



Meeting: Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

Meeting Date: 21 April 2023

Item under Separate Cover

As noted on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Agenda for the meeting on Friday 21 April 2023, the following item is included under separate cover:

Ngā Pūrongo Reports

Hei Pānui Anake Information Only

Agenda Item 8.5 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update

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To follow:

- Item 8.3- Scoping paper for the Review of the Strategy Group Terms of Reference



Report to: Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group

Meeting Date: 21 April 2023

Report From: Simone Coffin – CEO - Te Arawa Lakes Trust

Scope

This report outlines the activities of Te Arawa Lakes Trust in the Rotorua/Te Arawa Lakes Programme and the wider Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy.

Summary

Te Arawa Lake Trust initiatives were celebrated and recognized with the team winning the MPI Aotearoa Māori in Biosecurity award. The TALT Taiao Operations Manager William Anaru was also a semi-finalist in the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year for his role in 'leadership with impact' across the environmental projects being implemented in the Te Arawa rohe.

This quarter has also focused on implementing the Tarawera Collective Impact Project with a newly recruited team established in February. Engagement with the collective is progressing and funding has been obtained for a Tarawera Catchment eDNA and mātauranga project with iwi.

Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Programme

Te Tūāpapa is embedded into the Lakes Strategy programme

1. Te Tūāpapa has been the framework applied to the annual report for the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes Programme.
2. Progressing development of an information management system to connect, collectivise and provide a tool for Te Arawa to support Fresh water management decision making.
3. Engagement framework has been developed and is ready for implementation to enhance and empower mana whenua input into the Lakes Strategy Programme

Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Statutory responsibilities

Lakes structures and Consents

4. Submission made to the Limited notification of Structures on Lake Rotoiti
5. Te Papa Ahurewa will continue to support TALT across all consents they receive as well as three different hapū / iwi entities on resource consenting issues.

Policy and Planning matters



6. Te Papa Ahurewa have held several NPS-FM Freshwater engagement hui with hapū and iwi which have been successful with the development of a Freshwater Working Group. The working Group is currently focussed on discussions about FMU's and Te Mana o te Wai Statements associated with catchments as identified by hapū and iwi.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Te Arawatanga

Te Arawa Climate Change Working Group – Implementation of Te Ara ki Kōpū

7. The focus has been on coordinating TALTS response to Te Ara ki Kōpū: determining priority focus areas & associated staff & resourcing requirements for 2023.
8. With the support of the TALT Climate Change Coordinator, TUoK representatives successfully advocated for the inclusion of native forests & biodiversity into the draft Rotorua Forest Futures Action Plan. The collective achieved this by making a written submission & representatives attending four RLC-led workshops to advocate for the widening of the scope of the plan to focus on more than just commercial forestry within the rohe.

Mauri Tu Mauri Ora - Jobs for Nature

9. A variation to extend the JFN contract has gone to DOC and this programme will continue until June 2024.
10. Te Pohue is one of the largest wetland (9.5ha) on the edge of Lake Rotorua which has direct contribution to the lakes water quality. Pest plant control continues by the TALT wetland crew and recent efforts have also involved the installation of a pest animal control network monitored by mana whenua and volunteers.
11. The Wetland Team continue to work on current contracts as well as securing new contracts that include an area from Maketu to Lake Ōkaro. This has resulted in increased employment opportunities for Te Arawa iwi with 3 new staff joining the crew.
12. TALT has secured BayTrust funding that will support Ngāti Tamateatutahi Ngāti Kawiti to carry out animal pest control at Waiwherowhero Wetland with support in capacity and capability building from TALT wetland crew.
13. Millar Road Wetland (15ha) on the margins of Lake Ōkāreka has been undergoing restoration for a number of years driven by Landcare Ōkāreka. In January TALT and Landcare Ōkāreka submitted a joint application to the Department of Conservation community fund seeking funding for TALT restoration team to assist Landcare Ōkāreka volunteers in removing pest plants, expanding their pest control network and providing training opportunities and wananga for mana whenua. If successful, this will enable restoration works to be completed within three years and reduce the burdens to Landcare Ōkāreka who run primarily as a volunteer organisation.
14. Some staff underwent training in March and achieved certification to become marine mammal medics to assist with whale strandings should the need arrive.



15. In addition, several team members also achieved commercial skippers tickets growing the maritime crew from from three to five skippers and two more starting next month.

