

Community News



JULY 1996

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

EDITORIAL

Condolences

This month it is with sadness we record the death of a resident and a former resident of Waiatarua.

DAWN HENDRIKSE, wife of our last year's Secretary, John Hendrikse died after a very short illness.

Dawn was a bright and friendly person who was very interested in gardening and also talented at oil painting. She will be missed by the Garden Group.

Our condolences to husband John, Son Dale, daughter Melody and John and the rest of the family.

The other death was that of **KEN RUDALL**. Ken and Joan shifted to the Hibiscus Coast Retirement Village seven years ago. Joan was a very active librarian and Ratepayers Committee member and was made a life member of our Association. Ken was the quiet husband who loved nature. Especially cave wetas according to my husband Terry who used to take him weta spotting on occasions!

Our condolences to Joan, Waiataruans still remember you.

COMMITTEE BUSY!

Your committee has been busy on your behalf, some of us have attended five meetings in the last month, the extra ones were about the Community Centre Management, (one of those was with Council) and one meeting was to reply to Council about the Rubbish Proposal.

The Centre Management issue is being resolved with a draft plan now being written and sent to us to discuss before our next meeting with Council on July 25.

The letter about rubbish is printed further on in this newsletter. Karen Davis will also be meeting with Councillor Penny Hulse to discuss alternatives.

WELCOME TO WAIATARUA!

Your committee has also approached the Council to have signs erected on the approaches to Waiatarua to show where we are! These will be erected shortly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

I have been asked again about subscriptions. These are

for the calendar year so if you paid at last year's whoopee you are due to pay again!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

You are welcome to come and discuss any problems with your executive committee. We meet on the first Monday of the month, phone our President Gerry Davis or Secretary Karen Davis on 814-8833 to arrange this.

ROAD VERGES

Last week I was in the kitchen when to my horror I saw the verge mower outside lowering his mower onto our grass verge. My heart sank and it sank even further when I went outside and found that all the pretty native ferns on the bank were being chomped off. I called out and the mower stopped and I was able to ask what on earth he was doing! The answer, "I will lose my job if I do not chop back everything". Indeed that is what he has done. Across the road there was a bag of rubbish which has been chomped into many pieces and shredded aluminium cans now lie on the side of the road. The road certainly looks much worse than before. Several hours were spent in this general area, cutting back vegetation which was not a problem. This of course is paid for in our rates. I can think of a lot better uses for ratepayers money. Everyone is responsible for keeping their road front tidy and so I object to money being spent on other people's. Let the Council cut back where it is a problem and charge individual ratepayers for the privilege.

Councillor Peter Maddison spoke to the Garden Group about the "Keep Waitakere Beautiful" scheme which we could use to beautify the area's road verges. We would need volunteers to help with this programme and the Council would provide suitable plants. We would decide on an area to start with and then extend it year by year. This would make our welcome to Waiatarua signs much more significant and the mower redundant. If you are interested to learn more of this scheme Karen Davis would love to hear from you. Her number is 814-8833.

GRAFFITI



Remember to ring Tony Holt about any graffiti - 814-9688 and he will arrange for it's prompt removal.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you have any problems in receiving your community

news or perhaps would like to have some exercise and deliver some please phone Gay Cook on 814-9433.

FIRESAFE WAITAKERE

is encouraging all Waitakere City residents to take advantage of NZ Fire Service's offer of free installation on reduced cost fire alarms.

From 5 August until 13 September
FIRESAFE WAITAKERE will promote:

- ★ free NZ Fire Service house checks for fire safety (and Warrant of Fitness Certificate)
- ★ good quality smoke alarms for just \$16.95 (available from many retail stores)
- ★ free NZ Fire Service installation of alarms.

The Fire Service has attended over 400 fires in Waitakere homes over the last six months.

Fires can be fatal

All Waitakere homeowners are urged to take action over the next few weeks

Ring the Firesafe Hotline (from August 5) on 836-1188 re buying alarms, installations or house checks.

Firesafe Waitakere is supported by the New Zealand Fire Service and Safe Waitakere (including ACC, Waitakere City Council and Safekids) with sponsorship from First Alert and Wormalds.

GARDEN GROUP

This month we are having The Noxious Plants Officer from Waitakere City Council talk to us about ridding our area of these. A good month to have an inside gathering. The date for this is Wednesday July 24 at 1 pm at Karen Davis' home 17 Rimu Road.

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.

For further enquiries phone Eileen on 814-9298 or Margaret or Terry on 814-9843.

