

This newsletter is produced every two weeks by a small volunteer editing crew to help keep our community connected and informed. We welcome your contributions! Please send your newsletter items to:

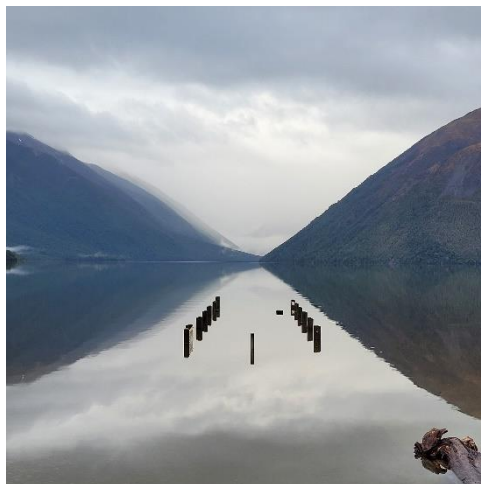
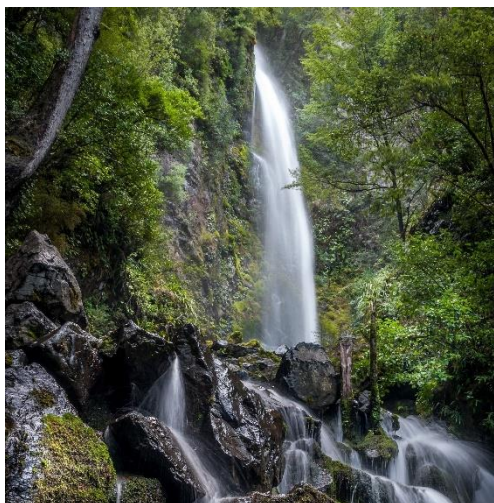
rotoitinews@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue:

5pm Friday 9th June 2023

You can view and download previous issues at

www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters.html



Coming up

Badminton has changed to **MONDAYS** at the Hall, 7pm, \$3 Ed 03 5211106

Tues 30 May 1pm

Navy Band performance at School.

Sunday 18 June 12 noon. Blue Duck midwinter swim, Kerr Bay East, for locals and visitors (you don't have to be nude). Ph 0277108229 or riverflat@gmail.com

Thursdays 10am - 12pm

Playgroup. Community Hall. Ph Kirsten 0220445829. Gold coin donation.

Photos: Whiskey Falls; Fungi, B. Williams; Kerr Bay West, S. Wotherspoon

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

Lake Rotoiti School News

The NZ Navy Band will be performing for us

Tues 30 May @ Lake Rotoiti School - 1 pm

In our new STEAM room (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, Maths)

Everyone welcome, please bring a chair.





Nelson Lakes **Department of Conservation** (DOC), alongside the **Friends of Rotoiti** (FOR) has warmly welcomed 8 roroa/great spotted kiwi into Nelson Lakes National Park, following a recent successful translocation. The translocation is required for helping to increase the founder population translocated into the park, beginning in 2006. Increasing the number of founding birds improves the genetic diversity and longevity of the population. Working with roroa has been very enlightening and we are constantly learning how to best approach the birds' wellbeing when carrying out translocations such as this. Translocations are no small task and we would like to give a mihi to everyone involved, including West Coast DOC staff and Ngāti Waewae who enabled the birds to come from the source population at Kahurangi, and to Karamea Heli Charter for providing the birds safe transport to their new home.

Also, a big thank you to Ngāti Apa Ki Te Rā Tō, Robin and Sandy Toy (Friends of Flora), and the Friends of Rotoiti for helping to receive the birds at this end. Ngāti Apa Ki Te Rā Tō has given names to all the birds including two pairs (Moturoa and Waimeha, Matanohinohi and Tamane) and four Singles (Rātā, Kehu, Weka Kura, Okoroiti).

This is very special and specialised work and would not be possible without the input and collaboration of all these groups of people.

All the birds are fitted with transmitters to monitor them from a distance over the next couple of years as they settle into their new home. DOC and FOR will regularly track the birds to see where they are roosting, and looking to the future, we will hopefully be able to track breeding events. We hope that we will be able to learn more about this species of kiwi, including how large their territories are in different habitat.

