

Waiaatarua Community News

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December 2007

QUALITY OF LIFE REPORT 2007

Waitakere City residents have a very high quality of life and the city's economy is performing well but, like other cities in the region, it faces challenges such as improving access to public transport and affordable housing, according to a new report.

The 2007 Quality of Life report, released by the Metropolitan Sector Group today, provides a comprehensive assessment of the quality of life in 12 New Zealand cities, as part of a multi-council initiative.

The report showed 85% of Waitakere City residents rated their quality of life as either good or extremely good. The average for all 12 cities was 90%. In addition, 83% of Waitakere residents rated themselves happy or very happy, and 80% said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.

The city experienced economic growth of 4.3% and per capita GDP growth of 3.5% during the period 2001-2006.

Both results were broadly in line with the national average.

Labour productivity grew by 1.1% per year, the third-highest among the 12 cities. The number of economically-viable new businesses increased by 23.4% over the period 2002-2006.

Waitakere's population grew by 10.5% during 2001-2006, compared with a national growth rate of 7.8%. The population is projected to grow by a further 43.1% over the period 2006-2026.

The report stated that Waitakere was among the most ethnically diverse cities in New Zealand, with population that is 12.3% Maori, 14.4% Pacific, and 15.2% from Asian ethnicities.

Just over half of residents (54%) felt that increasing diversity made the city a better place to live in.

The city's tourism sector has grown, with a 25.0% increase in the number of guest nights purchased during the period 2004-2007.

House prices in Waitakere increased by 74.6% over the period 2001-2006, and rates of home ownership declined over that period but remained above the national average.

Of all private dwellings in the city, 53.2% were owned by their occupiers in 2006, compared with 65.1% in 2001. In Auckland, by contrast, only 34.8% of private dwellings are owned by the occupiers.

Waitakere City also spent a greater proportion of their incomes on rents than residents of most other cities.

The report also highlighted transport challenges facing the city.

Among Waitakere residents, 64% travelled outside their home city to work – the second-highest ratio among any of the 12 cities. Just over 70% of residents used cars to get to work – second-highest of the 12 cities after Manukau.

Fewer than half of Waitakere residents rated public transport affordable or convenient.

"This report is positive about life in Waitakere City," said Mayor Bob Harvey. "The vast majority of residents are happy with their quality of life, the economy is performing strongly, and we're working hard to protect the city's environment. However, like other cities in the region, we also acknowledge the need to confront challenges."

The Quality of Life project started with six councils in 1999 and has since expanded to 12 territorial local authorities, including: Rodney; North Shore; Waitakere; Auckland; Manukau; Hamilton; Tauranga; Porirua; Hutt; Wellington; Christchurch; and Dunedin. The project aims to give decision-makers information to help them improve the quality of life in major New Zealand urban areas. Project sponsor Jim Harland said the report highlighted the need for action to plan for long-term growth, improve access to services and promote economic and environmental sustainability.

I wonder if any readers can enlighten me. We moved to this area about 2 years ago and love the mix of eclectic people and houses. One of the people we always saw was an older chap who walked for hours each day all over the area. We would see him in Forest Hill Rd, West Coast Rd, Henderson and other places. He must have been extremely fit from all that walking. He was usually in jeans and a red/black sweater or denim jacket and often wore a cap. My neighbour thought his name was Hans but no one was quite sure. He would always give us a wave as we went by and obviously lots of other people waved to him each day.

Just recently, I have realized that I haven't seen him for ages and I wondered if anyone knew what happened to him. To me he was such a local identity. I really miss his cheery wave and smile.

Responses to the editor please if you can answer this reader's enquiry.

ED: We believe the person you describe was Louis - see obituary below

Alouis Wolloner, known to most of us as Louis, was born in the Czech Republic near the Austrian border on Christmas day 1935. Later on his family went to Germany as refugees, where he became a brewer. After moving to New Zealand, returning to Germany and living between there and South West Africa for some years, Louis came to New Zealand for good. Louis had trained as a glazier in South West Africa and he worked for Smith & Smith Glass here, before running his own business. He lived on Forest Hill Road and, as we all know, loved waking around the area. However he became ill with cancer and died on the 3rd November. Louis is survived by two sons.

