

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 4 March 2022

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



Lake Rotoiti School News

The first few weeks of the school term have already flown by and the children have settled into their routines nicely.

The last couple of days almost made us forget about all the rain and wind we had! Our pool visits weren't as frequent as we would have wanted, but we still got a few swimming lessons and some water fun into our days. Let's hope the weather will stay nice and warm so we can make use of the pool for many more days / weeks.

On Wednesday our school was lucky to take a trip to West Bay and watch a real Air Force helicopter take off! Some of our smaller students had to hold on as the ten ton machine took off, they nearly got blown away. Our junior classroom took this opportunity to get some exciting writing done about it.

We have started a whole school programme in music, PE, and German. This will get the junior and senior children a chance to learn together as one group.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the students, we would like to thank Aimee Thomas for her sterling service as Board Chair. With the departure of Charlie to Marlborough Boys' she has resigned from her position on the board leaving a vacancy. The Board proposes selecting a new member who will see us through to the elections in November.

We also welcome Frith Dollimore and Simon Thomas who were selected because of the resignations of Alistair Nicholls and Megan Jordan early in Term 4. See next page for story, photo and board vacancy.

Coming up

Wed 23 Feb RDCC Meeting - Rotoiti Community Hall. See article for proposed time.

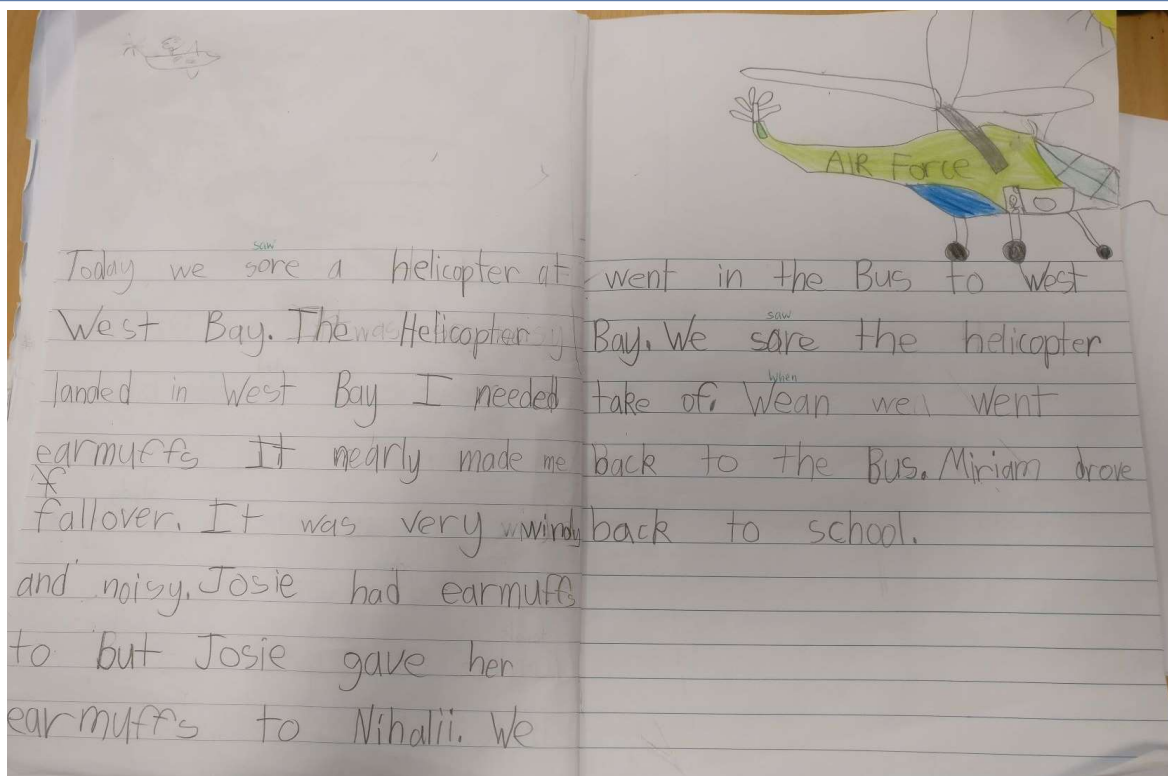
Sat 12 & Sun 13 March
Power Boats – 2022 NZGP Championship Series
Round 5 at Lake Rotoiti
www.nzpha.com

Sat 23 April
Loop the Lake race
www.nelsonevents.co.nz/loopthelake or contact Abbe West 021 2814560

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

Photos: Wakas on Lake Rotoiti and Canyoning Aotearoa trip to Hidden Falls NLNP – S Field and Canyoning Aotearoa

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



Lake Rotoiti School Board Casual vacancy for a parent representative

One casual vacancy is available on the school board for an elected parent representative.

