakes whānau.

Tarn and Brent are part of DOC's [Conservation Dogs Programme](#) sponsored by Kiwibank.

Becoming a species dog is very intense for both dog and handler as many hours of hard training are needed to pass the practical tests. It's a very proud day when the dog gets its own orange coat. Dogs go through avian aversion training and must wear a muzzle when working.

Whio dogs are trained to smell both birds and eggs. Whio helpfully line their nests with their feathers making the scent a bit easier for dogs to find. Often the eggs found will be taken to Peacock Springs ([Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust](#) at McLeans Island, near Christchurch airport) where they are hatched and fledglings are grown to a stage where they can be released back into the wild.

Brent and Tarn spent some of last week at Oparara, near Karamea doing what they love best: using their skill and determination to find whio as part of a monitoring survey.

*Did I smell something?
Tarn in action (Source –
Brent Hartshorne)*



*Brent and Tarn getting
ready to work.*

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.

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

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Kerr Bay sailing and water sports, at the eastern jetty, Thursdays 6pm

"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. 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

Teetotal “Sighting in” facility

Notice to all users

An Open Area Hunting Permit is required to use this facility, apply online at:

<https://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz/huntingpermits/start>

A .22 permit must be obtained from the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre (open 8am-4:30pm) to use this calibre rifle in the facility

Most local shooters who need to sight in rifles or introduce youngsters to safe gun handling appreciate the opportunity of using the facility in the Teetotal Recreation Area.

The facility has a purpose-built bullet catcher and is backed by a ridge that acts as a back stop. There is a table at 100 metres to provide a seated and supported firing position and a small mound at 50 meters for prone shooting.

Signs on the access tracks advise the public that the area is used for shooting and orange marker poles behind the 100 metre table and down both sides define the area set aside for shooting.

Let's keep this facility safe by following these basic rules

- The maximum distance shooting is permitted is 100 metres
- All shots should be aimed at and captured by the bullet stop.
- Paper targets only should be pinned to the face of the bullet stop.
- No other target is acceptable (eg. cans and bottles)
- NO shotguns

Important

The rules must be followed to prevent ricochets off the ground.

All shooting must be conducted or supervised by the holder of a NZ firearm licence holding a DOC hunting permit.

House keeping

Be a tidy Kiwi and remove all targets and empty cartridge cases.

Safe firearm usage is a legitimate recreational activity and is supported by DOC Nelson Lakes and the Nelson branch of New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

To find out more, visit www.doc.govt.nz



All shooting should be under the eye of a person acting as a range officer to safeguard against the intrusion of walkers. All unlicensed shooters must be under direct supervision. Maximum permissible distance is 100 metres (at the benchrest). (Photo source: Nick King).



Figure 2: Paper targets only and must be fixed to the bullet catcher. (Photo source: Nick King)