

Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

May 2008

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

BANGLADESH...

One of our first visits was to Saree village, Saree being the main female attire and the Bangladesh spelling of Sari. This is all hand done from dyeing the silk or cotton through to the finished product with the actual weaving taking two days on a large wooden loom and sold for the equivalent of \$12-15 NZ.

Next stop was a brass foundry where the same family has been casting brass using the same method for two hundred years. Once again it is a long winded process but with a beautiful end result that to us was ridiculously cheap.

The exchange rate was 54 Taka to \$1 NZ. Labourers earn between 100 – 200 Taka per day and for that some carry new bricks 10 at a time on their heads from the cooling pile to the transporters. Mind you, they maintain a brisk walk to a trot all day to earn that. At the top pay rates IT workers, Bankers, Company Managers earn the equivalent of \$30,000 NZ per-annum. However, Shirley bought a pair of Bata Jandals for 50 taka, less than \$1 NZ, and we got Bangladesh cricket team caps for the same price, all good quality, so it all evens out at the end.

We were with a group of 10 other Kiwis and before leaving it was decided we would take stuff for the local schools such pencils, exercise books etc. Our first school visit was to an orphanage and boarding school operated by Buddhist Monks, with a roll of seven hundred, and we were met by most of them lining the long driveway all in school uniform. We were greeted and presented with a flower and then proceeded to walk to the school proper. After being shown around we were invited back for an evening concert, performed by the students, and dinner. The concert was cultural and a large number of the students attended in the audience, all in all it was a most memorable day. We then found out that it was actually not a school day and all these kids turned up on their day off.

Religion: 85% Islam, 12% Hindu, 2% Buddhist, 1% Christian.

From around this time we had the company of armed Police escorts to protect us from possible rebel attacks, which was a cushy assignment for the policemen involved. In the next few days we went on a river cruise to some island tribal families, and visited various villages, markets and temples. These people are still living and operating as they have done for hundreds of years and appear well fed, well groomed and happy, maybe not to our standards but who says that a bad thing. Each village has a school for young children, and although schooling is not compulsory they seem to be well attended, as people realise education is good.

During two of our village visits there were a couple of bonuses which reflect the friendliness of these people: we heard a band playing down an alleyway and went to investigate, only to be invited in for tea and cookies, and another time we were invited into the home of the local snake charmer who proceeded to demonstrate his craft for us. I might add that no approach was made for money on either occasion and in fact, apart from the odd beggar, nobody puts their hand out for tips etc, a refreshing change

To try and convey the experience on paper is impossible but I think for all of us the genuine interest and curiosity these people had in us we will never forget.

It was like being a Film Star and all they wanted to do was watch what you did ask where you are from (they had no idea where N.Z. or in fact Australia was).

If you showed an interest in them like shaking hands they were extremely grateful and in fact we heard all the time "Thank you for coming to my country".

English is the second language there.

Brick making was a major industry in a couple of areas we visited and you would see a large chimney protruding from what looks like a area of clay but is in fact the kiln. Basically the raw bricks are all stacked around the main furnace and then covered with dirt until fired and then, believe or not, a large amount of them are smashed up for use as road gravel with the remainder used in building. Women using hammers do the breaking up and smashing them one by one, in fact a large portion of the hard manual labour is done by women

We visited a rice processing factory where the rice is laid out on sheets on the ground where it is turned by rakes to dry out, in the mean time everyone walks over it. Then, by once again a labour intense method, it is heated and de-husked.

I wondered why the machine world has not caught on here and then realised that labour is unbelievable cheap and machines would cause massive unemployment.

We then entered the hilly areas and the tea capital of Bangladesh, Srimongal, with tea plantations everywhere, also visiting the wetlands and forest area. On the way we visited the ship breaking yards where huge ocean going ships are dismantled by hundreds of men crawling all over them. These ships are not in a dry dock but literally run aground and dismantled where they stop. When the tide is out the workers tramp through the mud to get to work, extremely hard work in less than ideal conditions all for \$4NZ per day. Once again a distinct lack of machinery and we witnessed an extremely large piece of very thick steel being manhandled by a group of about 8 men all laughing and joking and of course showing off to the audience of white people.

All round the area are shops selling artifacts from the ships, even yards selling life boats or basically anything not scrap metal value.

