



# Community News

MARCH 1996

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was a good number of residents came to our meeting to hear Deputy Mayor, Dorothy Wilson speak about the District Plan.

A new committee was elected. Gerry Davis remains as President with Kevin Healy as Vice-President.

Karen Davis is the new Secretary with Eileen Powell remaining as Treasurer. I am still the Editor!

New committee members are Peter Mohr, and "new old" committee members Lyndsay Whittle and Tony Bacon.

Welcome to our new members and thanks to our outgoing Vice President, Lisa McQueen and Secretary, John Hendrikse and Fire Brigade representative, Tony Holt.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM

At the beginning of my term as president, the committee and I were very inexperienced. A few wise and knowledgeable members helped us to begin to define our role as members of the Ratepayers and Resident's Association.

Our first task was to support and find issues for Waiaatarua for the Annual Plan of Waitakere City. We supported the Playcentre's submission to finish the car park, kerbing and drainage. We submitted requests to expand the footpaths along West Coast Road, especially where children gathered to catch the school buses. We also asked for an improved and expanded area of parking at the Community Hall.

During the year we also worked on the ginger collection bins, clearing the roadside of litter, trying to start a campaign to remove graffiti in the area, what to do with the Community Hall and encouraging information from the community.

We also created the "Waiaatarua Whoopee", a meeting and celebration of families in our area. Over 200 participants of all ages came to an afternoon of games, entertainment by the Drama Club, wine, a sausage sizzle and meeting new neighbours.

In the last few months two issues have surfaced that have caused confusion and concern in Waitakere City, the District Plan, and the setting of new rates based on the new valuations recently distributed to each land owner.

The District Plan, a very complex plan, will determine to a large extent what you can and cannot do on your property for the next ten years. By the time you get this newsletter

the deadline date for making submissions to clarify and state your objections will have passed. Fortunately some in the community and this association put some time and thinking into areas needing clarification and rewriting.

Our rates are going to go up based on three criteria;

- (1) that councils always need more money.
- (2) that land values in Waiaatarua have gone up considerably more than many of the other areas of Waitakere City.  
*and*
- (3) changes in the "outer area" relief from rates that we have had based on less services that we enjoy in the "outer area." (ie. bus services, footpaths, street lighting, availability of parks, swimming pools, libraries etc.).

There are some in the Council who state that our mobile society allows us all access to these services so the differentials should be removed. I believe that most in Council think they should be modified and therefore rates will go up.

The Ratepayers Association works to represent you. We are working on the above areas and we need feedback and support from you. Complacency is rampant in our society today and therefore we only get to complain after the fact. Let us move to action and be proactive rather than just reactive.

## DISTRICT PLAN

The information about the provisions in the District Plan that was in the last newsletter contained some errors although the information was obtained in a visit to Council by myself, my husband and Gerry our President.

We have had a further meeting with Council Officers and clarified some aspects.

If your property has more than one Natural Area you are permitted to do the activities permitted for that area and it is only if the activity you want to do crosses into the other Natural Area that the stricter regulations will apply.

In the General Natural Area, stock is allowed.

We were originally told that a resource consent to cut down one or a hundred trees will cost \$250 and will last for two years but have subsequently been told that the level of fees charged will range from nil up to \$250 for a complicated consent where there needs to be a hearing and neighbours informed or supervision required etc.

## PROFILE ON CHUCK HUMPHREY

This is my second year on the Ratepayers Association Committee. My wife Louris and I have lived on the Scenic Drive for the last four years and we really love the area.

I was born in the UK and first saw New Zealand during my travels with the British Merchant Navy. I fell in love with NZ and decided to live here.

During my working life I've been an engineer, a professional manager, a management consultant and currently my wife and I run a company manufacturing cosmetics and toiletries.

My leisure activities include oil painting and golf. My reason for joining the Committee of the Ratepayers Association was to put something back into the Community we live in. The lesson I am learning is that there are too many people like I used to be who show little interest in what is happening to them in their area. An example is the small number of people who are actually members of the Ratepayers Association, compared with the number who are living in the area. This committee needs your support - what about it!

### Letters to the Editor

I am so thrilled to have so many contributions this month, keep it up, answer one of these or write on something else. Editor.

## Arataki

It always amazes me how many people living "within a stone's throw" of the Arataki Visitor's Centre have never been to this interesting place.

The new building was finished over two years ago at a cost of 1.6 million dollars, paid for by the citizens of the Greater Auckland area, and is now the pride of the Auckland Regional Parks. It is built of mostly macrocarpa timber and has a large display of beautiful Maori carvings. The viewing decks which surround the actual building are neatly packaged in native trees and plants and will give a wide view to both Waitemata and Manukau Harbours.

