MINUTES
Rotorua Lakes Community Board meeting
held Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at 2pm
in the Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council

PRESENT: Mr P Thomass (Chairman)
Mr N Chater, Mr J Stanton, Mr F Stevens, Cr T Tapsell

APOLOGIES:

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Gould and Cr Maxwell

OFFICERS PRESENT: G Williams, Chief Executive (part); J-P Gaston, Group Manager Strategy & Partnerships; O Hopkins, Manager Corporate Planning & Governance (part); R Dunn, Governance Lead; R Pitkethley, Sports & Recreation Manager; C Peden, Governance Support Advisor.

1. WELCOME

The chairperson, Mr Thomass, declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone present.

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies from Cr Tapsell (for lateness) be accepted.

Mr Chater/Mr Stanton
CARRIED

3. OPEN DISCUSSION

3.1 Geoff Palmer

Commented on
- multiple BOPRC catfish signs at Okareka but Rotorua Lakes Council signs have been removed including a map of area.
- No public consultation was undertaken re siting of slalem course on L. Okareka.
- Potential safety issues as no signage about the slalem course situated in the middle of the lake.
- No obvious ‘Okareka’ sign.
- Requested signage showing plans of new toilets before Christmas (this could be attached to LOCA’s notice-board).
3.2 Tony Lipanovic

Mr Lipanovic showed some photos (Attachment 1).

- Merge Lodge boat ramp (behind Rotoma Store) – Photos 1 and 2 show the missing jetty which was washed away in a storm. He requested that some temporary bollards be installed to prevent people launching their boats at the ramp which is mostly submerged.


- Kennedy Bay – photos 5 - 7 – a boulder was placed to unsuccessfully try and keep the jetty stable. Can’t use jetty safely.

- The new weed net installed behind Merge Lodge is not working.

3.3 Robyn Manuel

- Member of recently-established Te Rotoiti Rōpū Hapahapai. Leadership is yet to be decided.

- East Rotoiti sewerage scheme – concerned that ‘costing’ will be too much of a weighting factor for selection of pre-treatment system. Ideally would like 1 or 2 representatives of their ropu on the steering committee.

- Speed limit far too high through E. Rotoiti – requests LCB’s support to get speed limit down. NZTA meeting on 14 December.

- Tamatea St - asked that jet boats/jet skis be kept to the western end. Speeding an issue within the 200 metre area.

- Concerned about alcohol consumption on the beach at Tamatea St - can a bylaw address this?

- Lake levels – Ruato Bay – causing health issues and flooding of front yards. Need help to get lake levels down.

- Growing number of gates going across public accessways. Wants LCB support to identify and ask that private ones be openable or removed.

- Want catfish eradicated (not just reduced) – offered the ropu’s assistance to BOPRC and TALT.

3.4 Jerry Douglas

- Hamurana Lakefront Reserve – cars driving onto grass areas, over footpath. Inadequate signage. Suggested bollards to continue on from where they stop.

- Pleased that 60km s/limit on Hamurana Road is largely being adhered to.

3.5 Additional comments

The chair thanked the following staff for their support of the board: J-P Gaston, Rob Pitkethley, Carol Peden and other Governance staff, Jenny Riini, Rob Griffiths and Geoff Williams (Chief Executive).

Jim Stanton acknowledged Roland Kingi and Tania Turner who represent the iwi committee who are aligned with the Safe Roads project from Okere/Mourea to Paengaroa.
4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Verbal update on Safe Roads project along SH33 – Justin Rae, Safe Roads Alliance, NZTA

Mr Rae spoke to a Powerpoint presentation (Attachment 2), accompanied by Ian (?), and overviewed the work plan:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Construction</th>
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</table>
| 1A (rural) | Summer 2017/18 – road widening  
Mid to late 2018 – barriers at high-risk locations, resealing, line marking |
| A (urban)  | Summer 2017/18 – localised road widening  
Mid-to late 2018 – resealing, linemarking, landscaping, signage, etc |
| 1B       | 2018                                              |
| 1C       | 2018                                              |
| 2       | Summer 2018/19                                    |
| 3       | Summer 2019/20                                    |

He commented:

- Work south of Allport Road section nearly complete, with widened centre strips with rumble strips.
- Have paused some work planned for Mourea to Okere Falls section until speed limit review considered.
- Safe Roads’ request for a speed limit review will be considered by NZTA Board on 14 December.
- If the review is approved, Safe Roads will work with the stakeholder group and iwi partners to develop recommendations, followed by a public consultation process.
- Will then evaluate engineering plans to encourage people to drive slower.
- Safe Roads do work for NZTA but are not part of NZTA.
- Active speed sign has just been erected at Okere Falls.

