

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 7th January 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.

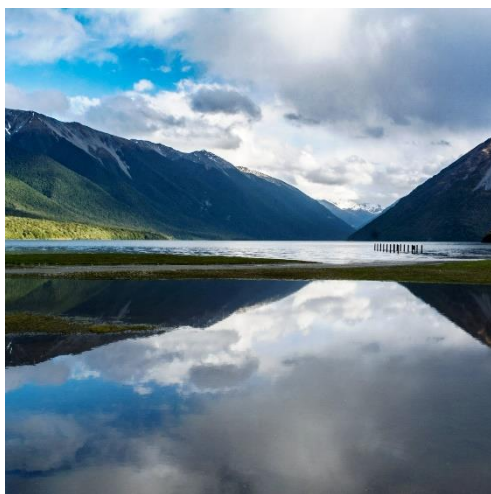
You can download a copy of
previous newsletters from
www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters



Coming up

2nd January 2022

**Rural Women Book Sale
and teas,** Community Hall
9am – 2pm. Covid
protection provisions apply.
Marg 03 5211864



Lake Rotoiti School News

The 2021 school year finished with a hiss and a roar.

The Senior class finished with a trip up the lake and walk from Whisky Falls to Coldwater and then some activities run by the Lake Rotoiti Outdoor Education Centre. We spent the night at school, sleeping marae style in the classroom and then had an epic water fight/capture the flag in the playground the next day. Students built forts, flags, and wore camouflage or swimming togs. Many thanks to Wattie and Linda from the Volunteer Fire Brigade who provided a strong arsenal of water cannon, Darrell and Dominique who provided pallets for forts, and Andrew and Megan who provided the magazines (1/2 water barrels).



**Photos: Kereru, R.
Thoms, Christmas at the
fire station – W. Mortimer**



The Juniors had their own water battle around the pool.

One of the advantages of being a small school means that we can have a prizegiving where all parents can attend and keep to the 50 people COVID threshold. Maybe next year we will be able to have older siblings, grandparents, uncles and aunts able to attend. Let's hope.

We farewelled our Year 8 students Anika Basalaj, Charlie Thomas, Caitlyn Mortimer, Cadeyrn Merrilees, Max Midgley, Rebecca Jordan and Shaun McCrostie. We wish them well at Garin, Waimea and Marlborough Boys' Colleges.

Next year we start with an estimated roll of 18 pupils. This has a major impact on staffing and on our finances. The Ministry of Education will only fund one teacher in 2022 and so the Board have resolved to employ a second teacher using school funds. In the long term this is not sustainable. We need a minimum of 26 students to maintain two Ministry funded teachers. If you know of any families in the area or who might be interested in moving to St Arnaud, please encourage them.

We have a new fundraising opportunity that Simon Thomas is heading. Have you any old lead acid car, truck or motorbike batteries? We are getting into recycling these. Watch for the flyer in your mail.

The swimming pool is open and we have a great team maintaining it over the holiday period. If you have a pool key, please do not share it around. You must be present when your key is being used.

School restarts on Wednesday February 2, 2022.

On behalf of the Board, the staff, and the students I would like to thank everyone who has had a hand in making 2021 a successful year. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nga mihi,
Mike.

2 January 2022

St Arnaud Rural Women Annual Book Sale and Devonshire tea/coffee

Community Hall 9 am to 2 pm

If you have any books to donate please phone Marg Anderson 0274 172 690 or 5211864 or drop off to 33 Kerr Bay Road St Arnaud - they will be gratefully received.

Due to current Covid regulations we are allowing only 50 people through the doors at a time in the main hall, **you must sign in + wear masks as it is mandatory.** There will be tea or coffee + scones @ \$5.00 served in the outside courtyard. Hall toilets will be cordoned off – please use the Public toilets below the Hall



Korimako Studio

Paintings by local artist Jan Thomson

10 Rangeview Rd, St. Arnaud

(follow the art studio signs from Borlase Ave at the north end of the village).

Original paintings, prints, giftcards, and Frank Light ceramics.

The studio is usually open 10am - 5pm and Jan welcomes visitors!

Eftpos available.

03 5211999 021 2155631

www.korimakostudio.com



Freshwater eel – Longfin eel / tuna

Did you know that New Zealand longfin eels can live over 100 years and breed only once at the end of their lives?

Many people have been feeding eels for a long time at the lakes, but it is now understood that we are doing more harm than good to these precious animals. In addition, we are seeing more eels hit by boat propellers by the jetty.

New Zealand longfin eels (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) are endemic to Aotearoa and are a rich part of the cultural and natural heritage of this land.

The life cycle of tuna is very complex, and during different life stages they rely on different habitats to live in and migrate through.

At the end of their life mature eels leave the familiarity of lakes and rivers to swim all the way up to the Pacific Ocean near Tonga, where they spawn en-masse in very deep water. The eel larvae then drift on currents back to New Zealand.

Longfin eels are classified **At Risk – Declining**. Threats include:

- pollution
- the building of dams
- loss of vegetation; and
- overfishing.

Coupled with their life cycle it is very difficult for tuna populations to increase without our help.

Lake Rotoiti tuna

The tuna in Lake Rotoiti are fully protected and are some of the biggest and oldest eels in the country. We have an important role to play in protecting this species for the future.



What can you do to help?

Visit the eels at Lake Rotoiti and learn about their amazing life cycle in the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre.

Tuna are great hunters and **do not need to be fed**. Human food is not good for the eels and may cause them harm. Feeding eels from the jetty encourages them to congregate where they can be hit by boat propellers. Dropping food like bread or processed meats in the lake is also not good for the water quality.