On our return journey to Dhaka we visited the National Assembly Building of the Bangladesh Parliament designed and built by American architect and artist Louis Kahn who apparently has built some of the most amazing buildings in the world. It was built in 1965 and Kahn promised a majestic building for the poorest country and that it is, although I felt it a bit of an overkill with lots of waste space. Impressive all the same, with lots of water surrounding it and built out of concrete and bricks. Very quiet when we were there as a caretaker government was in office and they operated elsewhere until the general election,

Editor

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WRRR President

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Community Hall and Library

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

John Goudge 8149744

Library Hours

Thursday 10 am – 12 pm
Friday 7 pm – 8 pm
Saturday 11 am – 12 pm
Sunday 11 am – 12 pm

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

Weeds

Susanne Timms

It is good to see that the weed bin at the Fire Station is being so well used. Unfortunately it has occasionally been abused with building materials, plastic bags and bamboo.

I now have a new contact person at the Council regarding the bin, and she has made it very clear that if the abuse continues she will take it away. She has recently removed the permanent weed bin at Cornwallis. She has suggested that if anyone notices someone putting the wrong things in the bin, they should please take their registration number. You can ring me on 814 9346 and I will pass it on to the Council.

It is important to remember that the bin is for environmental weeds only as per the sign next to it. Please also note that only the ginger rhizomes and flowers are a problem. The stems can be cut off and left in a pile which will quickly rot away. This will save a lot of space in your vehicle and in the weed bin.

If you are intending to put a large quantity of weeds in the bin, please ensure there is enough space for them. We don't want to have an enormous pile of weeds beside the bin as happened at Kauri Road in March. So far this has not occurred at our bin. Keep up the good work of removing environmental weeds from your properties while the good weather lasts!

INVITATION

HI THERE,

Dave and I got chatting round at his place the other day and thought wouldn't it be a good idea if all of us neighbours got together for a chat and a glass of wine and all got to know each other a little better.

– After all we do live in the best suburb in the Country and what could be better than everyone meeting each other in a relaxed environment over a glass of wine.

There are some ideas we have to help with the recent spate of thefts and I would personally like to form a lobby group to get the sidewalk extended up West Coast Road so I can take the dog for a walk without getting run over but who knows what else we could end up discussing, planning, plotting or celebrating.

So come and join Dave and me on 25th May between 11a.m and 1p.mish. Waiatarua Hall

Oliver Driver

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Well it remains hectic with our Editor still out of action, and this month Cathie Wells has come to the rescue. As well a special thanks needs to go to Longley printing as they have really gone the extra mile in helping get the newsletter together as well as printing it.

The Drama club has had another successful production and they tell me the next one will be something totally different with dancing and some live music, so keep a look out around September. The first quiz night is on the 17th and I believe I will actually be able to make this one as that is all that is on our calendar for that night!

A totally new thing for Waiatarua will be the Meet Thy Neighbour on the 25th so come along, all casual and laid back, no committees, no obligations just get to know your neighbours. That really applies regardless of how long you have lived here, as new neighbours are moving in weekly.

The library is open from 11-12noon on Sundays, so what a good opportunity to check it out and see the great range of books available.

The 2008 great Waiatarua Debate is on track, with Robin doing her usual efficient job of getting it organised (with help from Kor of course) and from the rumours I have heard it will be an interesting line up of participants. Robin has asked that you, the readers, send in ideas for the moot. Send to robsx@free.co.nz

It appears that the hall is going to be redecorated, including re varnishing the floor, during May and June, which is very pleasing.

Well that's all for this month

Dave

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our June visit is to the garden of June Sly, at 37 Eastglen Rd, Glen Eden. The date is June 4 and we will meet at 1 pm. June is a Waitakere Garden Competition winner and the garden is varied with all year interest. Everyone is welcome.

For more information ring Charlene on 814 9316 no later than 30 May.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

On Saturday 5 April our crew were leaving Henderson Pony Club where they had filled the water jump for a club event the next day. They were turned out to an incident off Keeling Rd where there was a report of people being affected by fumes. Their arrival message was "K77 (nothing showing)" and soon after they were advised of a leak and gas being given off by the aircon system there. It was uneventful and there were no injuries.

Just over an hour later, two Hamilton crews responded to an alarm at a coolstore. Their arrival message was also "K77 (nothing showing)". Soon after they also saw fumes, and we know what happened next. It's an awful reminder that we should take nothing for granted at seemingly innocuous or minor calls.

Our thoughts are with the Hamilton firefighters and their families who have been affected by this tragic incident.

