



Community News

MAY 1993

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

AUCKLAND REGIONAL PARKS

Last month I represented your Association at Arataki Visitor Information Centre at a "Sod-Turning" Ceremony for the commencement of work on the new Information Centre which will greatly improve the facilities for visitors to the area.

The new building will have a magnificent view from the sweeping decks and will be a great asset for tourists, school parties and other visitors with an interest in learning about this area, past, present and probably future.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our heartfelt sympathy to Jerry Lovrin and family of Bush Rd on the sudden death of wife and mother, Marie.

Another recent death was that of Kalmer Christian who lived in the area for a number of years, but shifted away several years ago.

Kalmer was probably known to many as he had the gift of being able to pop in and visit for a few minutes and then be on his way, and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

PUBLIC MEETING

A meeting will be held on Thursday 17th June at the Community Centre Waiatarua at 7.30pm to discuss the possible change from Land Value to Capital Value Rating.

We will arrange for Councillors or their representatives with different viewpoints to address the meeting and answer questions.

LIBRARY

Come and choose books on
Tuesday 7pm - 8.30pm.
Thursday 10am - 12noon
Friday 7pm - 8.30pm
Saturday 11am - 12noon
Sunday 11am - 12noon.

Volunteers to help on a Thursday morning - our work day, would be appreciated. Enjoy some good company while helping our community. The phone number for the library (during library hours) is 814-9353, the same number as for the Centre.

GARDEN GROUP



Last month's gathering at Eric and Lillian Winter's to learn about hydroponics was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon, although the rain stopped us from enjoying the rest of the garden.

Thankyou both for having all sixteen of us in your lounge, chattering flat tack!

This month's gathering will be on Wednesday 19th May at 1pm at 915 West Coast Rd. It would be advisable to park at the Community Centre as we are meeting at the next house up the road.

Leanne Belgrave, our hostess would like to have some suggestions for developing the property, so come and help Leanne and perhaps get some ideas for yourself.

Everyone welcome to attend, including children. Any queries phone Margaret on 814-9843.

PLAYCENTRE

The finishing touches are now being made to the inside of the building and the playground is being formed. After this, various approvals need to be obtained before permission to open is granted.

Saturday June 12th has tentatively been set for Opening Day.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership stands at 49, I know you have needed a "round tuit" but that's no excuse.

Fill in that form right now and send it off- we need your support!

COUNCILLOR HELEN HASLAM ON RATING

Proposed Change to Capital Value Rating System.

For the past three and a half years, Council has been considering a variety of methods of rating. We have been going through this exercise because our current Land Value system is extremely complex with many anomalies which are unfair to large numbers of ratepayers across the city. We have sought a fairer and simpler system.

After much careful deliberation and debate we have decided that Capital Value system appears to redress many of the inequities thrown up by the Land Value system. We will make a definite decision in a few months time. Before then, we are going to ask you to give us your views. We are preparing information describing the principles, advantages and disadvantages of both systems and the assumptions behind our proposal to change to Capital Value system. We will also tell you what your own rates would be under the Capital Value and Land Value systems. We will hold meetings to enable you to ask questions and to hear more about both systems. Then we will ask you to tell us your views.

It will only be after we have heard your views that we will make

our decision. This could be to proceed with the change to Capital Value, or to throw it out in favour of the current Land Value system, or alternatively to defer a decision to allow a longer period for consultation with you.

I have followed this matter very carefully over the past three and a half years. So far it appears to me that overall the people of Waitakere Ward, and the city as a whole would receive a fairer deal from Capital Value, so long as we retain the current Outer Area differential (as was proposed in Council's resolution last week). Many of you will be interested to know that Bart Fortune from Piha has expressed interest in the change, conditional of course upon keeping the Outer Area differential in place. Bart has agreed to prepare his comments on the proposal. I will forward them to your Ratepayers Associations.