Issues raised included:

1. Could SH30 be included in Safe Roads’ programme?
   Response - No Safe Road projects planned for SH30 but suggested the board could make recommendations to NZTA for SH30.

2. Some barriers in the middle of shoulder rather than towards the left side.
   Response - Some of these barriers are just temporary - the shoulders will have a minimum width of 1.5m.

3. Rough seal on shoulders a problem for cyclists.
   Response - Justin and Ian will take the concerns about rough seal back to their organisation.

ATTENDANCE: Cr Tapsell joined the meeting at 2.48pm.
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Stanton moved the following motion, seconded by Mr Chater:

“That the minutes of the meeting held 17 October 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 5, para 3.2 - Robyn Manual, East Rotoiti
  Dr Manuel had requested a basketball hoop for the Rotoiti sportsground, not Gisborne Point playground;
- Page 7, para 6.3 – Recommendation 3” Request for Defibrillators
  Amend to read Dr Robyn Manual, accompanied by Venus Ihakara (not Venus Parker)

The following resolution was passed to allow members the opportunity to discuss two further corrections:

Resolved:

That the adoption of the minutes to be deferred to the next meeting.

Mr Stevens/Mr Stanton
CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

The chair ruled that Recommendation 2 would be considered first.

6.1 RECOMMENDATION 2: FLOATING JETTIES INVESTIGATIONS

Mr Pitkethley overviewed his report.

Suggestions/comments included:
- cost savings could possibly be achieved through combining orders with other lakes districts;
- Okareka jetty needs work;
- Rotoiti / Gisborne Point jetty is unsuitable for people with mobility issues;
- Rotorua is a tourist destination – important to have presentable boat ramps and jetties.

Mr Pitkethley advised:
- the ramp design shown in the Swan Bay Boat Ramp photo (Attachment 3) would possibly be suitable for some Rotorua lakes;
- they would need to be tested (for Rotorua conditions) by Shearwater first;
- could be attached to existing ramps, winding them out as levels drop, then when water is at right level and consents are signed off, they could address the ramp issue to have the ideal package.
- jetties could be addressed within 6 - 12 months – will need consents first;
- ramps might take a bit longer as have to wait for lake levels to drop.
- the existing 3 ramps at Okareka will be re-done as one big pad, with a jetty at each side.
- confident that a floating jetty not needed for Okareka, but the new jetty will be slightly higher than the current one.
The meeting adjourned at 3.40pm and reconvened at 3.48pm.

Resolved:

That the report “Floating Jetties Investigations” be received.

Mr Chater/Cr Tapsell
CARRIED

6.2 RECOMMENDATION 1: MATERIALS USED IN RUBBISH COLLECTION BAGS

Resolved:

1. That the report “Materials used in rubbish collection bags” be received.

2. That the Board notes the rationale for the use of plastic bags in household waste collection service and related information that supports the Council’s 2015 resolution to use these materials.

Cr Tapsell/Mr Stanton
CARRIED

Suggestions:
• explore initiatives to encourage changed behaviour – less waste,
• encourage recycling
• lobby for biodegradable packaging
• re-usuable bags can be purchased for vegetables
• re-fill products at Bin Inn

The chair advised that if residents currently using bags want to switch to recycling (wheelie bins) they can phone Council to arrange.

6.3 RECOMMENDATION 3: SUBMISSIONS TO BOPRC’S PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resolved:

That the report titled ‘Submission to BOPRC’s Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan’ be received.

Mr Stanton/Mr Chater
CARRIED

6.4 RECOMMENDATION 4: DATES FOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS’ AGMS

Resolved:

That the report titled ‘Dates for Community Associations’ AGMs’ be received.

