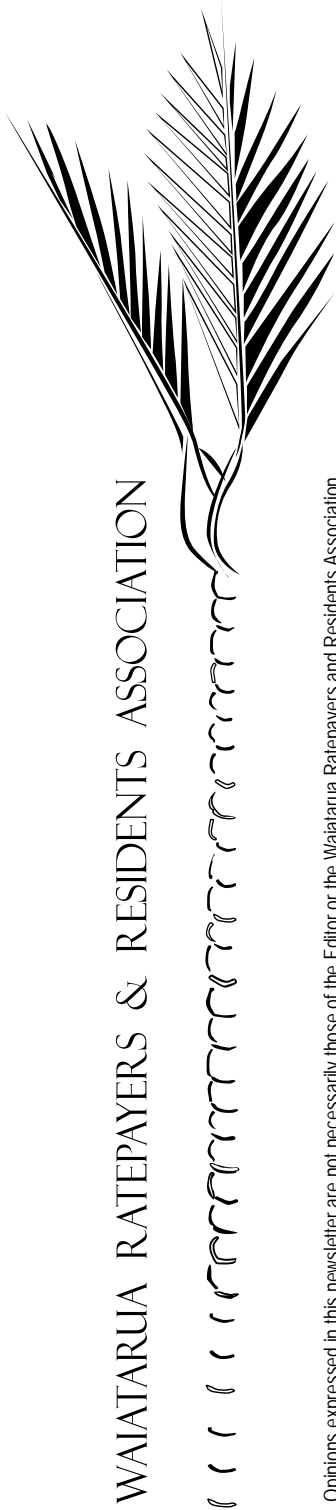


Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

March 2009



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

AGM Report

A disappointingly small turnout at the 2009 AGM witnessed long serving, 29 years, Library volunteer Bev Latimer awarded Life Membership to WRRRA in recognition of services to the community.

After the AGM was a very interesting and informative workshop on Waiaatarua's Local Area Plan, where we all had input as to the future of Waiaatarua.

Your somewhat depleted committee for 2009 is:

President/Community Board	Dave Pocock	Ph 814 9697	davepocock@xtra.co.nz
Vice President	Vacant		
Treasurer	John Stagg	Ph 814 8870	johnandandrea@woosh.co.nz
Secretary	Jan James	Ph 814 9194	pwmandjij@clear.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	C/O Dave Pocock	Ph 814 9697	davepocock@xtra.co.nz
Committee Members	Frank Hogsden	Ph 814 9869	
	Lynda Hogsden	Ph 814 9869	
	Susanne Timms	Ph 814 9346	shtimms@xtra.co.nz
Representative	Ian Ford (fire brigade)	814 8871	ian.ford@xtra.co.nz

As you can see we need a Vice President and at least two more committee members as a bare minimum to be able to basically function, so if you can help we would love to hear from you.

Dave Pocock 814 9697.

Waitakere Wages War on Weeds

Waitakere City's annual War on Weeds programme gets underway in March. Once again the target is the 'nine nasty' weeds which threaten the unique environment in Waitakere City.

Jumbo bins will be placed at high profile sites around the City for residents to dispose of noxious weeds collected from their properties. The 'nine nasties' are Kahili Ginger, Blue Morning Glory, Japanese Honeysuckle, Climbing Asparagus, Jasmine, Moth Plant, Plecranthus, Smilax and Tradescantia.

War on Weeds runs from 1- 31 March each year. The programme is run by WeedFree Trust in partnership with Keep Waitakere Beautiful and Waitakere City Council.

Each year residents deliver about 100 tonnes of weeds to the free jumbo bins around the City. In the lead up to War on Weeds, WeedFree Trust encourages residents to stock pile their environmental weeds.

"The longer the nine nasties are left to thrive on your property, the less chance your natives have of flourishing," says Community Co-ordinator Neil Henderson.

"It's important to try and get these nasties and other weeds before they go to seed."