Letters to the Editor

keep them rolling! Editor

This is to all those irresponsible dog owners in the Bush Road, Atarua Gardens, West Coast Road area who think that they can get away with letting their dogs roam late at night. Be assured that we will not put up with your dog(s) running through our property, chasing and terrorising our cats and will take whatever action is necessary to stop them in their tracks. Be warned - we are on our guard and will be waiting.....

Dog Gone

I am sorry that this writer, unlike all the others, did not include his/her name, even if this is not for publication.

Dog traps are available free, on loan from the animal control section of Waitakere City Council and I would like to suggest that as the best option for this problem. The dogs

when caught will be taken to the pound and the owner will be hit in the pocket. There is no excuse to have dogs free at night in a rural area where there are also stock grazing. Editor

Last month's letter signed Bob Harvey was indeed from the Mayor himself. Some people evidently did not realise that. Thank you to Mayor Bob Harvey for contributing.

EDITOR

EXHIBITION of PAPIER MACHE'

CREATIONS

by Iona Matheson at the Fairy Flower Shop, 543A West Coast Road, opening 2 pm July 7 until July 26.

Vases, mirrors, clocks, sculpture.

LIBRARY NEWS

New books:

- *Nathan's Run* by John Gistrap comes highly recommended.
- *Old School Tie* and *Inside Dope*, both by Paul Thomas are rattling good thrillers set in NZ (Racy language).
- *Tomorrow we Save the Orphans* is a book of short stories by Owen Marshall (NZ short story writer?) and of course we have . . .
- *Runaway Jury* - John Grisham's latest
- *Payday in Saudi* - Selwyn Carson (NZ Doctor)
- *Be Well Naturally* - Lynda Wharton
- *A Walk to the Western Isles* - Frank Delaney
- *Men are from Mars, Women from Venus* - John Gray

URGENT URGENT URGENT

The library is desperate for a volunteer for the 4th Saturday in each month 11 - 12 noon.

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE PHONE -
ANNE 814-8874 or BEV 836-4420

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.

LETTER TO COUNCIL

As President of the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association, I have been asked to share our reactions to the proposed "Rubbish Service". These reactions have been developed from a consensus process with our executive committee.

"Proposal" or a public relations production?

It appears your process of involving the public in "consultation" has been to put advertisements in the Western Leader, deliver a brochure to householders and inform Ratepayers Associations of two public meetings. We want you to know that the Waiatarua Residents **don't** get the Western Leader, that **no** brochures were delivered and mail to the executives only affects twelve people, and further more, these notices were too late to be put in the newsletter to all residents. Therefore, the Waiatarua residents have **not** been included in your public "consultation". Your pamphlet, "Only pay for what you throw away" appears to be simply information on what you have already decided to do. This is not "consultation".

Reduction of rubbish

We are definitely in favour of reducing rubbish. According to your information, 30% of rubbish collected in landfill is construction/building materials, and 14% is metal. That is nearly half of the rubbish, while residential rubbish must be a much smaller proportion of the total. Residential rubbish must be due to excess packaging and excess organic materials. The only way excess packaging can be reduced is at source, and organic material must be composted. Your proposal in no way addresses these two issues. It simply reduces the amount of rubbish the city will collect. It does not increase composting, nor does it reduce excess packaging. We believe people will handle excess packaging by burning or dumping, rather than pay an extra \$52+ charge on rubbish collection yearly. This will simply add to the pollution problems.

Environmental Impact

Since a change in the city's procedure to collect rubbish is going to change how residents will handle their rubbish, there is going to be an environmental impact. Given the higher percentage of low income people with less money to spend on rubbish collection in West Auckland, given how close and easily accessible the Waitakere Ranges are, and given we in the Ranges already experience illegal dumping on our roads, we believe this illicit dumping will increase, harming our bush and waterways. Therefore, we presume the city has applied for a resource consent, and we would like to know the results of the environmental impact studies of the proposal. Surely the Eco City would not require local citizens to apply for a resource consent to protect the environment, but not follow this procedure itself.

Rates Increase

Our Annual Uniform Charge is \$97 per household. Of that, we understand \$57 is allocated to rubbish collection. Your plan to eliminate your responsibility of rubbish collection to private enterprise and charge \$1 a bag is an indirect rate increase. Nowhere do you talk about a rate

decrease or providing substitute services for the \$57 earmarked for rubbish collection. The remaining \$40 of the A.U.C. is for street cleaning, litter collection, graffiti removal etc. The citizens of Waiatarua do **not** receive benefit from these services.



Essential services

We believe services affecting the wellbeing of all the citizens should be the responsibility of the city services. We think rubbish management is an essential city service, as is water, policing, roads etc. We want the city to become more efficient in rubbish collection, composting and recycling.

Policing the proposal

How do you plan to police people who put out rubbish without a sticker, not in front of their place but in front of another's? Particularly in all the secluded spots here in the Waitakere Ranges! We believe this system is impossible to police, except at great expense and this means the "proposal" is highly inefficient

Impact on the poor

Once again, the politicians are not attacking the problem up stream at the source, ie businesses that over package or businesses that produce huge quantities of construction debris, but instead, penalise the small poor person at the end of the chain who can ill afford the proposed "solution". If poor people don't have the money to buy stickers they will either burn, dump, or stockpile their rubbish. All of these methods will have a direct impact on health, the environment and a lawful society.

Summary

- We believe you have not done a good job of "consulting" the ratepayers. Consulting is different from "informing", and you have not done an acceptable job of including the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers.
- The reduction of residential rubbish through reusing and recycling is already underway and will increase through public education and community programs. Your proposal will not give great gains in reducing total community rubbish, just the amount you will pick up. The most efficient way to reduce rubbish is at the packaging end, not at the sales end. What is your plan for increasing community composting?
- You are setting in motion a plan to eliminate 40% of the rubbish you collect, not 40% of the total community rubbish. People will burn or dump rubbish, polluting the environment in other ways. You don't have to answer to that, but the clean green Eco City image will be a farce!

– Gerry Davis, President, Waiatarua R & R Association

PLAYCENTRE

If you and your child are interested in coming down to Playcentre to see what is going on we'd love to see you. We are down the driveway next to the Community Centre, 911 West Coast Road.

Our sessions are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9.30 am - 12 noon and our phone is 814-835 or phone Debbie 814-9187.

How The Waitakere Tracks Were Named

Early in the history of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park Board, there were three searches in quick succession for people lost in the Waitakeres, and the Search and Rescue Organisation found itself hampered in its directions to parties by the lack of track names.

The problem was discussed with **Arthur Mead**, secretary to the Parks Board and long time water works engineer to Auckland City. His work on the design and construction of the city's dams has given him a very good knowledge of the Waitakeres and in addition he was a keen trumper liked and respected in tramping clubs and botanical groups. It was said he knew the ranges like the back of his hand.

The initial list of track names he drew up was offered to the Associated Mountain Clubs for comment. A few changes were made and one particularly long track was cut into two sections. The revised list was approved by the Parks Board and printed on a map with brief descriptions on the back. Tracks formed later were named by Arthur Mead with the Board's blessing.

In drawing up the first list, names already in use were retained. In two or three cases, a choice had to be made where names in use by different tramping and nature loving groups did not correspond. Many of the tracks were old timber routes. **Panto Track** at Cornwallis and **McKenzie Track**, (Piha Valley), carried the names of old bushmen. **Home Track**, occupying the middle spur of the Piha Valley, was the bushmen's way home from the mill camp in the lower Piha Valley to the formed road to civilisation.

*The story of the Waitakere track names will be continued in our next issue, thanks to **Monty Mead** of Piha, a trumper like his father and thanks too to DSIR botanist Alan Esler's correspondence with Arthur Mead after he had left his Piha cottage in 1973 and retired to live with his daughter in Wellington. Parts of that correspondence concerning track names was published in 1984 by the Alpine Sports Club as a tribute to Arthur Mead on the 50th anniversary of the building of the club's Waitakere hut. Arthur Mead had the rare distinction of being made an honorary member of the ASC.*

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, Auckland 8
or leave at the library

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

Repeat commercial advertisements of financial members will only be printed as space allows, for the remainder of the financial year

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING –

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BAND FOR HIRE – experienced, reliable and professional. Wide range of music, will suit any occasion. For details and bookings.

Please phone Steve on 814-9191

THE FAIRY FLOWER SHOP – 543A West Coast Road, for that special gift. Free delivery on fresh or dried flower deliveries over \$25 for July phone 813-0333.

HAIRDRESSER – will cut your hair at your home.

Over 25 yrs experience, reasonable rates, phone Lesley 814-9242.

GERMAN AND SPANISH translations and language tuition by qualified teacher. Phone 814-9903

FIREWOOD FOR SALE – split dry macrocarpa, \$45 cubic metre, dry pine slabs, some need splitting, \$25 cubic metre.

Call at 17 Rimu Road or phone 814-8833.

VETERINARIAN – For pets and farm animals. House calls a speciality. Phone Neil Pullan on 814-9504.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of
Margaret Blumhardt

849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua
(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 7th AUGUST, 1996

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

Many thanks to the Longley Family for once again printing this newsletter.