

This newsletter is produced fortnightly 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 25 January 2025

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



Coming up

**Thursdays 10am - 12pm
Playgroup.** Community Hall.
Ph Kirsten 0220445829. Gold coin donation.

Photos: Tui, D. Price. Rotoiti eels, D. Bauer. Mt daisy *Celmisia semicordata*, D. Price.

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

Happy New Year everyone

Thanks to all the keen photographers last year for sending along their best shots. Most recent contribution is this picture of Mt Travers and Mt Cupola by Santosh. The hills beckon!





Weed of the Month

Monkey musk (*Erythranthe guttata*)

A small (<60cm tall) wet areas plant with pretty yellow flowers, this weed has significant potential to out-compete native plants in wetlands and riparian vegetation. It is unfortunately becoming increasingly common across New Zealand, especially along roadside drains. It is spread by seed or fragments of rhizome roots moved in water or soil or by machinery. Therefore, to help reduce its spread, consider where any purchased soil comes from, and clean machinery before moving it to a new areas.

There has been monkey musk in the Black Valley stream for a number of years. DOC is keen to keep it from getting to Lake Rotoiti and so control it in the Black Valley stream to minimise its spread. This control has unfortunately not eradicated it, but has reduced the number of plants and prevented it from spreading further.



(Photos from [Weedbusters NZ](#))



3 Bedroom Furnished Warm Sunny New Build House for Fixed term Rent

A lovely, warm, and inviting three-bedroom house with a study/office, two bathrooms, and a two-car internal garage is available for rent from early April to Late October.

It is located in the village less than 5 minutes' walk from the School, Shop, Alpine Lodge and Community Hall. Stunning views of the Travers Valley, St Arnaud Range and Mount Robert

Large car parking area with easy car and trailer access. Fireplace and heat pump for heating.

Enquiries to

Russell 0273529218 or Fiona 0274879091 or email ferens@xtra.co.nz



-Welding and Metal Fabrication

-CNC profile cutting

Email: proengnz@gmail.com

Phone Chris: 027 507 1234



Servicing and supporting Saint Arnaud, Howard, Gowan & surrounding area's weekly

"If its urgent, we'll be there!"

Plumbing - Gasfitting - Drainage - Blocked Drains - Leaky taps - Repairs - Spouting - Hot water - Shared travel

Phone, email or Facebook Messenger us to book your Job or Free Quote

Phone - 03 543 8090

email - info@tuffnell.co.nz

"We thank all our rural clients for their ongoing continued support"

Water Tank Cleaning

Aqua Tank Services are going to be in your area in Feburary 2025.

**Suction Clean - No need to empty the water from your tank !
Full Clean - Pump Out and Waterblast.**

Onboard waterblaster for any cleaning needs.

Prices dependant on Tank size .



Jake Moore

0272425112

**aquatankservices@yahoo.com
aquatankservices.net**



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 035211 110

Rotoiti Hub

Sundays 10am

Local spirit-led Christian worship, equipping and encounter.

More details and enquiries:
Nigel/Sarah 0274413776
or Kay 027 3072820

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).

BE | GET | STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Monday and Wednesday 10am Casual exercise group. Community Hall. Gold coin koha. Julie 0272385597

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 5pm - kids & beginners
Thursdays 5pm – General Class
Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation



GENERAL CONTRACTING

Putting off those odd jobs around the house or bach?
Have you cleaned your gutters or cleared your section ready for fire season?

Brush cutting || Section clearing ||| Tree trimming
Gutter cleaning/repair ||| Low flammability tree planting
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Free Quotes

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Wasp control in the Nelson Lakes district

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is planning to use targeted wasp baiting methods to reduce wasps on public conservation land in the Nelson Lakes district in January /February 2023.

Why should we control wasps?

Vespid wasps/wāpi (Figure 1) are now one of the most damaging insect pests in New Zealand's natural areas and their numbers seem to be increasing. Introduced wasps threaten our native birds - particularly in honeydew beech forests where they kill chicks as they emerge from their eggs and take honeydew, which is a valuable energy source for birds such as kākā, tūi, and korimako (bellbird).

High densities of wasps exert intense predation pressure on native invertebrates, in particular native caterpillars and orb web spiders. Wasps could contribute to the decline of threatened insect species and affect the ecosystem function through removal of insect pollinators and prey sources for other species.

Wasps attack honeybees, raid their hives and rob their honey. Other effects include lost honey production, the cost of replacement bees and higher pollination costs for horticulture.

Wasps pose a significant threat to human health - over 1300 people each year seek medical treatment for wasp stings and many wasp stings are unreported.



Figure 1: Common wasp, *Vespula vulgaris*

Why is DOC doing this work?

A key role for DOC is to conserve New Zealand's natural ecosystems to ensure they are healthy, functioning and provide a safe place for public recreation.



How will DOC control wasps?

The Department will use a toxic wasp baiting method which exploits the social structure of a wasp colony. Vespex is a protein (chicken meat) bait, containing the insecticide fipronil which is placed in bait stations. The protein bait ensures that it is targeting wasps and will not attract bees but is only effective at times of the year when wasps are feeding on protein.

Bait stations are yellow or orange (Figure 2) and are placed 1.5 metres above the ground to avoid interactions with non-target species, such as weka. Worker wasps collect the bait from stations and return with it to their nest. They feed it to the queen and the developing larvae, therefore poisoning the entire colony within a short time. The bait stations are filled once during the summer and all remaining bait is removed after three to seven days.

This method has been trialled under strict conditions in Nelson Lakes National Park and proven to reduce wasp populations and cause little adverse effects to other species.



Figure 2: Bait stations containing Vespex wasp bait

Timeframe

To maximise the benefit to conservation, the bait will be applied when the wasps are known to be feeding on protein and the weather is suitable – fine and preferably sunny to ensure wasps are active. Bait will

be applied by DOC between mid-January to the end of February 2024.

What areas will be targeted?

The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project (RNRP) Mainland Island covers approximately 5000 ha of public conservation land on the western slopes of the St Arnaud Range in Nelson Lakes National Park and in Big Bush Conservation Area. Wasp control will be carried out over approximately 1600 ha of the RNRP for biodiversity protection purposes.

In addition, wasp control will be undertaken in the St Arnaud village and at key recreation sites and popular tramping tracks in Nelson Lakes National Park and around Murchison for public safety purposes.

See attached maps for the areas to be treated in this operation.

What safety measures are there?

DOC will be working closely with the manufacturer of the toxic bait to ensure that the control operation is managed rigorously, applying the best practice and procedures developed at Nelson Lakes National Park. This includes the practice of removing the bait that the wasps have not eaten, using a monitoring programme to ensure bait is applied at the correct time and the overall success of the wasp control.

If you have any questions or require further information about the operation, please contact:

Erin Drummond
Senior Ranger, Biodiversity
Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
erdrummond@doc.govt.nz
03 521 1806



Great work from our local volunteer fire brigade in 2024.