

This newsletter is produced by a small volunteer editing crew to help keep our community connected and informed. We welcome your contributions!

Please send your newsletter items to:
rotoitinews@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue:
5pm Friday 28th April 2023

You can view and download previous issues at
www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters.html



Coming up

Tuesday 25 April 10.30am –
Anzac Day commemorations,
Community Hall.

Wednesday 26 April 7pm – St
Arnaud AF8 Roadshow at
Community Hall

Thursday 27 April, 4.30 pm –
7.30 pm, Rural Conversations -
Lake Rotoiti Community Hall.
See notice later in the
newsletter.

Photos: Clematis forsteri; Eels
at Kerr Bay (D. Bauer);
Highland cattle (D. Bauer)

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

- TUE 25TH APRIL 2023 -



10.30am at Lake Rotoiti Community Hall

Guest Speaker from Woodbourne Air Force base

Badminton

started again on 12th April
Wednesdays 7pm at the hall

\$3 per person to cover hall and shuttlecocks



Feral cat trapping in and near the village

This is the annual call for details about pet cats in and around St Arnaud Village.

Friends of Rotoiti and DOC have live-capture traps set throughout the landscape around the village, year-round. The trapping target is feral cats which we have seen cause a lot of damage to native birds, lizards and invertebrates. Feral cats are one of the main predators of kea and kiwi. This really interesting 2022 article explains how far individual feral cats will range in alpine environments (and it concurs with a small study conducted here in the early days of predator control at Nelson Lakes, where an adult male cat was tracked and ranged to the head of the lake and back, and went over Mt Robert). It seems amazing but it highlights how difficult it is to keep feral cat numbers under control. [Feral cats hunting high in South Island mountains, some even crossing passes to West Coast headwaters | Stuff.co.nz](#)

So that pet cats are not accidentally harmed, trappers keep a cat census booklet on them. It is also helpful if pet cats wear a collar, and even more helpful if pet cats are kept confined to home. Keeping pets confined to home seems to be the best way to keep them safe from all kinds of misadventures. See this advice from SPCA

<https://www.sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/keeping-your-cat-safe-and-happy-at-home>

The cats we have in our census booklet currently are: Tiger, Rogue, Bondi, Little Blue, Mr Kitty, Charlie, Ty and Livvie.

Please send additions and updates, including a description of colour and markings, plus a photo, to:

Sandra Wotherspoon, swotherspoon@doc.govt.nz. I look forward to seeing all your cat photos!



**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"***



***SWEEP
YOUR
CHIMNEY***
***TO PROTECT
YOUR INVESTMENT***



Rural Conversations - Find out what changes to land and water management could mean to you.

You're invited to an information event hosted by Top of the South Rural Support Trust and Rural Women NZ, with short presentations from Tasman District Council staff and an opportunity to talk one on one with them about what the changes may mean for you.

Our District is underpinned by primary production. These events are open to all local agribusiness, rural landowners, and those supporting our rural communities.

Dates and venues (for St Arnaud and nearby)

- **Murchison:** Thursday 27 April, 11.00 am – 2.00 pm, Murchison Sport Recreation and Cultural Centre
- **St Arnaud:** Thursday 27 April, 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Lake Rotoiti Community Hall
- **Tapawera:** Tuesday 2 May, 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm, Tapawera Rugby Football Rooms

Sound management of land and water resources in New Zealand is a critical issue. Understanding the recent government regulations is important for rural communities and Council. We realise this keeps changing and there is more still coming, and that this is confusing, adding stress and pressure onto farmers.

Council now has a better understanding of what these changes mean. At these events we'll look at recent government changes, what's still to come and how this may impact you. You will meet the Council staff tasked with implementing these changes, have an opportunity to clarify any questions and find out what support may be available to you.

MPI On-Farm Support will be joining us to introduce their staff and explain what their role is. Refreshments will be provided.