While the focus of the programme is on the 'nine nasties' there are many other environmental weeds that can also be disposed of in the bins. For help identifying your pest plants, visit www.weedbusters.org.nz. Residents are asked not to use the bins for woody weeds like Privet and Bamboo - trailer vouchers for disposal of these weeds are available from WeedFree Trust.

For more information visit www.ecomatters.org.nz or contact WeedFree Trust on 826 4276.

If you still have Ginger plants and/or Agapanthus on your property, now is the time to remove the seed heads.



Death by strangulation: this dead tree still wears its mantle of jasmine.

EDITOR:

All enquiries to:
Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire (bookings)

John Goudge - Ph 814 9744

Library hours:

Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm
Friday 7.00am - 8.00pm
Saturday 11.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

A Big Thank You to Wendy and Bruce Ronald. They have "retired" after 20 years of helping run the library on Friday nights. Well done.

Help needed. We require a volunteer to open the library for one hour on the third Sunday each month. Our thanks to Cinnamon Edwards who aided us for a while but has now left Waitatarua. If you can give one hour per month to your community, please ring Bev 835 3237, or Jeannette 814 1999.

New Books

"The Hour I First Believed" by Wally Lamb. This is about the unforeseen consequences of violence, in this case the Columbine shooting.

"Plum Spooky" by Janet Evanovich. Another fun read for the Stephanie Plum fans.

"The Associate" by John Grisham. A young lawyer facing a moral decision plunges into a criminal conspiracy.

"Madonnas of Leningrad" by Debra Dean. An aging Russian's thoughts move between contemporary America and Russia during WW2.

"The Lieutenant" by Kate Grenville. A most welcome novel from the author of the popular Secret River.

"The Piano Teacher" by Janice Lee. Story reflecting the clash of cultures of east and west in post-war Hong Kong.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our March 4 get together is a full day in South Auckland starting at Waiau Pa and then to the Pukekohe area. Our April 1 visit is to the garden of the horticulturalist Graeme Ross at Beach Haven on the North Shore. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Eileen on 814 9298 for further information.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy Flower Shop,
423 Titirangi Rd, Titirangi. Phone 817 3780

Dear Dave, I am e-mailing you regarding a rather unpleasant incident I experienced this evening; I'll nominate it as brickbat award. I was driving up West Coast Road tonight around 9pm. About Raroa Road I saw a white moving thing in the middle of the road, I thought it was a cat, slowed down to avoid hitting it. As I got closer it was just a plastic bag blown by the wind. The car behind me I then noticed following me very closely and proceeded to follow me right up my driveway. I was very frightened and blasted my horn to get my husband's attention. The gentleman had followed me in order to give me a piece of his mind - because of my sudden braking he had nearly gone into the back of me. As I had only been driving at 60K, if he had maintained an adequate braking distance this shouldn't have happened.

For a Bouquet, our wonderful volunteer firemen get my vote as always. Bless them. More of them, less raging drivers I say! Sincerely (Name withheld by request).

Hi All

Well here we are again at the end of another year of the Committee with the AGM about to take place, at the time of writing this.

During the later part of the year I have said that we were losing two, maybe three, long standing members and I can confirm it is three not seeking re-election.

One is Jan Haine who stands down as Treasurer, and not only has Jan done a great job over the past two and a half years but has also made the transition to our new treasurer John Stag as painless as possible.

The other two I am going to mention as one because they are a team although do have separate opinions which do not always agree.

Robin and Kor have been on the committee for the past five years and right from the start have been in boots and all. The saying is that nobody is indispensable and that is 100% true, but these two are going to leave a very big hole to fill. On behalf of all of us a big thanks to you both and from me personally it has been a pleasure working with you for the past five years. They are not lost to the community as Kor is following his passion on lighting and sound with the drama group and I know Robin will also be involved with drama as well as furthering her career.

Our newsletter editor Jenny continues to have health problems and is currently awaiting yet more operations, which meant she had to resign. We wish Jenny all the best and really hope that things improve very soon.