Some may have noticed recent media about a brown kiwi release in the North Island, that included pictures of kiwi being handled and viewed in the daylight. Roroa/ great spotted kiwi behave quite differently to North Island brown kiwi - roroa are much more sensitive to noise and handling, and can stress-moult in these situations. To limit this, we minimise the handling of roroa, we speak quietly around them and get them into their new burrows as soon as possible.

To see more photos and video clips of the translocation, follow Ngati Apa ki te Ra To and Friends of Rotoiti on Facebook and Instagram.



Figure 1. It was an emotional moment for the catching team to see the helicopter arriving to take the birds back to their new home at Rotoiti.



Figure 2. Health checks and attaching the transmitter to a roroa at the catch site.



Figure 3. Roroa are put into burrows at the release site and left to rest before the burrow is opened after sunset for the kiwi to explore as normal.



Figure 4. DOC and FOR are excited to learn where the roroa are settling in

A good electrician.



- Industrial, commercial and domestic
- Generator installs and repairs
- Electrical motor installs and repairs
- Pump installs and repairs
- Power tool repairs
- Automation and control
- Solar and offgrid installs and repairs
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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

Changes coming for the Teetotal Rifle Sighting-In Range



The Teetotal Sighting-In Range has existed since the 1980s as a recognised place where hunters can sight in their rifles before heading into the park or other nearby conservation lands to hopefully shoot deer, chamois, goats etc. In more recent years, with the further development of mountain bike tracks in the area we have added a target backstop, placed some marked-up waratahs to define the area and, with some community help, done some maintenance such as removing ricochet prone rocks etc. We also introduced a separate permit system for those wanting to sight in their 0.22 rifles as these are not permitted with a standard hunting permit.

We appreciate the value of this facility to hunters and the benefits for conservation of having an active hunting community keeping wild animal numbers down. We are also aware that if there isn't a readily available site for this activity then there is increased risk of hunters sighting in their rifles at road end carparks and other places where there are no controls in place.

The recent amendments to the Arms Act 1983 require all ranges to either be formalised and brought up to a base standard, or dismantled. There are also new requirements for every use of range to be under the direct supervision of a 'Range Officer'. After discussion with the Police and support from Bill O'Leary (whom many of you would know as a leader in various hunting circles, and a national range inspector), we have decided that we will formalise the range and work with the new requirements.

You will start to see works underway to formalise the range in line with the new requirements and advice from Bill. This will include an improved bullet back stop, a flag to raise when the range is in use, a sign shelter so that

we can display written material (such as the rules for use of the range) and some additional fencing and signs to delineate the area and discourage others from entering. Improvements have started and installation will be completed through June.

From 1 July 2023

- Every use of the range will be under the supervision of a nominated 'Range Officer' who will need to obtain a **Teetotal Sighting-In Range Permit** in person from the visitor centre and sign up to their responsibilities under the Range Standing Orders. The appointed Range Officer must also be a licenced firearms holder and hold a standard DOC hunting permit.
- For licenced firearms holders who want to use 0.22s for rabbit shooting this will still be permitted with a specific **Teetotal 0.22 Hunting Permit** available only through the visitor centre. This is restricted to the lower river flats adjacent to the river.
- For other users of Teetotal. The range area will be more clearly delineated on the ground. The mountain biking and walking tracks will not be directly affected as they have been built to be in an area safe from the range users but there will be warning signs and some fencing in the vicinity advising to stay on the tracks. There are several informal 4WD tracks through the grass off the main Teetotal Road, one of which goes right through the range, which will be closed off with mounds and fencing so that there is only one established vehicle track to access the safe point of the range (by the sign shelter) or continue on. The furthest vehicle track seems to stop some 200m or so beyond that point before petering out.

This looks to be the only range in the country that is managed by the Department on public conservation land. There are others where the local NZDA branch or similar operates the range under a licence or agreement of some sort, but these are already in a more formalised state (such as the Murchison Range).

It can't be stated strongly enough how important it is that the rules around the use of the range are respected and fully observed. Individuals who misuse the range will be committing a criminal act. They will have their permits and potentially their firearms licence revoked and will likely face prosecution by the police. If this isn't done well, the range will need to be disestablished with all improvements dismantled.

We will post updates in this newsletter and through the NZDA about the range improvements and the new permit system.

Let's all make this work.

