

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

MEET THY NEIGHBOUR – PRE-XMAS

HOST: OLIVER DRIVER

Sunday 30th November 2008, 11am–1pm

at the Waatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road

It would be greatly appreciated if you can donate a gift for a child to the value of approximately \$5. We will distribute the gifts to an appropriate organisation for Christmas.

A donation of a gold coin or 2 would be greatly appreciated to help offset costs.

*Waatarua Performing Arts presents
in association with Play Bureau NZ Ltd*

**A comedy with dance
by Richard Harris**

**Directed by Kathy Lowe
Choreographer Elizabeth Dunn**

Stepping Out

12 – 22 November 2008

**Waatarua Community Hall
911 West Coast Rd, Waatarua, Waitakere City, at 8pm.
Matinee 6.30pm Sunday 16 November.**

A crazy bunch of misfits join a community class & tap into their talents...

Tickets \$20/\$15 ph 814 1850 or email wpat-tickets@xtra.co.nz

— or get tickets from: Go West Music, 18 Catherine St, Henderson.

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 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday 11.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site:

www.waatarua.org.nz

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Music

RICOH

WAIATARUA
Performing Arts

Our December 3 get together is to visit two gardens on Upper Harbour Drive. We will begin at 1pm at 347 Upper Harbour Drive which is a little bit of spray free rural freedom with a natural water feature and is a garden in progress helped by a naturopath and a landscape designer. 345 Upper Harbour Drive at the end of the driveway is a 3/4 acre terraced garden overlooking a bush clad valley with a blend of native plants, palms and colourful flowers.

Ring Eileen by 28 November on 8149 298 for further information or car pooling.

WAITAKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA

All you ever wanted to know about the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area is now available in a handy information folder – an initiative of the West Coast Liaison Group, the Waitakere City Council and the Auckland Regional Council. These packs can be collected from our very own Waiatarua Community Library at 911 West Coast Road (see hours on the front of this newsletter). Sign a register, and the Council will mail out any updates.

Alternately you may download information included in the pack at www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ne/ranges.asp

FIRST LOCAL PLAN UNDERWAY FOR WAITAKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA

Work on the first Local Area Plan to be drawn up under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act gets underway next month with a public workshop in Oratia.

“The new Act is clearly focused on defining the distinct character of the many environments of the ranges; from coast and bush, to rural and urban fringe. The aim is to preserve these unique features as identified by local communities so they are not compromised in the future,” says Councillor Hulse. She says as Auckland continues to grow at a rapid rate the new act will become increasingly important as a tool for maintaining the different character and landscapes of the west coast, bush areas, rural foothills and urban fringe.

Cr Hulse says the Local Area Plan for Oratia will be an opportunity for residents and those with an interest in the area to influence the future of the area through council plans and legal processes. The Oratia Local Area Plan will be the first in a programme for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area that will see a total of 10 to 12 plans drawn up with communities throughout the ranges and foothills over the next decade.

An open day and community meeting about the Oratia Plan will be held on November 19 at the Oratia Soccer Club at Parrs Park. For further information, please contact Cr Penny Hulse on 021 273 4663.

Procedure for invoicing/payment for newsletter advertising

ADVERTISING RATES

There are three categories/sizes of advertisement as follows:

RUN-ON Community: Free to current, paid up WRRRA members who are community groups or individuals involved in not-for-profit activities, or who are placing other advertisements that are generally one-off in nature (eg babysitting, lawn moving). Included as space permits.

Commercial: \$25 per annum, regardless of number of issues published and the number of insertions required by the advertiser. Commercial is defined as any individual or organisation who is operating a business and does not fit the community category as defined above.

Small Display (62 x 27mm) – \$10

Large Display (62 x 54mm) – \$20

Please ensure supplied advertising is at the correct size.