Topics include:

- Essential freshwater legislation
- Freshwater farm plans
- Intensification
- Wetlands
- Intensive winter grazing
- Nitrogen use and reporting
- Stock exclusion
- Fish passage
- Riparian and wetland enhancement and funding
- Significant Natural Areas (SNA) and biodiversity protection
- Plant and animal pest management

- Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features
- Resource consenting
- Pricing agricultural emissions
- The Land and Freshwater Plan and having your say on the future rules

For more information:


03 543 8400

rural.info@tasman.govt.nz

tasman.govt.nz/my-region/tasman-rural-hub



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 - Dairy electrical and pumps

Shane Steel

027 320 2335

shane@agoodelectrician.co.nz

Servicing St Arnaud and greater Tasman district

Church Notices

Lake Rotoiti Chapel

Sundays 10.30am

Rotoiti Street, St Arnaud

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

Contact Ali/Sue 03 5211 110

Rotoiti Hub

Sundays 10am

Local spirit-led Christian worship, equipping and encounter.

More details and enquiries:

Nigel /Sarah 027 4413776

or Kay 035211261 / 0273072820

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Police National SAREX 2023

The New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police are carrying out a search and rescue training exercise involving helicopters, vehicles and personnel in the Raglan and Rainbow Conservation area, Tapuae-O-Uenuku Scenic Reserve, Inland Kaikoura Ranges and Mt Richmond Forest Park area over the period 08 – 12 May 2023. In order for the New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police to maintain their readiness to deploy, this type of training needs to be undertaken in a variety of environments. Being able to exercise in diverse environments ensures personnel are highly trained and able to support domestic, regional and global situations. We appreciate the support our local communities extend to our personnel when we conduct these training activities outside of our normal training areas.

Snippets from the March

Rural Police Marlborough Newsletter:

Boy racers in our rural areas



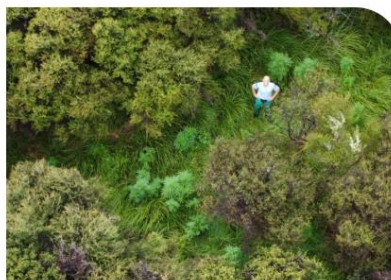
There are many places in our rural areas that are being used by boy racers to do burnouts and drive recklessly. Police target the areas known to them for this activity. We have had success in the past, often with follow up enquiries and, more recently, with social media to locate and identify these drivers.

But catching them in the act is not easy to do as most are in large numbers in areas that give them a view of approaching traffic. They quickly disperse on seeing Police vehicles.

There are so many occurring at different times it is becoming difficult to monitor them all. So we rely on you to call 111 if you see it happening, and if you can identify vehicles by their registration, let the Police communicators know.

If it is historic information (the event is not happening at the time) please use 105 and report the behaviour. Please don't get frustrated if our staff don't attend at the time – we must always prioritise based on risk and, if there is a more urgent incident to attend at the same time, this will be done before a burnout.

The team have also done some work on cannabis recovery. The most recent find located and pulled 25 plants out of the Upper Wairau Valley. We are still interested in cannabis growing activity. Please let us know if you discover any or suspect where it is being grown.



Suspicious activity and how you can help ...

Some recent good work by locals in Lower Dashwood is an excellent example of how we can all play a part in picking up on and reporting suspicious activity. We were really pleased with what they did – often it's this type of information that can stop a crime before it's been committed. Here are the steps they took:

- They became aware of the behaviour.
- They decided to monitor those involved.
- They obtained a registration number.
- They discreetly obtained a photo of the people and their vehicle.
- They remembered detail of how they dressed and what they talked about.
- They reported this to Police for follow up – no offences were committed in this instance, but it gave Police the opportunity to have a reason to interact with the people in the vehicle.
- This also made those in the vehicle and their friends aware that if you enter this area, you are being observed by locals.