Inside are many interesting displays and a souvenir shop offering an extensive range of products plus a good selection of historic and flora/fauna books.

The staff at the information desk will supply all details of walks and tracks not only in the Centennial Park but also has information on the other Regional Parks and attractions in the Auckland area and beyond. The Centre is an official V.I.N. office, registered with the NZ Tourism Board. Permits for camping and other activities are also issued. In the lower part of the building is a lecture hall (for hire), and a little theatre continuously showing a video of the "Wild West Auckland."

Altogether there is a lot to see and do in Arataki. Most tourist companies have included a visit in their itinerary. Schools are offered an educational program run by Park Rangers and Volunteers.

If you have not been in Arataki Visitors Centre it is about time you discover one of the greatest assets of the Waiatarua area. The Centre is open every day of the year from 9 am till

5 pm except Christmas Day.

If you feel like taking part in some of the activities and projects you should seriously consider joining the "Friends of Arataki." The application forms are at the desk.

Hans van Rossem.

## Dateline Waiatarua March 2026

I would like to thank the Editor of the WWW (Waiatarua Wide Web) for doing such a great public service in keeping the isolated residents of Waiatarua informed on what is happening in the district.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that I could see my neighbour's house from the window but of course that was in the bad old days in the mid 1990's.

I don't get out as much as I used to before the council banned motor vehicles from the area. It is hard to imagine now, but we used to have driveways on our sections that led down to a road. Such a danger they were to anyone foolish enough to walk on them. As I recall most people seen on the road in those days were running. I suppose it was to get to their destination as quickly as possible to avoid the pollution.

How much better now that the old West Coast Road and Forest Hill Road are corridors of native bush leading down into the urban areas. The local residents did a great job way back then in tearing up the tarmac and planting out the native bush. Mind you, there will always be those who will complain and I suppose the Pukekos that use these corridors of bush to get down to the high density housing area of Oratia can be a nuisance.

The younger residents just cannot imagine how bad things were in those days. Do you know that we had to contend with roses, daffodils, rhododendrons, tulips, and hundreds of other noxious weeds, but due to a concerted effort by the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association and the full backing of the council we managed to get rid of all those exotic imports and replaced them with the uniform green natives that grow so prolifically today.

It wasn't as easy to get rid of all the cats and dogs in the area but you must remember that people used to get quite attached to their animals in those days. So much better that all we see now are the native geckoes and local frogs. We were able to get rid of the "Madison Tunnels" on what used to be called the Scenic Drive as there were no longer the danger from motorised vehicles.

The undesirable birds took quite a few years to totally exterminate and we had quite a struggle with residents who insisted on having their own aviaries, but persistence pays off.

One really great spin off from all this activity was that the native trees and bush grew so well that it totally blocked off the sun's harmful rays. I can't recall when I last saw the sun. Do you know that people used to have sun decks and sit out in the open! Yes it is shocking to think of it now.

The other thing about modern day life is that people now have so much extra time. Hours used to be spent mowing the grass but of course there is just moss now and that requires no attention at all. Most people in the district had this odd desire to cultivate noxious plants and would spend hours every day pruning and fertilising them. So silly when



you think back, but of course people were not as educated as they are today. I have just finished my diploma course in "Green Think" down at the Waitakere Civic Responsibility Chambers.

By the way, did you know the council have a special on this month and a litre of camouflage paint approved for use on residential dwellings is available at the knock down price of 500 Pacific Dollars. So much better than those tasteless colours we used to have. I believe this same paint is available in approved spray cans so that graffiti artists can still have the pleasure but no one can see where they have been.

Must go because the Tree Police are arriving shortly in their non-polluting magnacopter to implant more micro chips in a new stand of natives which are pressing up against my bedroom window. I really enjoy that green filtered light and the mossy effect it has on my wardrobe.

That should complete the registration and cataloguing of all 12759 trees now growing on my section and it is comforting to know that they are all monitored down at the Sir Bob

## Fire Brigade Play

**Phone 1125J**, is the play to be presented in April/ May by the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade in association with the Waiatarua Theatre.

### When and Where?

Tickets are \$15 for the show, a light supper and a glass of what you fancy. The season will run at the Waiatarua Community Centre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights - April 25, 26, 27 and May 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Contact **Lyndsay** on **814-9872** for

- tickets and booking details
- more on sponsorship and advertising opportunities

## GARDEN GROUP

This month we are visiting Tranquil Glen Gardens at 30 Tram Valley Road, (off Christian Road), Swanson. Admission is \$5 plus \$3 if you want afternoon tea, and the date is Wednesday March 27.