Recent Calls

- 8:55 pm, Fri 4 Apr – Bomb alert, Parkinson's Lookout. A suspicious package was found prominently displayed in the carpark with the words 'Open Me' in large letters. Our crew supplied lighting and stood by with firefighting gear while the Police Bomb Squad armed their robot and sent it in to investigate, and other officers closed the road. After an hour and a half they determined that Al Qaeda hadn't come to Waiatarua – it was just an indiscreet geocacher. (Look it up – www.geocaching.com)
- 2:55 pm, Sat 5 Apr – Gas leak from air conditioning, Henderson. Once the fumes had dispersed there wasn't a lot to do.
- 3:28 pm, Sun 13 Apr – Car crash, Scenic Drive. Two people went to hospital with minor injuries after a head-on crash.
- 8:52am, Sat 19 Apr - Car crash, Piha Rd. Occupants of the vehicle had left well before we got there.
- 5:04pm, Mon 21 Apr - Scrub fire, Anawhata Beach. Crews from seven stations were needed to control this blaze which covered about 2ha of steep manuka bush. Our crew, along with several others, went back the next morning to mop up hot spots. We're not sure if it was started carelessly or deliberately, but Police would like to talk to the young guys in the white Toyota Caldina seen leaving the area at the time to find out.
- 2:30 pm, Tue 22 Apr - Stove fire, Te Henga Rd. Not required to respond.
- 9:38 pm, Wed 23 Apr - Smoke in house, West Coast Rd. A light bulb resting against a joist under the house burned a decent sized hole part way through. It was just as well they found it when they did.

Contact

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

whereas usually it is home to 300 politicians.

After one more night in Dhaka we are off to the Sundarban which requires an eight-hour trip by coach and we had visions of a local bus with missing windows and cracked windscreens not to mention seats void of padding. So it was a pleasant surprise to board a modern, complete with aircon, Volvo coach, comfortable seats and lots of leg room.

Up to this point our accommodation had been of a higher standard than we expected, even if some of the beds were a bit lacking in mattress thickness and the showers were not always hot at least the toilets had all been western.

And the food has been fantastic with curry available breakfast, lunch and dinner

Lots of dhal (lentils), rice, and curried vegetables with small amounts of meat and fish

By the way I should mention at this stage I broke half of a tooth off on a peppermint, you are supposed to suck them not bite, fortunately without any nerves exposed. Come to think of it I must get it fixed one day!

Part way through trip we had a 1 hour river trip up the Padma on a vehicular ferry which required a 20 minute queue wait, which is a lot better than the trucks as people carrying vehicles have first shot and trucks often spending many hours waiting for room.

We arrived in Khulna and transferred into Hiace vans, wedged like sardines, with drivers think they are Greg Murphy. We then transfer to a wooden flat bottomed boat to take us to our home for the next three days cruise of the Sundarban .

The Sundarban is the planets largest mangrove forest and home of the Royal Bengal tiger, which of course we all want to see.

Around a bend and there it is, our boat, which looks like a cross between a pirate ship and Captain Pugwash's boat with Walt Disney thrown in.

Monju (the owner) built it himself two years ago for tourism and it doesn't look anymore than 29 years old. 16 Passengers is it's capacity with double cabins complete with on-suite and hardly any room to move. To have a shower you need to sit on the toilet but then it will be a cold one as there is no hot water, "oh" well it is only three days and we will all stink the same.

Monju is of large well built stature with shoulder length hair, classic swashbuckler features, and smoked like a chimney. Highly intelligent man with a strong passion for the Sundarban and spoke beautiful English, mind you he burst our bubble by telling us the chances of seeing a Bengal tiger were fairly remote as he had not sighted one for four years. The kitchen, or to use nautical terms galley, was a recess at the back of the boat with a couple of gas rings and wok like pots all at floor level but some neat meals came out of there. Popular for breakfast was omelettes and for us spice nuts onion and green chillies were included, with Rotis and dhal.



Hihi Success Rewarded with Another Transfer

It is now one year since the first release of hihi at Ark in the Park. The results of the first year have many positives, with hihi readily utilising the abundant natural food on offer at the Ark site, as well as the sugar water feeders they were familiar with on Tiritiri Matangi Island, their original capture site. A further positive sign was the discovery of two nests as well as fledglings seen from a third. Both these nests were found high in kauri trees—a first for hihi. Such nest sites are harder for people to find; it is hoped that the height and location of these nests would also be harder for predators to locate. The first nest had young leave in mid-December, but a second nest found in late January ultimately failed.

The Ark release represents the first attempt at establishing a self-sustaining population of hihi. Should it prove successful, it will open the door for hihi releases at other North Island mainland sites where predators are controlled to low densities. Sightings of hihi feeding on a climbing rata kiekie, or kahikatea could be the first in 120 years. Although the birds were translocated from an island with limited floral biodiversity, it seems they had no trouble in assessing the suitability of these novel foods.

Can hihi survive in a mainland setting with predator control as opposed to predator exclusion? That, of course, can only be answered in time...

A further release of hihi to the Ark in the Park was approved for this coming May.

Third Breeding Season for Robins

As was hoped for, more robins were involved in breeding this season with eight pairs observed compared with five pairs last season. New territories were established and there were some new pairings, but three pairs remained from last year.

