

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

June - July 2006

Treasurer Urgently Required

We'd like to formally thank Rod Maunder for his great contribution to the WRRRA as Treasurer. Sadly for us, but happily for him, he is off on the next chapter of his life. All the best Rod. We are of course now on the lookout for a new Treasurer, if there is anyone out there who'd be happy to come forward. A thorough hand-over will be available, and the lucky volunteer will be welcomed into the warm folds of a supportive bunch of comrades. Please call President Dave Pocock on 814 9697 at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Watch Those Taps

By Brian Riley - local plumber & WRRRA committee member

As most of us do not get the Western Leader, a recent article (May 26th) has prompted me to write in and advise local residents of a potential problem with imported tap-ware from China.

The Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning. Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow trace metals to accumulate within the fitting overnight.

Research for the Ministry carried out has shown that some NZ suppliers contain minute traces of lead that are near to or exceed the MAXIMUM level specified in the drinking water standards. The lead isn't coming from the water suppliers themselves but primarily from metals in household fittings.

All tap-ware made in NZ has been manufactured to NZ standards, which is safe for drinking. There are other overseas brands that are ok but please check this out thoroughly before deciding on your purchase.



'Dancing with the Locals'

with music by the dynamic and versatile
Russell French

Saturday August 12th 8pm to midnight.
\$12-00 per person (no door sales).
Bar open for beer, wine, juice - no BYO!
18 years and over ONLY.
Nibbles available.

Bookings for prepaid tickets via
Michelle at 279 Forest Hill Road. and on Phone: 814 9707.
Limited to 60 tickets, so be quick.
Entry solely to ticket holders.
(WRRRA reserves the right to cancel if insufficient sales by August 1st)



Government Announcement Welcomed

Waitakere Online has strongly endorsed the government's announcement that Internet services are going to become more competitive. www.waitakereonline.co.nz is an on-line community for Waitakere City residents and businesses. The portal provides a technological window into hundreds of local businesses, community organisations and services.

Chair of the Waitakere On-line editorial board, Andy Williamson says: "The change will reduce the cost of fast Internet access and increase choice for business and residential consumers. We are also pleased to see that, alongside regulation, Cabinet has agreed to extend Digital Strategy funding for remote and under-served communities. This will help ensure that all of us in Waitakere City - and particularly those in outlying areas like Laingholm, Parau and Karekare - have access to broadband. It is clear from overseas experience that fast, affordable, Internet is a catalyst for economic growth. In fact, it's a necessity not just for today's businesses but for tomorrow's. Fast Internet access enhances our cultural, social and educational aspirations, helping us and our children to build a better future."

For further information, contact Andy Williamson (Ph: 817-1133) or andy@wairua.co.nz

Waiatarua Table Tennis Club

Ping Pong is finally coming to Waiatarua! This is a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to gather in all weathers and get some exercise whilst having fun. Start date is Tuesday August 22nd at 7.00pm, and this will be a weekly event at the Waiatarua Hall 911 West Coast Road. Cost is just \$2-00 per person. All those interested call Les on 814 1130 or Korstiaan on 814 1850.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

I enclose: \$10.00 household, \$5.00 Single Occupant

Name:
Address:
Phone No.:
Email:

To Treasurer, Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or **leave at the library**

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

EDITOR:

Robin Essex - Ph 814 1850
E-Mail: robsx@free.net.nz

WRRRA President:

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

Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Michelle Stanborough
Ph 814 9707

Library hours:

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

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

2006

From the Editor

Robin Essex

I was deeply affected in a very positive way by Community Constable, Theresa McCabe, upon reading her 'Love Thy Neighbour' article in the Western Leader (June 16th). She obviously deals with a lot of neighbourhood disputes in her line of work, as I'm sure many police officers do. Her message included 'think before you speak - words hold so much power, so learn to use them wisely', and she comments that she'd rather have her neighbour as a friend than an enemy. Theresa also says, "People respond positively to happy smiling faces". This reminded me of my dear Dad and the advice he offered his grandchildren... *if a dog approaches you growling with teeth exposed, you just want to run away; but if a dog comes to you with tail wagging and tongue licking, you'll usually give it a friendly pat.* Speaking of smiling, I read the transcript recently of a speaker by the name of Martin Seligman (Fox Leadership Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania). He talks about two kinds of smiles - first the genuine one, and then the stewardess smile. The former is known as the Duchenne smile and it is not identifiable in the region of the mouth, but where the crow's feet are - involving a set of muscles under the orbit of the eye. The latter form of smiling is the one people have to do for a living. Apparently a Berkeley group of trained researchers found that 'stewardess smiling' appears to lead to a higher rate of divorce and less life satisfaction. Interesting, isn't it! So, would you like to join me in random acts of Duchenne smiling? We'll probably increase the well being of our community, and might even manage to lower the crime rate!

