

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 8th May 2020

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

Learning from a distance has been challenging for everyone - teachers, children and parents. We're coming through this really well. Everyone has risen to the challenge.

The main learning platform has been Seesaw, but we've also learnt to use Google Meet and a few other websites.

We are looking forward to getting back on site next week with a teacher only day on Tuesday (no distance learning) where we will set up protocols for people coming on site. After that distance learning will continue until the next stage. If you do come into the school for whatever reason you will need to fill in a book saying when, why, and who you are meeting so that, if necessary, contact tracing can be managed. Better not to come in.

Kirsten will be in before then to do a thorough clean and we will have hand sanitiser all over the place.

While we were closed someone came in and used the pool. Not such a good idea as it hasn't been monitored and the automatic chlorine dispenser has been faulty. I hope whoever used it doesn't get sick.

In the same way, the school playground is closed and will remain so until we receive notification from the government. We will beat this!

When it is all over we can have a get together and a celebration of community.

Stay safe, stay warm.
Mike.

Coming up

**All manner of events – all
at your house!**



The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and we are about to go to Level 3, but we're not there quite yet. First, we have to get through the weekend.

Over the next few days in the build up to changing levels you may notice that there is a bit more activity going on, this should only be with companies that are preparing to reopen in Level 3.

We need to be aware that the Level 3 that we are going to go into at 11.59pm Monday 27th April is different to the Level 3 that we experienced prior to locking down in Level 4.

As has been said if you are unsure if you should be doing something you probably already know that you shouldn't be doing it and that it is most likely prohibited.

If you have any doubt or questions around what can and can't be done as always refer to covid19.govt.nz.

Remember that Level 3 is about cementing what we have achieved and confirming we are as whole. Like any game we need to play it right to the final whistle, it would be a great shame if we through away what we have achieved in the last 5min of the game.

Russell Ferens and The Team
Nelson Lakes
Civil Defense Emergency Management

March weather

Max. temp: 25.9°C (Mar 1)

Min. temp: -0.6°C (Mar 25)

Rainfall total: 53mm

Wettest day: 18.8mm (Mar 3)

Max. gust: 64.4km/h (Mar 17)

Compared to the previous two years, this March was much dryer (93mm in 2019 and 131.6mm in 2018).

The light frost on the 25th was also our only one in March compared with the previous two years.

I have also started measuring the lake temperature. Measurements so far are quite variable, with the lowest being 10.3°C (Apr 3)

With Alert Level 3 from midnight on the 28th April we are likely to see a few more people around than before. It shouldn't be too many more though as the restrictions on travel and the kinds of activities which can be undertaken for recreation are still quite restrictive. Walks or bike rides should still be short, by yourself or with others in your bubble and should not be challenging in nature. Overnight trips and hunting on the public conservation lands is still prohibited. The Mt. Robert road will still be gated from the Lakeside Track car park to discourage access to the longer walks and tramps. Trout fishing from the shore is to be allowed, within the usual restrictions under the fishing licences [Fishing Licence regulations - South Island](#)

The clear message passed down from our national office is that only DOC field work which needs to be done in the expected two weeks of alert level 3 should be done. This may see a few rangers in the field but most will still need to work from home and as you might expect, the visitor centre will not be opening. Across the region DOC rangers will be doing the occasional toilet clean for those we can't lock and where we expect there may be a bit more use. This will be at the basic hygiene level and not intended to see that the facilities are sanitised to rid them of possible viruses. Many are keen to get back out and there will be plenty to do when we are able to. As our Prime Minister described it – Alert Level 3 is the 'waiting room'.

I would like to thank our community for behaving as they were expected to through Alert Level 4 and within the conservation laws. I made an appeal to your better judgement a week ago and to the best of my knowledge there have not been any further breaches. Enjoy the fantastic environment we live in. It is 'lockdown paradise' if there is such a thing. Lets together beat this together.

John Wotherspoon
DOC Operations Manager

ALPINE LODGE TAKEAWAYS

Under Alert Level 3 we will be open for **TAKEAWAY'S ONLY** from Tuesday the 28th of April until Sunday the 10th of May.

Takeaway Coffee, Beverages & Snacks - 10am until 7pm

Takeaway Food - Midday until 7pm (Pizza, Fish & Chips, Burgers, Wedges, Fries)

We will of course have social distancing measures in place to keep you all safe!

ORDERS

Can be placed over the phone or at the front main entrance door

PICK UP

Orders will be placed on the table located outside our main entrance door

PAYMENT

Can be made with paywave or credit card details over the phone

THANKS

"We want to say thanks to whoever organised the lovely bugle playing of the Last Post and Reveille at 6am Saturday morning – we were out in our driveway with candles and it was wonderful to hear those notes carrying out into the crisp air of the village on such a different ANZAC Day morning".