The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held. Request for a by-election to be sent to:

Paul Dulieu
Lake Rotoiti School Board
office@lakerotoiti.school.nz

by Friday 11 March



Wasp baiting

Wasp baiting in Nelson Lakes had been planned to go ahead earlier in February but due to the rain and cold weather this was delayed. Some baits have been placed and the remaining will be completed in the next week or the week after.

Travers River swing bridge maintenance

The swing bridge across the Travers River will be closed with no public access while the work is in progress. The replacement of the top cable and side mesh work will be undertaken between 14 – 21 March. If trampers are wishing to go up the Travers Valley (John Tait Hut, Upper Travers Hut, Hopeless Hut, Cupola Hut or the cascade track to Angelus Hut) then you will need to access the track from Mt Robert Road via Lakeside Track past Coldwater Hut. The alternative is crossing the Travers River from Lakehead Hut to the western side of the valley.

Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre

Open 8am – 4.30pm in Summer and 9am – 4pm during the winter months. We open every day except for Christmas Day.

All visitors must either scan or sign in and wear a mask (mandatory). A Vaccine Pass is required for entry. If you are not vaccinated, you can still contact us by phone 03 521 1806 or email nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz.



Pop up COVID booster site. **Friday 25 February from 10am to 2.30pm** outside the Rotoiti Community Hall, Main Road, St Arnaud.

Playgroup

Pre-schoolers play group on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12pm @ Rotoiti Community Hall (\$2 donation for hall use). With the support of St Arnaud Rural Women we invite parents of young children to come and enjoy a get together over a cup of tea/coffee. For information phone Frith 027 753 4880.

Road resealing

The Tasman Alliance (TDC and Downers) will start resealing streets around the village from Thursday 17 February. This is weather dependant and could be affected by other preceding weather events. Residents will be advised by letter prior to work starting. Roads include: Baxter, Borlase, Hill, Bridge, Lake, Rotoiti, Summit and View.

Fire Brigade Award

Congratulations to the Lake Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Brigade on your award presented at the Celebrating Success Awards 2021.

Robbie Thomson and Wattie Mortimer (pictured below) received the award in December on behalf of the brigade as a well deserved acknowledgement for the massive mahi/work the brigade volunteers have done to help make their community safe.



Community Council Meeting

Rotoiti District Community Council (RDCC) meeting **Wednesday 23 February - at 7.15pm** Rotoiti Community Hall. **NOTE:** The next meeting is subject to COVID developments and may be held by Zoom. If so, the time will be 6.30pm. A decision will be made by the weekend. If you have any items for the agenda, please contact Brian Erasmus, Secretary rotoiticommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Waka ama Event

St Arnaud and Lake Rotoiti turned on its charms for the Tuna e Hoe Ana (TEHA) waka ama event organised by Maitahi Outrigger Canoe Club from Nelson. With last minute changes to the Covid Protection Framework rules and a weather bomb threatening to blow through, there were some nervous days leading up to our arrival on the foreshore but we were given reason for optimism that all would be well, on the weather front at least, when I called Kay from Rotoiti Community Hall on Thursday and she told me she had just hung her washing out!



With further reports coming in from waka paddlers who had arrived in St Arnaud early, particularly the twelve paddlers from Marae Nui in Napier who had turned the event into a mini-break in the mountains, we set off from Nelson in optimistic mood early on Friday morning to begin setting up for the races.

The foreshore looked very different to our normal 'light touch' set up, as we had to use nearly 200 traffic cones (thank you Fulton Hogan and Sport Tasman) to mark out separate areas for each of the 12 clubs racing at TEHA. Considering the friendly, communal nature of waka ama it was a big cultural change to wear masks and stick to our own turf for the day but that was the price we had to pay for holding the event. The slightly flooded foreshore area saw us retreating towards the treeline a bit but other than that it was business as normal.

On Friday afternoon we held the singles races without a drop of rain and in warm temperatures. The lake was glassy and not a breath of wind, so in some ways it was easier conditions than the hot, sunny weather we have enjoyed in recent years. There was

some great racing from the more experienced paddlers but for me the highlight was watching a handful of novice paddlers coming off the water with huge smiles, having done their first race in single or double waka. One pair in particular had been consumed with nerves before the start but were like kids on Christmas morning at the end of the race!

We finished slightly ahead of schedule at 6.45pm and had some nervous discussions about leaving our tents up overnight in case the wind picked up or the waters rose but when we turned up at 6am on Saturday the waters had fallen and there was not a breath of wind. Apart from some drizzle during the day our luck held with the weather.

Now it was time for the big W6 canoes to swing into action, with each canoe holding six paddlers. Our biggest logistical challenge was marking out separate 'parking bays' for each canoe on the foreshore to keep the clubs in their separate bubbles but the steerers and crews managed that 'valet parking' brilliantly throughout the day.

The women's racing was first with a sprint dash across the lake front, a 7.5km loop of the lake with 7 exciting turns and then a 5km run with 4 turns. That was the format for most of the other races. The first turn is always exciting with crews straining every sinew to get there first and have right of way. That privilege isn't always recognised in the heat of racing and collisions are not uncommon but perhaps everyone was feeling so happy to be out on the water that we didn't have a single incident throughout the day.