We welcome your suggestions and questions:
marlb.rural@police.govt.nz

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police Emergency:
Dial 111

Police Non-Emergency:
Dial 105

Blenheim Police:
03 578 5279

24/7 Youth Line:
0800 376 6333

24/7 Mental Health Crisis Team:
0800 800 717

24/7 Women's Refuge:
03 577 9939

Family Violence:
0800 456 450 (9AM-11PM)

Victim Support: 0800 842 846
or visit www.areyouok.org.nz



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St Arnaud AF8 Roadshow Wednesday 26 April 7pm at Community Hall

Public talk by Alice Lake-Hammond (AF8). Hear about what the potential impacts of a large Alpine Fault earthquake might look like in our region. All welcome. Hosted by the 6 South Island Emergency Management Groups and sponsored by Toka Tu Ake EQC.

PLAYGROUP 

Playgroup meets Tuesday mornings
10am - 12pm at the community hall, all preschoolers welcome.

Many thanks to St Arnaud Rural Woman for your on going support

For any inquiries please contact Kirsten on 0220445829



Weed Alert – Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)

Reed canary grass is a tall, perennial grass often found on the edge of water bodies, which can grow up to 2m tall, and has wide leaves up to half a metre long. It also has the potential to invade wetlands, where it forms dense, sprawling stands up to a metre tall that smother and impede regeneration of other native vegetation. It can spread by rhizome fragments or by seed in mud on machinery, footwear, livestock, or in water. It is important that this pest plant of wetlands is kept out of the Nelson Lakes region for these reasons.

Recently, a small patch of reed canary grass was discovered on the roadside between Kikiwa and Tophouse. It is unclear how this grass was transported to this site, as it is a relatively uncommon pest plant in Tasman, but possible pathways include fly tipping or contaminated roading material.

These roadside plants have all been sprayed with herbicide and this site will be checked annually for new growth by the Tasman District Council. While it is considered unlikely that other sites exist in the Nelson Lakes district, please contact Lindsay Barber, Biosecurity Officer, Tasman District Council Ph 027 224 1583 if you suspect you have seen reed canary grass growing anywhere in the area.



GROUP
FITNESS

**FIT IT
WEDNESDAYS**

ll

Come & connect, have fun, &
sweat to contemporary beats
& various styles of exercise.
All ages & levels welcome.
BYO water & mats.

Community Hall | 6-7 p.m. | Gold Coin Koha

CONTACT LOU TO JOIN 0210414913

**UPPER WAIRAU
WAIRAU WAIHOPAI TMA**

Possum Control – Poison Warning

Excell Biosecurity wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to keep possum numbers under control to prevent spread of TB. This operation will be conducted as part of the TBfree New Zealand programme.

Areas covered: The operation covers an area of 8,753 hectares along the Wairau River between the Rainbow Road and Badmans Flat.

Operation date: 20 March to 30 June 2023.

Poisoning methods: Feratox is a small capsule containing cyanide poison (about the size of a pea). In bait bags the cyanide capsule has been placed into a non-toxic peanut paste inside a small blue biodegradable bag. The blue bags will be attached to trees and suitable habitat. On occasion bait stations will also be used.

Traps will also be used throughout the area in conjunction with poisoning methods. The public is warned to take care in these areas and not to remove carcasses or baits. Baits are dangerous to people and dogs.

General warning

- Do not touch poison baits / traps
- Do not touch poisoned possum carcasses
- Keep pets under supervision
- Do not leave children unattended
- Follow the advice on the poison warning signs

If you suspect poisoning

- Contact your local hospital, or dial 111
- National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764 766
- In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian

For further information (including maps of the operational area), contact the operator:

Project Supervisor, Northern South Island, 0508 EXCELL (0508 392 355)



BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Monday Body Movers group fitness. Low impact/intensity, resistance based. Community Hall 10am (gold coin donation) Lou 0210414913

Fit It Wednesdays group exercise. Bring water, mat. Community Hall, Wednesdays ☺ 6-7pm. Lou 0210414913

Wednesdays 7pm Badminton. \$3 per person to go towards hall and shuttle-cocks. Racquets available, all welcome! Ed 03 5211106

Seido-Karate

Community Hall

Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 6 pm – General Class

Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation

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

