

**LakesWater Quality Society Incorporated**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Pikiaro Rugby League Club Rooms,**  
**Mourea, at 10.00 am on Monday 26 January 2015**

**Karakia:** Tai Eru

**Welcome:**

The Chair welcomed dignitaries: Hon Todd McClay (MP for Rotorua), Mayor Steve Chadwick (RLC), Chairman Doug Leeder (BOPRC), Crs Dave Donaldson (RLC), Jane Nees, Neil Oppatt, Lyall Thurston (BOPRC), Geoff Palmer, John Dyer, Leo Meharry, Phill Thomass (Rotorua Lakes Community Board, Eddie Grogan (BOPRC Management), Prof David Hamilton, Waikato University, Sir Toby Curtis, Willy Emery (Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Life Members Nick and Liz Miller, Glen Snelgrove (Rotoma/Rotoehu Ratepayers, Hilary Prior (Lake Rotoiti Community Association) Libby Fletcher (Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association), Rt Hon Paul East, Jim Bradley (MWH NZ Ltd) and about 41 members.

**Apologies:**

Karen Hunt, Glenys Searancke, Charles Sturt, Anna Grayling, Richard Amery, Rob Kent, Phil Shoemack, Andy Bruere, Al & Lynne Spence, Tony Lapanovic, Warren Webber, Ian McLean, Peter Bentley, Marcus Wilkins, Jim Koller, Arapeta Tahana, Te Taru White, John Mace, Fred Whata, Nugent family, Michael and Hilma Gill, Kelly Hughes.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**It was moved that the minutes were a true and fair record of the meeting.** *John Green/Don Atkinson*

**Chairman's Annual Report:**

The Chairman reflected on his report and the outcomes that had been achieved. He congratulated the Rotorua Lakes Council for the name change which now recognises that our district is made up of many lakes.

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes' programmes, based on a process of understanding the science, leadership and funding support, have been going very well and overseen by both BOPRC and RLC. Six lakes are improving, 3 are stable, 2 deteriorating and Okaro fluctuates. The focus now needs to be on land use and some of the Government money, originally targeted for in-lake use, has been transferred to use on the land. Congratulations must go to both our Member of Parliament, Todd McClay, and Mayor Steve Chadwick for enabling this.

The Environment Court criticised the process on developing a sewerage scheme for Lakes Rotoma/East Rotoiti. RLC asked our committee member Ian McLean to chair a working group to involve the whole community in finding consensus for a preferred scheme option. He must be congratulated for his patience and fortitude in achieving total community support for this very important project for our lakes.

In 2019 treated effluent can no longer be sprayed into the Whaka Forest. LWQS ran a workshop in 2014 to address the issues and now Warren Webber chairs the committee set up to find solutions to upgrade Rotorua's Wastewater Treatment Plant, ably assisted by Geoff Rice, also a LWQS committee member.

The sewerage at Lake Tarawera is now a worry with their lake deteriorating and having algal blooms. They are part of an 8 lake system and a lake restoration plan has been released which will require a number of actions. Clearly reticulating sewerage is one.

LWQS is running another symposium in March, Lake Weed and Wallabies. Science has not yet agreed on what is happening with the understory at Lake Okataina which has increasing levels of phosphorus. In Lake Rotorua tonnes of alum per year has capped the phosphorus with remarkable results. The lake is the clearest it has been for years. Do we know if alum dosing is sustainable?

The Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group set up nearly 3 years ago to work on the rules and incentives to help with land use change will be presenting draft rules later this year. It is essential that all stakeholders including the small block holders buy in to the process and there is good communication to understand all the issues around land use change.

The Lake Rotoiti wall has been a big disappointment. Corrosion will shorten its planned life. Further work will be needed to deal with this.

In conclusion we believe that the improvement in the lakes show that the programmes have been successful and we are well ahead of the rest of New Zealand in the restoration of our waterways. However, the hard yards are here in land use change and it is always difficult for people to change. It is important that our politicians stay the course and hold to the policies and actions needed.

