



Community News

MARCH/APRIL 1999

EDITOR : MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Bobs' Inside Story

For those of you who didn't attend the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA) AGM, you missed out on an entertaining evening courtesy of Mayor Bob Harvey.

Unfortunately, Ted Scott (photographer of the book *The Untamed Coast*) was unable to make it. He had commitments at Skycity and being a full time photographer he needs to make the most of all opportunities.

The evening was light hearted and we got to experience how passionate Bob is about the West Coast. He has been collecting information relating to the West Coast for around 30 years. In his days as an Advertising Executive he would always make time to visit the library when overseas ensuring he had all the necessary information to write a factual account of the various ship wrecks that occurred in and around the West Coast.

The book has become a best seller in New Zealand with over 12,000 copies being sold. That is more than Sean Fitzpatrick's or Matthew Ridge's books. Bob is planning another two books, one with Ted Scott and the other a story based on two people whose boat capsized coming across the Manukau Bar.

Annual Plan Versus Ratepayers

The Annual plan document is out. There are new directions that our council is undertaking that will have an influence on our rates in years to come. Some are good and some are bad. The Ratepayer's Association is going to try to get out to you some of the more important issues. If you want changes you will have to take the following action, write a submission regarding your objections or changes you wish and forward them to council before the deadline. The annual plan from council is being mailed tomorrow, March 18th and your submission must be in to council by about April 15th. Copies of the annual plan will be in libraries and available from city council. Your ratepayers association will be studying the document on Tuesday, March 23rd. We will try to highlight major concerns and get the information out to you in a special mail delivery.

Some examples of the changes are:

The council has removed around \$10 000 000 from the rates to keep our rates at a 1.79% increase. Some of this \$10 000 000 saved will be collected from us in other ways, for example, you will soon have to purchase rubbish bags at about \$1 a bag (special bags) for your weekly rubbish pickup. Fees for dog licenses, building consents and other consents will rise dramatically.

Other items that have been removed that may have serious future effects are the removal of the clearing of the Oratia, Swanson and Opanuku river streams. This could lead to serious flooding that could cost the rate payers considerably more in the future. They are also planning to remove a large part of the budget for improving their ability for keeping the storm water out of the sewers. This also could lead to increased costs for sewage treatment as well as costs for cleaning up sewage spilling into the back yards of some subdivisions.

Council must look very carefully at the long term flow on consequences for some of their planned savings. It is our job as ratepayers to question some of their decisions. More information will be coming out

in the near future. If we don't respond to some of these decisions, our rates may be much higher in the long run negating the short term savings now.

Gerry Davis President

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Arataki Environmental and Heritage Centre

Ever noticed that we only ever seem to go to the "Touristy" type places when you have visitors from out of town or overseas? Well don't make the mistake of placing the Arataki Centre into that category. Arataki or, as it is now called by its official name Arataki Environmental and Heritage Centre is an absolute place of wonder. With interactive displays for all ages depicting some of the challenges a growing city like Auckland faces to displays outlining the process involved in piping water from "our" dams to the general population of Auckland.

Wandering through the short nature trail built in and around growing trees and taking in spectacular views of the Lower Nihotupu Dam, you can easily see why Arataki won two Waitakere Eco City Business Awards in 1998, one for Best Attraction and the other a Tourism Award.

A face-lift in late 1998 has seen the Centre become a recreational and education facility catering for a wide variety of tastes and needs. For those wanting to spend a day walking or tramping you can call into the Centre to buy maps and chat to the staff for up-to-date information on the condition of the tracks you are planning to walk. Or you can just take a short trip into the history of Auckland commencing as you step foot in the building. An ingenious way of showing how times have changed is right at your feet. I'll let you figure that one out when you visit.

No doubt the most popular attraction is the Magnifying Table. Here you can slide spiders, crabs, moths, birds feathers or a cross section of various trees under the magnifying lens and the image is enlarged and shown on a television screen. The image on the screen is crystal clear so you can see detail not otherwise easily seen.

Children are well catered for no matter what age. A separate "Kid's Corner" has been set up with jigsaw puzzles and games all designed to educate the child about nature. For children who want a little more, there is a Gecko display that challenges them to find the Geckos amongst the natural flora.

