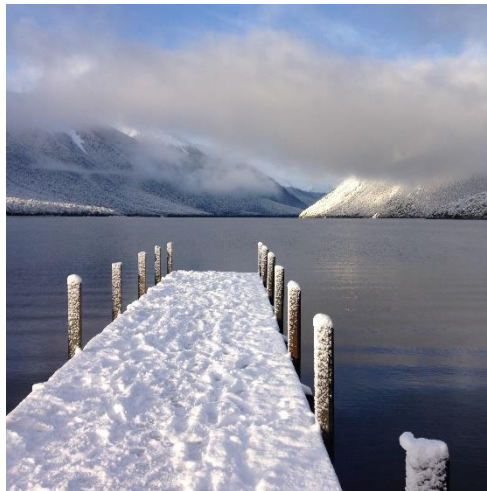


Deadline for next issue:  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Please send your newsletter  
items to: [rotoitinews@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters)



### Coming up

#### Wednesday 11 August

Tasman District Council  
Pop Up Library 11am-2pm  
Community Hall

#### Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> August 6pm

**Lake Rotoiti School Quiz  
night**, Alpine Lodge.  
Register your team  
[office@lakerotoiti.school.nz](mailto:office@lakerotoiti.school.nz)

#### Tuesdays 10am at

Community Hall. Preschool  
Playgroup. Frith  
0277534880. \$2 for hall  
use.

#### Wednesdays 1pm

Craft Group – contact  
Nicky 03 521-1106

**Photos: Jumping on the  
jetty – H. Rennie;  
Angelus hut - DOC**

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

## Lake Rotoiti School News

### Welcome to Term 3!

Auditions for our school production “Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies” have been completed. Children are rehearsing and learning their lines and songs for the end of the term. Alison is making the costumes and we will be calling for some parent help soon to make props and stage scenery.

The songs are fantastic, our soloist Caitlyn Mortimer is showing stunning skill and the rest of the children have nearly learnt all of the lyrics. They make a wicked earworm.





We start skiing this Monday. Watch for our students – they are the ones with a green mohawk on their helmets.

A big thank you to Simon Thomas for helping the Senior students to set up a rat and stoat trapline around the school. We haven't caught anything yet, which is disappointing for our monitoring team, but good news for our environment.

The quiz night will be held on Thursday 19 August. Tickets are available from the school. Enter your team and start studying weird and wonderful facts.

The office block extension is well underway and a wheelchair ramp will shortly be boxed. If you are visiting the school please be careful as you enter the office area. The Multipurpose room has been gutted and relining has begun.

Thank you to Chris for replacing the rugby post cross bars. It's great to have level and straight bars again. Thank you to Wattie, Robbie, and Malcolm for moving the basketball posts so we have two half courts now, and new backboards soon to be fitted made by Fred. They also renovated the system for raising and lowering the hoops. It's a remarkable piece of engineering. These five people completed the jobs on a cold and drizzly day. We appreciate your time and commitment.

Mike and Alison.

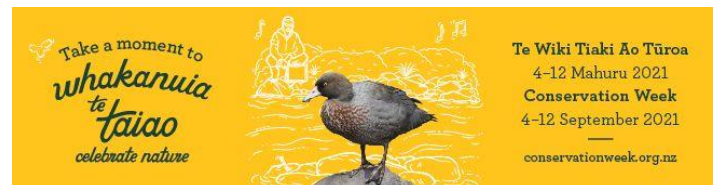


### Conservation Week – 4-12 September 2021

Conservation Week is coming up so check out the resources to see how you can get involved <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week/support-conservation-week/> The website includes some colourful posters to print for your workplace or home.

This year for Conservation Week we are asking Aotearoa to take a moment for nature. Conservation Week is an annual event, now in its 52nd year. When Papatūānuku thrives, we all thrive: Our personal wellbeing and nature's wellbeing are interconnected. Connecting with nature can be easy – from a short walk in your local park, to learning about a taonga species, or planting a native tree in your backyard, anyone can get involved.

Conservation Week is also a time to celebrate conservation success and all of the people who contribute to nature in Aotearoa. The Friends of Rotoiti, who work in partnership with DOC, invite you to join them at trapping activities. No experience is required and it's a great opportunity to meet locals and help with conservation and pest control. For dates and information please contact Wayne Sowman on 027 238 5597 or email [friendsofrotoiti@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofrotoiti@gmail.com).



## Lake snow update

In late 2019 an invasive freshwater diatom *Lindavia intermedia* was identified in the Buller River downstream from Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park. This microscopic algae species is a relatively recent introduction to New Zealand, first found in 2002. It is now known from a number of large pristine lakes in Otago and Canterbury, as well as a couple of lakes in the North Island.

Over the summer of 2020/21 DOC biodiversity rangers worked with Tasman District Council (TDC) and Landcare Research to take water samples from Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa at 6-weekly intervals to determine whether this invasive species was in the lakes and if so, how abundant. This showed that, unfortunately, *Lindavia* is in both lakes. In Lake Rotoroa it is currently at a relatively low density, while in Lake Rotoiti it is at a slightly higher density and increased significantly during April-May 2021.



**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](mailto:info@tuffnell.co.nz)**

***We thank all our existing clients for  
their continued support"***





Under certain conditions, *Lindavia* produces 'lake snow' – a sticky, mucus-like substance that hangs under the water surface. It is not toxic to humans or livestock and poses no risk to food sourced from the lakes, but can be a nuisance because it sticks to fishing gear, boats, motors, swimmers and water supply systems.



