

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 15 January 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



Lake Rotoiti School News

All done!

School finished on Wednesday 16 December. Alison and I will be on a course in Nelson on Tuesday 2 February and the children will be back on **Wednesday 3 February**.

I would like to extend my thanks to Paul Hart, Russell Ferens, Malcolm McConochie and the team for demolishing the old PE and caretaker's shed. Evidently it was a filthy, messy job. There are a number of trees that are being felled in the area prior to a new structure going up. Kea Kai will be splitting the rings and selling the firewood shortly as a fundraiser.

I would also like to thank the team who are looking after the pool during the school holiday period. Without them we could not make the pool available.

We have finished the year with a bang!

The Senior students went for a 3-day tramp up to John Tait Hut and got the full range of NZ weather. We learnt why we carry a lot of what seems unnecessary clothing for tramping.

Photos and story – continue on the next page

Coming up

Christmas Carols

Thursday 24 December
7:30 pm, Community Hall
Supper to follow.

Rural Women's Book Sale / Trash'n'Treasure

Saturday 2 January 2021
9:00 am – 1:00pm
Community Hall (see ad inside)

Wine Tasting - Kea Kai Fundraiser (Lk Rotoiti School)

Tuesday 12 January 2021
7:00pm, Alpine Lodge

Photo credits: Fungi – Rachel
Lamborn; falcon - Lynda
Pogson

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



While the Seniors were away the Junior children spent some time on an adventure with the Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Lodge. Milo by the lake and huts in the forest were highlights.

Over the school holiday break, we hope that a new shed will be built and some extensions to the office area will take place.

On behalf of Alison and the staff, I would like to thank everyone who has made this year a success. Have a happy and safe Christmas/New Year. We are looking forward to 2021.

Mike.



Rescue helicopter



Harm done to local Black billed gulls / tarāpuka

On Sunday 20th December, DOC staff were notified by a member of the public that some of the tarāpuka/black billed gulls on the lake front were looking unwell. Rangers collected nine gulls (a mix of adults and newly fledged juveniles), some of which could no longer stand and most had trouble holding their heads up. The gulls were put in boxes, kept warm in a quiet room and given water over a number of hours to help flush out anything in their system. We checked them every couple of hours and three had recovered enough on Sunday night to release them back to the lake before sunset. By Monday morning the rest of the birds were well enough to be released again.

We are not sure what caused the gulls to become unwell. They may have eaten some poison from somewhere or they may have been feed something that didn't agree with them. But we would like to use this as a reminder: Please do not feed the birds. Human food can be harmful and potentially toxic to wild animals.



We also learnt about the importance of looking after your feet after an injury forced us to call for a helicopter evacuation for what, at school, would be a minor injury.

Thanks to our fantastic group of parents and children that made this tramp a success. Thanks also to Russell for loaning billies and burners. This was probably one of the most enjoyable outdoor activities I have ever been on.

Black billed gulls are endemic to New Zealand. They are Nationally Critical and the most threatened gull in the world. They bred on inland braided rivers and vulnerable to predation from introduced mammals, especially cats and stoats. Changes to the river due to weed encroachment or other impacts such as climate change, increase flooding the probability that nesting attempts will fail. DOC became aware of a large colony of 400 black billed gulls breeding in the Howard Valley. This was likely 70% of the population of the gulls in the northern South Island breeding on one small-braided river. This colony has now finished breeding and newly fledged black billed gulls have started arriving at Lake Rotoiti over the last week.

These gulls are a special visitor, and we are lucky to have so many with us at the lake.



Follow-up – vehicle damage at the lakefront

On 25 October 2020, young people were reported driving a vehicle in a dangerous manner on the grass at Kerr Bay. They were doing slides and ‘do-nuts’. Not only did the grass surface get damaged, but there were visitors present who could have been severely injured.

A quick-thinking local reported the vehicle description and registration number to staff, who promptly followed up with the Police.

Police visited the young man to get an explanation of his dangerous actions. The young man won’t be prosecuted, but he was required to write a letter taking responsibility for his actions and to apologise to DOC and the community.

