

Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

September 2008

WAIATARUA QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday 20th September 2008, 7:30pm at the Waiaatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

Cover charge just \$5 per person. Please BYO drinks and also BYO nibbles – *this enables us to keep costs down so that everyone can enjoy a very affordable night out.*

For more info please call Ian Ford on 814 8871

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT Update on Pigs and Possums

There is good news for those of us who regularly have our gardens dug up by pigs. The ARC are tendering for three professional pig hunters in an attempt to eliminate this problem. I have had reports of massive damage in the bush, which is particularly evident along the walking tracks in the Waitakere Ranges. The ARC have also recognised that possums are once again on the increase and they are intending to start another poisoning programme. **Susanne Timms**

WAIATARUA PERFORMING ARTS TRUST

“Stepping Out,” by Richard Harris – A comedy with dance.

SEASON: OCTOBER 29TH–NOVEMBER 8TH, Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua

Get a group together or just come to tap your feet at your local drama club.

Be sure to book your tickets early – more information in October’s Newsletter, or ring the Director Kathy Lowe 814 -9744

STRATEGIC PROPERTY ADVOCACY NETWORK

Strategic Property Advocacy Network, or SPAN as it is usually known, was until recently the Structure Plan Advocates Network. The name has been changed in recognition of the broadened scope of the organisation’s activities since it was originally formed. SPAN is essentially a group of property owners in the Waitakere foothills who are opposed to the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area bill. The group has approximately 1000 members and supporters and is now involved in areas such as governance in Auckland, and Local Area Plans.

Although frequently demonised by supporters of the WRHA bill, SPAN members actually share the basic conservation values of those who promoted the bill. We live in the foothills because we love the land and appreciate the benefits of rural and bush living. We do not wish to see urban sprawl engulfing the foothills. The wind sighing in the trees, the call of the Tui by day and the Morepork at night, are as important to us as to anyone. Where we differ is how to achieve the basic objective of avoiding unwanted cumulative effects, or ‘death by a thousand cuts’ as so often quoted.

SPAN believes that the WRHA bill is a very blunt instrument even if it had noble motives. We consider that long term covenants as a condition of resource consent are a far more satisfactory method of avoiding undesirable cumulative effects. This solution is used by other councils, and is far less expensive and draconian than a bill which is generally perceived to be opposed to all development whether good or bad. There can be no question that there are irresponsible developers who have no concern about the future, but SPAN members are not impressed by such attitudes. We believe that development can be aesthetically pleasing, environmentally responsible, and economically viable.

This is particularly important when considering that the clay soil in the foothills does not make for economic land use, and that the old ten acre lot is far too small for profitable farming. This has been recognised for many years by property owners in Oratia, and ultimately resulted in the Oratia Structure Plan, which addresses these issues. These days there is nothing romantic about four hectares, and most land owners struggle to keep weeds under control in such a large area, considering that most owners have full-time jobs during the week.

Structure Plans are a recognised tool for ensuring that ecological, landscape, geo-technical, hydrological, and other factors are all taken into consideration when determining whether the four hectares can be divided into smaller lots, usually not smaller than one hectare. Structure Plans will continue to be used as a planning tool, and will possibly be the outcome of Local Area Plans when formulated. LAPs are a provision of the WRHA, and Henderson Valley is one of the proposed areas for the first LAP.

It is significant that Paul Mitchell was elected as one of two Waitakere ward councillors at the last Council elections. Paul opposed the WRHA bill and made this clear during his campaign. This is a strong indication of feeling in the ward and validates SPAN’s assertions that polling about the WRHA bill was seriously flawed. Nevertheless Paul accepts that the WRHA bill is now a statute, and, as a councillor, is monitoring how the bill is being interpreted to ensure the best results for the public.

SPAN considers that passing the bill into law is only the end of round two, so it will be interesting to see what happens in the future. We hope that, whatever the final outcome, common sense will ultimately prevail and that the polarisation the bill has caused will diminish over time. We need consensus about environmental strategies if we are to get buy-in from property owners. This can be achieved without sacrificing collective responsibility for the environment in a fragile world.

John Newick – President, SPAN

RAISE THE ROOF: ROCK’N’ROLL, BLUES & JAZZ NIGHT

Local band. All proceeds to support fundraising for a new roof and sprinkler system for the Oratia Church Hall (Heritage Building).