As with any tourist attraction it has various memorabilia and gifts including postcards, carvings and a good selection of books, including Bob Harvey's *Untamed Coast*. But there is more than meets the eye at the Centre.

The focus of the Centre is on Recreation and Education. Sure all the displays have a message along with being informative and appealing, however, it is behind the scenes that the real work in educating is performed. School children get the chance to experience history in a true Bush Camp where they can build fires and pit-saw logs by hand. Then they get to load the logs onto a reconstructed railway carriage and tow the carriage through the bush.

Prior to experiencing the Bush Camp students undertake school projects to understand that they are owners of Centennial Memorial Park (Waitakere Ranges) just like all Aucklanders'. They also get an ap-

preciation that by lessening the impact we have on the environment today will ensure the park is around for others to enjoy in the years to come.

So next time you are looking for an inexpensive outing head down to Arataki and remember to leave more time than you think you will need.

Thanks to Arataki's Senior Ranger, Barry Samson for his time and input for this article.

Mitch's Recommended Bush Walk

(This will be a regular feature by Mitch, who spends many hours running along the wonderful tracks in the ranges along with running City Lights Café and Brasserie. You are welcome to call in to City Lights Café and Brasserie to chat with Mitch about other walks)

For those of you who have wondered about the Ian Wells Track, now is a good time to walk it. The reason for this is that in another month or two you will need to strap planks of 4" x 2" across your shoulders to stop yourself from disappearing in the mud.

However it is a very good track for history, especially if you link it up with "Cutty Grass" track, Longridge Road and "Fence Line" Track through to the Waitakere Dam. It gives you an opportunity to study the construction of the dams. Five Minutes walk from Piha Road just before the start of Ian Wells Track you can have a close look at an unused dam. Climb inside it and appreciate how difficult it must have been to build it when you consider that it was built around the time of the Titanic sinking.

Along the walk you will see mature pine trees that were planted for the speed of growth. These were used to construct the pioneer homes and for fence posts.

The track ends at Waitakere Dam where you can be collected. Total of 4 to 5 hour easy walking at this time of the year. Parts of the walk are hilly and some fitness is required.

Fabulous scenery, history and overall a great walk with plenty of places to stop and rest.

On the Mitch scale of 1 to 10: I give it an 8 in Summer and a 4 in Winter. So get on those tramping boots and get walking before winter arrives.

Good luck and good tracking – Mitch.

Delivery People

Last issue we advertised for delivery people for the Forest Hill Road area. A great response from the community, thanks. Special thanks to Kay for taking over the run with Kerry and Celia offering their services and being placed on the back-up list. If you are interested in assisting with the delivery of the Newsletter then give Adith Stoneman a call on 814-9822.



This month we are visiting the garden of Brett and Margo Schneideman at 32 Alexander Street, Eden Terrace. Brett is a garden designer and he has established an Auckland version of the cottage garden in a series of "rooms" with bold colour and interesting foliage. It is arranged for Wednesday 24 March at 1pm. There is an entry fee of \$2.00 per person. Ring Eileen on 814-9298 for further information or car pooling.

It's Coming....(WRRRA Survey)

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA) survey is about to go to the printers and will be in your letter boxes late March/April. Please note the survey will be confidential to ensure we get unbiased feedback. For those of you who return it by the specified date will have the opportunity to go into the draw for a basket of goodies donated by Big Fresh Henderson. As the saying goes, you have to be in to win.

Subscriptions Please !

Thanks to those of you who have paid the annual subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. For those of you who haven't yet paid we would be very appreciative if you could arrange to pay it in the coming weeks. The amount due is \$7.00 per family or \$4.00 per single occupant. You can post your subscription to 911 West Coast Road. Or deliver it to the library. At the back of the newsletter is a coupon you can cut-out and attach to your money.

Thanks.

Ginger Bins

Last issue we drew your attention to ginger plants and how to effectively control them and why it is important to eradicate them.

Now that you are aware of the damage ginger plants cause and have either removed them or are getting ready to remove them from your property remember that there are bins throughout the community for you to dump the plants into.

The bins have a sign placed beside them notifying that they are for ginger plants only, not household rubbish etc.

The Bins are in the following locations until 9th April. Please use them.