His reflective letter included, *“I’d also like to apologize to the DOC staff and the community of Saint Arnaud for any ill will my actions might have provoked on that day. Lake Rotoiti is a beautiful scenic sight to see, it is also peaceful for the most part when there isn’t a young man letting out his*

frustrations in an unhealthy outlet and should stay that way. I am sorry.”

So, a good result. Thank you to the people reporting the activity and the support from the NZ Police.

DOC has increased enforcement powers – Infringement Notices

DOC can now issue infringement notices to people breaking rules on conservation land, in marine reserves and in relation to protected species.

Infringement notices with an associated fine are a new tool under the Conservation (Infringement Systems) Act 2018, along with the existing tools of prosecution and warning letters. Offences can include:

- taking dogs into controlled areas such as national parks
- accidentally killing a common native bird
- using drones where prohibited
- unauthorised commercial guiding
- dumping of rubbish or green waste
- removing plants or other materials, and
- camping in prohibited areas.

The laws in place protect New Zealand’s precious places, flora and fauna – not just to help secure the future of our unique ecosystems, but to ensure New Zealanders now and in the future can enjoy them.

Previously the law only allowed DOC to issue a warning or prosecute. Fines send a stronger message than a warning, reinforcing that illegal take, use or damage is unacceptable.

The enforcement system for managing infringement notices will allow DOC to build up a picture of which rules are being broken where, identify repeat offenders, and focus our enforcement effort in areas where it’s most needed.

Fines will not be issued on the spot. Warranted Officers (WO) will investigate alleged offences and, if an infringement notice is appropriate, issue the notice afterward.

Infringement notices can deal with many breaches of the rules that are not serious enough for prosecution. Infringements fines range from \$200 to \$800, depending on the offence. DOC’s approach is to look at the seriousness and circumstances of the offending in a specific case, to guide which enforcement tool is

DOC staff are also happy to take information from the public (see the article above for an example) if they see activity that could be illegal. As a minimum, we need the date, time and place of the alleged activity. Additional information (description of people, registration numbers, description of vehicles) enables WOs to investigate the complaint further. Please – never put yourself into a dangerous situation to obtain information.

You can contact the Warranted Officers via the Visitor Centre (03 521 1806).

Five essential steps for staying safe in the outdoors so you can have a great trip.

- Learn about the route and make sure you have the skills for it.

- It can change fast. Check the forecast and change your plans if needed.

- Prepare for bad weather and an unexpected night out.

- Telling a trusted person your trip details and taking a distress beacon can save your life.

- Eat, drink and rest, stick with your group and make decisions together.

Boat Safety Code

<https://www.adventuresmart.nz/the-boating-safety-code/>

Water Safety Code

<https://www.adventuresmart.nz/the-water-safety-code/>

Mountain Safety Council - Land Safety Code

<https://mountainsafety.org.nz/land-safety-code>

Mountain Safety Council New Zealand – Watch

<https://mountainsafety.org.nz/videos/>

Series of videos demonstrating outdoor safety and safety/awareness in specific locations (including Robert Ridge, Travers Saddle and Waiau Pass).

The Visitor Centre will be open every day (except Christmas Day) between 8:00am and 4:30 pm.

Phone 03 521 1806

Email: nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz

Two duty rangers will be on site every day between 24 December and 6 January (when normal work duties resume), as well as the friendly VC team.

Remember – you will need bookings if you intend to stay at either of these huts within the National Park. Bookings are now required all year round. Bookings can be made via the DOC website [Bookings: Parks and recreation \(doc.govt.nz\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz) or from the Visitor Centre (booking fees apply).

Green Break News

Give Yourself a Break!

Summer is here in patches, but we still don't have our full annual rainfall and are suffering the cumulative effects of three dry summers. Pray for a damp summer!

Good progress on the Greenbreak. We are getting better at it and have progressed one third of the full length. We need more help, so the work doesn't just rest on a few.

Fire Summit

In November we had a “Fire Summit” to discuss St Arnaud’s vulnerability to fire and what short- and long-term methods we could use to reduce this risk.