Hi! Shirley and I just spent three weeks in Aussie visiting Melbourne, Ballarat and Tasmania where we enjoyed rain, wind, cold, hot and sunny weather and that was the first day (just like home). Although the last week of our trip (beginning October) was hot at 25° and unlike us they have serious water shortages, only allowed to water gardens two hours a week and only allowed to wash windows on cars, so next time it rains be grateful. Doom, gloom and disaster is alive and well over there as well (although they do not have Helen, John, Winston and Rodney to help it along), with everyone saying we have to tighten our belts even though the cafes are still full of people drinking lattes. In light of the belt tightening and a hectic schedule for all we have decided that instead of “Meet Thy Neighbour” being incorporated into the Community Breakfast that we would forgo the breakfast at this stage and have a Xmas version of “Meet Thy Neighbour”. This will be on the 30th November from 11am-1pm and, as well as a gold coin or two donation to help with costs, we all bring a child's gift to the value of around \$5 and we will pass on to an appropriate organisation. This idea came from Kor so beneath that gruff Dutch exterior is a big softy really, thanks Kor it is a neat idea. September 20th saw another Quiz night at the hall which was once again an enjoyable night and once again I missed it by being away, I will have to organise my calendar better as I really enjoy them. Oratia Church held a dance on October 11th and by all accounts very successful as they raised \$1500 towards the new church hall roof, great result! Table Tennis continues on a Tuesday night although the season is drawing to a close with the hall being taken over by the play “Stepping Out”.

Is there anyone out there who's willing and able to help with 'Hair and Makeup' for the upcoming play Stepping Out, opening on November 12th for two weeks? Robin Essex, a member of Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust, has taken on the role of Costume Co-ordinator for the first time... having already tried her hand at Front-of-House, acting, ticketing and props. Robin is job-sharing with Petrina to cater to the costume needs of a cast of eleven. Hair and makeup requirements are non-specialised. It is envisaged some of the cast will manage their own “faces and heads”, however it would be reassuring to know there's a person on hand to oversee this area. Please call Robin with any queries/offers on Ph: 814 1850.

The outside of the hall has recently been waterblasted which created a bit of clean up work for our hard working hall bookings man, John and his partner Kathy with water coming in the windows, also the library return books box getting flooded. The upside is that at least the steps and deck around the library are nice and clean.

Jenny Bebbington, has resigned from her position as Editor – due to ongoing health issues. We are presently looking for one or two people to take over this roll.

Last month I mentioned we will need some new faces on the committee next AGM, apart from anything else it is good to have fresh blood and ideas, so if you are considering it I would love to hear from you.

That's all for this month, Dave

Library Report

Twilight is the story of a young woman's relationship with a vampire. What more can I say – apparently it is a very popular book written by *Stephanie Meyer*. **Recipe For Cherubs** tells the story of Caitlin exploring the history behind a 200 year old recipe book. This is by *Babs Horton*, the author of *Jarful of Angels*. **The Last Maasai Warrior** is set in 1904, with the Maasai having to choose between war with the British or removal to lands away from their traditional area. *Frank Coates* always pens a good yarn. **The Story of Forgetting** is about just that. A family lives with a genetic destiny – Alzheimers. By *Stefan Block*. **The 19th Wife** portrays the tribulations of two polygamist wives. *David Eberhoff* has written about the wife of Brigham Young and of a modern day 19th wife. **Doors Open** comes from the pen of *Ian Rankin*, and is not a Rebus Story. This is about 3 men who dream up the perfect art heist. **The Good Plain Cook** is a novel about a young woman applying for a position as a cook. Things are not as they seem for the cook in this book by *Bethan Roberts*.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name _____ I ENCLOSE:

Address _____ \$10 household

Phone No _____

Email _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library

Waiatarua Rainfall (September 2008)				
	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Brabant Road	24	11th – 19 mm	98 mm	1490 mm
Quinns Road	18	12th – 14 mm	68 mm	1220 mm
Forest Hill Road	16	11th – 14 mm	87 mm	1447 mm
Auckland City	–	–	37 mm	868 mm

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Cycling Adventures in the 1950s – Part II

Frank Hogsden

Leaving after a substantial breakfast and a check of the bike and the gear system, I set out for Hamilton. Rain again but my outer clothing was still wet so no matter, it surely can't rain forever and Hamilton is only twenty miles and a good midday meal should be easy to find. I had intended to travel via Tokoroa to Taupo but checking at the AA Office on road conditions, I learned that there were a number of washouts on the pumice roads and Rotorua should be my next stop.

Therefore, with a new strip map to cover the Rotorua route, I set out with the prospect of a stiff climb over the Mamaku Range. Motorist friends had told me of this long climb but I was happy that at least the road was secure. Waikato countryside is most pleasant and the clear skies between showers promised a more relaxed journey but there was a gradual climb to Cambridge through pleasant tree lined roads. Cambridge is surely the real gem of the Waikato; English trees line the entrance to the town and it had a busy but nice feel as I passed through.