Much appreciated,
Kerry & Jacqui Stratford
Marg & Steve Anderson.

(Any ideas as to who played/broadcast it?). It sounded like it came from the hall flagpole area. Fantastic. Especially poignant for us this year

Thank you to Charlotte Osmaston for playing her bugle at the St Arnaud Alpine Store 10am Saturday as well as brother Jordon who played at Borlase Ave area and father Richard View Road area.

Greatly appreciated,
Marg and Steve Anderson

Graffiti at St Arnaud



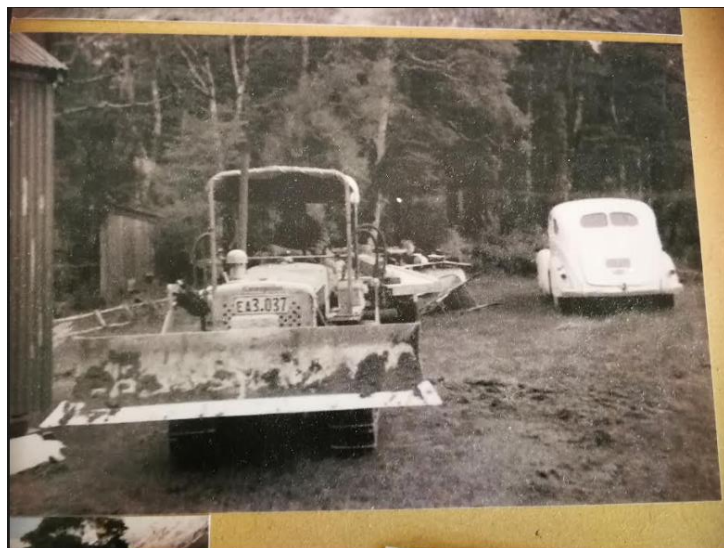
CHIPPER NAMING Winner – ROTO-ITA



Annaleis is the trainee operator.

Photos from Pamela Chapman

Locals helping put our batch together after black valley stream washed it away in a flood. It was located 70mtrs back in the bush after it was smashed. Who are the workers??



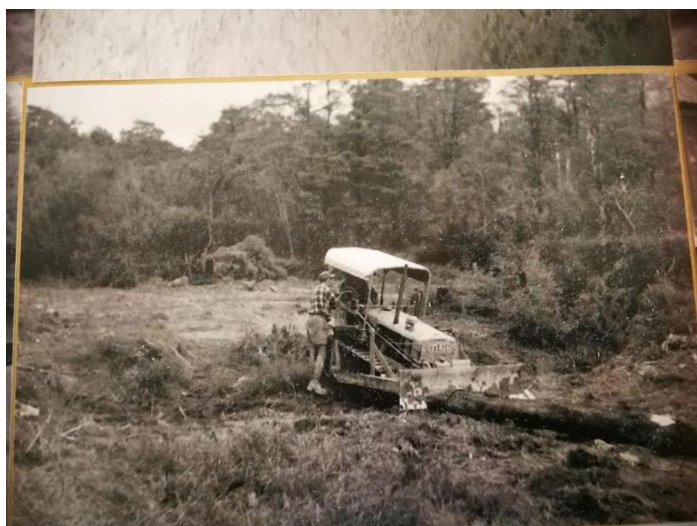
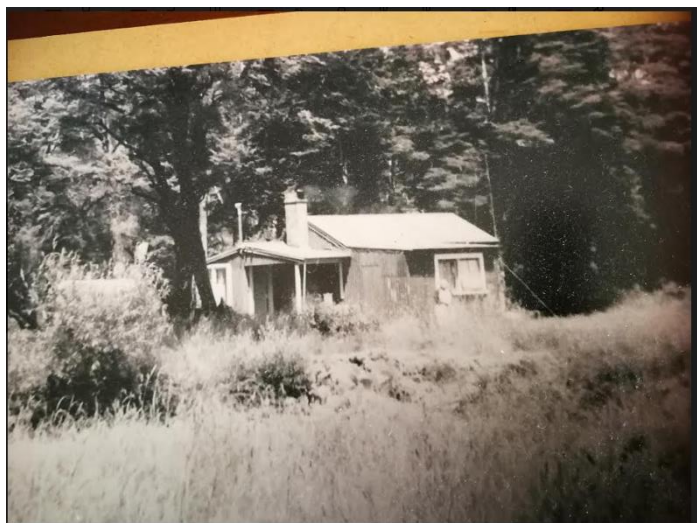
Local Digger Hire and Landscape Products Delivered

Small 1.5 ton Bobcat digger.

Barks, soils, compost and other
products delivered,
small or large amounts.

Phone Stuart Davidson

03 5211225



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).