We do have a new person on board doing the layout and proofreading that is Nicki Warner, not only is she new to the newsletter but also the area having only been here just over one month. Nicki comes from a newspaper background and was responsible for layout and proofreading at a small Northland newspaper.

I am sure that Nicki is going to put her touch to the newsletter over the coming months with a fresh, new and young outlook.

She may take over the information gathering as well, although we would still like any expressions of interest for that role.

Talking newsletter, we are grateful to Longley Printing for once again taking care of the printing, and Tony Bacon with his team of volunteers delivering it.

Our Library volunteers continue to do a fantastic job, quietly providing a valuable service.

As a committee we wrote to the community board pointing out that the re-sealing of West Coast Road did not achieve much as the corrugations were still there, as were a number of bumps. It was good to see a fairly quick reaction with the corrugation corner being re-done with the same smooth seal that was used on the bend by Bendalls Lane. In my opinion the whole reseal area should have been done with same product, then we would have noticed a real improvement.

We seem to be experiencing an upsurge in reported suspicious activity and burglaries in the area, with Neighbourhood Support doing a fantastic job of keeping us up to date with what is going on. Ex-committee member Les Duffield is the co-ordinator for this area and he has established a very efficient system of communication. If you are not part of Neighbourhood Support I say do yourself a favour and join as it may save you from being the next victim. Phone Les on 814 1130.

Let me share with you an extract from an e-mail received via Neighbourhood Support:

"Hi Guys

Just a forward note for anyone in the Oratia/Waiatarua areas. Ensure everything is locked up on your property. We were broken into two years ago and it's not only an invasion of your life, it's a real pain with getting the insurance and everything else sorted. Aside from explaining to the kids strangers have been in their house!"

That contact again: Les on 814 1130.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their support and friendship over the past twelve months, not to mention lots of hard work.

So to Korstiaan Prins, Jan James, Jan Haine, Robin Essex, Susanne Timms and Frank Hogsden, thanks guys. Also Ian Ford (Fire Chief) and Kubi Witten-Hannah (Community Board chairman) thanks for your valuable input.

I am seeking re-election so all things going to plan I will be back to bore you next month.

Thanks

Dave

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Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust

AUDITION

GHOST WRITER

by David Tristram

A Spine Chilling Comedy

March 1st Sunday 2.30pm

Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua, Waitakere City

3 men & 3 women

Production crew also required

Season: May 13th - May 23rd 2009

Contact director for further info: Marie Goudge ph 835-1890

(Please note that director's phone number was incorrect in previous notice)

Character List

Edward: a playwright with writers block

Alex: Edward's gay friend & landlord

Ruby: Edward's deceased actress wife (the ghost)

Glenda: an attractive/neurotic girlfriend

Frances: washed up actress

Hedley: pompous washed up actor

Synopsis: A theatre company decides to stage a new production of Hamlet - backed by a cast of second-rate hams. At the last night party is one Edward Pinfeld, a playwright & husband of the talented but tempestuous actress Ruby, who played Ophelia.

Tragically, that very night Ruby, a renowned reveller, is found dead in bed - an overdose of booze & pills. The theatre world went into a state of mourning for a whole afternoon.

One year later, Edward remains deeply affected & has moved into the attic room of his gay friend Alex.

The action commences on the first anniversary of the death of Ruby Pinfeld.

Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 5th April, 7pm,

at the Waiatarua Community Hall\

911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua, Waitakere City.

Twice a year Waiatarua Performing Arts produces quality entertainment & enriches the lives of all involved. You can be part of that by joining our committee, becoming a club member, or agreeing to help out in some way.

Everyone welcome to have their say. Just come along.