My map showed a steady climb of about 250 feet to Tirau past the lower end of Lake Karapiro, and the rise was not always visible so the bike seemed to drag along with the time! However, the country is green and pleasant, it was dry and the road was smooth so I pushed on. I stopped and chatted to some farmers and asked how far to Tirau? – "Oh about two miles lad", but I think they were either optimistic or trying to be positive to a tiring and slightly crazy cyclist. It proved to be about seven miles, so Tirau was a welcome sight indeed.

I carried on my bike a drink bottle filled with Ribena, which I diluted at garage taps or streams or whatever. When finished or too diluted I would buy another bottle at a chemist or store and start the process again. However, at a hotel or country pub a few ales would quench the normal thirst and energise sagging muscles and nerves to quite an amazing extent! I understood Ribena to be rich in Vitamin C and to sustain muscle and nerve very well, but more recently these claims have been questioned. However I seemed to manage quite well on its properties.

At the Tapapa Garage a squirt of upper cylinder lubricant helped free a sticky chain tensioner and I headed south to Rotorua. A pleasant bonus on this route was the passage through the delightful 'Fitzgerald Glade', a tree lined stretch of road with the tree tops meeting overhead and a leafy, woody perfume where the tyres sang on a very smooth road surface. It was a perfect cycling experience. Ahead lay the dreaded Mamakus, but the road surface was good and the wooded surroundings pleasant and I reached the 1800 foot summit before I realized it. It was now 5pm and on the long sweep down through Ngongotaha with the prospect of an evening meal I was feeling just great and felt that my goals were in reasonable reach. I had no problems finding the outskirts of Rotorua, the southerly breeze lifted the sulphurous air of the thermal region and I welcomed the nearness of Rotorua, a meal and the rest of the journey to Wairakei.

Rotorua, at almost a thousand feet in altitude, was cool but that's no problem for a cyclist and a cold salmon salad and hot coffee suited me just fine. So with lights on and a rejuvenated battery (perhaps) I left at 6.15pm, and was escorted by a trio of local cyclists who were interested in my quest to see a section of the North Island from a saddle, but who left me after a few miles to go their own way. In the dark progress seems slower, but I recalled that this stretch climbs about 400 feet, where the central volcanic plateau has been pushed up in ages past.

As Waitapu loomed out of the darkness I had only twenty-nine miles under my belt with thirty more to go – daunting at this time of night. Over the Waikato River Bridge the surface is quite slippery and there is no white line to follow but some down hill runs raised hopes of easier miles ahead. A vehicle, approached from behind and slowed – a call from the cab of a ute invited me to hitch for a few miles. While I had determined not to accept such invitations, the darkness and cold softened my resolve somewhat and I loaded the bike onto the back and relaxed for ten miles or so to his turn off. Wairakei was now within reach, and I arrived at 11.20pm. This tourist hotel was pretty upmarket, but no other guests saw the cyclist, in shorts and somewhat wind blown, pass through to my room. Bliss – a hot bath, clothes dried on the steam radiator and blessed sleep in a flash. Magic! Breakfast was superb and set me up for the short run to Taupo.

On my left I could see a part of the Huka Falls but resisted the temptation to have a closer look, sightseeing was not a high priority on this trip. There was an overall drop on this run, the day was warm and dry and the scenery pleasant, but again I resisted the desire to ride quite a way to the Aratiatia rapids. Soon I crossed the Waikato River again and Taupo was in sight, the sparkling lake a promise of a fine day for the expected treat of the Lake Shore route to Turangi.

My shopping list for Taupo included Ribena again and a torch in case my lights failed on the wilderness trek to Taihape. I passed the mouth of the Waitahanui River where in season I understand a string of anglers awaits the world famous run of trout but there were none that day. Small Maori schools and settlements were dotted along this very scenic coastal road and signs warning motorists to beware of wide horses were some surprise. The small village of Hatepe hosted a shop and dairy and my faithful standby, ice cream, saved the flagging energy levels again.

Refreshed and sailing along in great style, I heard an odd transmission noise and bingo – my gears seemed to disintegrate below me. A length of nylon finish line played a major part in my design and its knotted anchor at one end had failed in one disastrous moment. I walked back about 50 yards searching for small pulleys and links – there was fortunately no traffic to spread them asunder – and gathered all the pieces. After reassembling the mechanism and tying another nylon knot, away I went. It had taken about an hour off my schedule but the going was fast and the quite lovely bays and lake vistas soon removed any anxiety about mechanical problems. Villages like Oruataua and Motuoapa seemed to be likely places for lunch but none was available so I pressed on through Tongariro Bridge to Turangi where surely a café or restaurant should exist. Well yes, and tea and sandwiches had to suffice, plus the augmented Ribena as always.