Please respect the eels by not feeding them





I am hoping to encourage visitors to visit the area by offering a day trip. A same day return from/ to Nelson (transport only with pick up at 08.00 /return 7.30pm). I need a min. of 4p to operate this service. People can spend the day doing what they like or add on a 5 hour tour whilst here. The tour is called The Hidden Gems of the Nelson Lakes

<https://www.tripsandtransfers.co.nz/nelson-lakes-day-trip>

If you are not already included in this tour but would like to be please feel free to contact me on 03-5394896. Jennifer Trips & Transfers Nelson Lakes & Beyond. www.tripsandtransfers.co.nz Merry Christmas. Mob 022-6154915 Tel. 03-5394896 Email. Kiaora@tripsandtransfers.co.nz



**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"***



Evacuation Siren and Santa

The Lake Rotoiti Fire Brigade got to transport Santa in their brand new fire truck around the streets of St. Arnaud and the DOC camps on Christmas Eve. Santa met lots of kids young and not so young, and the firemen helped out distributing 8kg of sweets.

It was also a chance to run the new village evacuation siren and check with residents and visitors if they had heard it across different parts of the village, and if they knew what it was. The siren is different in that the tone climbs to a high pitch and stays up. The firemen also handed out FENZ information packs on how to help protect your house from wildfires and having an escape plan if a fire does take hold and threatens to spread through the village. While the evacuation siren will be used, don't wait for it before evacuating. If the wind is blowing the wrong way you might not hear it and better to be safe than sorry. More information is at the end of this newsletter.



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.



Just in: *Fresh Pea Straw for your garden
*New Fish Grow Compost *Fresh Bark Chips

Buy next year's firewood soon!

Wanted to buy: Trees for firewood. Good price paid.

Dry & Green Firewood - Beech, Bluegum, Douglas Fir, Pine
DIY Wood - Logs of Beech & Pine, Bundles of Douglas Fir
Fresh Birchfield Coal

Garden Goodies - Flourish Bulk Compost, Barley Straw, Pea Straw, Linseed Straw (long-term weed suppression, birds don't remove it), Bark 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

WATER TANK CLEANING

John Ross

Ph: 0212 450 550



Wakefield based
Fully mobile
Discounts when you organise
with neighbours

The Alpine Lodge will
be **CLOSED** from **23 December to
1 pm 26 December 2021**. The
Alpine Lodge team wish everyone a
fantastic Christmas and a great New
Year.

The Little Black Alpine CABIN : organic natural health



VITAMINS
HEMP BODY OILS
HEMP CAPSULES
HERB TEAS
ORGANIC BABY
SNACKS & BARS
KOMBUCHA
ESSENTIAL OILS
AROMA CANDLES
ORGANIC NZ &
NATURAL
MEDICINE MAGS
BOOKS
BODY CARE
ORAL CARE
WONDERFUL
XMAS GIFTS

Private setting , not open to public : membership a must :
drop in during opening hours and sign up (it's free): ALL WELCOME

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St Arnaud Community Covid-19 Preparedness

Hello Everyone. Some of us in the village have been chatting about how best to prepare our community for the arrival of Covid which seems both inevitable and imminent.

The most important thing is that we are prepared personally to deal with our own household's health as well as being ready to help others who may need assistance.

The following information has been compiled so that you, your family and friends are well prepared. It offers guidance about the essential things you need to know and the items you need to have prepared if self-isolation at home is required. If you suspect that you, or someone in your household has been exposed to Covid, or have any Covid symptoms:

- Phone the Covid Healthline 0800 358 5453 anytime for advice about testing and isolation. (Healthline).
- Isolate except for receiving urgent medical care or taking a Covid test.
- Do not go to work or socialise.
- Stay as separate as possible from other household members.
- Do not delay if you need urgent medical help or are having breathing difficulties. Call 111 Are you prepared?
- Consider purchasing a reliable thermometer and pulse oximeter and know your normal readings.
- Keep a record of your symptoms, temperature, and pulse oximeter readings. This will assist Covid Healthline with giving you advice.
- Please remember and make use of the emergency contact tree which we set up during the first lockdown. Keep in contact with those on your branch.
- Please remember to be kind to others in our community and look after others who may need help, such as shopping for those isolating or unable to visit town due to health risks.



Julian McGaveston

Registered Electrician

**For all your domestic, commercial, and rural
electrical requirements**

M: (021) 566 645

E: julianmcgaveston@icloud.com

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



FIRE
EMERGENCY

NEW ZEALAND

Emergency Evacuation Plan

If you see fire or any emergency call 111 immediately

If the Lake Rotoiti – Saint Arnaud village needs to evacuate:



The fire siren may sound a second or third time at a continuous high pitch for three minutes – this differs from normal siren operation; and/or



You may receive an emergency alert message on your mobile phone; and/or



You may hear vehicle horns, siren or loud-hailer calls to evacuate

Follow all instructions in the emergency alert or from the emergency services. You may be told to evacuate west (towards Murchison), east (towards Blenheim) or assemble at Lake Rotoiti School, St Arnaud, RD2 Nelson.

Make a household evacuation plan and prepare with your family today:



Put together a grab-bag of essential items including medication, change of clothes, copies of family documents, photo ID and important phone numbers



Make sure everyone understands the evacuation signals and knows the routes to leave town



Agree a safe meeting place and how you will contact each other if you become separated



Include your pets in your plan

Do not delay. Leave straight away if ordered to evacuate

Refer to www.getready.govt.nz for more tips