Mr Chater/Cr Tapsell
CARRIED
6.5 RECOMMENDATION 5: MEETING DATES/VENUES FOR 2019

Resolved:

1. That the report titled ‘Dates and locations for 2019 meetings’ be received.

2. That the dates and venues for 2019 meetings of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board be confirmed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 20 February</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Rotorua Lakes Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 20 March</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>To be confirmed at next meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 17 April</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Rotorua Lakes Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 22 May</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>To be decided later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 19 June</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Rotorua Lakes Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 17 July</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>To be decided later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14 August</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Rotorua Lakes Council</td>
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</table>

Mr Chater/Cr Tapsell
CARRIED

6.6 RECOMMENDATION 6: 2019 COMMUNITY BOARDS CONFERENCE

Resolved:

1. That the report titled ‘2019 Community Boards Conference’ be received and the contents noted.

2. That the following board members be nominated to attend the 2019 Community Boards Conference:
   - Mr Thomass
   - Mr Stanton

Mr Stanton/Mr Chater
CARRIED
7. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

a. Rotoma/Eastern Rotoiti sewerage scheme - Phill Thomass
   - A community meeting was held 1 December at Rotoma.
   - If any increase in cost Council staff had said they would consult further with the community.
   - Concerns raised about allocation of costs between Rotoma and Rotoiti.

b. Rotoehu sewerage scheme - Phill Thomass
   Informal discussions ongoing re making a sewerage scheme for Rotoehu affordable.

c. Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee – Fred Stevens
   Currently in recess. Council has established a new Community advisory group – Independent chair Glenn Snelgrove, 2 people from ratepayers association, 1 from iwi and 1 from mana whenua landowners.

d. Te Maru o Kaituna – Cr Tapsell, Nick Chater & Jim Stanton
   Next meeting on 14 December 2018. On 26 Nov 2018 the Rangitaiki River Forum met with Te Maru o Kaituna for networking.

e. Waste Collection Subcommittee – Phill Thomass
   Nothing new to report.

f. Portfolios -
   - Economic development – Nick Chater
     Met yesterday. Received updates re Lakefront and Whakarewarewa Forest development. Discussed the spatial plan, etc.
   - People – Phill Thomass
     A pilot Child Equity Programme is to be trialled at Sunset Primary School. The programme aims to help children in lower deprivation areas to access Council facilities. If successful this could potentially be rolled out to other areas.

8. VERBAL REPORTS FROM LOCATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

a. Tarawera – Fred Stevens, Jim Stanton
   - Making good progress on slip repair on Tarawera Road.
   - Had a recent informal meeting about the section of road on Spencer Road used for walking. Mr Pitkethley said this would be kept mowed prior to Christmas. Council working on making it more accessible.
   - Residents have arranged to have a ‘Pest fish’ sign to be erected on a water tank on Spencer Road.
   - Illegal building at Tarawera Road car park is in the process of being consented.
b. Okareka – Fred Stevens, Jim Stanton

- The new Fire Station is currently going through the consenting stage. Lake Okareka Community Assn have recently submitted to BOPRC’s Draft Pest Management Plan in support of Lake Water Quality Society’s submission.

c. Rotoiti – Nick Chater (esp Okere Falls), Jim Stanton.

- A number of residents in West Rotoiti are contributing to the catfish campaign by placing and monitoring nets around their jetties. TALT continues to liaise with various resident groups in coordinating actions relating to catfish containment. Lake Rotoiti Community Assn are releasing their December newsletter shortly and are in the process of updating their website.

- Mr Stanton acknowledged the newly-formed Te Rotoiti Rōpū Hapahapai (an East Rotoiti residents and ratepayers group), and provided some history about the original East Rotoiti ratepayer association. He suggested collaboration between the two Rotoiti ratepayers groups.

d. Rotoma – Phill Thomass, Nick Chater

Roadside issues had been discussed with Rotoma Community Assn walkway, which is continuing to disintegrate from high water level. Council staff trying to find solutions.

e. Hamurana – Phill Thomass, Nick Chater

Problems with Hamurana Reserve parking/driving behavior was discussed earlier in the meeting. Toilet block still an issue.