Ruku Wai – Commercial Divers

16. There are currently four Te Arawa iwi Commercial Divers and two more Scientific Divers in training operating out of Te Arawa Lakes Trust. The team has undertaken steps to continue upskilling and seeks funding to become instructors to support the capacity for iwi and hapū to pursue similar pathways across all 14 lakes.
17. Monthly monitoring of the Uwhi (Aquatic weed mats) continue at Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Rotomā. Kaikaitāhuna is a new site with the addition of an uwhi in an awa where Aquatic herbicides aren't feasible for now. Preliminary data shows the uwhi made from locally sourced harakeke are lasting longer than hessian (imported product) and suppressing aquatic weed growth for longer with better results. In addition to the initial observations the uwhi have also become refugia for native aquatic taonga such as kōura with numbers increasing in the tau kōura of local hapū and whānau.
18. Two of the commercial divers have joined BOPRC divers to carry out bi-annual Aquatic pest plant surveillance across Te Arawa Lakes
19. TALT divers have conducted Resource Consent monitoring and reporting on Lake Tikitapu Floating Wetland.
20. A 6-month update will be provided to all partners and relationships of the uwhi project. An update will be provided to RTALSG following this.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Engagement

Catfish Volunteer and Operations Programme

21. The Catfish Volunteers Programme continues to work well with more schools signing up, some coming all the way from Papamoa, extending the programmes message and visibility.
22. The catfish project was showcased on Rural Delivery segment and also at Te Hira Pu Ao Next Kaitiaki Generation Conference
23. The catfish management contract has netted 8,000 catfish this season with 1,900 being caught in March throughout Te Wētā, Okawa and Okere. Catfish Surveillance has also been extended to Lakes Ōkātina and Lake Tarawera.
24. The catch numbers have been down significantly on previous years. This could be to the high lake level dispersing the fish or the pre-Christmas netting operation netting targeting substantial amounts of adult fish.
25. The second Te Arawa Led Te Tūkohu Ngāwha 2023 School Science Fair Symposium is being planned for July 2023 and already double the amount of schools have registered since last years event.
26. Amohia Peka from Ngāti Pikiao and the TALT biosecurity team has started her Masters degree with Waikato University to assist a BOPRC funded project with NIWA looking at catfish biocontrol research in Te Arawa rohe.



Biosecurity

- 27. Boat Ramp inspections and Self Certification Surveys continue to be carried out. There is an increase of repeat offenders not carrying out self cert but the inspections have been 100% compliant so far.
- 28. Biosecurity officers have also been engaging with the community and iwi and hapū at events such the Aotearoa Dive clean up day at Lake Rotomā and the Ngāti Tarahwia Iwi Trust whānau day at Lake Ōkātina.
- 29. TALT won the NZ MPI Biosecurity awards and celebrated with volunteers by hosting a community event for whānau at Lake Tikitapu
- 30. TALT Uwhi results presentation at Sudima to showcase findings and insights to both iwi and community.
- 31. Public hui held at Sudima to discuss Aquatic Spray Programme with iwi and Community care groups in attendance

Support to whanau and hapū

- 32. TALT hosted the first ever Te Hira-Pū Ao 3 day Conference to bring together and showcase the work of iwi and hapū leading environmental initiatives throughout Aotearoa with an aim to inspire the next generation of taiao champions. Activities were hosted by the the TALT operations team on the lake in some of the wetlands.
- 33. Te Arawa Taiohi Toa, Youth Engagement - The Te Arawa Taiohi Toa framework and long-term strategy includes a series of wananga to equip Rangatahi in Te Arawa with a wide range of knowledge and experience. The focus of this quarters wānanga has been:
 - introducing Rangatahi to biosecurity on Lake Rotoiti with TALT dive team conducting surveillance and Plant ID workshops in situ with a 'try dive' experience.
 - Kōaro rangahau and macroinvertebrate monitoring at Kaikaitāhuna
- 34. Te Arawa Rangatahi can now earn kaitiaki credits with the implementation of Kōura conservation workshop into the NZQA curriculum at Rotorua Lakes Highschool
- 35. Development and implementation of the Aquatic Weed Programme Cultural Monitoring Plan involves significant engagement with iwi and hapū which started in February.
- 36. Involvement of whānau and iwi in taonga fisheries monitoring and management through Fish Futures Research Programme started with physical research on lakes Tarawera and Ōkātina. Exploring mātauranga methodology and laboratory techniques and collecting data.