Attending were:

- Roy Grose - DOC Director Operations, Northern South Island,
- Ian Reade - Principal Rural Fire Officer
- John Wotherspoon - DOC Nelson lakes Operations Manager
- Hugh Wallace - Fire Scientist at SCION.
- Wattie, Brian, Malcom, Russell and Robbie – St Arnaud Fire Brigade.

We discussed the evacuation plan, and toured West Bay, Teetotal Camp, the Greenbreak and Ward St discussing the issues and possible solutions. Hugh Wallace’s knowledge as a fire scientist along with his practical experience as a Fire Crew Leader in Canada combined to give practical ideas with scientific backing. Roy also had some good ideas to reduce risk.

Briefly, the Greenbreak can be effective in slowing a fire. The wider the better.

Disturb the forest floor as little as possible, to stop too much secondary weed growth (another hazard!). Have anchor points for both ends of breaks ending at a road, river, lake or clearly defensible space. Remove the mulch to another part of the Park, so it’s not available fuel.

We looked at the village from the top of Ward St, on the old, cleared firebreak, and couldn’t see any buildings! They are all hidden by vegetation.

Ninety-nine percent of fires result from human activity. We are the problem and must also be the solution. The problem is huge and needs to be tackled by us all. If we are to get buy in from the administrators of public land, TDC, DOC, and LTSA, we need to show we are seriously addressing the problem. The problem is in your yard!

Here is a checklist of actions to take to reduce the fire risk around your property:

- Clear any dead vegetation or trees, piles of leaves or dead grass.
- Keep grass short, and watered if possible.
- Store firewood in a closed shed not in exposed piles and definitely not under the deck or against the house.

- Keep roof gutters clear of debris.
- Gravel or pave next to the house.
- Clear burnables from under the house, back to bare earth.
- Maintain a 4 metre-wide access to your property for fire engines.
- If you are not sure of the safety of your power wires, check with your lines company.
- Plan to change your vegetation type in stages, moving away from kanuka and manuka.

Fire risk-reduction is a process that will take years, so start now!

The best outcome of all this work is that nothing will happen. The alternative would be a scene like Ohau. Not just your property gone, but the history; years of conservation work and the effort you have put into your place.

Green waste can be taken to Lake Station, by arrangement with Malcom or Ingrid McConochie. Or it can be mulched by arrangement with Brian or Robbie.

Contacts

Robbie Thomson 03 521 1999 or 021 295 0305
robbiethomson55@gmail.com
Brian Erasmus 027 384 4464
blerasmus@hotmail.com

Lou's Hair, Beauty & Massage

Thursday 14 January
Community Hall

Phone for an appointment

Lou 027 252 2039
EFTPOS available



Vacancy - Dairy farm worker

Nicholls' Farm is looking for someone to work in the dairy farm. Milking cows and/or general farm jobs.

The person needs a willingness to work and the ability to self-manage.

Previous experience not necessary.

Open to discussing hours, days, etc.

Contact
Alastair on 03 521 1110 or
021 266 077



Mountain Market

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Our First Mountain Market is on
SUNDAY JANUARY 3rd
From 9:00am

Book your stall with Alexandra
Adults - \$10 / Kids - free
info@alpinelodge.co.nz

See you there!



ALPINE LODGE

NELSON LAKES NATIONAL PARK
ST ARNAUD - NEW ZEALAND

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Thursday 24 December
7:30pm. Community Hall.**

Supper to follow.

Everyone welcome.



Tophouse Historical Inn

- **Christmas Eve Dinner – 24 December**
- **New Year's Eve Dinner- 31 December**

Our Chef Sebastian is going all out for these 3 course dinners at \$50/head.

Bookings only.

Limited to 12 people.

Merry Christmas everyone!

***Miles, Helen, Sebastian &
Angelina***

03 521 1269 or 021 108 9266



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COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Thursday 24 December
7:30pm. Community Hall.**

Supper to follow.

Everyone welcome.