The men's race came next with lots of South Island friendly rivalries being enjoyed, though there was also the presence of some strong teams from Kokiri Marae from Lower Hutt. The usual post-race hugging and joking was replaced by waving from canoes.

By midday we were on schedule and had reached the highlight of the day, the Rangatahi and Novice races.

The two Junior 16 crews, a girls team from Wakatipu and a mixed crew from Waikawa, were neck and neck for much of the 5km race. Both were paddling beautifully which is a credit to their coaches and the steerers took great lines around the turns. Their enthusiasm and excitement was infectious and despite the rain starting to fall with a bit more intent, they were already talking about next year before they had put on dry clothes. That enthusiasm was matched by the four novice crews many of whom had come to waka paddling later in life. Smiling faces all round at the end of their 7.5km.



Finally, the mixed race with the men and women paddlers from the clubs. Nearly all had raced earlier and their enthusiasm for another three races was astonishing, with a couple of finishes decided by just a few metres.

As the crews got dried and began de-rigging and loading their canoes, the volunteers packed away all the cones, the safety boats got out of the lake and attention turned to the post race meal.

This was a different affair to our communal buffet, with the diners split by clubs into three separate areas of fewer than 100 people. Meals arrived in boxes with the prize giving ceremonies done on the foreshore it was a lot shorter than usual. But the kai was excellent and the whole thing still enjoyable.



Many crews stayed overnight in St Arnaud, some before a slightly bumpy journey back North across the Cook Strait. Some beers were enjoyed at the Alpine Lodge and in numerous bach's around the village.

Particular acknowledgement to Sjaan Field at DOC, Dan Cairney the Tasman Harbourmaster, Deb and Kay at Rotoiti Community Hall, Leighton and his great staff at Alpine Lodge and to St Arnaud in general for being great hosts in difficult conditions. Hope to see you next year!

Tony Davies, Race Director – Tuna e Hoe Ana Maitahi Outrigger Canoe Club

New appointment for Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance

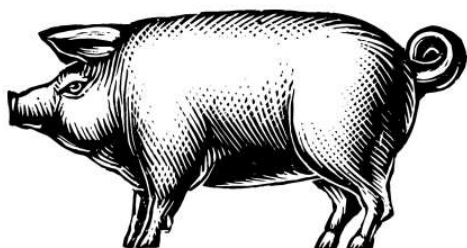
The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance has appointed Debs Martin QSM as its new programme manager employed through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Debs will be using her extensive conservation experience to help the Alliance drive positive change for people and nature across Te Taihū and Buller. Debs previously held the role of Forest and Bird's regional manager for the Top of the South Island and was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2019 for her conservation efforts.

Working with local communities to tackle conservation issues facing the Top of the South is paramount to Debs. "Te Taihū and Buller/Kawaitiri are such complex landscapes with a multitude of both communities of people and ecosystems. I'm really excited to be a part of the breadth of knowledge, experience and diversity to help drive solutions to some of the most challenging conservation issues this region faces."

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao is an Alliance formed by Iwi and Councils from Te Taihū down to the northern West Coast of Te Tai Poutini region and the Department of Conservation, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The focus of the Alliance work is on landscape-scale conservation projects that also have social, economic, and cultural benefits.

Tophouse Historic Inn & The Prickly Vine present:

'A Porky Feast'



Date: 26 February 2022

Price: \$50 adults, \$25 kids under 12 years

Time: Antipasto served from 5pm, main course from 6.30pm

Place: Tophouse Historic Inn, 68 Tophouse Road, St Arnaud

Limited spaces, please book:

05 521 1269 (Helen) or 027 558 4644 (Sue)

Email: info@thepricklyvine.co.nz or info@tophouse.kiwi

Or find us all on facebook!

A good electrician.



Shane Steel

Qualified industrial, commercial & domestic electrician

(e) shane@agoodelectrician.co.nz

(m) 0273202335

Servicing Saint Arnauds and greater Tasman district

CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday

Lake Rotoiti Chapel, 10.30AM,
Rotoiti Street, St Arnaud

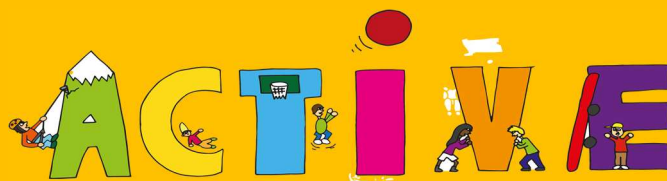
- Services are run by locals and non-denominational.
- Everyone welcome

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.

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Covid Rules to be followed at the Community Hall

"Circuit Breakers" exercise group

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 am

Community Hall. All welcome, gold coin donation
Gael 027 280 4078

Pilates

Community Hall on Thursdays at 5pm

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

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