**It was moved that the Chairman's Report be accepted.**

*Margriet Theron/Hilary Prior*

**Matters arising from the Report:** None

**Financial Report:**

The new treasurer, Marcel van Leeuwen, briefly discussed the report for the year ended 30 September 2014 and there were no questions.

**It was moved that the financial report for the LakesWater Quality Society Inc. for the year ending 30 September 2014 be received and approved.**

*Bob Armstrong/Mary Stanton*

**It was moved that Stefan Bennett be appointed as auditor for the next financial year.**

*Marcel van Leeuwen/Hilary Prior*

**Election of Officers and Executive Committee:**

The Chair stood down while the vote of the office of Chair was conducted by Rt. Hon Paul East.

<b>Chair</b>	John Green	(Rotorua)	<i>Geoff Rice/Don Atkinson</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Ann Green	(Rotorua)	<i>John Green/Paul East</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marcel van Leeuwen	(Okareka)	<i>John Green/Jim Howland</i>
<b>Committee</b>	Don Atkinson	(Rotorua)	
	Tai Eru	(Rotorua)	
	Libby Fletcher	(Tarawera, LTRA)	
	Jim Howland	(Rotorua)	
	Tony Lipanovic	(Rotorua)	
	Ian McLean	(Rotorua)	
	Leo Meharry	(Rotoma Rate Payers, CB)	
	Hilary Prior	(Rotorua, LRCA)	
	Geoff Rice	(Lower Maketu, Tapu-ika Iwi Authority)	
	Glenn Snelgrove	(Rotoma, Rate Payers)	
	Brian Stamp	(Rotorua)	
	Phill Stamp	(Rotorua, CB)	
	Warren Webber	(Rotorua)	
	Neil Callahan	(Tarawera)	
	Mary Stanton	(Rotorua)	
	Sandra Goodwin	(Okareka Alternate)	

**It was moved that the above nominees be accepted as the committee.**

*Paul East/Don Atkinson*

**Presentations were given by:**

**James (Jim) Bradley**, Senior Consultant at MWH New Zealand Limited, who has had a long distinguished career in the fields of civil, environmental and public health engineering in New Zealand, particularly active in serving local authorities. He is currently the chair of the Technical Advisory Group for the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Review Project and the interim chair for the Technical Advisory Group for the Rotorua/Rotoma Sewerage Steering Committee Project. He gave a very interesting presentation of the journey on wastewater management in New Zealand, particularly focusing on the trends and technologies to achieve sustainable approaches. Rotorua's Wastewater Treatment Plant is already a leading Nitrogen removal plant but there are a number of options for further nitrogen and pathogen reduction to mitigate the Maori cultural concerns before discharging treated effluent to water and the Advisory Group will be looking at them.

**Don Atkinson, LWQS Committee**, explained that LWQS has long advocated for TDRs as one of the tools to help farmers permanently reduce their nitrogen load. However the Rotorua Lakes Council have rejected them and LWQS will appeal in the Environment Court the Proposed District Plan because TDRs could be an option

in the transition of the catchment to a sustainable nutrient load. Don believes that TDRs applied to the District Plan have the potential to create about \$20m. They are supported by StAG, Federated Farmers, the Farmers Collective and Iwi incorporations and would be particularly useful for Maori trusts.

**Andy Bruere, Lake Operations Manager, BOPRC**, gave an update on the Ohau diversion wall. There is a high level of corrosion considerably shortening the life of the wall. He said that the corrosion is the result of microbiological activity and unusual in fresh water lakes. Further investigation looking at such things as electrical currents to actively prevent accelerated corrosion of the wall material will be undertaken by the University of Waikato chemistry team. BOPRC will be looking at solutions and the complex science but in the meantime Andy believes there is no risk of sudden wall failure and there is sufficient time to undertake full scientific investigation to address any proposed enduring solution.