Lake snow on a filter... (source: <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz>)

In some lakes, such as Lake Wanaka, lake snow is regularly formed and is a significant nuisance, whereas in other lakes it is only occasional. The reasons are not yet known. Lake snow was not produced in Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa over this last summer, and it is unknown what will happen in the long term. However, *Lindavia* experts Phil Novis (Manaaki Whenua- Landcare Research) and Marc Schallenberg (University of Otago) think with the raising density of *Lindavia* found in Lake Rotoiti this autumn, there is a significant risk that lake snow will develop in the near future, possibly in summer 2021/22.

It is unknown how or when *Lindavia* was introduced to Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa. It was not found in sediment samples taken from the upper Buller and Gowan Rivers in 2004 and 2005, suggesting that it has been introduced since. Phil Novis has found that in NZ, all the lakes that have well-developed populations of *Lindavia intermedia* are readily accessible by road. This strongly suggests that people are the key vector spreading the species.

“However, it is possible that other lakes contain the species at a low (undetected) level from more recent transfers, such as by tramping gear. This notion is supported by laboratory work indicating that *L. intermedia* is relatively robust to drying and is harder to kill than Didymo (which trampers are known to spread). Therefore, it is very prudent to instigate biosecurity precautions to protect other lakes, especially those with significant natural values that are likely to be susceptible to outbreaks of lake snow.”

*Lindavia* can be spread through the transfer of water or on any equipment that has been in contact with water in an infected lake such as boats, water sport equipment, clothing, tramping boots and water bottles. To prevent it spreading, we need to strictly follow the “**Check Clean Dry**” protocols set up for Didymo with anything that comes into contact with Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa before visiting any other lakes.

### What is DOC doing about it?

There is unfortunately currently no known control or eradication method for *Lindavia intermedia*. Sadly, now that it is here, it is here to stay.

It is thought that *Lindavia* should have minimal ecological impact on the lakes, but really it is unknown as there has been little research in this area. DOC is currently consulting with scientists and other agencies to determine what monitoring and research should be undertaken here. Our priority now is to prevent it from spreading to other lakes. In this region it is only known from these two lakes and Maitai Reservoir near Nelson. Therefore, DOC is working with TDC and Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to set up better Check Clean Dry information and infrastructure at the lakes, aiming to have this in place before summer.

*Lindavia* prefers lakes such as Rotoiti and Rotoroa with high water quality, so there is significant concern for our alpine tarns. DOC will soon be taking water samples from Rotomairewhenua / Blue Lake, Rotomaninitua / Lake Angelus and Rotopōhueroa / Lake Constance. If it isn't in these lakes already (we have our fingers crossed that it isn't!), DOC then plans to set up some biosecurity for the tramping tracks that go to these lakes to try to minimize the risk of it being transferred to these lakes.

### What can you do? CHECK CLEAN DRY

Lake snow differs from Didymo and the other algae that we already see in the lakes in that it is not attached to any surfaces but floats just below the water surface. So if you start finding a slimy substance on your boat or fishing gear that you have not seen before, please let the local DOC office know, as we would be interested in these observations.

If your boat or other gear has been in Lakes Rotoiti or Rotoroa and you are planning to visit any other lakes, PLEASE strictly **CHECK CLEAN DRY**. Also when tramping – if you are going to any tarns or other lakes – please clean your tramping boats, poles, water bottles... anything that may have come in contact with lake water. And never empty your drink bottle contents into a new water body.

**PLEASE - CHECK CLEAN DRY**

### Further information?

The report summarizing the results from the sampling of Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa this past summer is available at <https://www.envirolink.govt.nz/assets/2101-TSDC170-Risk-assessment-for-the-development-of-mucilage-events-lake-snow-in-Lakes-Rotoiti-and-Rotoroa-Tasman-District.pdf>

How to check clean dry:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/outdoor-activities/boating-and-watersports-tips-to-prevent-spread-of-pests/check-clean-dry/>

And there is lots of other useful and interesting information on the internet – just google ‘lake snow’ or ‘*Lindavia intermedia*’.

<https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/media-centre/news-and-notice/help-stop-the-spread-of-lake-snow-algae/>

<https://www.orc.govt.nz/managing-our-environment/pest-hub/aquatic/lake-snow>

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/plant-and-animal-pests/lindavia-intermedia/>

Any further questions, or if you see signs of lake snow, please contact Janet Newell at the DOC office (janewell@doc.govt.nz).

## 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.

# BE GET STAY



## Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

**Badminton** Mondays 7pm, Community Hall. \$3 to cover equipment.

Ed or Nicky 03 5211106

**“Circuit Breakers”** exercise group  
Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10am,  
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).

Contact: [rotoitinews@gmail.com](mailto:rotoitinews@gmail.com)

# Lake Rotoiti School

invites you to join us for a

## (Post) Matariki Quiz

Where: Alpine Lodge St Arnaud

When: Thursday 19 August, 6pm

Children teams: \$10 a child (up to 15 years old)

Adult teams: \$20 a person (up to ancient)

Maximum of 6 in a team. Register your team or yourself at [office@lakerotoiti.school.nz](mailto:office@lakerotoiti.school.nz)

Pay online 03-0703-0477665-00 or pay cash on the night.

#### NOTE:

- Places are limited so make sure you book quickly. We will not be taking entries on the night.
- Food will NOT be able to be purchased from the lodge on the night but ticket price includes a platter of nibble for your table. Drinks will be available – bar service only.