

Deadline for next issue:  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

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

Armchair travellers  
Saturday 24 August at  
4:00 pm

Sundays 10.30 am  
Lake Rotoiti Chapel  
Services are run by  
locals and non-  
denominational.  
Everyone welcome.

## Monthly

Last Monday of each  
month: **Alpine Flash  
Mob** social  
singing group Ph Jan  
5211999

## Village Trapping Group

for information phone  
Pip Berkett 027 521  
1130 or Julie Robilliard  
5211874.

## Lake Rotoiti School News

Tēnā koutou katoa,  
Winter is finally upon us and with it brings the amazing depth of colour  
in the landscape. We are truly lucky to be part of this natural beauty.

### Logos

Thanks to the people who have come in and viewed the kura/school  
logos. We would like to take this learning opportunity further and find  
the history behind the school logo. If you have or know anyone who  
has information on the designer/artist, please share. We will be using  
the 'design a logo' learning to promote a safe road usage logo for the  
village.

### Ngā Mihi - Thank you

I am sure many of you have seen the bright green sandpit shade sail  
that has recently been erected. Tēnā rawa (thank you very much) to  
Brent, Wattie, Allen and Sam for taking the time to install this. It  
certainly adds a touch of colour to the place.

Adding to this, the kura/school office block, is in much need of paint  
and this will be completed by Smiths when the weather warms and  
hopefully before Term 4.

### **Inquiry Focus for Term 3**

The focus for this term's inquiry is twofold. One part of our curriculum is focused on Garden Kaitiaki. Kaitiaki translates to guardians. We will be inquiring into how plants grow, using the science fair testing model. We will also inquire into which plants grow best in this environment. This understanding will be used to assist us with field day.

We are also preparing for Book Character Week in Term 4, through literacy. The Tui are engaged with text from Roald Dahl and the Piwakawaka are doing plays. Both will lead to an art, drama and dance outcome, through masks.

Tui are still exploring the purpose behind 1080 drops, and the effects. This will continue throughout Term 3 as part of their Forest Rangers. If you would like to share information with the Tui class on this topic, please contact Sue - 03

5211830. [principal@lakerotoiti.school.nz](mailto:principal@lakerotoiti.school.nz).

### **Skiing**

The kura/school has enjoyed two days at the slopes this term. Jo and Sam have been supporting a small group who will represent the kura/school on the Salamander Race Day. Tēnā rawa (thank you very much) Jo and Sam for your dedication and organising the downhill runs.

### **Our P.R.I.D.E Stars**

Every second Friday we have a kura/school wide assembly and invite whānau and people from the public to join us. During assemblies we share our learning, our understanding of our kura/school values and awards. This week's Principal awards include: Daniel, Jasmine and Mariska and Class awards go to Antony, Emma Jay, Sophie.



The Rotoiti/Nelson lakes Visitor Centre winter opening hours are changing as of Monday 29 July.

Winter opening hours: 9am to 4pm every day

Summer opening hours remain unchanged: 8am to 4.30pm every day (closed Christmas Day)

From your local Rotoiti Fire Force

### **Give us a Break Part 1 2019**

Last summer's drought and the Pigeon Valley fire were a worry!

We can expect more summers like that, and we need to be better prepared.

The drought crept up on us, and suddenly it was too late to even mow long dry grass or chainsaw dead vegetation, due to the danger of sparks from machinery (which was the cause of the Pigeon Valley Fire).

Photos of the village from last century show the "built up" area to be almost bare.

This as a result of earlier fires and land clearance. Since then, the vegetation is back and surrounds us! Unfortunately most of that new growth is highly flammable kanuka/manuka.

This is a succession stage that may lead on to beech forest, but that could take hundreds of years. More years than we have.

Mixed with the kanuka/manuka is a good range of less flammable plants that will flourish in better light conditions and with less competition.

Most of us have been attracted to the area by the mountains and forests and are reluctant to cut down trees, but the reality is that a large fire from the north/west, or one that starts in the village in extreme fire conditions would be virtually unstoppable and the village indefensible in its path. In the 1960s and 70s there was a firebreak alongside the access road to Rotoiti Lodge, kept clear of kanuka/manuka.