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy FlowerShop,
423 Titirangi Road, Titirangi Phone 817 3780

The following was submitted by a local resident, and we are more than happy to organise flowers for the fire station...

Bouquet

I'd like to do a bouquet nomination for our very wonderful Volunteer fire-service people. I was on my usual run, coming down Scenic Drive just near Elevation cafe & heard the siren go off. By the time I got to the fire station two fire-service volunteers had arrived. 'Impressive', I thought. It could have been only 90 seconds since the siren had sounded! I continued my run down West Coast Road, only to come across the dreadful sight of a car crash. The fire service people were ALREADY there and assisting a badly injured boy. I offered my help, which clearly wasn't required as they absolutely had the situation under control. We are so lucky to have such wonderful members of our community. Well done, Guys n Gals!

Brickbat # 1

"Use your head" is our message to the person who decided to set fire to a wooden bus stop in West Coast Road. Damage was minimal, but the situation was potentially dangerous.

Brickbat # 2

Our second bat goes to the lazy person who underhandedly dumped a truckload of used rubber tyres at the top of Kauri Loop Road. And a big thank you to whomever organised the prompt removal of this unnecessary eyesore.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

The July visit is to Woodland Rose and Subtropical garden and nursery, at 35 Minnehaha Ave, Woodlands Park, Titirangi. This is a large display garden with a pond and bush walks to a stream. Unusual perennials, tropical fruit trees, natives and succulents feature in the garden - along with shade and wet area plants. Meet at 1.00pm, Wednesday the 5th of July. For further information ring Jean on 814 9860 or Margaret on 814 9859.

From the President

Dave Pocock

CUPID HAS STRUCK !



Yes folks - Cupid is alive, well and still firing those little arrows with total disregard for age or situation. Our treasurer, Rod Maunder, is the latest target and is leaving us to return to England to be with an absolutely lovely lady by the name of Sylvia. We are very happy for Rod and wish him and Sylvia a happy life together. It could not have happened to a nicer couple. At the same time we are very sad because it means we are losing a valuable committee member and most importantly an excellent treasurer, as well as a friend. This of course translates to the need for a replacement treasurer as soon as possible, since Rod is off at the end of June apart from a short return visit in a couple of months.

Several newsletters ago I reported on a matter concerning Resource Consent to build a garage on designated road reserve in Raroa Terrace. Well finally the residents concerned received a reply that basically stated once a resource is granted council cannot alter or rescind it. That raised two questions: Why not? How is building on road reserve approved in the first place? These questions were answered as follows: Resource consent is a Government act administered by council within the criteria of that act. The act makes no provision for alteration or cancellation of consent when granted. Permission to build on road reserve is allowable under the district plan for bush living areas. This applies when access to a property is impractical and/or not possible, also where there are no plans to widen the road in the long term. This was part of the district plan proposals in 2003 and of course all these proposals are open to public debate at the time.

Our "**Dancing With The Locals**" function is well under way and will happen on the **12th of August**. This will be via pre-purchased tickets only, no B.Y.O., and 18 years & over to comply with the liquor licence. We are aiming for an enjoyable evening for all.

The table tennis is starting in August also, and plans are under way for a Quiz night in September. So, there's plenty to keep Waiatarua buzzing.

Our membership renewals took a leap forward since the last newsletter but still room for more.

That's all for now. Try to keep warm and dry.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

NZ Fire Service management in Auckland have invited Kevin Healy to be one of three Auckland representatives at the AFAC (Australasian Fire Authorities Council) conference in Melbourne in August. He will attend the breakout sessions relevant to volunteers and non-metropolitan operations.

Home Sprinklers:

Your smoke alarms and escape plan will alert you to a fire and save your lives, but they won't put your fire out. A fire doubles in size roughly every minute, and typically it takes around 7-10 minutes for a fire engine to arrive at a house in Waiatarua from the time you dial 111. Sprinkler technology has come a long way in a short space of time, and the Fire Service recommends you consider them when building or renovating. They're cheaper than you might think, and some insurance companies will give you a discount if you have them installed. For more information call us or go to <http://homesprinklers.fire.org.nz>

Recent Calls:

9:01 pm, Mon 15 May - Rubbish fire, Western Heights.