9. CONTINUING ACTIONS

Resolved:

That the report “Continuing Action” for the Rotorua Lakes Community Board be received.

Mr Stanton/Mr Stevens
CARRIED
### Items raised at Lakes Community Board meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>For action by</th>
<th>Updates</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update on iwi engagement strategy</td>
<td>Jim Stanton</td>
<td>Jim Stanton attended a meeting called by Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board to discuss improvements and enhancements to the Okere Falls Scenic Reserve following the Board’s successful grant of $499,234 from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund. This proved to be a very good exercise in collaboration with the community.</td>
<td>Ongoing liaison opportunities being pursued. Further report in April.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update on Responsible Camping Strategy</td>
<td>Phill Thomass, Nick Chater &amp; Rob Pitkethley</td>
<td>RLC has been funded approx. $70k to conduct research to help develop a national Camping policy. This will be a big project over the coming summer (conducting surveys around the city and at the lakes). Work continuing on developing a camping strategy for Rotorua district.</td>
<td>National Camping Policy work ongoing – ‘responsible camping’, not ‘freedom camping’ approach. A security firm will be conducting a survey about what attracted campers (to that location), their willingness to pay and length of stay. Working to understand pressure points. The Delta boat ramp will be affected (but not closed) Feb to March/April while work done on the diversion wall. Staff and members agreed that mana whenua would be included in any discussions about developing an income stream from camping. Further update in February.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update on Safe Roads</td>
<td>Phill Thomass</td>
<td>NZTA considering reducing the speed limit to 60km p/hr through the Okere Falls area.</td>
<td>Presentation earlier in the meeting. ACTION POINT - Chair to contact Justin Rae prior to each meeting to ask if there’s anything to report.</td>
</tr>
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| GIS to be requested to put a map together showing who is responsible for mowing different reserves in the lakes communities (e.g. RLC or DOC?) and verges on state highways. | Rob Pitkethley | InfraCORE are mapping areas where they mow. New areas are being mapped first, then moving back to map existing areas. NZTA contractors have been mowing berms within 70kph zones more regularly. | • Council’s mowing schedule has been completed with InfraCORE.  
• Maps available showing areas Council is responsible for mowing.  
• DOC mowing areas not included.  

**ACTION POINT** - Jim Stanton to liaise with Mr Pitkethley to clarify who is responsible for some areas he is uncertain about. |

| Catfish updates | BOPRC and/or TALT | Ongoing updates. | A written report from William Anaru at Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) was tabled (Attachment 4).  

Lucas MacDonald, biosecurity officer at BOPRC, introduced himself. He highlighted:  
• BOPRC working in parallel with TALT.  
• Netting continuing from late August –  
• Have caught 15000 approx. so far.  
• 42 buoys with acoustic sensors on them are tracking about 30 tagged catfish.  
• NIWA investigating how they can disrupt spawning.  
• Volunteers will use a phone APP to record data.  
• Promotional material on order (hats, trout bags, cups, fridge magnets, brochures, etc).  
• BOPRC looking into putting signage on entranceways, but not yet able to confirm whether large signage would go ahead.  
• Some fish being tagged and released to gain information. If a fish with stitching underneath is caught, seek advice from BOPRC about releasing it.  
• Facebook page.  
• Updates being sent out monthly. |
The chair advised that Nicki Douglas, William Anaru and Shane Grayling had tendered their apologies for today’s meeting.

Update in February.

b) Items raised at Residents & Ratepayers Associations AGM’s:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subject and report back date</th>
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| Footpath/walkway around L Tikitapu | Stavros Michael Rob Pitkethley | Hope to have walk-through organised shortly to discuss options. | Rob P reported that Damian (Operations Manager from Rotorua Trails Trust) and Simon Alefosio-Tuck (ex-DOC trail builder) had recently walked the bush track. They suggest:  
  - upgrading the existing track in the bush;  
  - re-routing lower sections where wet;  
  - installing a board walk in the section near Tikitapu camp.  
  They are putting a plan together about how much new track is needed.  
  Disestablishing roadside track bears a risk that some people would still use the roadside.  
  Further update in February. |
### Waste Collection Services Update, Including Comments on Possible:

