

LakesWater Quality Society Incorporated
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Pikiaro Rugby League Club Rooms,
Mourea, at 10.00 am on Monday 27 January 2014

Karakia: Tai Eru

Welcome:

The Chair welcomed dignitaries: Todd McClay (MP for Rotorua), Mayor Steve Chadwick (RDC), Chairman Doug Leeder and Crs Tai Eru, Lyall Thurston, Neil Oppatt, John Cronin, from Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Crs Dave Donaldson, Mark Gould, Peter Bentley and Merepeka Raukawa-Tait from Rotorua District Council; Geoff Palmer, Leo Meharry and John Dyer from the Rotorua Lakes Community Board; Willie Emery, Deputy Chair, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Warwick Murray and Eddie Grogan from Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Life members Nick and Liz Miller, Ian McLean and Warren Webber; Professor David Hamilton, Rt. Hon Paul East and about forty seven members.

Apologies:

Geoff Williams, Doug Owens, Mary-Anne Macleod, Karen Hunt, Richard Wilson, Nigel Donne, Craig Morley, Peter and Mary Browning, Richard and Christine Amery, Helen Carter, Barry Brook, Pam O'Donnell, Hilary Prior, Marcus and Jan Wilkins, Anna Grayling, John Mace, Robyn Bridgeman, Rob Kent, Robyn and Anne Sinclair, Maria McLean, Toby Curtis, Te Taru White, Fred Whata, Wyn and Alice Beasley, Jim and Elizabeth Howland, Dermot Mora.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

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

Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman made some general comments talking to his report. He said that an excellent website had been created by RDC, BOPRC and Te Arawa Lakes Trust to show case all the work and information on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and it was now a substantial source for the lakes' programmes.

Through the hard work of the last ten years by many people and the restoration and management programmes which will cost over \$234m the water quality of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Rotoehu is the best it has been for many years. Bill Bayfield, the previous CEO of BOPRC had talked of 50 years and serious issues to reach the TLI target of 'the monster', Lake Rotorua, but it is remarkable that it has been reached in three years.

While man made interventions have made a difference, such as the dosing of alum to lock the phosphorus into the lake's sediments, nitrogen still has to be dealt with. We must stay with the programmes and there are large changes for the farmers. LWQS will continue to focus on that.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG) is looking at rules and incentives to reduce the N levels. Todd McLay worked hard to bring about the collaboration between the Rotorua Catchment Farmers' Collective, Federated Farmers and LWQS, which is a first in New Zealand.

At Rotoma the community are working together to get a better focus on the issues around their sewerage reticulation. Okataina's increase in P levels appears to come from the destruction of the understory of the native bush caused by the excessive numbers of wallabies, possums and rabbits. Research by the scientists will confirm this and enable BOPRC to decide what further action is necessary.

LWQS have run two symposiums this year. The first was on Transferrable Development Rights (TDRs) which could be another tool in the toolbox to allow farmers to change land use. With on-going discussion they may be included in the District Plan. The idea for the second symposium on the Rotorua Waste Water Treatment Plant arose out of the TDR discussions. Cr Dave Donaldson questioned whether the WWTP could cope with the increased load if Rotorua was to grow and said that the current system was not sustainable with the huge volumes of treated waste water flowing into the forest not consented after 2021. The symposium brought together all interested stakeholders and after a field trip to look at the forest and the treatment plant and a day of presentations from scientists and relevant parties it resulted in a very clear message to further upgrade the existing system and pass the treated water through a wetlands into Lake Rotorua. The chair thanked Ian McLean and Warren Webber for their excellent work in organising the symposium.

Grow Rotorua are promoting the concept of a Freshwater Centre of Excellence in Rotorua, bringing together all the skills, programmes, technology, science and experience that has been gained over the last ten years.

The Chair recognised that there had been local body elections and quite significant change in both RDC and BOPRC. He thanked the old guard for their significant contributions to the Rotorua Lakes, particularly Kevin Winters and Peter Guerin achieving lakeside sewerage at a low cost very quickly and efficiently. John Cronin has chaired BOPRC through all the development of the lakes restoration and management programmes and had been very supportive. He mentioned that Steve Chadwick as an MP had already been involved in getting the money from the government which had enabled the programmes to happen. Now as Mayor as well as the new chief executive, Geoff Williams, they were enthusiastically embracing the process and issues around water quality.

The Chair acknowledged the work of our Treasurer, Gerald Plested, and thanked him very much. He has resigned from the committee and after many years of holidays at Otaramarae he and his wife have sold their property and are going to Kaiteriteri. One of our long standing committee members, Marcel van Leeuwen has agreed to take over the position.