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH FROM 7:00PM. TICKETS \$15PP

Waiaatarua Community Centre. Ph Paul or Kath on 813-2007 for tickets.

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

EDITOR:

All enquiries to:
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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.waiaatarua.org.nz

1st October at 10am: we will be visiting two gardens in Pakuranga. We'll meet at Pat Lawson's garden at 10 am, where we'll see bromeliads and air plants featured. Entry is \$3. We then visit John and Madeline Yolland at 7 Riverina Ave. Their garden has been featured in a garden magazine. They have an extensive variety of species including vireyas, maples, orchids and ferns, and the garden includes areas of bush and a board walk. The \$6 entrance fee includes morning tea.

Contact Margaret on 814 9859 by 29th September to confirm, or if you can offer or need transport, and for further information. Everyone is welcome.

SETTLERS' FILM CLUB - SETTLING IN!!

If there is anyone who would like to be more involved with the running of the club then do let me know. There are now two ways you can book your seat at the Settler's Film Club night; either e-mail settlersfilmclub@xtra.co.nz with RESERVATION in the subject line, giving your name and how many tickets you need OR you can phone 818 2489 and leave a message, giving your name and number of seats required. We are limited to 70 seats, so those who book will have priority. If you do pre-book please try to be at the hall before 7.45pm as after this we will let in people who have not pre-booked.

If anyone can come along around 7.30pm and help out with the teas and coffees then this would be good, but do give me a call and let me know; we don't want too many cooks in the kitchen!

FRIDAY 12th Sep - 8pm: "Latcho Drom" Winner of Special Grand Prix at Montreal Film Festival.

Celebrating a way of life over 1000 years old . . . a musical journey through the eyes and ears of Romany's nomadic culture. *Latcho Drom* (Safe Journey) transcends language and culture, spanning the four seasons as told through the musicians and dancers of India, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, France and Spain.

Admission \$10. For more information and/or to book tickets telephone Robin on 818 2489. We are limited to 70 seats.

For film info and writeup check www.eventfinder.co.nz Or you can now E-mail your booking to settlersfilmclub@xtra.co.nz

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! At the time of writing this the sun is shining, and although the temperatures are low it is still a welcome relief from the rain and power cuts. Mind you the power cuts did create some interesting situations as Shirley and I attended the Garry McCormick/Tim Shadbolt 'Barrel Of Laughs' show in Titirangi on the worst night of the storms. There was no power but the show was held by candlelight, with a generator providing just enough power for two microphones and one lamp; a great show in a great atmosphere.

Talking about a great show in a great atmosphere brings me to our own table tennis club - now on Wednesday nights so all the Coro fans can attend without missing an episode. This is great family entertainment for all ages tall enough to see over the tables, with bats and balls provided so just put on your sneakers and turn up at the hall at 7pm.

Jenny, our newsletter Editor, has been helping me over the last few months by setting out the copy for Longley Printing despite her convalescence from recent operations. She is shortly off to hospital for operation number four; hopefully the last major one; so I am sure you join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

A couple of months ago I invited readers to provide articles about interesting or different organisations they belong to and this month we have the first of those submissions about an organisation called SPAN, which I am sure some will agree with and some will not. The choice is yours to make. Hopefully this will get the ball rolling and we will hear of other organisations. If it makes it easier, just send me contact details and I will follow up. Also if you have been on an interesting trip a one page (or more if you wish) article on it would be great.

Kubi Witten-Hannah (Chairman, Waitakere Community Board) attended our August committee meeting and reported that the footpath on West Coast Road will be continued uphill from where it currently runs out just below Bendalls Lane, but while it is now on the schedule it is still subject to funding being available. At least this is promising for both dog walkers and children, as this will create footpath access from Bendalls Lane to the bus stop down the hill and hopefully it will eventually wind its way uphill as well.