- paper bags option for Tarawera residents, and
- green waste service at Okere Falls and Tarawera transfer stations.

| Regan Fraser and Bob Brown. | There is now a green waste service at Okere Falls and Tarawera transfer stations now. This would be available during manned hours at the transfer stations. Regan offers to investigate a timeline for implementation if board members are keen to pursue. | ACTION POINT - Chair to discuss discounts on composting bins to encourage reducing waste at source with Cr Tapsell. |

### Items Raised at Lakes Community Board Workshops:

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<tr>
<td>Equitable rating</td>
<td>Jim Stanton</td>
<td>A district rating review is now underway with preliminary decisions expected sometime in November. Elected members including Community Boards are participating in current discussions.</td>
<td>Lakes Community Board continues to participate in ongoing dialogue towards the current review of rating policy. Results of forums and focus group meetings to date are now being assessed by RLC to determine next steps in the process. Further update in February.</td>
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<td>Willows around the lake had been used as erosion protection, but</td>
<td>Rob Pitkethley</td>
<td>BOPRC have offered to assist in removing willows on privately-owned land on the lake edges. It will be up to the community to contact BOPRC. Consent pending for erosion control.</td>
<td>ACTION POINT: chair to invite BOPRC to talk to LCB in February re willow removal. RLC is looking at replacing the large willows (which stabilize the shoreline) with pohutukawa. Going through a consenting process with BOPRC to put structures in place to protect the young pohutukawa trees from falling into the lake, and address Acacia Road erosion problems. Landcare Okareka have been removing seedlings adjacent to the old walkway. Some Okareka property boundaries are underwater, so unclear whether willows are growing on private or public land. ACTION POINT - The chair to keep Landcare Okareka updated on willow removal via Sandra Goodwin.</td>
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<td>invasive species. Council officers investigating whether they can be</td>
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<td>replaced with less invasive trees on RLC reserves.</td>
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<td>Second boat ramp at Gisborne Point</td>
<td>Rob Pitkethley</td>
<td>Progressing. TALT are to complete some cultural mapping.</td>
<td>Mr Pitkethley reported he’d had met with local iwi Ngati Te Rangiuruora on advice from TALT to discuss parking restrictions (reserve adjacent to boat ramp and jetty is not be become a car park) and interpretation of the stories at Komohomohou. Further discussions to be held with them before a consent is lodged. Concern raised about out-of-town vehicles coming into Otaramarae. Mr Pitkethley said work is planned for Year 3 of Long-</td>
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<td>Ongoing engagement with Te Arawa Lakes Trust.</td>
<td>Phill Thomass</td>
<td>Ongoing informal meetings between Chair and Nicki Douglas, TALT, continue on a regular basis to discuss a range of topics.</td>
<td>Had discussed BOPRC consenting for ethanol and Diquat, and BOPRC’s Pest Management Plan. Issues with pathway around edge of Rotoma (eroded). He had asked if TALT would agree to using gabion baskets to build that area up - positive response to that idea. Further update in February.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update on Okareka lake levels</td>
<td>Phill Thomass</td>
<td>October Action Point - Chair to contact Andy Bruere to discuss the continued reliance on the emergency consent.</td>
<td>BOPRC working on getting permanent consent, but still operating under emergency consent process currently. Haven’t been using the additional pipe lately as lake levels had dropped. Had a week under the max limit but recent rains have put lake levels back over the limit. BOPRC working to replace temporary sacking with more permanent protection for stream banks. ACTION POINT – Chair to ask Andy Bruere for the timeline for the consent process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update on remedial work planned for lake infrastructure</td>
<td>Rob Pitkethley</td>
<td>High lake levels preventing work on boat ramp at Acacia Bay at present. Completed procurement process – expressions of interest received, now going out for tender. Design work being done on the ablution block at Boyes Beach and replacement toilet block at Acacia Bay to better suit user needs. Needs to be completed by 30.6.19. Good feedback from waka ama club re washdown facilities at Okareka. Erosion problems on start of walkway on Lake Rotoma. Timeframe on Delta carpark – BOPRC wants to close the area in February to repair diversion wall. Chair has suggested reinstatement works include some of the planned works.</td>
<td>Emergency works on Rotoma walkway starting next week. Work on Okareka infrastructure upgrade will have started by April. Further update in April.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request a list of items which Council plans to consider in the coming months.</td>
<td>J-P Gaston</td>
<td>Business Plans are currently being developed by each department.</td>
<td>ACTION POINT – Mr Gaston to provide a list of capital projects to be undertaken/ started prior to the local authority elections in October 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate footpath / roadside safe zones along Spencer Rd, Tarawera.</td>
<td>Peter Dine and Rob Pitkethley.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Addressed earlier in the meeting. Next update in February.</td>
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Meeting closed at 5.40pm
SH 33 Te Ngae to Paengaroa – Project Update

