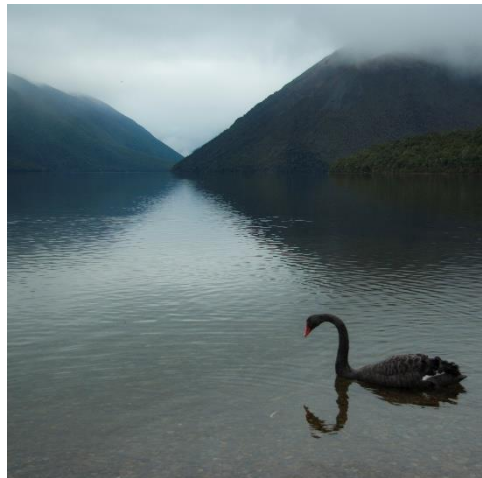
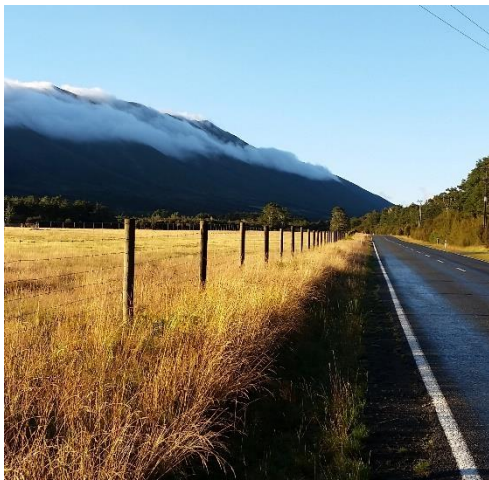


Deadline for next issue:
Friday 10th April 2020

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



Message from our Emergency Response Team

Thanks for the amazing response to the community phone tree - we now have most areas covered to ensure that everyone is staying in touch. Please let me know if you know of anyone who may be without phone or email and we'll do our best to get someone nearby to keep in contact with them. Stay safe, Jan janthomsonart@gmail.com 03521199



Coming up

...not much, unless
it's at your house 😊



Nicolas Diaz



Rachel Lamborn



Rachel Lamborn

**We'd love to print your
photos here. Send to
rotoitinews@gmail.com**



Many of you would have a reasonable understanding where things are with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the lands we are responsible for. DOC are not, at this stage, considered an essential service and the staff are all required to work from home. Locally that means the DOC staff are 'holed up' just like everyone else. Like most businesses we are connecting up virtually and doing what work we can from home. For some that is easy enough, for others the options are limited. For those who would usually be clearing traps of stoats and rats it is frustrating as we will undoubtedly see the pest numbers climb over the next few weeks while the restrictions apply. This is the case for both DOC staff and our Friends of Rotoiti volunteers who normally do so much good work looking after our native birds and animals. There are a few exceptions nationally such as essential care services for threatened native species held in captivity and for wildlife emergencies such as a whale stranding, but we are not expecting anything like that to be happening around here. Monitoring of native species such as kiwi and kea in the wild will be on hold for the next month while under alert level 4. In most cases this work is not essential for animal welfare in the next 4 weeks and our priority is the health and safety of our staff and wider communities and supporting the government's directive to stay at home. There is some planning to have DOC deployed in a 'whole of government' response to help, as they did in the Christchurch earthquake, but as yet there is no detail as to what that might look like.

New Zealanders are being told to stay home to break the chain of community transmission of this deadly virus. That means DOC facilities and offices are closed, and tracks and national parks are out of bounds unless they are right by your home. Most of us are in the enviable position of living on the edge of the national park and therefore being able to take short walks for exercise on the local tracks or to access Teetotal for short bike rides or to walk the dog. There is clear messaging from government and Search and Rescue that we are not to put ourselves in situations where we may need to be rescued by others and certain activities such as swimming, hunting, fishing and tramping (ie longer than an hour or two's walk) is not to happen. I appreciate for hunters the timing couldn't be worse, at the start of the roar. This stance is strongly supported by the New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association. For those on mountain bikes please ride tracks a grade or so less than you might usually look for and keep your speed down. It is about getting some exercise and wellbeing but not an adrenaline rush! If you are out and about you will notice