The roads were climbing quite noticeably now – about 600 feet to Waiouru but the main feature of these roads were the steep descents to bridges crossing the mountain streams. Hitting the wooden planked bridge decks at high speed, I had to make sure that I approached at the right angle to avoid a spill and then begin the slow slog up to the next level. There were a dozen or so of these hair raising crossings and I was lucky to survive them. Each climb added to the altitude, and hence colder temperatures and freezing knees, not what I had anticipated. Now I could appreciate what the military suffered at the army camp and this was summer! The highest point was about 3450 feet and the temperature confirmed it. However, I reached Waiouru at last and a cold salad, cold chicken, cold café and a cool one hour to serve it!

Surely things must get better from now on!

To be continued...

SITUATIONS VACANT EDITOR & LAYOUT ARTIST

We are looking for 2 people – an editor, who will co-ordinate the material, manage the content and supply edited copy to the layout artist. This person will need email. The 2nd person we require is a layout artist to put the newsletter together and supply to our printer. Appropriate page layout software is needed. For further details phone Dave Pocock ph 814 9697 or davepocock@xtra.co.nz

CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY

LESSONS & CAROLS CONCERT by the ORATIA SINGERS Come and hear the Choir and sing some of you favourite carols. **Sunday 7th December at 7pm at the Oratia Church.** Proceeds go to charity. Join us for a delicious supper afterwards.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE on Sunday 14th December at 9.30am. Join us for a taste of Christmas with the Rev. Stephen Brooker at the Oratia Church.

ORATIA CHRISTMAS PICNIC Hosted by our local celebrity – SIMON PRAST. A family evening with a local band, entertainment, carols and lighting the Oratia Star. **Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm. in the Oratia Church grounds.** Free Sausage sizzle. Please bring along your picnic tea, a rug to sit on and an unwrapped gift (to be donated to needy families) for under the Christmas Tree. See you there.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE At the Oratia Church at 9.30am. A service of Carols and Readings. *Everyone is welcome.*

For any further information contact 814 9859 or 818 6522

Waatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc Committee as from February 2008

President / Community Board

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Vice President

Korstiaan Prins Ph 814 1850 korprins@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

Jan Haine Ph 837 2318 jan_haine@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Jan James Ph 814 9194 pwmandjjj@clear.net.nz

Newsletter Editor

c/o Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Hall Manager

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members:

Frank Hogsden Ph 814 9869

Robin Essex Ph 814 1850 robsx@free.net.nz

Susanne Timms Ph 814 9346 shtimms@xtra.co.nz

Representative:

Ian Ford Ph 814 8871 ian.ford@xtra.co.nz

(Fire Brigade)

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2008 – 5PM**

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697

davepocock@xtra.co.nz

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.

AUCKLAND SUN CLUB: Visitors Day, Sunday 2nd November. Find out if naturism is for you. Call 814 9973 for further details or email asc@gonatural.co.nz

CELL PHONE SAFETY: Protect yourself and your family from harmful EMF. Attach a Biopro Cell Phone Chip, \$60. Ph Emily 835 3777 or email elizaemily@yahoo.co.uk

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTMAKING: West Wave Recreation Centre, Alderman Dr. Saturday 6 December, 9am-3pm (2 sessions: 9-11.30 & 12.30-3pm). A FREE event for children to come and make gifts for their families. Children must be booked for a session. Ph 839 0400 to book. Volunteers are needed to help on the day. Donations of resources and materials for gift making are welcome. To volunteer or donate items contact Julie Nash Ph 836 8000 extn 8934. Email Julie.Nash@waitakere.govt.nz.

GARDENER: Trained and experienced. For regular garden maintenance. Phone Hugh 838 3594.

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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.

UPSTAIRS GALLERY AT LODPELL HOUSE PRESENTS: THE 17TH ANNUAL PORTAGE MUG SHOW Opens Thurs 16 October 6-8pm until Sunday 9th November. Sponsored by The Trusts, with the humble mug represented in many forms. Over \$2000 in prizes. Free entry. Open 7 days, 10am - 4:40pm.

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Contact John Goudge on 814 9744

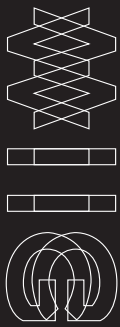


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