December 2018

SH33 Te Ngae to Paengaroa

Flexible safety barriers at high-risk locations to stop vehicles from running off the road or hitting something harder like a tree

Wide centreline from Paengaroa to Te Ngae to keep traffic apart and reduce head-on collisions

Possible realignments
Examples of Installed Safety Improvements

Project Next Steps

- Progress the speed review
- Review the plans for Mourea to Okere Falls
- Firm up detailed design for new 2019 build stages and build timing
Concrete pontoons at Kinloch Marina, Lake Taupo. 1.4m range.
(Photo by Shearwater)

Polyethylene pontoons, Okahu Bay, Waitemata harbour. 3m range.
(Photo by Shearwater)
Waikawa Bay Jetty
(Photo by Shearwater)
Catfish report from William Anaru, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

It has been quite a busy couple of months in this role but has been very rewarding. I have given a few presentations and met with countless people and heard their concerns about the catfish issue. Many people were unaware of the issue which was surprising but once informed, have been keen to come on board and help us get rid of these fish.

We have built a database of over 100 volunteers since starting the volunteer program. There are a variety of jobs they’re are doing such as netting, talking with lake users, giving presentations, handing out flyers just to name a few.

Opening Day

We set up info tables and gazebos around Lake Rotoiti on opening morning of the trout season for 2018. Along with 12 dedicated volunteers, we spread awareness of the catfish issue to fisherman. We were received very positively and managed to get 45 people to sign up as volunteers on the first day. Following on from this, I have presented at anglers clubs, schools, sports clubs and to other groups about the issue and they all have a variety of concerns and ideas about how to tackle the issue.

Netting

The volunteer netting program is in full swing! We received the last of our permits two weeks ago so have been intensifying our netting efforts each week. To date, the volunteers have netted over 450 catfish with the majority coming from Te Weta Bay. Although this has been a great success, we have unfortunately caught one dabchick that drowned in the net. Immediately following this, I instructed the volunteers to raise the net so that the top portion of the net was out of the water. This would allow any dabchicks that got caught to breathe so they could be released alive. This was tested 2 days later when we caught another dabchick which was released alive. I had concerns that the raising of the nets would limit the numbers of catfish caught, however, we have caught between 40-80 catfish in some of the nets on the jetties in Te Weta bay so it doesn't seem to affect it much.

We have been trialling different baits to see which one was the cheapest and most effective for the volunteers. To date, we have trialled cooked catfish, frozen catfish, sardines and no bait at all. We have caught catfish with all these baits so we will be utilising the catfish we catch in the future.

I have been working closely with the Rangatahi court. The idea was to have the rangatahi volunteer in the catfish project as part of their community service requirements. This has been a great success and many of the boys are coming out of their shells. Some have even joked about being Marine Biologists.

School Involvement

Te Kura o Koutu are delivering a science module about catfish in Te Reo. We had planned to have a field trip to the lake but time constraints have prevented this at this time. We will look at this for next year. They have even remade the biosecurity 24/7 video in Te Reo. Western Heights High School is also delivering a science project to their year 9 students. I also plan to meet with Rotokawa, Ruamata, Te Kura Kaupapa o Rotoiti, Rongomai and Whangamarino in the New Year and develop a plan to get them involved.

The community are very driven by what is going on with the catfish. I have had positive feedback from most but there is still plenty of work to be done. I will work with a few key community members from each lake to develop a plan for Lake Wardens as we approach the summer which will enable us to spread the word to lake users over the xmas and new year period.