that the Mt. Robert Road gate is locked at the Lakeside Track (to Whiskey Falls) carpark and the Teetotal Road and camp entrances are coned off to vehicles aside from bikes. Please note most of the DOC toilets are not locked (as they can't be) but are not being serviced - please don't use them unless really caught short and you will need to have your own toilet paper and soap. Think also about the Covid 19 risks of using these. Also using the parks benches and picnic tables and the playgrounds should be avoided as these are surfaces where the virus could linger for several days. For some more national context, see this link:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/covid-19/>

For those whose business relies on the steady flow of tourists or is inhibited in any way I appreciate that life will be very tough and will likely remain so for some months. I would like to commend Russell Ferens and the great job he is doing as our Emergency Management (Civil Defence) Local Controller. I have a role to support that work and you may see me about from time to time as the alternate Local Controller.

It is a time to connect more with family and/or those in your 'bubble'. Sandra and I are learning some tech ways of connecting with our dispersed family through video meetings via laptop and we can recommend 'Zoom' if you are looking for something to try. To echo our Prime Minister this is time to 'be kind, stay at home and we will get through'.

John Wotherspoon
DOC Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes
Operations Manager

.....

Lake Rotoiti Chapel

...is of course not meeting during Level 4. We can recommend the following links for live church services:

<https://hillsong.com/>

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

<https://lifechurch.nz/>



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107.7 Lakes FM

Get out your transistor radios! We are playing music from the 70s to today, including blues and country, from right here in St Arnaud.

Paul Harriman (Dine Hard Family Restaurant)



SHEEP SCANNING SERVICES

Contact Hamish
mouterefarms@gmx.com
0276287176

St Arnaud Alpine Store

During this lock down these are our opening hours:

Monday to Wednesday 8am-8pm,
Thursday to Sunday 9am-6pm.

Our cafe is shut as we are not allowed to sell any prepared food and coffees.

Groceries, liquor, Fuel 24 Hours, medicines, pet food, and all other products are available.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered 3 times a week.



We can only accept one customer in the store at a time. Please wait at the door to be invited in. Thank you very much,
Naveen

Here are some handy links to useful web pages for staying connected with news and with each other:

<https://www.facebook.com/NelsonLakes/>

Jan Thompson administers this Facebook page, it is a good place to be connected with each other.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

The Covid19 government website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Ministry of health Covid19 page

To contact the Nelson Lakes Civil Defence Emergency Management Team please email nlcdem@yahoo.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 - \$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

Important Notice

Hi folks Mark your postie here. I'm just letting you know that I am classed as an essential service and will still be running as per usual.

I've had a number of you asking about groceries, prescriptions and milk deliveries. Here's a few options but really my preferences as it keeps me safe as well as you.

***Groceries** : Apart from a couple of regulars I would prefer that you use the Countdown service and have it delivered to my address at **45 Weka Street, The Wood, Nelson** (Sun,Tues,Thur Delivery) This is so I don't have to stand in line for what can be quite some time. There is another option with My Food Bag & Bargain Box. These are preset meals and are high quality

My Food Bag : www.myfoodbag.co.nz/

Bargain Box : www.bargainbox.co.nz/

When ordering put your name but my address.

***Pharmacy** : Most of you use Wakefield Pharmacy, those of you who don't I would recommend you do over this short period. I have my own basket (so when getting a prescription ask to have it put in Mark's basket) and I get immediate entry (the lines to pharmacies are long and time consuming)

***Milk** : Yes I still do milk. If you could let me know the day before (b4 5.30pm for ordering purposes) that would be great.If you would like a pre set milk delivery (ie Monday & Friday) over this time that is fine as well.

The food and Milk carry a charge but the Pharmacy doesn't (well not from me)

Stay safe folks, these are strange times. I know it's a scary thought that my face might be the only face from the outside world you see in the next 4 weeks.