#### **Other invited guests:**

**Mayor Steve Chadwick** was pleased to see that Libby Fletcher from Lake Tarawera had joined LWQS but she worries about Rotorua City. Dave Donaldson had become an expert on sewerage. She has rescheduled meetings to ensure that all councillors would be able to attend the Rotorua Te Arawa Trust meeting and be more informed about all the issues. Regarding TDRs appeal she expects there will be mediation and a solution can be found. Looking forward to the symposium.

**Todd McClay, MP for Rotorua**, said it had been a pretty good year for the lakes' water quality and it had been the result of hard work by so many community groups. We must value our water and we are fortunate to have so much. In future it may have different values. He recognised the work that Doug Leeder had done and believes that we have made a lot of progress. The Rotoma/East Rotoiti sewerage project happened through open and fair conversation. Problems have been because of a lack of communication and discussion by all groups. In Rotorua the groups that were not engaged were the small block holders and deer farmers but once people engage and become part of the process solutions can be found. It is exciting that we can now swim in Rotorua.

**Doug Leeder, Chair, BOPRC**, said that there had been over 50 years of history behind LWQS and congratulated them. In the last year quite substantive progress has been made. But the practical reality for lack of progress in some areas is that bureaucracy takes 10 years to work through and the wider community must be all behind it but are not always engaged. We must also think about the human cost of casualties of change. The staff of BOPRC who work extremely hard for little thanks continue to advocate and need your support. Help the people who are trying to help you.

**Prof David Hamilton, University of Waikato**, acknowledged the role of LWQS and particularly the role of Ian McLean to involve Iwi in engaging in the sewerage projects. This summer the lakes are 2 degrees warmer than usual and the consequence will be blue/green algal blooms as they like warm temperatures. Rotorua has remained stratified for 5 weeks and the bottom waters have less oxygen. It will be interesting to see what happens when the waters start mixing again. There are algal blooms at Tarawera and Okaro but no signs yet at Rotoiti and Rotorua.

*Cynthia Armstrong:* We found three carp fish in Lake Rotoiti.

*Prof David Hamilton:* They could be goldfish which after a generation look like carp. If you find them, put in the freezer and they can be investigated.

#### **General Business:**

*Craig Morley, Waiariki Technical Institute:* We are running a project on the Puarenga Stream and would like to invite people to a meeting on 19 February, 6030 at Whaka School to hear their vision and what people want for the stream.

*Marcel van Leeuwen, Okareka:* Since we have had sewerage reticulation Okareka's TLI has not shown an improvement which is a concern for residents.

*Cr Neil Oppatt, BOPRC:* There has been an annual spray in Okareka around boat ramps and Boyes Beach and the weed is down. Clarity is measured by Secchi and residents say that the clarity is not any worse. BOPRC has not spent all the money allocated as we met the target under the Action Plan.

*Prof David Hamilton:* Lake Okareka does remain stable and the level of land use change has not taken place. There is to be a review of this lake undertaken by staff and if further land use change is needed we will look at that.

*Phill Thomass, Rotoiti:* Thanked Jim Bradley for the huge amount of time he had spent on the sewerage TAG projects and how grateful we all are for his knowledge and the benefits taking us forward.

*Jim Bradley:* Rotorua has a special bunch of people and they have been a pleasure to work with.

*John Green:* Has Terax been a good one?

*Jim Bradley:* Terax is a process that deconstitutes sludge. There are still interactions that have to be worked through.

*Libby Fletcher, Tarawera:* The Lake Tarawera Ratepayers committee are all totally committed to sewerage and actively promoting it. We have had a meeting with Andy Bruere and working through the process.

*Mary Stanton:* said that the price of the symposium was unaffordable for most people. Is there a way around this? We talk about all the lakes but no discussion on the Ohau Channel which I represent and where we started the process of sewerage. I would like more acknowledgement of the Ohau Channel which has no reticulated water which is taken from bores and as houses get closer to the channel it gets worse. Good quality drinking water is the challenge.

**John Green:** The water quality now coming down the channel is about what it was in the 1960s.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them all for lunch.  
The meeting ended at 12.30pm