He finished by thanking the very efficient staff in the kitchen, Diane Atkinson, Jude Webber, Faye Stamp and also Leo Meharry who provided the pig for lunch and ably supported by Willy Emery and Brian Stamp in the cooking.

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

Don Atkinson/Paul East

Matters arising from the Report:

Mayor Steve Chadwick commented that John Green's QSM was an acknowledgement of his passion and advocacy through LWQS for cleaning the Rotorua Lakes. The work of managing the fresh water programme never stops and is now in the process of 'putting flesh on the bones'.

She said that there is increased pressure now from the deteriorating Lake Tarawera and there is no option but to get on with costing the scheme and worry about the funding later. We cannot sit and do nothing.

The Council had been working on a review of lake structures alongside Te Arawa and there would be a report out in March.

Gifford McFadden enquired how much the upgrade of the sewerage plant would cost and it was suggested that this wait until the presentation by Alison Rowe.

Financial Report:

The Chair talked to this report as the current Treasurer was unable to come. He said that the society was in good shape. The finances of the society have built up over the years with running symposiums which has given the committee some confidence to continue with further symposiums. This year they have not required so much sponsorship and LWQS has been able to pay for some of the costs.

A small amount has also been used to send some committee members to a conference to keep in touch with Government to convey the Society's point of view.

The subscription for the society would remain the same, \$5, with a donation of \$15.

It was moved that the financial report for LakesWater Quality Society Inc. for the year ending 30 September 2013 be received and approved.

John Green/Warren Webber

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

Don Atkinson/Margriet Theron

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.

Chair	John Green	(Rotoiti)	<i>Paul East/Don Atkinson</i>
Secretary	Ann Green	(Rotoiti)	<i>Don Atkinson/Warren Webber</i>
Treasurer	Marcel van Leeuwen	(Okareka)	<i>John Green/Dave Donaldson</i>
Committee	Don Atkinson	(Rotoiti)	
	Tai Eru	(Rotorua)	
	Jim Howland	(Rotoiti)	
	Tony Lapanovic	(Rotoehu)	
	Ian McLean	(Rotorua)	

Leo Meharry	(Rotoma Rate Payers, CB)
Hilary Prior	(Rotoiti, LRCA)
Geoff Rice	(Lower Maketu, Tapu-ika Iwi Authority)
Brian Stamp	(Rotoiti)
Phill Stamp	(Rotoiti, CB)
Tom Walters	(Okataina, FOMA)
Warren Webber	(Rotoiti)
Neil Callahan	(Tarawera)
Mary Stanton	(Rotoiti)
Sandra Goodwin	(Okareka Alternate)
Jim Koller	(Rotoehu Alternate)

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

Paul East/Bob Armstrong

Presentations were given by:

Alison Rowe, Rotorua District Council, on Rotorua's Waste Water Treatment Plant and its future
Francis Pauwels, Grow Rotorua Limited, on the concept of the Freshwater Centre of Excellence in Rotorua

Other invited Guests

Hon Todd McLay, who had worked hard to bring about the Oturoa Agreement, said that he had sat down and listened to the various groups who fundamentally all wanted the same thing - clean lakes. It had been a challenge but now they were all working in a collaborative way and it was an example to all New Zealand. He recognises the role of the farming community who of all the groups have to move the furthest. The changes in farming will need on-going support.

Mayor Steve Chadwick said that the new Council's motto was **Tatou Tatou, We Together**. They recognised that there was a long and challenging job ahead to grow Rotorua but they would be working together with all the community.

Doug Leeder, Chairman, BOPRC said that he had found that the communities in the Bay of Plenty were all committed and passionate. The challenge going forward for the community will be how we fund the issues and we will need to find new ways of funding.

General Business:

Geoff Rice - asked where is the money coming from Government which was part of the original \$72 million settlement?

Todd McLay - said that the Government were still going through the process but it should not be too far away.

Mary Stanton - mentioned that local students were getting money from Trusts for study but there were no jobs. Why not have jobs centred around water?

Professor David Hamilton - said he recently had 55 Maori students doing science and noted that they had no idea about fresh water or the importance of wetlands. He believes that the Freshwater Centre of Excellence would provide a huge opportunity in educating students through primary and secondary school and higher education.

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait - said that there were a number of initiatives happening in Rotorua working with families in the home to encourage a good start for the school years.

Martin Hawke - suggested that the Council demonstration on recycling is rare and should be more often as it is an opportunity for everyone.

John Green - commented that these are all opportunities that can be shown at the Freshwater Centre of Excellence and maybe we can become the greenest city in the Southern Hemisphere.

12.15 pm meeting closed

Tai Eru - Look after our land and waterways and Man will survive