It is apparent there are Robins our area even if they are not observed. The density of the bush makes for difficult spotting, for example, the presence of a pair in a particular part of one valley had been known for two seasons with song and brief sightings, but to date these birds have proved impossible to pin down.

11 chicks taken from their nests and banded, but it was not possible for another 13 who had already dispersed. This was a pleasing third breeding season for our robins.

'Gimme Shelter'

Although the Ark in the Park has been around as a concept since 1999 and actively functioning since 2003, there many enquiries as to how to get to the site. Five years of predator-control, three species released, and yet there is no Ark-related signage! The committee commissioned local artist and supporter Derek March to decorate the shelter at the corner of Falls Road and Te Henga Road. Painted marine plywood cut with irregular contours to disguise some of the shelter's straight edges was attach to the shelter's cladding and Graffiti Guarded. Derek has portrayed many birds feeding to emphasise increases in invertebrates and berries since the control of rats and other pests.

Next spring the Waitakere City Council will eliminate various weeds around the shelter and plant a range of native species, which will only suppress weed growth and complement the painting. Soon this intersection will be an

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

We have processed many new books this month, so I recommend you drop in and see for yourself.

We have several new books by NZ authors and they are all well worth reading.

At The End of Darwin Road – Fiona Kidman's memoir, written while she was in Menton on a Katherine Mansfield Fellowship.

Landings – the latest by Jenny Patrick. This is set in the area of the Whanganui River and tells the story of paddle steamers and the people who lived by the river in 1907.

Chandler's Run – this is an historical novel set in the McKenzie Country by a new author, Denise Muir.

A brief selection from amongst other new titles:

Empire of Sand – by Robert Ryan. This is about T.E. Lawrence and his involvement in the Arab revolt of 1915.

A Partisan's Daughter – Louis de Berniere's latest novel is set in London and tells the story of a relationship between a Londoner and a Serbian refugee.

Nothing To Lose – the latest Jack Reacher book from Lee Child.

Good reading.

Waatarua Rainfall (September 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	9	1st (36mm)	57 mm	180 mm
Brabant Road	9	1st (44mm)	73 mm	180 mm
Quinns Road	7	2nd (35mm)	59 mm	146 mm
Forest Hill Road	6	1st (34mm)	61 mm	161 mm
Auckland City	-	-	33 mm	86 mm

Advertising and Community Notices

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Dave Pocock, ph 814 9697 or email davepocock@xtra.co.nz.

COMMUNITY NOTICES are free to financial members.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates.

Special-gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708

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

OTIMAI: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Lynne and 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.

LA LECHE LEAGUE: Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

TITIRANGI STEINER SCHOOL has two events scheduled for Saturday 17th May

ANNUAL GIANT GARAGE SALE: 8 - 11am. Bargains Galore. Clothing, furnishings, furniture, toys, books, CDs kitchen items etc. Sausage Sizzle. Helios Pl (off Laingholm Dr) Titirangi.

DOLL-MAKING WORKSHOP: Learn to make a beautiful handcrafted doll. \$45 including materials (\$25 if donated to school). 10am-4pm. Phone Isabelle 811-8871 or email i.krauskopf@slingshot.co.nz

WEST AUCKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Tuesday 20 May, Michael Joyce of the Henderson Heritage Trust will be talking about preserving our built heritage. Opanuku Room, Corban Estate, Henderson, 7.30pm. \$2 Door charge. Contact: Vivien on 833 4692.

TITIRANGI COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL A.G.M.

Please join us at 2pm on June 1 in the Upstairs Gallery, Level 1 Lopdell House, Titirangi. Special Guest Speaker - RUSSEL WALDER

ARK IN THE PARK will be holding their fundraising 'Concert for the Birds' at the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre on Friday 27 June, at 7.30pm. Proceeds from this event will be used to return threatened native bird species, including Kokako, to the Ark in the Park, Cascade Reserve.

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

GARDENER Trained and experienced. For regular garden maintenance, phone Hugh 838 3594.

ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH Corner Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Bible Study & Prayer Group, Tuesdays 1 pm. Fellowship (trips, meetings, etc), 2nd Thursday of each month.

annie prince

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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: Friends & Neighbours Night
half price Pizza & Pasta

THURSDAY NIGHTS: Happy Hour 6pm to 8pm

FRIDAY NIGHTS: Live entertainment 7pm - 10pm

SUNDAY NIGHTS: Sunday Roast - bookings essential
Adult \$19.90 Child \$5.90

MONDAY & TUESDAY - Sorry we are closed

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 12 noon till after dinner

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 am till after dinner

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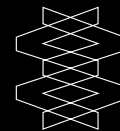
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MAY / JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by **TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2008**

Dave Pocock, Ph 814 9697|

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