A festive Christmas card for the Friends of Rotoiti. At the top, a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, yellow, green, blue) is draped across the width. Below the lights, the text "Friends of Rotoiti" is written in a cursive font, followed by "Ho Ho Ho Ho" in red. To the right is a circular logo featuring a silhouette of a kiwi bird and the text "FRIENDS OF ROTOTITI". Below this, it says "From Nelson Lakes National Park." and "A huge thank you to all." in green. Further down, it lists "ALL ... Volunteers and supporters. Workers and DOC. All the wonderful conservationists." in red. At the bottom, it says "And a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" in red and green. The bottom of the card features a silhouette of a sleigh pulled by reindeer over a mountain range.

Friends of Rotoiti
Ho Ho Ho Ho

From Nelson Lakes
National Park.
A huge thank you to all.

ALL ...
Volunteers and supporters.
Workers and DOC.
All the wonderful conservationists.

**And a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**



Rural Women St Arnaud

Annual Book Sale and Trash'n'Treasure

Saturday 2 January 2021

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Community Hall**

If you have any books or 'treasures' to donate, please contact:

- *Marg Anderson* 03 521 1864 or 027 417 2690 to arrange drop off of books
- *Nicky Shaw* 03 521 1106 for Trash'n'Treasure

Funds go to community projects.

There will be some amazing treasures to be found



Lake Rotoiti Photography Exhibition

A big shout out to everyone for getting involved with the Lake Rotoiti Photography Competition and Twilight Christmas Art and Craft Market!

Over 150 people attended the event, and everyone had a wonderful night catching up with old and new friends whilst viewing the 172 amazing photographs on display.

Craig Potton and Niki Morrell presented nine winner prizes including the People's Choice Award. Congratulations to all the winners including Lara Vance who won the People's Choice and Nature Award for her photo titled 'January at the Lake', featuring Kerr Bay Jetty (pictured).

Thanks to the generous sponsors who donated the winning prizes, raffles, silent auctions and lucky door prize. This helped Rural Women St Arnaud raise \$1570.84. Funds will be split between Nelson Tasman Hospice and Friends of Rotoiti and presented to them in the new year.

Remaining photos can be collected from the Nelson Lakes visitor centre from Tuesday 22 December between 8am - 12pm or 1 - 4.30pm.

The winning adult Macro | People | Nature and People's Choice photographs will be on display at the St Arnaud Alpine Lodge and the Lake Rotoiti Community Hall in 2021.

The event was very popular and Rural Women St Arnaud will consider hosting it again next year.

Bonnie Richards -

Daisy Day

Nature

Oliver Thomas – *Tui*

Charlie Thomas - *Katie*

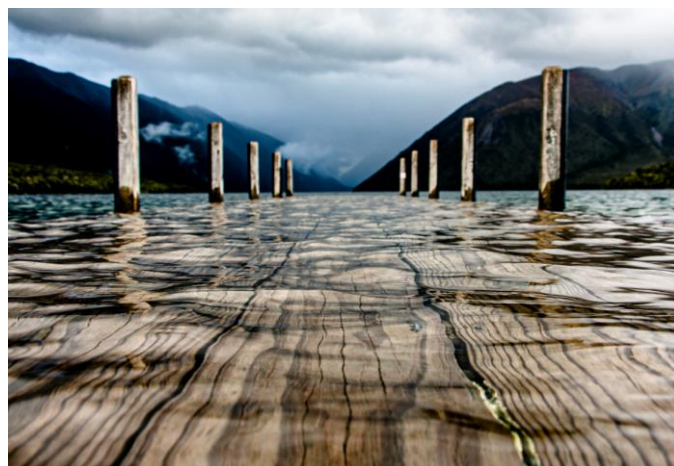
in the Roots

Nature

Rebecca Jordan -
Crashing Waves



Ina Biertuempfel and Jessie Dulieu – mother and daughter winners.