7:19 am, Fri 26 May - Car rolled, Piha Road.

12:12 pm, Sat 27 May - Car and furniture trailer down bank, West Coast Road. Lesson learned - if your trailer has a trailer brake, make sure it's engaged!

3:08 pm, Sun 4 Jun - Car rolled, Piha Road.

11:36 am, Sun 11 Jun - 3-car crash, West Coast Road. The young passenger in one car was hospitalised with leg injuries.

5:53 am, Sat 17 Jun - Car fire, Scenic Drive.

Both Piha Road crashes were in the "usual place" - near the bottom of Darkies Hill, between Anawhata Rd and Lone Kauri Rd. Both West Coast Road crashes were at the corner above Cascade Ave.

Contacts:

Phone 111 for fires and emergencies. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

Is it not great... the new road signage and the reflectors in our area, the give-way signs, school children crossing and those reflectors? Now I know all 'us Westies' are familiar with the roads and their layout, but I think it's great for all those visitors who 'come out west' in the summer. This is road safety taking a step forward in our area, well done to all concerned.

More accidents to report - actually I get fed up reporting those cars that slip off the road and slide into other cars by accident, so jolly well SLOW down when it rains.

There is one driver I want to get a Rego number of: a lady driver in a Mitzy, tailgating. It's a blue car and either in Bush Road or Rimu Road... keep your eyes open for me.

About three weeks ago I heard and saw a car nearly go into the back of one of our school buses, when it stopped to pick up 'our' children. There is a sign on the back, SCHOOL BUS. You are not going to get past safely so keep well back and be patient.

Do we as ratepayers want to pick up the bill for dumped tyres having to be collected by council? Do we want to pay for the Bus Stop opposite the top end of Kauri Loop Road to be repaired after some idiot set it on fire? NO! Please keep your eyes peeled and if you don't know whom to call, call me.

I have a report of a vehicle having been set on fire in one of the car parks to our dams. Don't tell me no one saw this. It wasn't, as far as I know, reported to the Fire Brigade.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, (24/05/06)

Of road signs, safety, deliberate rushing noisy driving in very early hours, "upgradings", Council's pace and rate rises; method of valuation for rates...

Perhaps someone very helpful will tell us how much is the installed cost of each of the recently placed, close, pretty, white-and-red reflective road-markers. Don't you think they are overdone? And 'cats eyes' reflectors are much more common now. Do they come for free either? No.

And who notices all the deliberately loud, rushing car drivers in the very early hours of most mornings in our area? They should be caught and refused warrant of fitness.

Do you recognise two wandering very recent motor tracks in West Coast Road, one above and one below, within about 150 metres of Otimai? One stopped against a tree on the left going down. The other narrowly missed the fence on the right.

Does anyone else think the road-marking companies are getting more and more of our rates – which we can't easily pay?

Note also that Waitakere City has almost no litter. I think that's great.

Rimu Road was resealed this May.

Can we afford all of the above for similar rates rises over the next ten years, including the 6-storey \$6m car-park, three new libraries and a \$1.5m "city centre upgrade"? (A lady on the bus says Council told her half a million dollars of that was for the different stones and concrete in Catherine Mall).

And that the \$38m new council offices will be charging new hourly rates 10% to 15% higher for consents people, council officers and consultants (even administrators at \$85 per hour – most others much more) from 1st July this year.

I myself am limited to national superannuation for income, which is adjusted annually as the Consumer Price Index which is raised less than half as much (2.84% last year) as Waitakere City Council wants to charge annually for the next ten years. Auckland Regional Council will take only slightly less rise in rates. Waitakere Council added 9.5% approximately last year to rates. Capital gain added about 14% also. In our case, next year being then rated on capital value, we will pay less; but those with substantial high-quality homes will pay more. Our own relief will I gather be for the one year only, won't it?

What can people on similar fixed incomes do, against such great forced rates rises?

I hope this is basically friendly. It is for us serious. For Waitakere City Council it should be too. The council at all levels should economise and moderate its demands. - *John Isaachsen??*

Dear Editor

After reading and enjoying your profound tribute to Mothers, these words could be headed 'Mother to child, or children'.

Many memories were stirred for me - the embarrassment of breast-feeding, making ends meet, disturbed nights etc. and later deeper problems.