At a recent Rotoiti District Community Council (RDCC) meeting there was a call to reinstate it.

This idea has been embraced by both RDCC and the Department of Conservation, and a working group set up to promote it to the community and beyond.

As the land is National Park, a more sensitive approach is required, with removal of all dead timber, selected removal of flammable species, and the encouragement of those less flammable.

Some additional planting or seeding may be beneficial, and there will definitely be ongoing weeding and maintenance.

The planned firebreak runs beside Lodge Rd on the northern side, over the crest and down towards West by till it meets beech forest.

This firebreak is by no means a cure-all. In the event of a large fire, spotting will occur on the Peninsula and start fires there. What it finds to burn there is up to all of us (Part 2!)

The break will give the fire pause through lack of fuel, and hopefully allow time for aircraft to apply retardants.

Evacuation of the Peninsula will be a given, so how your property is prepared for fire may determine what you find on your return.

RDCC are working with DOC to formulate a working plan and a suitable Health and safety Policy to enable people to help.

Paul Dulieu, Graeme Andrews and I have made a start that you can see at the bottom of Lodge Rd. There will be a lot of mulching to do!

If you would like to know more or to help, please contact either Wattie Mortimer 022 492 8841 or Robbie Thomson 021 295 0305, 03 5211999

## Teacher Assistant

Lake Rotoiti School would like to invite expressions of interest for the above position. We require a person who is keen to work with children for 6.5 hours per week.

Training will be provided for the successful applicant. Hours to be negotiated. This is a fixed-term position and is available until the end of Term 4.

For a job description please contact Sue on [Sue.Ford@lakerotoiti.school.nz](mailto:Sue.Ford@lakerotoiti.school.nz) or phone on 5211830



## ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS

You are invited to the first session of St Arnaud Armchair Travellers.

Local people have undertaken some fascinating travel. Come along and share the adventure.

**Tim and Julie Robilliard** will give a talk called **“Adventures in Madagascar”**

**Saturday 24 August at 4:00 pm** in the DOC meeting room.

You are welcome to come along from **3:00pm** for a **cup of tea** and a chat first. Some baking would be appreciated. Gold coin donation for a charity of the speaker's choice.

### About Armchair Travellers

- The men who attended Karl's talk before Christmas about hunting in Canada gave us the idea to give people who've travelled to some interesting places or done something adventurous the opportunity to share their experiences and photos. Similar groups run in other towns and they are very popular. We'd like this to be a monthly event over the cooler months and we'll meet for a cup of tea first to catch up with friends and neighbours. Some nice baking would be appreciated.
- Talks should be about 45-50 mins with a few minutes for questions. About 25 photos is about right. A map is helpful if you've taken a particular route or gone somewhere less known.
- You might like to give a general overview or the trip or focus on a particular section or place of a longer trip, or even focus on particular theme during a trip.
- Presentations will ideally be in PowerPoint to make screening them easier. (Contact Tracey for help with this).

Interested in sharing one of your recent adventures? Contact Julie Robilliard (03 521 1874 or [robilliard@farmside.co.nz](mailto:robilliard@farmside.co.nz)) or Tracey Grose ([traceygrose@gmail.com](mailto:traceygrose@gmail.com) or 021 475 514).



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## CARDS GALORE



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cards for sale which I have imported from the UK.

Priced from \$2.00 each.

Contact Tracy Younger on 0278927630

or [tracyyounger0603@gmail.com](mailto:tracyyounger0603@gmail.com).

Check out my website - [www.tycards.online](http://www.tycards.online)



### **Rural Women St Arnaud**

#### **Update on feedback to the proposed community memorial**

The proposal is to install a memorial area available to everyone in the community in an easily accessible area.

This proposal is in addition to the Memorial Walk and the proposed Soldiers' Memorial.

Rural Women St Arnaud fully support and value those memorials. As the longest serving community group in the area, as well as being an independent group, Rural Women St Arnaud would like to be able to offer another, complementary, option.