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

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Library hours:

Thursday 9.00am - 12.00pm

Friday 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Saturday 11.00am - 12.00pm

Sunday 11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site:

www.waiaatarua.org.nz

Focus on Business

Jan Cockell and her late husband, Chris, first took up 'serious' potting when they moved to Waiatarua in the late 1970s. They initially rented, before purchasing their property in the early 80s. The garage and an adjoining room were converted to a workshop and studio, and so the Cockell's collective potting career began. It was the heyday of pottery in New Zealand, and the hugely successful open days the couple ran each year early in December made it worthwhile for them to continue their work for many years.

Although enjoying the opportunity to work together, the styles of the two were poles apart; Jan's husband was a Londoner, who appreciated very functional, robust pottery, while Jan's work in porcelain has always followed more refined, decorative lines. Even their chosen methods of firing work were completely different, with Chris designing and using LPG kilns for most of his career, before latterly moving to a wood fired kiln that is still on the property. Jan has always used an electric kiln, allowing her to achieve the colours and textures that suit her work.

Jan's love of fabrics and related crafts (she sews, embroiders, and does a bit of patchwork) continues to influence the style of her work, combining often lacy, delicate designs into pieces that are actually quite sturdy. While aware of emerging trends and changes, Jan has made a deliberate decision not to mirror these, preferring to create and deliver her unique style of work to a niche market. Jan describes herself as a 'real' potter, meaning that she doesn't produce ornaments as such – although the vessels she does produce (pots, vases, bowls, trinket boxes) are certainly ornate in themselves.

And for the future? Jan's 'To Do' list sounds formidable to me! At present she's organising the firing of Chris' last pots, staying true to his style and method of firing and ensuring the same glazes are used. The last batch of pots will be fired early next year, following which Jan plans an exhibition of his work.

In addition, after several years of promoting her work almost exclusively through the two co-operatives in which she's involved, Jan has now decided it's time to open up her home-based Waiatarua studio again. As with most artists, Jan enjoys talking to people interested in all types of pottery, and is looking forward to again displaying and selling her work from this special part of Auckland that she loves and calls home.

Another recent new direction for Jan is what she has dubbed 'recycling' - mosaic mirrors, made from her broken pots. She enjoys the dimensional aspect of these mosaics, using the opportunity to include rims and knobs to create interesting and innovative pieces. Jan's love of colour is being satisfied by the opportunity to coordinate them in her mosaic work – garish is definitely not her style! As Jan says, pots last forever, so she's been scouring the garden for her late husband's broken pots, and using these in her mosaic pieces, too.

A window display in Pots of Ponsonby earlier this year gave Jan the satisfying opportunity to display her pots and mosaics together, and she is looking forward to the Waitakere City Council's Artists' Open Weekend at the beginning of March, when she will again have her studio open to the public, and we will all have the opportunity to see her work on display and for sale locally once again.

(Jan welcomes visitors to her studio – please phone on 814 9701)

Jan Haine

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

This month's newsletter has been compiled and edited by Kor and our hardworking proof reader Jenni Hunter. The reason for this is that Jenny Bebbington, our editor, is home recovering from having had major surgery twice within two weeks and will be out of action until further notice. She has requested that nobody contact her, so please send any and all newsletter material to me davepocock@xtra.co.nz. We wish Jenny a full and speedy recovery.

You will have noticed that last month we had a Vice-President's report from that super busy man Korstiaan. The reason for that was that Shirley and I were visiting Uganda, Kenya and Egypt, climbing mountains to visit silver back Gorillas. That nearly killed me but it and the rest of the experience was fantastic, mind you insanity does help on these escapades.

The last couple of months have been very busy in little old Waiatarua, what with the play 'At The Bach' (a fantastic show); Quiz night, where 48 locals turned up, including a group of young ones, and a great time was had by all; the Garage Sale (very successful for the first one); and finally the Community Breakfast, which was a great way to end the year's activities

These things do not just happen but need a lot of thought, planning and effort from a dedicated group of people, namely the committee and their partners. For one reason or the other I have been otherwise engaged on the above dates, so thanks guys for a great job done.