The joys, however, balance that out - tiny feet running towards you, arms outstretched calling joyously "mummy"; bringing home from primary school a 'bouquet' garnered on the way; and later... just coming home, as married adults they still do.

Our reward is: leaving loving, good citizens behind – that is mine. I've got three, and yes Robin is one of them. - *Patricia Essex*

Dear Editor.

I wonder how many people have received and memorised their new postcode? Maybe some have even scanned their way through the 'house of numbers' to enter that competition for a fabulous holiday.

So do we all now know the new postcode for the area we live in? Mine is 0604. I reside in Waiatarua. So, why is the notification addressed to me at ORATIA? Are we still invisible up here?

I conversed with a checkout operator in a Henderson store a few weeks back, who also claimed to be unaware of where Waiatarua is. Surprisingly, he confessed to being an enthusiastic church member at Oratia! So, needless to say, I encouraged him to drive a wee bit further the next Sunday and discover what the Lord has given us in these beautiful hills.

Incidentally, the postcode for my Henderson Post Office box is 0650. This 'aint gonna be easy – I don't have a head for numbers! - *Baldy*

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

The Fairy Falls track refurbishment was completed at the beginning of June and is now open to the public, with the top section of the track receiving a fresh load of metal and new box steps. Walkers need to be cautious when stepping onto the rocky platform at the base of the falls, as the high rainfall this winter has made the surface very slippery.

The trails around Arataki have been the setting for a third season of 'Tales of Timber Trickery'. This is a fun and informative education programme, which takes school groups back to the Arataki bush in the 1920's. On their arrival, the students get drawn into participating in an environmental court hearing between a timber merchant and the local conservation group. This is the latest drama programme offered by the education team at Arataki; and the students spend a worthwhile day preparing submissions, learning biodiversity and recreation values and social responsibility.

Flax, Cabbage Trees, Puriri, Pohutukawa and a whole range of other native trees and plants are all ready to go for this year's Arbor Day plantings in the park. Rangers and nursery volunteers have been busy preparing for the two planting days which will involve six different schools from West Auckland.

The Arataki pest control programme is still going strong with a committed group of volunteers continuing to venture out weekly to check various trap-lines. There are still lots of pests being caught and new areas to monitor so anyone keen in volunteering for this worthwhile project should contact the Arataki Depot on Ph: 817 0099.

Finally, for those who haven't heard of the Ongaruanuku Hut in the Waitakere Ranges... it is now easier for campers to access. Bookings can be made through the ARC contact centre for parks by phoning 366 2000 and selecting option 2. The hut sleeps 12 people and takes approximately 45 minutes to walk in from Anawhata Rd. That's it for another month. Keep cosy. Ka kite, The Arataki Rangers

Reminder: Ward Review Submission deadline, July 7th

Waitakere City Council has chosen a four-ward model of representation for the 2007 local body elections and beyond.

The decision follows over 500 submissions and two days of hearings by the Council's Finance and Operational Performance Committee.

Councillor numbers will remain the same at fourteen along with the Mayor. Massey will have three Councillors, **Waitakere one Councillor** and Henderson & New Lynn both five Councillors. The numbers of Councillors must comply with a formula of population to elected members so that no ward has a greater or lesser differential than 10% to comply with the legislation.

The four-ward option chosen will see Henderson Ward extend its boundaries, taking in the Lincoln Road business area as well as the suburbs of Bruce McLaren and Western Heights. New Lynn Ward will retain Titirangi and add the suburb of Laingholm, which is currently in Waitakere Ward.

Community Boards will cover Henderson, New Lynn and Massey Wards with each of those having five Elected Members and two appointed Councillors, **and Waitakere will have six Elected Members and one Councillor**. This makes a total of 21 Members compared with 22 at present. The Council informally consulted on three representation options before deciding on a three-ward system – the Initial Proposal - for formal consultation. Each of the three wards was comprised of a mix of urban and rural areas with integrated land use, transportation and landscapes also taken into consideration.

The Final Proposal, together with all supporting material including submissions and objections, will go to the Local Government Commission for consideration. Because the proposal has been modified: anyone may object, appeal or support - not just those who submitted to the Council on the Initial Proposal.

The Council is required to undertake a review of its electoral boundaries and system every six years, in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001. The current review was always going to result in some change because Waitakere Ward's population was not adequate to elect three councillors.

