

Deadline for next issue:

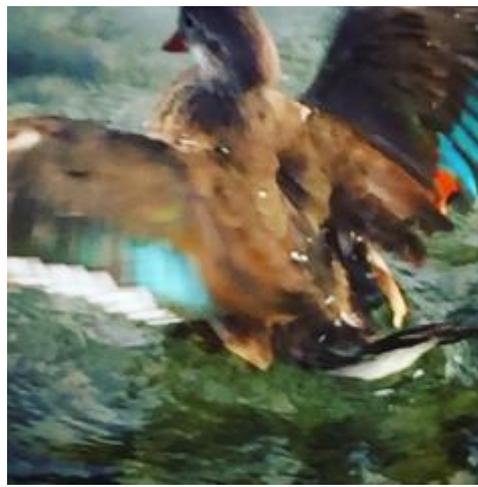
Friday 24th February 2017

Please send your items for inclusion to rotoitinews@gmail.com

This newsletter was produced with the help of the Rotoiti District Community Council, Department of Conservation and Mark and Tania Gill.

You can download a copy of previous newsletters from:

www.lakerotoiti.school.nz/newsletters



Coming up

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Seido Karate
Community Hall, 7pm
Beginners welcome
Graeme, 521 1022

School News

School began in earnest on Thursday 2nd February and so we are now back in full swing. This term we welcome Jasmine and Caitlyn Mortimer, Jacob and Liam Horner and Kiara Barrett to Rotoiti School – watching them in the playground they already seem to have made lots of new friends and are a full part of the life of their classes! We hope that they all have a happy and learning-filled time with us.

Our big event this term is School Camp! We will be journeying to Christchurch on the 6th March to Living Springs Camp and education centre; they have planned lots of exciting and challenging activities for us that will allow the children to try new activities, to problem-solve and to collaborate with each other. We will also be spending a day at 'Zoo School' at Orana Park where will have an educator all to ourselves and learn about some of the conservation programmes that they have in place for native and exotic species.

Other activities later in the term include a visit from the Life Education Van, a stopping distance demonstration in conjunction with TDC and the local police and Wairau Valley School will be joining us again for our Athletics Event.

As it is still, apparently, summer – just a reminder to parents that children should have a sunhat with them at all times and that, although sunscreen is available in both classrooms, it is a really good idea to make sure it is properly applied before school each morning.

Giles, Nicky, Emma, Tracy, Stephanie and Fran

Community News

Community Snorkel Day

When the team from Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) proposed holding one of their famous Community Snorkel Days at Lake Rotoiti, DOC staff thought it was a great idea.

The theme for the day was *Papatai ō roto - Papatai ō raro - Look beneath the surface.*

On Sunday 29 January, over 60 swimmers took a look beneath the surface and saw aquatic plants, small fish and the world-famous Rotoiti tūna/long-finned eel.

EMR had wetsuits and the equipment free of charge with making this event suitable for everyone. Each group of four swimmers was coached by their guide to be safe in the water and off they went exploring.

The professionalism and experience of the EMR meant that a wide range of people could safely experience Lake Rotoiti in an entirely new way. Children and adults came back to shore bubbling with excitement after seeing the tūna up close.

To support the day's theme, Paul Watts from Fish & Game, and Mel from Nelson's Waimaori Stream Care group helped visitors discover the range of tiny creatures living in Black Valley Stream.

We were very happy to work with such a professional and safety conscious team of volunteers and planning has started for the next event to be held over Nelson Anniversary weekend 2018.

About EMR

EMR is a national programme of experiential learning about marine (and more lately) freshwater conservation. EMR empowers schools and communities by providing the equipment and expertise for a hands-on learning experience, developing an interest in biodiversity and local environments. Since its introduction in Northland in 2002, EMR has expanded to 9 regions with a team of up to 20 coordinators nationwide.

(See www.emr.org.nz).



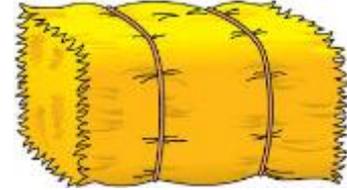
**Wanted - a freezer; chest or other considered,
Contact Kay 5211261**

Meadow Hay for Sale

Small bales, broom and gorse free.

\$7 per bale. Approx. 100 bales available.

Please phone Anna 5211982 if you are interested.



DoC News

Wasp operation

Just to advise the local community that the wasp operation using Vespex will occur on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 February. The final date will be weather dependant, but the operation will not happen before these dates.

The treatment areas are within the Nelson Lakes National Park and Big Bush.

Further information

More information is available on the community noticeboard outside the shop or from the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre (03 521 1806). Information was distributed through all village PO Boxes. Signage will be display in treated areas.

Rotoiti Property Maintenance

- Landscaping & Design
- Gardening
- Tree & Hedge Trimming
- General Property Maintenance
- Light General Engineering
- Water Engineering and Irrigation
- Vespex Wasp Control



**Phone: Richard Thoms
03 5211 083 or 021 288 6664**



The Book Exchange is going great guns!

A couple of gentle guidelines...

If the shelves are overflowing already please don't leave your books until there's room - most weeks at the moment someone is leaving a carton or two of books on the floor, which quickly becomes messy.

Please NO COOKBOOKS OR ENCYCLOPEDIA - travellers don't seem to want these.

If a book is so tatty that you're getting rid of it, please put it in the recycling not the book exchange.



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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).

Contacting us: email rotoitinews@gmail.com with any questions