While we are on activities, our next A.G.M. will be on 26th March 2008 not February as in the past.

Les Duffield, the man of many hats, would like someone to take over his Hall manager's hat by next March. If this is you Les will work with you in the first instance to show you the ropes. If you're interested please 'phone Les on 814 1130.

Talking about Les, NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT comes to mind and what a great job he is doing on establishing the Waiatarua branch. If you haven't signed up yet, fill out that form now or phone Les. Who knows, the next burglary that is stopped may be your place.

Whilst I was away the local body elections took place and once again we were abysmal in our voter turnout numbers, which I suppose means everyone is happy to go with the flow.

I would like to congratulate Waitakere Ward Councillor Penny Hulse on becoming Deputy Mayor. Penny is a strong supporter of Waiatarua, always interested in our activities and I might add a very nice person as well. It is quite interesting that the last Deputy Mayor, Carolyn Stone, was also a Waitakere ward councillor.

Xmas is fast approaching once again, so I wish all a very HAPPY XMAS and GREAT NEW YEAR. Remember all the young ones on the road, so let's make the speed through the Oratia school area 40K at all times.

Dave

CALLING ALL WAITAKERE ARTISTS!

Waitakere City Artists' Open Studio weekend Saturday and Sunday 1,2 March, 2008. 10am - 4pm

Waitakere City's artists are invited to register for the 4th Annual Open Studio weekend to open their home studios or join a cluster group for the public to: meet local artists, see art in action, purchase local artwork and learn about the creative processes.

A mini bus tour is planned. A brochure and map will be available

To register please contact Julie Nash phone 836 8000 extn 8934 or email julie.nash@waitakere.govt.nz

WEST COAST GALLERY upcoming exhibition

TERRY PRINCE - is an artist living in Oratia. His work is currently exhibited in galleries from Piha to Parnell, as well as being held in private collections. An ex student of Garth Tapper and Ralph Venables, he then worked for many years as a screen painter for Ted Dutch.

THE BIG PICTURE and some little ones.

This collection is about places Terry loves. He grew up and lived in West Auckland, spent the best days of his childhood at Foster's Bay, Huia and as he became old enough to roam, - the big surf beaches. He finds the grand scale, shapes and endless colour shifts fascinating, and derives great joy from trying to capture them.

WEST COAST GALLERY is proud to present TERRY'S exhibition - THE BIG PICTURE and some little ones - 1st. January - 27 January 2008 Wednesday - Sunday 10 - 5pm.



HISTORY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT IN NEW ZEALAND

In 1979 Neighbourhood Watch was introduced into New Zealand by the Police as a Crime Prevention initiative. It concentrated on the prevention of two types of crimes – household burglary and motor vehicle theft.

In June 1983 in the suburb of St Mary's Bay, Auckland, a woman was viciously attacked in her own home by an intruder. Her screams for help fell on deaf ears in a crowded neighbourhood. Good neighbours had not interfered in what they considered was just a case of domestic violence. When the truth of this vicious attack became known, the community came together, not just concerned about dishonesty offences, but increasing violence including domestic violence.

Well attended meetings resulted in the establishment of a Neighbourhood Support scheme. Over forty street coordinators were appointed. Each street worked out methods of protection which varied from street to street, but their level of support for each other was developed beyond the initial purpose of property protection. They obtained commercial sponsorship and were able to challenge the depth of the Police initiated Watch Group.

Their objectives:

- To create caring homes and neighbourhoods
- To make sure neighbours know each other
- To create telephone contacts and networks
- To share information about crime and community activities
- To answer cries for help
- To motivate the community
- To lower crime rates
- To build better community and Police relations

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Well it might have been like Kandahar in Mt Albert, but Guy Fawkes was a lot more peaceful in Waiatarua. We received a couple of calls, but they only needed investigation and we didn't need to run out a hose at any of them. We needed to use our 'rain day' for the community bonfire and hosted several dozen people at the Fire Station on Monday 5th.

Fire Permits

Remember that from now until the end of April you MUST have a fire permit from the Council to light any outdoor fires. You can get these from the Council at no charge, but you must apply at least 3 working days before you want your fire. The Fire Brigade does not issue permits. More details here: www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtciit/cp/ruralfire.asp

Chemical Incidents

We've had no more since the two reported last month, but Piha had one very similar to ours this Monday – a few discarded containers still with some residual contents.