John Wotherspoon
DOC Operations Manager



The silver birch infestation in bright green summer leaf, prior to control starting, photographed by drone. The native wetland to the right of the 4wd road is public conservation land and not drained to the same extent.

Find us on Facebook

tasman Te Kaitiaki o te tai o Aorere

Silver Birch battle to help restore St Arnaud Wetland

Through the combined efforts of multiple parties, Tasman District Council has helped a piece of land at St Arnaud move closer towards its former glory.

The Parker wetland, just a stone's throw from Lake Rotoiti was once drained for farming and is now afflicted with an infestation of silver birch.

By plugging the drains the current landowners hope to enhance the hydrology within the wetland, reduce rabbit populations and encourage natural regeneration of native plants.

Through our combined efforts with the landowners, the Department of Conservation (DOC), the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), contractor FuturEcology and the support of Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō and Ngāti Kuia Trusts - we've been busy turning a Northern European boreal landscape into a taonga or treasure for us all to be proud of.

Silver birch can be very invasive and have a huge ecological impact on the functionality of an ecosystem.

Twelve years ago there were five silver birch in this wetland. Now there is estimated to be over 50,000 silver birch which will cost around \$20,000 to eradicate over three years (and no doubt a few wasp stings too.)

So we really need your help! If you live in the St Arnaud area and you have silver birch trees on your property we ask that you consider their removal. For those that need help or have purchased silver birch as an amenity tree we can also assist with replacement trees up to a set value.

The St Arnaud project is one of the first natural wetlands funded by the Jobs for Nature programme to protect and enhance native wetlands in our district.

Weed Alert

Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*)



Chilean needle grass (CNG) has been present in Marlborough since the 1940s and is a significant agricultural pest weed. It has established at one site in the Wairau Valley, and we are keen to ensure that it is contained at this point and does not progress through to the Nelson Lakes area.

CNG has a very sharp spikelet that spreads by attaching itself to anything that brushes past the plant. Seeds are typically collected in the wool and hair of domestic stock. The seed has an exceptionally long awn (tail) that acts like a corkscrew, winding the seed in to the skin of the animal, causing it stress and discomfort. CNG seed heads can be confused with another widespread grass weed species, riggut brome, whose seed heads are also capable of embedding in the skin of stock animals.

CNG is very difficult to identify when it is not seeding. It can look very similar to other pasture grass species although generally has a thinner, more pointy leaf; more of a tussock look than grass. The root system is bulbous, similar to nassella tussock. The seed is heavy and will generally fall close to the parent plant, building up a large amount of seed in the soil around the existing plants. CNG seed is spread predominantly through stock, people, vehicles and machinery. Stock feed such as hay is also how seed can be spread to new areas. Dirty earthmoving machinery is a high-spread risk due to the seed remaining viable in the soil for 12-plus years.

Marlborough District Council has strict rules in place around the movement of stock, hay, machinery and soil from affected properties.

CNG is not yet present in the Tasman District. If you suspect that you have seen a plant anywhere in your area, please contact **Lindsay Barber, Biosecurity Officer, Tasman District, Tasman District Council.**

Village
Thermomix
Demonstration

**COOK MORE FROM SCRATCH
HANDS FREE**



JOIN ERIN TO SEE ONE IN ACTION
3 DATES TO CHOOSE FROM

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 11AM
WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 11AM
SUNDAY 11 JUNE 3PM
BEECHNEST DRIVE

SAVE YOUR SPOT BY CALL OR TEXT TO
0220 100 214

PLAYGROUP



Playgroup meets Thursday 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



Cleaning-up Sale

2nd June 11am
Top of Waireka Road
There will be signage showing the way
Phone Gael 027 280 4078



Local Carpenter now available for all your building requirements
Design work, estimates, at no charge
10 year Halo Guarantee for new builds

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Built with love and care by Santosh*

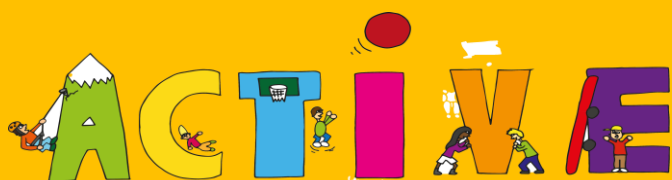
Call Santosh: 021323228
or
Email: livingspacenz@yahoo.co.nz

PHONE LIST

The new phone list has been printed and distributed. Everyone should have one in their letter boxes now - huge thankyou to Mark for delivering these and to RDCC for funding the printing costs.