(or if you want further info contact committee chairperson John Goudge, ph 814-9744)

Waiatarua Rainfall January 2009

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	8	3rd - 19mm	49mm	49mm
Brabant Road	12	11th - 15mm	53mm	53mm
Quinns Road	11	11th - 17mm	49mm	49mm
Forest Hill Road	8	11th - 12mm	39mm	39mm
Auckland City			32mm	32mm

Waiatarua Quiz Night

Saturday 28th March 2009, 7.30p.m

At the Waiatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Rd

Cover charge \$5per person

Please BYO drinks and also BYO nibbles- this enables us to keep costs down so that everyone can enjoy a very affordable night out

For more info please call Ian Ford on 814 8871

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

This month we've said thanks and farewell to Cinnamon Edwards who has left Waiatarua for the flatlands. We welcome Shane Moore and Elaine Alexander who have moved up the hill from Laingholm, where they were members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade there.

Recent Calls

- 5:30 pm, Wed 28 Jan - Traffic hazard, Scenic Drive.
- 1:30 pm, Sun 15 Feb - False alarm, Piha Rd.
- 5:23 pm, Tue 17 Feb - Car fire, Bendalls Lane. Out on arrival of Glen Eden crew.

Keep Your Property Fire Safe

Waiatarua bush is nowhere near as flammable as some parts of Australia – thank goodness – but you can and should take steps to keep your property as safe as possible from the potential dangers of bush fire. Ensuring that a fire engine can fit up your driveway is a good start – these are much wider, taller and longer than the car you use every day. The National Rural Fire Authority recommends you form a safety zone or defensible space around your home by clearing out to at least 10 metres (more on the downhill side), removing all dead vegetation and highly flammable species, and keeping the grass mowed. You'll need to consult with the Council to ensure compliance with their rules on removing vegetation.

Contacts

Always call 111 if you want the Fire Brigade to attend, no matter what the incident. Otherwise you can contact Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor by FRIDAY 13th MARCH 2009 - 5PM
Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697
davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Inorganic Rubbish Collection

Waiatarua residents are reminded that if they wish to have inorganic rubbish collected from their property this year, they need to book NOW for their April collection month.

Waitakere City Council is now operating a pre-paid inorganic rubbish collection service.

Under the new system, the service is booked and paid for in advance and the inorganic rubbish collected from inside residential property boundaries. Previously rubbish was put out on the street.

Residents must make their booking at least two clear weeks in advance of their collection week so are advised to go online now (or enquire at the council on 839 0419) to find their allocated collection date and booking cut-off date.

The new user pays service costs \$11.25 per household and must be booked online at www.inorganiccollection.co.nz or in person at the council offices at 6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson.

The service runs between February and June each year. Different suburbs are covered by the collection each month and each address has a pre-allocated collection date.

Residents will need to pile their inorganic rubbish inside their property or near their driveway on collection day.

The collection is for household furniture, toys and appliances, domestic gardening equipment, outdoor leisure equipment and metal items from household renovations. A maximum of one cubic metre (about two car boots full) of rubbish can be put out for collection.

To book your inorganic rubbish collection:

1. Go to www.inorganiccollection.co.nz or phone 839-0419 to find out your collection date and your booking deadline date. You will need to provide your address details.

2. Book and pay the \$11.25 fee online or at the council – at least two weeks ahead of your collection week.

The inorganic collection has primarily been changed because the law now requires councils to encourage waste reduction and because the old system was inefficient, unsightly and dangerous and made commercial scavenging possible at ratepayers' expense.

Restricted Fire Season

Remember we have a fire restriction in place which means you need a council permit to light any fire other than a barbecue. For more details phone Rural Fire Officer at 837 0790.

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Dave Pocock via email davepocock@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 9697.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2008, January to December.

Cell phone safety: Protect yourself and your family from harmful EMF. Attach a Biopro Cell Phone Chip, \$60. Phone Emily 835 3777.

Handyman work: Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Special gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708.

Otimai: Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Phone Lynne & Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

Plants: Taros, bulbs, cannas and various perennials for sale. \$1 – \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

La Leche League: Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

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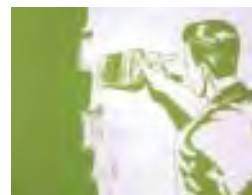
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