Unfortunately there have already been alarmist and inaccurate rumours spread about Capital Value. I will address a few of these now:

* Capital Value is not a means of raising more rates. The same amount would be required under either Capital Value or Land Value systems. The total amount raised across the city each year is determined by the Annual Planning and Budget process. This amount is then distributed across all the properties in the city at proportions determined by the particular rating method -ie Capital Value, Land Value or any other system.

* All older people would not experience rate rises on a change to Capital Value. Some would go down, some would stay the same, and those with higher valued houses on low valued properties may experience an increase.

* Everybody's rates would not go up. Our calculations show that under Capital Value, approximately 50% of ratepayers would have a

decrease (albeit in some cases small).

* Capital Value is just not a change for change sake - it would be made only on the basis that it would apportion rates more equitably to ensure that everyone pays their fair share.

* It is not intended that Capital Value would drive businesses out - nor to keep investors away. There is little evidence to support the view that capital value would have these negative effects. We are developing a variety of methods to encourage development of environmentally appropriate businesses in this city - we do not intend to put those businesses at risk, nor do we intend our rating method to close existing businesses down. (Should any extreme effects on the industrial and commercial sectors arise a differential will be issued to address these).

I invite you to await the full information package which will arrive at your property within the next month before making up your mind on this very important matter. We want to hear your views - once you are in an informed position.

I can assure you that my colleagues on Council and I will not support the change unless we are convinced after consultation with you that overall it is in the best interests of Waitakere Ward and the City as a whole.

Yours sincerely, Helen Haslam
Phone 812-8890.

ADVERTISING.. Free to members.

Pest Control..Do it yourself- Simple and Economic. Eliminate RATS, MICE, COCKROACHES, SPIDERS, FLEAS, etc. Complete kit retails for \$22.95 but is available to Waiatarua Residents for \$16. Phone Graeme on 814-9678.

Shower Rose ..Save electricity, increase water pressure, be kind

to your septic tank with 33% less water usage and get a free environmentally friendly Loo Clean. For more details phone Lyndsay on 814-9872. \$5 from every purchase donated to the Waiatarua Fire Brigade First Aid Course Fund.

Gardening work wanted - Horticultural tradesperson requires local part-time work. Phone 814-9144.

Marriage Celebrant - Weddings from the heart - Glenys Scott 814-9598

Optometrists - Molly and Matthew Whittington have a large range of frames, all lens types, contact lenses, and will also examine your eyes at 245 Forest Hill Rd. Phone 814-9034 for further information.

JUNE NEWSLETTER.

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor, Margaret Blumhardt, 849 West Coast Rd., opposite Raroa Tce., by Wednesday 2nd June 1993. Thanks to the Longley family of Longley Printing for once again printing our newsletter.

Please accept my subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Assoc. for 1993

I enclose \$7 Household,
\$4 Single Occupant

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....

To Treasurer,
Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association,
911 West Coast Rd.,
Waiatarua.
or leave at the library.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON REQUIRED



Keep Waitakere Beautiful Programme

Waitakere City is seeking a motivated, dynamic community spirited person to lead The Keep Waitakere Beautiful Programme and be its Executive Chairperson.

Waitakere City Council is proud to announce that it has adopted The Keep Waitakere Beautiful Programme. The programme has four basic objectives:

- To reduce litter and graffiti
- City beautification
- To increase civic pride
- To promote Council's solid waste management policy

The Executive Chairperson is a key appointment. The appointee will have strong leadership abilities, with a track record of getting things done, particularly in the community. He/she will be an initiator, a good organiser and a motivator of a diverse range of people. Responsibilities include recruiting committee members, chairing the Executive Committee, and working closely with the Keep Waitakere Beautiful Programme Co-ordinator.

An invitation is extended to those who would like their name to be considered. This important and prestigious position does not carry a salary but all reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. This voluntary position carries a two-year term.

For further information or a job description, please contact Janet Cole 836 8000 extn 8145.

Those expressing interest should do so in writing, providing comprehensive background information, to :

The Personnel Manager
Waitakere City Council
Private Bag 93 109
Henderson
WAITAKERE CITY 1008



Closing dates for applications is : Friday, 21 May 1993.