Recent Calls

- 4:07pm, Sun 21 Oct – Rubbish fire, Piha. Turned back en route.
- 6:28pm, Sun 21 Oct – Barbecue on fire, Piha. Out on arrival.
- 12:29am, Mon 22 Oct – Car fire, Scenic Drive.
- 10:55pm, Wed 24 Oct – Car fire, Scenic Drive.
- 10:36am, Sun 28 Oct – False alarm, Parker Rd
- 8:53pm, Mon 29 Oct – Fireworks, West Coast Rd.
- 6:24pm, Sat 10 Nov – Grass fire, Piha. Handled by Piha crew.
- 12:40pm, Sun 11 Nov – Car crash, Scenic Drive. One driver received a few facial cuts, but she came out of it in much better shape than her car
- 8:25pm, Sun 11 Nov – Rubbish fire, Forest Hill Rd. No action required.
- 8:46pm, Sun 11 Nov – Bonfire, Parker Rd. No action required.
- 3:53pm, Sun 18 Nov – Cliff rescue, Bethells Beach. Handled by Henderson and Bethells crews

Contacts

Always dial 111 if you have a fire or other emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Waiatarua Rainfall (October 2007)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	16	1st (42 mm)	196mm	1368 mm
Brabant Road	22	1st (29 mm)	175mm	1284 mm
Quinns Road	21	2nd (21mm)	140mm	1121 mm
Forest Hill Road	22	1st (30mm)	153mm	1267 mm
Auckland City			76mm	778mm

THE ARATAKI RANGERS ROUNDUP

Well, the winds have been keeping us busy leaving considerable debris on the tracks and in the drains. If you do come across any windfall, please feel free to call it in to the Arataki Visitor Centre, 817 0077.

We also have to report an unfortunate and destructive trend that has been occurring in the Arataki area. The very popular and established Bush Camp, an historical educational programme run by the education team, has become a popular hangout for party goers / vandals. After a series of relatively minor incidents of littering and fires, on the weekend of Oct 13/14 the main camp was broken into and ransacked, with the burning of many irreplaceable artefacts, theft of equipment and the deliberate cutting down of saplings and ringbarking of larger trees.

Sadly the bright and eager little faces that were geared up in costume the following day were most disappointed at the cancellation of their camp as we cleaned up the mess. We have received some significant information regarding this event and it is now being followed up by police. Once again, we would like to urge the public to report any suspicious behaviour / vehicles and to thank those residents who have aided our enquiries to date.

On a brighter note, the Arataki Nursery has a full complement of volunteers working furiously to get as many seedlings potted as possible.

The Arataki Pest Control volunteers have been receiving great results for their efforts. This is always a rewarding time of year as it coincides with many birds nesting and effective pest / predator control can have its biggest impact. Any questions regarding Nursery or Pest Control programmes can be directed through the Visitor Centre (see above).

That's all for this time around. Kakite

The Arataki Rangers

Signal Gallery

Christmas Events and Exhibitions

Caire Inwood, Su McPherson and Susan Carmont have each made their distinctive dolls for this exhibition, using natural and recycled materials. Great for creative, unique, affordable gifts. Be here at 4pm on Sunday Nov 18 for the best choice and meet the gals over a glass of wine and nibbles.

We have also just received a range of jewellery from Taranaki jeweller Sally Laing. She uses the process of enamelling, where tiny particles of glass are ground in a mortar and pestle to a desired fineness, washed and then applied to a metal surface. The pieces can be fired up 7 times with maybe another colour or pure gold or silver foils placed between the colours after each firing, which creates an illusion of depth. I have earrings, pendants and broches.

Christmas gifts - well we have new tiles for outdoors, smellies, things for littlies, Jill Maines' jewellery, delicious yummy hard to ignore chocolate, world music CDs for both adults and children which come with some good freebies, memory games for the hols, ceramics and garden art. In fact we're sure most of your Christmas shopping could be done at Signal Gallery. 717 Swanson Road, Swanson. Phone 833 3479

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FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2008**

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