More fun to keep busy

Here's more great ideas to keep busy - or relax - during lockdown. There should be something here to get you inspired to try something new.



Kiwi Conservation Club

<https://kcc.org.nz/activities/#>

Check out over 80 fun activities for curious kids – and adults. There's lots of interesting activities to stretch your creativity muscles: learn to draw animals, make ice sculptures, design a penguin box, learn te reo to describe nature, or spice up a walk with your bubble-mates with quirky observations.

Check out the beautiful online jigsaw puzzles in the [quiz](#) section. Amazing! You can make the puzzle as hard or easy as you want by changing the number of pieces.

Sport Tasman

<http://www.sporttasman.org.nz/Get-Active>

Links to activities for all ages and abilities so you can stay fit and active at home.

Like their Facebook page to stay updated with local activities, recipes, and motivating information to help you stay healthy.

(<https://www.facebook.com/sporttasman.nz/>)

Tui Gardening

<https://tuigarden.co.nz/ideas-and-inspiration/>

Time in the garden is a great way to boost your wellbeing. Fresh air and vegetables- what's not to like? Tui garden products have some great ideas for starting a garden during lockdown, recipes for the fruit and vegetables you have grown, plus ideas for children to try.

Knit a jumper for an SPCA puppy

<http://www.knitworld.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Puppy-jumpers.pdf>

As the cold weather bites across the country in winter, the smallest SPCA puppies need jumpers to keep them warm. This pattern is easy, and you can use scraps of wool. The puppies don't mind. You can be a bit flexible on needle and wool size as the resulting jersey will fit someone.

And don't forget the cats. Here's pattern for a knitted mouse.

<https://kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/things-to-make-or-do/knitted-mice-for-cats-and-kittens/>

Take a break – at home

Bored of being at home? Why not enjoy one of these virtual tours and open the world of travel and adventure. No passport required. No chance of catching germs. Pyjama-friendly.

Virtual tours of the greatest art galleries and museum around the world

<https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/museum-virtual-tours/>

This link takes you to 17 of the world's greatest art galleries and museums. Visit the Guggenheim Museum in New York; British Museum in London; Musée d'Orsay in Paris; National Gallery of Art, Washington or Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. You decide.

Don't stop there: [The Louvre offers a virtual tour](#)., as does [The Vatican Museums](#), many of the [Smithsonian Museums](#), the [Russian Museum](#), the [Minneapolis Museum of Russian Art](#), and the [Palace Museum](#) in Beijing.

Tour the world's most famous landmarks

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/mar/30/10-best-virtual-tour-worlds-most-famous-landmarks>.

No waiting in queues or being sneezed over. Just rock up and enjoy a tour. And you have the place to yourself.

Te Papa Tongarewa – Collections Online

<https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/>

Collections Online has information on almost 800,000 artworks, objects and specimens from Te Papa's collections: dinosaur teeth, art, photography, botany and history.

Cooking – we all have to eat. Right?

The science of breadmaking.

<https://www.mnn.com/food/healthy-eating/stories/making-bread-weird-science?>

BBC Good Food

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>

One of the best cooking websites around. Lots of recipes, 'how to' videos and tips.

Take care and stay safe.

Update from the Rotoiti District Community Council

The meeting scheduled for the 29th of April is cancelled; postponed until further notice. Pandemics are not covered by the Constitution of the RDCC!, and full operation of the Council remotely is not possible. This will be rectified.

However, with unanimous verbal agreement of the Executive Committee, we can proceed with confidence on current or pressing issues and these can be ratified at the next actual meeting.

One of these issues is the appointment of Executive Officers. We have had a few changes this year. Paul Dulieu has stepped down from position of Treasurer, and has been replaced by Wattie Mortimer.

Sandie Hutchinson resigned as Secretary at the end of March, and has been replaced by Brian Erasmus. I would like to thank those outgoing officers for their contribution to the RDCC, and welcome the new incumbents!

Another proposal that has unanimous Executive Committee approval is Wattie Mortimer's Lake Rotoiti Sports Committee, which is printed nearby in full.

This is a great example of the capacity of the RDCC to encompass and foster community needs. A similar subcommittee of the RDCC facilitated the building of Lake Rotoiti Community Hall.

On a more prosaic note, the Janson Bridge has had low Armco barriers attached to replace the damaged rails, and most of the debris on the Tophouse_Belgrove Road from December's storm has been removed.

Councillor Christeen McKenzie will assist our local Councillor, Stuart Bryant, as his elevation to Deputy Mayor will mean his workload grows! Christeen will be able to attend our meetings when Stuart is not available.

Should anyone have any issues they wish to raise with the RDCC, don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Executive Committee: John Gully, Ed Shaw, Debbie Christie, Doug McConochie, Wattie Mortimer(treasurer), Paul Dulieu, Brian Erasmus(secretary in waiting) Ex Officio members: Deputy Mayor Stuart Bryant, Councillor Christeen McKenzie, Brent Higgins.