Please ring Margaret or Terry on 814-9843 by Monday March 25 if you would like to join us and have afternoon tea so that we can give an approximate idea of numbers and fill the cars going.

You are welcome to join us occasionally or every month, there is no membership or fees to pay. We normally meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

## APRIL NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of  
Margaret Blumhardt

849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua  
(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL, 1996

Harvey Star Top Observatory Tower.

It has to be said that that fellow caught trimming a branch off a tree growing through his lounge last week deserved all he got. Perhaps over the next ten years of his sentence he can reflect on the harm he has done to the environment and how he has let down the whole community who are responsible for preserving the HHH (Harvey Heritage Habitat) for future generations.

## Dear fellow resident/ratepayers,

This letter is an attempt to find out if you care about receiving the Community News, and what's happening with the Ratepayers Association. Many of you may feel (as I have) that the Community News and Ratepayers Association is a bit of a small time giggle; especially when we read about upcoming events which happened a week before we received it. How seriously can we take a newsletter which arrives unsolicited whether you pay your subscription or not? Seven dollars for a household is so little that maybe it projects a lack of confidence and competence (not necessarily deserved). The Ratepayers Committee has the respect of Waitakere City Council, and is diligently representing our views to them on issues as critical as the District Plan, and future levels of our rates.

Most of the members present at the AGM thought the present fees and system satisfactory; which makes me think that we have a community divided between volunteers who are somehow fulfilled by stuffing newsletters in mailboxes, and bludgers who are happy to receive them. Without identifying yourself could you please tick the box which you think appropriate and return to **Margaret Blumhardt, 849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.**

- I am one of the 83% who receives the Community News without paying a subscription and am happy with the status quo.
- I am not going to subscribe, and don't wish to receive the newsletter.
- I am a subscriber and happy with the status quo.
- I am a subscriber and would be happy to pay a higher fee and have the newsletter posted to me (on time).

### Please accept my subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association for 1996

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

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

To Treasurer,  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association,  
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

## LIBRARY NEWS

We have a few new books:

Warrior Queen      *Barbara Else*  
A Map of the world    *Jane Hamilton*  
Brothers and Sisters   *Bebe Moor Campbell*  
This Rough Magic      *Mary Stewart*

Sorry but we only had one person using the Library on a Tuesday night last month. So as from the end of March the Library will close on a Tuesday night. We will review it again in the Spring.

Please come and visit our otherwise busy Library. Suggestions always welcome.

### WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road,  
under the Community Centre. Phone 814-9353

#### Hours of Opening

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

Books can be returned at any time through the chute by the library door



## Let's Get Garden Waste Out of Our Rubbish

Need to learn how to make good home composting?

Why not come along to our free home composting workshop at Bruce McLaren Intermediate School, Bruce McLaren Road, Henderson on Wednesday 3 April from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

For workshop details and booking your attendance contact our Regional Composting Co-ordinator, Richard Tudson on **Compost Hotline : 0800 266 7678**



Wairakere City Council

## ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1996, January to December. A list of financial members is available at the library, and any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the Treasurer – Eileen Powell on 814-9298*

**GARDENER** – requires work. Qualified Tradesperson. Other local work considered. Phone Audrey 814-9144

**PAINTING- DECORATING** – fully qualified in all aspects of the trade. Workmanship and materials guaranteed. Call Bob on 814-9428 or 025-870955

**TUTOR NEEDED** – for sixth form maths and physics. Phone Lynn on 814-9468.

**KNITTING WOOL WANTED** – donations of oddments of wool suitable for knitting peggy squares. Blankets being made for charity. Phone Rozanna on 814-9374.

**MORRIS LANDSCAPES** – Design and construction specialists. Making the most of your outdoor space. Whether you require:- design, paving, retaining, fencing, planting, a new lawn or maintenance. Phone 814-9918 or (025) 974519

**THE WATER FILTER WAREHOUSE** – Mobile Service for Water Filters/Purifiers. Sales, Service, Installation, Replacement cartridges. Free quotes. Phone Robin 814-9202.

**EXA GYM** – Nearly new. Exercise at home (beats going to the gym), only \$100. Phone Helen on 814-9855 (Evenings) or 837-0729 (Days).

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849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua  
(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL, 1996

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

Many thanks to Carol and Grant Longley at Longley Printing, Bruce McLaren Rd. for once again printing this newsletter.