Our local Drama club are underway with their latest production, but could do with a bit of help from us so if you feel inclined to be involved give Kathy a bell on 814 9744. I know they would love someone to handle ticket sales and this can be done without leaving home, it just needs an answerphone and possibly an email address.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are losing the services of Jenni Hunter who has been our proof reader for the last 18 months, proving a godsend to Jenny and myself. Jenni, thanks heaps for all your valuable input and we wish you and your family all the best. Well that is me for this month. Next month I hope to have an article on LAP or Local Area Plans. **Dave**

Library Report

A selection of the new books at the Library: **Firefight by Chris Ryan** - an SAS captain fights international terrorism in a story penned by one of the best writers of this genre. **Breath by Tim Winton** - a novel about risk taking, with the surf providing the environment, the great white shark the fear factor and the massive waves the challenge. **Shangai by David Rotenberg** - this explores the evolution of Shangai through the times of opium traders, missionaries, and clashes between locals and foreigners. May be reminiscent of James Clavell's great novels. **That Summer in Sicily by Marlena de Blasi** - author of 'A thousand Days in Venice' the book recounts the story of Tosca Bossi and her lifelong love for the last prince of Sicily. **The Lighted Rooms by Richard Mason** - an interesting story of aging, family and history when a woman takes her mother on a return trip to South Africa after many years living in London. **Avalanche by Jack Drummond** - the "most exciting downhill race in the world" ends when racers, locals and visitors get caught up in an avalanche. Plus new books by Lisa Gardner; Vikas Swarup; JoJo Moyes; Danielle Steel; Robert Crais; Witi Ihimaera, and Lynley Dodd.

Please accept my Membership to the Waitarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

2008 Name _____ I ENCLOSE:
 Address _____ \$10 household
 Phone No _____
 Email _____
 To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waitarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library

Waitarua Rainfall (July 2008)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	28	26th - 58 mm	367 mm	1147 mm
Brabant Road	26	29th - 40 mm	334 mm	1060 mm
Quinns Road	29	27th - 33 mm	258 mm	879 mm
Auckland City	-	-	231 mm	679 mm

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BANGLADESH – THE CONCLUSION

Despite Bangladesh being basically fairly flat, we proceeded to find all the highest hills in the country on our walk to the next village. Once again we found the village fairly quiet as the residents were mainly in the fields attending their crops. I must admit by this stage all the villages were starting to look the same and I was somewhat disappointed at the lack of interactive contact between us and the local villagers, partly brought about by the Police escort. Anyway what goes up must come down and so we started downhill to the river only to be confronted by an even bigger, steeper hill that was between us and our destination.

Off we set, and man it was tough; though not as tough as the mountain gorillas in Uganda (but that is another story). Muriel, our 74 year old, suffered terribly and was basically carried by the policemen. Mind you, the fact that she did not bring any water for herself didn't help, remembering that the temperatures were hovering around 30.

After lunch of rice, coconut, dhal, eggplant and spicy vegetables, three of us went for another walk without Muriel, on the flat this time to yet another village. This time the villagers were at home and we visited the school to distribute more books. It was a pleasant visit with locals entertaining us with song and dance, Shirley and Rosemary even managed to buy some stamps from, would you believe, a Post Office.

Next morning we bade farewell to our hosts and started off for Alikadam, first by boat and then by trusty Landcruiser, but true to form the Police vehicle broke down and we spent a couple of hours on the side of the road in the middle of absolutely nowhere. At one stage the local bus stopped and a dozen or so passengers from that pitched in and helped as it required pulling the differential to pieces and reassembling it. Finally we were back to civilisation (Bangladesh style) and we bid farewell to our policemen and swapped to a very comfortable mini bus.

We finally arrived at our destination, after the compulsory security checks, in the late afternoon. Our accommodation, which was described as a Government Rest House, was quite an imposing two story white colonial style building. With the promise of a comfortable bed, and hot shower, it was with some excitement that we unloaded. The bed was large and fairly comfortable, but the bore water at the sink was dark brown and smelt like a stagnant swamp and the hot water came in a bucket from the house boy. So after a sponge down, we were off to the local village for a meal in a true local restaurant, which is something I always want to do; eat where the locals do and I was not disappointed. The food was hot, spicy and delicious, although Shirley found it a bit too authentic! On the second night I did arrange a tour of the restaurant kitchen, which would qualify for a W.C.C rating of Z, with a dirt floor and everything cooked over open fires in tin woks by chefs in bare feet. I must add that during the whole trip nobody suffered from upset tummy as the food was hot and freshly cooked.