Stay safe and well, and put this time at home to good use!

Regards,

Robbie Thomson

Lake Rotoiti Community Sports Committee

Dear Members

Lake Rotoiti's diverse and dynamic community has a number of activity/sports groups for all ages operating within and around our village. Almost all of these activities are self funded and there is currently no avenue to access the numerous funding revenue streams that exist for purchasing and maintenance of equipment and facilities.

I wish to form Lake Rotoiti Communities Sports Group to facilitate the financial support of both existing and new community based sporting activities within the village.

This would be aimed at all sports/activities that provide a social benefit to our community including but not limited to

1. Sailing and Water Sports Group
2. Tennis/Basketball/Netball courts
3. Badminton
4. Swimming
5. Karate
6. Exercise Group
7. Forrest Rangers
8. Monthly Team Sports Initiatives

The objective of the committee is to provide an avenue to raise and manage funding for each particular group need, ensure the funding is spent as it was intended, and that all assets are maintained and remain secured within the community.

To secure and manage funding and donations the committee requires a legal entity in which to operate under.

I wish to request to the RDCC as an Incorporated Society that has been set up for the benefit of the Lake Rotoiti Community provide the provision to form a sports subcommittee of the RDCC as a platform in which to operate. I understand that the RDCC has a provision for this under its constitution.

Regards
Wattie Mortimer
Ph. 0224928841
PO Box 63



Lake Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Brigade News

Replacement Fire Appliance



In Early December we received an upgraded 2000 Mitsubishi fire appliance to replace our old faithful 1982 International that had served us well over the past decade. Being more modern, the new appliance has the added capability of Compressed Air Foam (CAF) which enables us to get more fire fighting capacity out of the available water (all running well, up to 7 times the equivalent of water alone) which gives us significant advantages in a situation where there is no water storage. The Mitzi is also more comfortable to ride in during those often long distance call outs (we have one of the highest average distance travelled for call outs in the country at just over 41km per call) and also has a heater which will be a novelty during the winter months.

Smoke Alarms – SAVE LIVES

With day light saving now ended you should have checked your smoke alarms recently. If not, do it now.

If you are unsure if they are working, or located correctly, or do not have working smoke alarms in your house, then please feel free to contact Wattie for a free fire safety assessment. If the property is your main place of residence then you may be eligible for free installation of new smoke alarms. Ph now 0224928841. To find out more about smoke alarms

1. how they work Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1172mPolRoE> and
2. where and how to install them visit <https://youtu.be/ALbaxkPhLo4>

MVA equipment

In January we received a new battery powered multi tool to access patients involved in Motor Vehicle Accidents. This replaces the hydraulic equipment purchased with the assistance of community fundraising during Phil Borlase's time as Fire Chief. The new gear has a spreading capacity of 5 tonnes. Being battery powered it does not have a separate pump and hoses reducing set up time from minutes to seconds and taking up considerably less locker space on the appliance.



Fire Season

Despite having another extremely dry summer and autumn, call outs to scrub fires during the prohibited season were few and far between with only one significant incident at the top of the Hope Saddle. This is a huge credit to everyone who farms, lives in, holidays in, or visits our area as the fire risk at times was extreme with the lack of rain combined with high temperatures and very low humidity. We must also recognise the efforts of everyone involved in the promotion of fire safety in the area and in particular that of Fire Fighter Robbie Thomson who has worked tirelessly on not only the fire break project, but also working with property owners to reduce the fire risk to their properties.



New Crew Members

Despite losing a couple of long serving crew members last year, numbers remain steady with Janet Newell from DOC and Mike Allen (School Principal) joining us in recent months. Janet brings rural fire experience from Australia and Mike providing us with another driver on weekdays when available numbers are generally lower. Our diverse crew with an age ranging from late teens to late 60's, comprises of four females and has a broad range of skills from many walks of life. This diversity assists us in overcoming the challenges that are often put before us in the emergency situations we attend.

2019 Call Out Statistics

2019 was a record year for call outs with 52 in total (up from 30 in 2018) plus 14 days in attendance at the Pidgeon Valley fire. Motor vehicle accidents made up 23 of the calls, structure/vehicle fires 10, scrub fires 9, and medical events 7. With a call out attendance average just over 7 crew, this means that on over 350 times last years one of us stopped what we where doing and went to the call.



As Controller, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my crew for all their hard work and dedication they have put into making sure we are there and ready to help our community in their times of need.

Regards

Wattie Mortimer

Controller - Lake Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Force

P 0224928841 – watson.mortimer@fireandemergency.nz

PO Box 63, St Arnaud, Tasman 7072