Bach Owners who do not have a PO Box in the Village, you can pick up a new list from Jan Thomson's Art Studio, 10 Range View Road, St Arnaud. **Please note it is 1 free to each household**, if you would like a 2nd they are \$2 each.

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Monday Body Movers Community Hall Monday mornings 10am. Low-impact group exercise, with fun feel-good beats. BYO water, gold coin koha to the hall. Lou 0210414913

Wednesdays Fit It - High intensity group exercise with contemporary beats. Bring water, gold coin koha to the Community Hall, Wednesdays 6-7pm. Lou 0210414913 ☺

Mondays 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 for the hall.



Get in quick - limited supplies of dry firewood

Good amounts of semi-dry and green Bluegum & Pine, perfect for next winter

Banana boxes of kindling still available

Fresh delivery of compost and bark chips

Green Firewood ~ Bluegum and Pine

DIY Wood ~ Logs of Beech & Pine, Bundles of Douglas Fir
Fresh Birchfield Coal

Garden Goodies ~ Fish Grow Compost, Barley Straw, Pea Straw, Linseed Straw SOLD OUT, Bark Nuggets/Chips, Sawdust

Hire ~ Tractor, Tip Truck, Logging Truck & Trailer, Woodsplitters

LONGFORD FIREWOOD

Ph: 0800 566 436 or Hamish: 027 279 8224

Monday to Friday - 8am to 5pm (call, text or email first)

Weekends by appointment

E: campbellscreak@farmside.co.nz



529 Garage

529 Garage helps the cycling community to reduce bike theft. You can register bike details and serial numbers, in the event your bike is stolen you can notify the 529 Garage community by creating an alert. Then if the thief tries to sell the stolen bike, potential buyers can search 529 Garage to check if the bike is stolen. This will help to deter thieves as they find they have a much smaller market to sell to. Members of the 529 Garage community and Police can check bikes and if they are stolen, notify the owner and reunite them with their bike.

Bike registration is free and a 529 Shield sticker is an optional, tamper-resistant, weather-resistant decal that has a unique, seven-character ID code. It adds an extra identifier and layer of protection for your bike. The 529 Shield sticker can be purchased from all good bike stores, we recommend you put one on your bike in a visible location. Always report bike thefts to Police, if the theft is happening now call 111 otherwise call 105 or go online to [105.police.govt.nz](https://www.105.police.govt.nz).

[Bicycle registration for the life of your bike | 529 Garage \(project529.com\)](https://www.project529.com)
[105 Police Non-Emergency | New Zealand Police](https://www.105.police.govt.nz)

Thank you for your support!



Hello St Arnaud,

Welcome to our 2022/23 season round up. We had a pretty good season here at the water taxi. We are pretty much back to 2019 levels again though still have a little hangover from the pandemic, which means that we are in this strange juxtaposition where we hit our target but compared to 2019 still feeling slightly poorer. A lot of that has to do with the fact that for three years I didn't spend any money on the business and now we are playing catch up!

In the last three weeks we got the Korimako (the little water taxi) reupholstered and a new survey for her. So hopefully all good for the next few years.

The Mountaineer (the big water taxi) has just had a new engine fitted. It's a 200hp V6 Suzuki. We are swinging a bigger propeller compared to the old engine and our fuel savings are outstanding. Both the Water Taxis are now powered by Suzuki's as they offer the best bang for buck! Now for winter! Just a reminder that the water taxi runs on ad-hoc basis over the winter months so please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

With the ice skating... Hopefully we will get them going for July school holidays (ice permitting) So keep your eyes peeled for the 53 year old Zephyr caravan parked outside the general store. This will probably be my last year doing the skate hire, as there is other things I would like to do in winter. So if anyone wants to take over the ice skates for next winter? Just let me know.

Lastly a big thankyou to all my passengers, and also all the locals and Bach owners for their support over the season. Looking back in hindsight it went pretty smoothly. I would also like to thank my helpers over summer, Alex C, Fraser, Alex H, Charlie, Sam and Max. Total legends boys! Total legends, also Shepherd who helps me with the website, as most of you locals are aware of my dislike and distrust in anything too techie!

Have a fantastic winter and kind regards
Hamish (Or Ham Dog if you're young or young at heart)