By now we had been joined by our next Police escort. Five of them and four of us and they were nowhere near as friendly as the last ones. After dinner we went for a walk around the village, which came to an abrupt halt when I fell down a storm water trench and cut my leg badly, necessitating a visit to the local hospital. There I was with my leg stuck in the air, bleeding profusely, and I looked up to see half the village had followed us in, so apart from Shirley and Rosemary I am surrounded by black faces. What did I do? Burst out laughing! Shirley ended up worse than me as she could see what was going on and although she was okay with the doctor pouring iodine straight into the wound she went very grey when he administered the local anaesthetic. I must admit I did pay attention at this point and knew something was about to happen when the guy holding my leg increased the pressure. Anyway a few stitches were inserted – using what my doctor described as baling twine – I was given some pain killers and antibiotics, and a bill of 400 taka, which was approximately NZ\$8.

Luckily my leg gave no trouble and the next day we were off to visit the MRU tribe, who are a well established group with substantial houses by comparison and no smelly toilets. In fact they had no toilets at all, they just disappeared into the bush as the need arose, and to be quite honest in their environment I see nothing wrong with this. We visited various villages in this area and generally they were much more civilised than those in the Ruma area, with various activities such as weaving on wooden looms, making necklaces and beads and other handicrafts. We made our last school visit to the local school which had one teacher and 25 pupils, ages 7, 8 and 9. Once again they sang some songs and we gave away the last of our books and pencils.

On the way back to rest house we visited the largest market in the area, with the ladies making straight for the jewellery shop, which I might add was a shed with a dirt floor, a furnace and anvil, with a blacksmith fashioning silver. Me, I went and found a loading platform to sit on and by the time the rest came out I had a crowd of 40-50 people around me having a great time. Bangladesh is a Muslim country which means no alcohol, but this does not stop villagers from making rice wine, some of which we managed to acquire and drink, even though it would make good paint stripper.

Then it was back to our accommodation and to the local restaurant for our last night, at this point I was eating Bangla style – that is with my right hand, as the left hand is used for other activities. We travelled back to Chittagong and finally found that hot shower, which was heaven. I think Shirley had four showers in one night and morning. We set off to the airport at 9.30am only to find our plane was delayed until 4pm, and finally took off at 6pm. Shirley and I then spent a very relaxing, civilized, four days in Bangkok.

"Why on earth are you going there" was the first sentence when I started this article. We have been to a lot of unusual third world countries and this trip rates right up there as one of the most enjoyable and interesting of the lot. Would I go again? Yes is the answer, to experience other aspects of Bangladesh and spend more time just being with the people. I hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as I have writing it. For me it was like reliving a fantastic trip again.

Dave

SITUATIONS VACANT TREASURER

After three years of dedicated service Jan Haine will not be seeking this position at our next AGM. To ease the transition we invite interested parties to contact Jan now and work towards the handover.

**For further details Jan Haine
ph 837 2318 or jan_haine@xtra.co.nz**

SITUATIONS VACANT PROOF READER

We are looking for someone to help with the proof reading of our newsletter. You will need a computer and email.

**For further details Dave Pocock
ph 814 9697 or
davepocock@xtra.co.nz**

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

**Every Wednesday evening
7pm**

**WAIATARUA HALL
911 WEST COAST ROAD**

Waiaatarua 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)

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 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.

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

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

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. Phone Lynne & Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

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

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Rds. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

TITIRANGI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL 21ST CELEBRATION: Labour Weekend, 24-25 Oct. A wonderful weekend of celebrations for all past and current pupils, their families, and friends of the school. Register with Felice: felice@naturalosteopathy.co.nz

TITIRANGI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL NUTRITION & CHILDCARE: Talks by Dr. Ulrich Doering 7.30pm, Wed. 3rd & 10th Sept. at Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School Community Hall. All welcome. Koha appreciated.

TITIRANGI VILLAGE MARKET: - last Sun. of the month. Over 130 stalls, rain or shine, inside and outside, music and cafe. Phone Judith 817-3467

TOASTMASTER: - meetings held on every other Thursday morning from 7-8:20am - for more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728.

UPSTAIRS GALLERY AT LOPDELL HOUSE: TERRY PRINCE - ROADS WEST. Thurs. 18 Sept. 6-8pm until Sun. 12th Oct. Acrylic paintings. This collection is the result of Terry driving and walking for miles in all different weathers and light amidst the Waitakere ranges and the West Coast. Free entry. Open 7 days, 10am-4.40pm.

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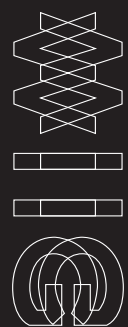
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