Thank you to everyone who has provided written feedback. There were useful, constructive ideas from this feedback that are being included in the next draft for the proposed memorial. Letters of support for the project were in the majority.

### **We want your unwanted cars**

The village fire brigade is seeking one or two cars as part of our recurrent training program to dismantle using cutting gear. Ideally we would like to dismantle in situ so reasonable access would be desirable for several vehicles (we sometimes train with other brigades). Disposal of the vehicles after can be arranged and the ground will be left clean.

Please contact Brian at [blerasmus@hotmail.com](mailto:blerasmus@hotmail.com) or 0273844464 if able to help.

### **Craft Group: for August**

... will be at the Lake Rotoiti Hall - 8th and 15th and 29th August  
between 1pm and 3pm

Gold coin donation for hall

and 22nd August at Louisa Buchanan's 1pm to 3pm



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Call Charlotte 027 816 0269



### Regular activities in and around St Arnaud

#### Badminton

Mondays 7pm

Community Hall

\$3 per person to cover hall and shuttle cocks.

Ed 5211106

#### "Circuit Breakers" exercise group

Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 10 am,

Community Hall

All welcome, gold coin donation

Gael 0272804078,

#### Seido-Karate

Community Hall

Tuesdays 6pm - kids & beginners

Thursdays 6 pm – General Class

Graeme Andrews 021 08594088. Gold coin donation

#### Yoga – all levels

Alpine Yoga and massage

### 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](mailto:rotoitinews@gmail.com)

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# TBFREE UPDATE

This message is brought to you by the Top of the South OSPRI farmer committee.



## WHAT IS TB?

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. TB can cause significant production losses for New Zealand farmers and is regarded as an unwanted disease. OSPRI New Zealand manages the TBfree Programme which is working towards eradication of the disease in New Zealand.

## THE TB PLAN

The National TB Pest Management Plan has set a target of TB freedom in cattle and deer herds by 2026, in possums by 2040 and biological eradication of TB from New Zealand by 2055.

There are three key tools working concurrently to achieve these goals:

- Pest Management – reduces pests which carry and spread TB
- Disease Control – identifies and manages infected herds
- Movement Restrictions – prevents the spread of TB from infected herds or high-risk herds or animals

## LOCAL TB UPDATE

### WILDLIFE UPDATE

Sustainable freedom in livestock cannot be achieved without removing TB from wildlife species. In the wider North Canterbury/Marlborough region there is currently 1.27 million ha of 'Vector Risk Area' (VRA) – a defined geographical area where TB is being maintained in the wildlife population.

OSPRI manages a pest control and TB surveillance programme in the North Canterbury/Marlborough region which is aiming to remove TB from wildlife over the next 15 years. Upcoming operations are communicated via TB Management Notices available online at [ospri.co.nz](https://ospri.co.nz)

### LIVESTOCK UPDATE

OSPRI contractsASUREQuality to undertake routine on-farm TB testing of cattle and deer herds for surveillance and early detection of TB. In recent months routine testing has identified a single TB case in the cattle herd on Rainbow Station. OSPRI have a dedicated team of veterinarians who have designed a tailored TB testing and livestock management plan for this herd to ensure rapid identification and

removal of TB infection from the herd. This team also identify and manage all associated disease risks to ensure the protection of the surrounding farming community.

OSPRI are working hard to identify the source of this TB infection to inform decisions on how we manage it moving forward.

For more information please see OSPRI's '**TB close to home**' factsheet.

## THE TOP OF THE SOUTH OSPRI COMMITTEE

The Top of the South OSPRI Committee is a group of farmer representatives that meet on a regular basis to stay informed and provide feedback on into OSPRI's TB programme. This group are passionate about achieving TB freedom and are a valuable link between OSPRI and the local community.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

**For more information on the management of TB in your local area or to be put in touch with your local OSPRI farmer representative contact:**

**Rebecca Nind**  
OSPRI's Programme  
Extension Team

**P 03 363 3085**