Drama is Coming

Waiatarua Performing Arts is warming up for a production later this year. A panel of 'readers' are currently making selections for two short plays. The aim is for one drama and one comedy on this occasion. Anyone interested in taking part – actors/actresses, directors, set designers, costume mistresses/masters, marketing experts, stage hands, front-of-house-folk etc. – please call Gary on 814 8737 or Robin on 814 1850

Trash to Fashion

Registrations for the 2006 Trash to Fashion Awards are now available on-line @ www.trashtofashion.com. Garments are due in on Saturday the 9th of September, and the Awards evenings run over the 10th and 11th of November. *Highly recommended – Ed.*

Further information is available from the Project Co-ordinator: glenda.robertswaitakere.govt.nz

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

With these cold winter days, why not cuddle up with a good book? Come and get your selection from us and enjoy.

'Leonardo's Swans' is an historical novel set in Italy at the time of da Vinci. This is a must for Phillipa Gregory fans.

'Married to a Bedouin' is the interesting story of a New Zealander who marries a Bedouin and lives in a cave in Petra.

'Buried Treasure' by Victoria Finlay is a fascinating read, each chapter telling the story of different gemstones.

'Never Have your Dog Stuffed' is Alan Alda's (of Mash fame) autobiography – a great read.

Come and stock up on books for cosy reading.

Advertising and Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Korstiaan Prins via Email korprins@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 1850. Community Notices are free to financial members 2006, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the president Dave Pocock on 814 9697

BABYSITTING: Reliable and mature girls are looking for babysitting work. References are available. Please phone Jessica or Angelique on 814 9577.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Phone Mike 814 9708

LAWN MOWING: - Local, Reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.

OTIMA: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Cherie and Graham to view 814 9992 or 638 9060 for bookings.

ORATIA SCHOOL 125TH CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER 2007

We have started work on a book covering the events of the last 25 years, and would like to know about past pupils who have done things that might be of interest to other people. Can you help us? Any stories, events, occurrences, successes, will be gratefully accepted at the school office... address / ph no. ??

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Bible Study and Prayer Group: Tuesdays 1.00pm. - Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

THURSDAY CHURCH SERVICE: For the elderly or infirm: 1st Thursday of each month. 10am cup of tea, followed by an informal half-hour church service. Drivers available for those requiring transport. For more information call Frank or Lynda on Ph: 814 9869.

TOASTMASTER: - meetings held on every other Thursday morning from 7.00 till 8.20 AM - more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL IS MOVING: - From Monday 24 July 2006 ALL services will be located at Waitakere Central, 6 Henderson Valley Road. The Customer Services 'One Stop Shop' will be on Level 2 of the Administration wing. The 24 Hour Call Centre number remains 839 0400

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No new work until September 2006

Contact Les on 814 1130

Thinking of Selling?

General enquiries and after hours appointments are my pleasure.

Michelle Stanborough
Sales & Marketing Consultant

Res: 814 9707
Mob: 021 605 996



Advantages of being a WRRR member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (does not apply to already discounted or sale items).

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies
293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

Elevations Licenced Café & Restaurant
12.00pm till late - 471 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper
Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

Elkes Wine and Food Market
113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10.00am-5.00pm)



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The Waitakere Community Hall

The WRRR is making the Waitakere Community Hall available for corporate training sessions and meetings. The hall, built in the 1970's, is in very good condition with a new kitchen and new comfortable tables & chairs and has an idyllic bush setting.



For booking enquiries phone Michelle Stanborough on 814 9707

Neighbourhood Support

The names of our current co-ordinators are listed below. If you haven't been approached yet and would like to belong to one of these groups, give the co-ordinator a call.

Ross & Kath Mullins 330 Forest Hill Road	814-9402+Fax
Jenny McGee 886 West Coast Road	814-9954 jenny.mcgee@xtra.co.nz
Margaret/Paddy Marshall 19 Raroa Terrace	814-9859
Sandy McConnell 550 Scenic Drive	814 9962

For more information about **Neighbourhood Support** take a look at the website at www.ns.org.nz



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Thursday	6.00-7.15pm Beginners Oratia School Hall	7.30-8.30pm Restorative Oratia School Hall
Friday	9.15-10.45am General Waitakere Community Hall	
Saturday	10.00-11.30 General Oratia School Hall	

General: mixed level class - Restorative: deeply relaxing and rejuvenating
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JULY- AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 12th JULY, 2006**

Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waitakere.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz