



Community News

NOVEMBER 1996

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

YOUR RATES COULD DOUBLE!

Good, I've got your attention. Which is just as well, as there are moves afoot at Waitakere City Council that could indeed potentially double your rates. You probably know that we live in the so-called 'outer area', and have historically enjoyed a rating differential that is intended to compensate for the lower level and quality of Council services that we enjoy - footpaths, street lighting etc.

This is all set to change, with a group of the 'inner area' Councillors saying that the justification for a differential no longer exists, and that the inner area is unfairly subsidising the outer area. The issue has been before the Council for a while, Council Officers are currently making studies, and will soon be producing a report showing their view of the situation. There is supposed to be public consultation in the New Year and any changes that result are aimed to be implemented in the next rating year.

Now you and I know that we do not enjoy the same level of Council services as the more populous parts of the City, but unfortunately just 'knowing' is not going to be enough to stop any proposed changes. The only way we are going to be able to fight this battle is with facts and hard analysis. At the political level, our ward Councillors are doing their best to fight our corner, but they are well outnumbered by the group of inner area Councillors who see a chance to score brownie points with their constituents, and in theory to lower the rates in their areas.

We Need Your Help

Your committee is of course following this very closely and will do whatever it can to oppose these moves. What you can do:

- Write to the Waitakere City Council expressing your opinions on the matter and providing examples of where we miss out on Council services.

If you have analytical skills (perhaps you are a lawyer, accountant, systems analyst or similar) or have any other skill you think might be useful, and are willing to help, please contact the WRRRA President, Gerry Davis, on 8148-833, **as soon as possible.**

WHENUAPAI RATE INITIATIVE

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association has received a letter from the Whenuapai Ratepayers Association which should be of interest to you all. As the letter is quite a lengthy document I have made a summary of the main points:-

1. The levying of rates has always been a problem, and even elected Council Representatives always seem divided on which method to use as available to them through Government Legislation.

2. Rates are not a tax. They are applied for the purpose of providing Goods and Services. The question is put - Is it fair that if you drive an expensive or valuable car that you should pay more for petrol than someone who drives a less valuable vehicle? The answer of course is - No. And the same question can be addressed to rates. The simile is given that there are wealthy people driving high priced cars and paying \$800 in rates, and there are people driving wrecks who pay \$3000 in rates, simply because their house sits on land that has become popular.

3. The letter states that there are 54,500 properties in Waitakere City and the rate requirement to allow the Council to function is \$59.5 million. If you simply divide the number of properties into the \$59.5 million it would equate to a rate of \$1,091 per property. The letter goes on to say if this simple method was adopted there would be no need for a Valuation Department and it suggests that the Council Administration could be reduced. The writer recognises that there are some obvious flaws in the proposed rating system, but with a positive approach and problem solving seminars to finalise details the rate issue could be a thing of the past.

4. The fact that rates are not a tax was reinforced by the Whenuapai Ratepayers who enclosed a copy of a letter from the Honourable Murray McCully stating this to be the position as far as the Government is concerned, and therefore the Goods and Services supplied by the Council are GST applicable.

5. The Whenuapai Ratepayers request the support from all Ratepayers to alter the present Legislation to a more equitable rating system, and it is their intention to lobby Members of Parliament to that end.

I feel there is much merit in the above letter. What do you think?

Chuck Humphrey

Letter to the Editor

Today I spent half an hour cleaning up the rubbish and food scraps left scattered at the top of our drive.

Once again it is rubbish day and once again dogs have ripped open the rubbish sacks prior to collection.

I enjoy the privilege of living in such a clean green environment as Waiatarua but am getting increasingly frustrated with some dog owners.....

The ones who leave their dogs to **roam** during the day, and the ones whose dogs **constantly bark** ruining the peaceful surroundings we live in.

Let us consider our neighbours and take seriously the responsibilities that come with any pet.

J. Hall,

West Coast Road.

Dogs are not only left to roam during the day.

I returned home with my husband last Tuesday evening after 10 pm and as we turned the bend on West Coast Road the eyes and then the form of a light brown boxer dog became clear standing beside rubbish bags and deciding which one smelled the best. There is no excuse to have dogs loose at night and it is in fact against the law. Not only rubbish bags are at risk, but especially when they team up with another good natured dog, stock and pets and poultry are at risk. EDITOR.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We have not yet signed the lease but progress has been made in some areas.

Council has made the verandah railings safe, attended to pest control but we are still waiting for the electrician to repair lights and heaters. Council will arrange to have the outside of the building washed during summer. A disabled toilet is also hopefully in the pipeline.

We are disappointed not to have had a Community Board member come to our monthly meeting for the last six months.

Our President spoke to the submissions we made to the Annual Plan which were, for a roundabout at the Scenic Drive, Piha intersection and a pathway on West Coast Road from Raroa Terrace to the bus stop. Both of these are on the grounds of safety. Also requested was extra parking at the Community Centre. We will see in time if we are successful.

GARDEN GROUP

This month we will be visiting the Davis garden complete with restored railway station and beautiful trees and garden in flower. This will be Wednesday November 27. Park on Holdens Road near Parris Cross Road.

This will be our last meeting for the year and so we have decided to take a picnic and meet at noon for lunch,

probably at the railway building, followed by a tour of the garden from about 1 pm. Admission is \$5.

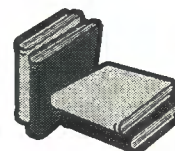
Contact Eileen, 814-9298 or Margaret and Terry, 814-9843 if you need a ride.

PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre invites you to our monthly meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13 November at the Playcentre down the drive next to the Community Centre. If you and your child would like to join us, we are a parent co-operative who cater for children 0-6 years. Our session times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12 noon.

November is a busy month with several trips and a family picnic planned. If this sounds good to you, please phone Debbie Brown on 814-9187 or 814-8835.

We would also like to say thankyou to the person who donated the box of Sellotape left at the library for us. It is much appreciated.



LIBRARY NEWS

Christmas approaches! A very happy season to all our library users. The library will close on Friday December 20, (stock up with your holiday reading) and re-open on Thursday January 16, 10 am - noon.

New books available now;

The Intruder	Peter Blauner
	(better than Grisham, they say)
Russell Coutts	Paul Larsen
The Regulators	Richard Bachman
Desperation	Stephen King
Evening Class	Maeve Binchy
Jack and Jill	James Patterson
Executive Orders	Tom Clancy
Branded Man	Catherine Cookson
Feet of Clay	Terry Pratchett

Contact Bev 836-4420 or Anne 814-8874 for any queries.

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

ORATIA KINDERGARTEN

TRIKE -A -THON

Family fun day with sausage sizzle, Devonshire Teas, cake stall, crafts, books, jewellery, tupperware, rides, quickfire raffles and more. All welcome! 11 am - 1 pm, Sunday November 24 at Oratia Kindergarten, opposite the Early Settlers Hall, West Coast Road, Oratia.



A PAT ON THE BACK

I have noticed two properties where from the road you can see there has been a big effort made to control vines creeping up and destroying the bush.

☆ At 795 West Coast Road, (sorry I don't know your names), the road frontage looks super with a punga wall and plantings and the jasmine has been cut down. The trees will feel a lot better, I'm sure.

☆ Roy Milam in Bush Road is also doing a wonderful job in starting into the big area of elaeagnus which is choking the bush in that area. In fact the bush was hardly visible and very thin.

Well done, I hope clearing bush of weeds is contagious!

AUCKLAND SUN CLUB INC.

Open Day

There will be a free, no obligation visitors day at Auckland Sun Club Inc, 755A West Coast Road, on Sunday 24 November from 11 am. Everyone is welcome to visit and enjoy our superb facilities located in a beautiful native bush setting. If you wish, bring a picnic lunch to enjoy by our sparkling pool or on our delightful lawns. Find out about Auckland's best naturist park and how you can become a member at very reasonable subscription rates. Membership applications from families and couples will be especially welcome.

For more information about the best recreation deal in town phone Hanna 818-3287 or the clubrooms 814-9973.

Calling all members (past and present) and friends of

Auckland Sun Club Inc. (est. 1936)

60th Birthday Re-union

On Sunday afternoon, 8 December we celebrate our 60th birthday!

Members and friends of Auckland Sun Club are cordially invited to attend the special afternoon tea. Evening BBQ, spa and sauna facilities available.

Memorabilia from club archives will be on display.

Come and help celebrate the 60 good years of good times!

RSVP to club secretary, Hanna 818-3287.

CAR KEYS FOUND



A set of car keys were found on polling day outside the Community Centre. They are now at Blumhardts', 849 West Coast Road, opposite Raroa Tce, phone 814-9843

AUCKLAND REGIONAL PARKS

Wenderholm Night Walk, Wenderholm Regional Park, Saturday 23 November, 6 pm - 11 pm. Entry fee.

- Botanic Gardens Guided Rambles, 10 am - 12 noon, \$3.
- Perennials December 1.

For more information and bookings phone 366-2166.

Calendar for Arataki Gallery, Arataki Centre, Scenic Drive

• Nov 2 - Dec 5 Janet Bothner - by acrylic Waitakere landscape paintings.

Programme is confirmed at this time but changes are possible.

For more information contact Ann Tibbutt, Arataki Visitors Centre, 817-7134

Auckland Regional Parks News and Events pamphlets are available from Waiatarua library and Arataki.

Vacancy

CONTRACT

CARETAKER/CUSTODIAN

A part time Custodian is required for the Waiatarua Community Centre.

The responsibilities include being the keyholder, arranging bookings, opening and closing the hall when required and general housekeeping.

This position would suit someone who wants to earn some money while providing a service to the Waiatarua Community.

Applications close on Thursday 28 November

Send your application to the

WRRRA Treasurer, Eileen Powell,
phone 8149-298,

who can also provide more details and a job specification.

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**

WANTED, A RABBIT CATCHING DOG! – We have at least one wild rabbit in residence and would love to give some dog the sport of catching it or them. Payment would be the free meat! Phone Terry or Margaret, 814-9843

PORTABLE SAWMILLING – to your specifications. Macrocarpa for sarking, furniture and framing, also slabs available. Phone Eric 814-8833.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE – Don't let stress spoil your Xmas. Relax with a massage. \$25. Phone Debbie van der Walle on 818-8450.

CHRISTMAS TREES – you choose, we cut - \$10, or choose now- \$5, cut later- \$5. 849 West Coast Rd, sign on road. Open DAILY, 1 pm - 6 pm also Sat.- all day 'til 6 pm. (Sundays all day from 8 Dec). Open most mornings, and evenings after 7 pm by arrangement and whenever the gate is open. Phone 814-9843.

ELECTRICIAN –
Phone your local man, Jim on 814-9344.

CARING BABYSITTER WANTED – for 15 month old, occasional Saturday nights in our home. Must be responsible and capable of caring for a young child. We are in the Mountain Road area. Please phone 8375-285.

CLASSICAL HOMOEOPATHY – After 3 years of intensive study I am now a final year undergraduate of the Auckland College of Classical Homoeopathy. I now need cases for my Diploma exams. If you are curious about Homoeopathy or have a health ailment which needs some attention then please feel free to give me a call. I am a mature person with a sympathetic ear. Full confidentiality is assured. In lieu of fee any donation would be appreciated. Looking forward to your call. Phone Tricia Lukas on 814-9221.

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING –
Phone Linda 833-7860

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. Phone 813-0333.

PALMS, BANANAS AND OTHER EXOTICS FOR SALE –visits to Landsend - valley of the Palms are by appointment only - so please phone 818-6914 and we will love to show you around at 108 Parker Road, Oratia. \$5 entry fee is redeemable on plant purchases

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

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

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

Margaret Blumhardt

PHONE 814-9843

849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER, 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.