Photograph winner by Lara Vance titled 'January at the Lake'



Viewing the adult display

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Lara Vance - *January at the Lake*

ADULT

People

Linda Erasmus - *Wipe Out*

Highly commended

Ina Biertuempfel -
Lake Fairy

JUNIOR

Macro

Jessie Dulieu - *Flowers in the Wind*

People

ADULT

Macro

Sandra Wotherspoon -
Dead Wood

Nature

Lara Vance - *January at the Lake*

SENIOR

Macro

Jasmine Mortimer -
Flame

People

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Contact Lisa on 021 202 4034

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Church Notices

Sunday

Lake Rotoiti Chapel
as the funds go back into
community projects 10.30 am Rotoiti
Street, St Arnaud
Services are run by locals and non-
denominational.
Everyone very 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 information and
location.

Quail Eggs

My quails are still laying through the winter.



If you would like some cute eggs for your salad
or whatever you come up with, please let me
know.

\$5 for a dozen.

If you would like a jar of pickled quail eggs,
available in different flavours for \$ 7.

Did you know that quail eggs are supposed to
help with allergies?

Phone 021 420 766

Cheers, Ina

Mountain Market

Our First Mountain Market is on
SUNDAY JANUARY 3rd
From 9:00am

Book your stall with Alexandra
Adults - \$10 / Kids - free
info@alpinelodge.co.nz

See you there!



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their continued support"***



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BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

Badminton

Mondays 7pm

Community Hall

Gold coin donation to cover hall and shuttle cocks.

Ed and Nicky Shaw 521 1106

"Circuit Breakers" exercise group

Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10 am,

Community Hall

All welcome, gold coin donation

Gael 027 280 4078

Pilates

Mondays at 5.30pm and Thursdays at 10.00am.

Community Hall

Lisa 021 202 4034

Seido-Karate

Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 6 pm – General Class

Community Hall

Graeme 021 0859 4088. Gold coin donation

Alpine Yoga (all levels) & Massage

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Alpine Lodge

Ashton 022 525 7871

Craft Group

Thursdays, 1:00pm

Venue – to be advised.

Share or learn a new craft.

Jane McConochie 03 521 1864



Kia Ora Nelson Lakes community members,

Closed borders to international tourists means that I have been home and will be home here in the Nelson Lakes for quite a while. So I have decided to put my commercial driving license, vehicle and guiding experience to use and offer trips and transfers around the Nelson Lakes and the Top of the South.

In short it means I am able to take people to & from Mt Robert Carpark and other tracks. I have a DoC concession. I will also pick up and drop off at airports as well as do (day) trips around the regions for wine and artisan tours.

If anyone else in St Arnaud has a P class license and would like some casual work I would love to hear from you.

I am hoping for a busy summer and that the service will help out our lovely visitors to the Nelson Lakes National Park and of course locals. Lets make it viable for the future. Your help would be much appreciated!

More info on the spick spanking new website!

Cheers,

Jennifer

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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 - \$30 (b&w) or \$70 (colour). This is a contribution towards photocopying costs. 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

Supporting the Children of Lake Rotoiti School

WINE TASTING EVENING

Tuesday
Jan 12th, 7pm
Alpine Lodge

Only **\$25** Per Person

Includes Wine, Canapés, and Great Company

Tickets Available from Alpine Lodge or Wattie 0224928841

Tickets limited so get in early

Your Host, **Jeff Hart** will take you through a selection of top quality Wines from
Jackson Estate and Pask Wineries

Don't miss out on a great opportunity to purchase discounted quality wines
Also "Its for The Children" Charity Auction – **Bruce Batty**, Summit Real Estate



25% off
Jackson Estate
& Pask Wines

Online Sales available on the night

\$60+ Donation
to KEA
for every case sold

(part cases accumulated together so every bottle counts)

Money raised goes to cover costs not covered by the Ministry of Education; for such things as School Fees, Camp, and extra curricula activities such as skiing and swimming lessons. Kea's aim is that no child at the school shall be disadvantaged by having their family expected to pay for the opportunities and education that these activities provide. Your support is greatly appreciated

A BIG thanks to Jackson Estate and Pask Wines, Summit Real Estate, NBS, and the Alpine Lodge for supporting our cause



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the Real Estate Agents Act 2008



NBS

