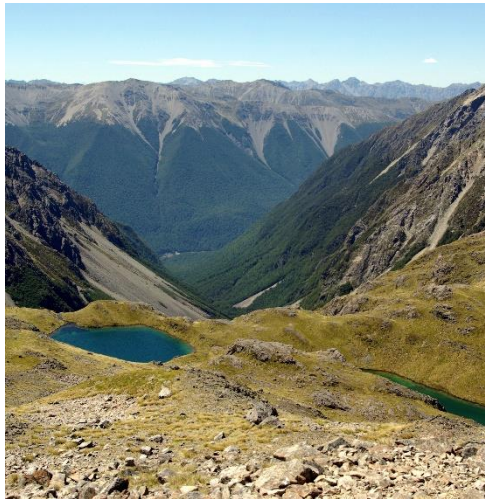


Deadline for next issue:
Friday 4th February 2022

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



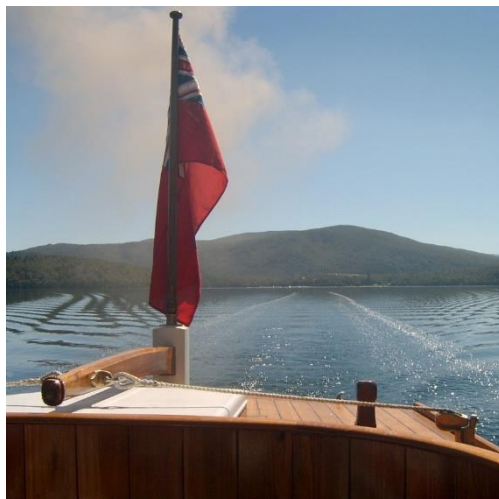
Upcoming roadworks

Drew Hayes of Downers has advised that from 31st of January there will be road works on the section of road from Hiwipango Road south towards Wai-iti Hill (Stock Road).

The work includes drainage, shape correction and new seal.

Work is estimated to take 10 weeks and traffic will be one lane, controlled by lights.

There are alternative routes to Nelson, and you may wish to take them.



Coming up

11th, 12th February: Waka Ama event



<https://maitahi-outrigging.org.nz/about/annual-regatta-at-lake-rotoiti/>

5th, 6th March, Classic Boats Show at Kerr Bay
<http://www.nzclassicboats.com/>

12th, 13th March Power boat racing - NZPBA national championship, Kerr Bay.
<https://nzpba.com/race-calendar/>

23rd April Loop the Lake trail running event
<https://www.nelsonevents.co.nz/loop-the-lake/>

Photos: Hukere Valley, DOC. Manuka. Falcon, L. Pogson. Classic boat, R.S. Hamlett

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



What does Covid Red look like for us?

Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre is open 8am – 4.30pm during the summer period. We are open under the Covid Red level.

With the requirement of Vaccine Pass to book any DOC campground or stay in any DOC hut, customers are now required to be fully vaccinated to enter DOC Visitor Centres. Your vaccine pass will be required to enter the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre. DOC Rangers at the counter will ask to see your pass when you require any information/bookings. Masks are required to be worn.

If you are not vaccinated and require assistance or information, please feel free to contact the team during opening hours on 03 5211806 or email nelsonlakesvc@doc.govt.nz.

Here's a couple of awesome recent local conservation stories:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/destinations/nz/nelson-tasman/300484180/nelson-lakes-national-park-an-underrated-gem-of-the-south-island>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/459905/kea-chicks-fledge-boost-population-in-nelson-lakes>

Notification of annual wasp control operation, Nelson lakes District

The Department of Conservation is intending to carry out wasp control for biodiversity restoration and staff/visitor safety purposes in late January or early February 2022

As in many previous wasp control operations in the Nelson Lakes area, the toxic bait Vespex (active ingredient Fipronil 0.1%) will be used. Fipronil is a highly effective insecticide that is not toxic to birds or mammals, and the bait has a protein base so it is not attractive to bees. Poison bait is also dyed green to discourage bait take by non-target species.

Approximately 20 g of bait will be placed in bait stations within the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project (RNRP) Mainland Island and St Arnaud township, as well as at key recreation sites to protect the public and DOC staff from wasp stings and the resulting risk of allergic reactions. These sites are: Travers Sabine

Track, Lakehead Hut, Coldwater hut, Sabine hut, D'Urville hut, Kawatiri Junction, Rotoroa Campsite, Hope Saddle viewpoint, Maruia Falls viewpoint and the Skyline track (~1km west of Murchison).

All remaining bait the wasps haven't taken will be removed from these stations after three to eight days. All waste bait is disposed of through the appropriate facility.

Warning notices will be placed at entry points to the control areas. Bait stations that are accessible by the public will also have individual small warning labels. All bait stations will be placed at least 1.5 m above the ground to exclude pets and small children.

If you have any queries or need any more information about the upcoming operation, please contact:

Melissa Griffin
Senior Ranger, Biodiversity
Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
E: mgriffin@doc.govt.nz
T: 03 521 1806

- Factsheet with maps attached at end of newsletter

Church Notices

Sundays 10.30am. Lake Rotoiti Chapel, Rotoiti St, St. Arnaud.

Everyone welcome, services are non-denominational and run by locals. Contact Ali/Sue 035211110/ 0212660771

Thursdays and Sundays 3pm. Rotoiti Hub.

Holy Spirit led worship, encounter, revelation and ministry. Contact Nigel/

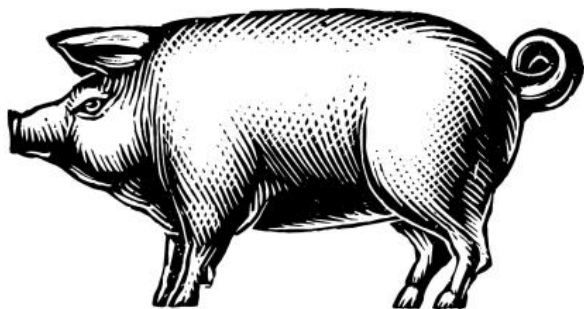
In case you missed it: media coverage of the Kerr Bay Douglas fir:

<https://i.stuff.co.nz/environment/127562789/sort-of-controversial-conifer-poisoned>

Tophouse Historie Inn & The Prickly Vine present:

'A Porky Feast'

Persuade your family, prompt your friends
To a porky feast attend
Beverage in hand, relax yourself
In the historic charm of Tophouse
Enjoy choice morsels and tasty bites
Awaiting the hero of the night:



Followed, naturally, by a sweet treat
Piggy style banquet now complete!

Book with Helen, Drinks by Broughy, Served by Fingie, Cooked by Seb

26 February 2022 – antipasto followed by two courses

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

Please book: 03 521 1269 or 027 558 4644
(we wouldn't want to run out of pork now would we...?)

A good electrician.



Shane Steel
Qualified industrial, commercial & domestic electrician
(e) shane@agoodelectrician.co.nz
(m) 0273202335
Servicing Saint Arnauds and greater Tasman district

BE GET STAY



Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

"Circuit Breakers" exercise group
Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 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).
- For those not big on computers, be in touch via email and one of the editors can call you.

Contact: rotoitinews@gmail.com

Wasp control in the Nelson Lakes district

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is planning to use targetted wasp baiting methods to reduce wasps on public conservation land in the Nelson Lakes district in January /February 2022.

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, tūī, 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.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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 2022.

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:

Melissa Griffin
Senior Ranger, Biodiversity
Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
mgriffin@doc.govt.nz
03 521 1806