- Corner Parker Road and West Coast Road
- Top end of Kauri Loop Road
- Parkinsons Lookout on Scenic Drive (T.V. Mast)
- 316 Henderson Valley Road (near Muddy Thumbs)
- Piha Domain

Contact Enviroline on 0800-80 60 40 or our local Biosecurity Officer Chris McKain on 817-5153 for information you may require about Ginger plants or other noxious plants.

Library – Latest Books etc

Overdue books are gradually trickling back, but phone calls and letters have failed to retrieve some books that are well overdue. If you discover that you have library books in your book shelf, please return them. They can be returned at any time through the chute beside the library door. Go down the steps next to the community hall and you will locate the library door.

New books include:

The Simple Truth — David Baldacci

The Snow Falcon — Stuart Harrison

(Highly recommended as a good read)

The Tilecutter's Penny— C. Mor

The Iron Lance — Stephen Lawhead

(The last two books are historical novels)

Watch for a new John Grisham and a Gerald Seymour arriving soon.

Remember new members are always welcome.

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road, under the Community Centre.

Phone 814-9353

Hours of Opening

Thursday 10am — 12 noon

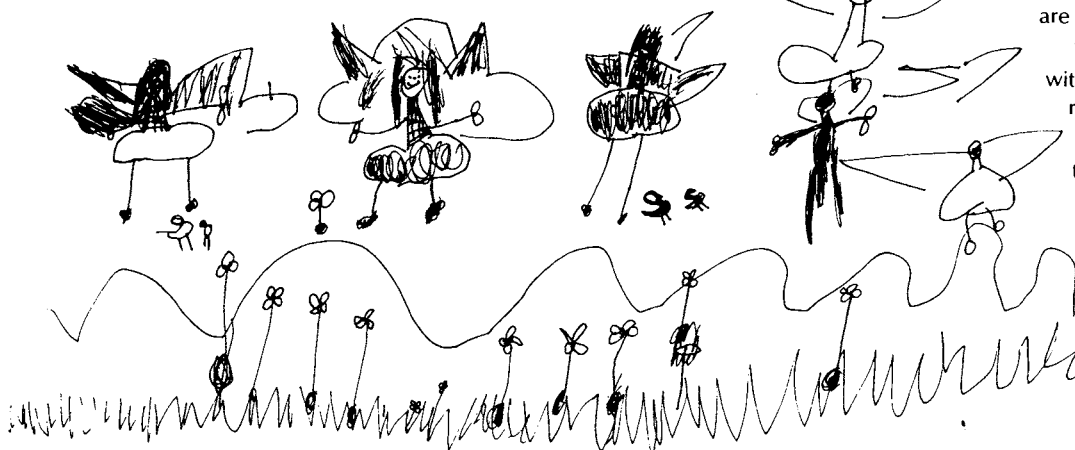
Friday 7pm — 8 pm

Saturday & Sunday 11am — 12 noon

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

Playcentre

At your local Playcentre we have lots of fun and experiences along with venturing out into the big wide world.



Art Work by Poppy

POPPY

A day of fantasy and imagination was had by all who attended the Fairy Trails held by the Auckland Council in the Parnell Rose Garden.

— Over the summer holidays two new sunshades and a sandpit were erected which were much needed to protect us all from the lovely sunny weather. Not only are they functional, they look great too.

We would like to welcome Jill Ball with her daughter Emily who have enrolled in our Playcentre this term.

The Akoranga Playcentre Association will have a stall at the Kumeu Show on 13th March. This is a great opportunity to find out more about Playcentre and for the kids to have a hands-on experience with Playdough Bubble Mix etc.

We would love to see you there otherwise visit us at 911 west Coast Road down the driveway at the Community Centre. Our session days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm. Phone 814-8835 or contact Elke on 814-8803 after hours.

The Future of the Waitakere Ranges

Are you aware that there is a society for the Protection of the Waitakere Ranges? This group of dedicated people are campaigning for the ongoing protection of the Ranges. There have been recent reports that within the Waitakere City Council there is a faction wanting to 'water down' or even remove rules protecting the ranges and its wonderful landscape.

According to John Edgar of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc. the ranges are under more threat today than ever before in the Society's 25 year history. He is expecting that council will support developers who want less protection, more subdivision, more forest clearance and a great density of human settlement of the entire area.

This will have an impact on all who reside in the region, therefore it is up to all of us to show our support. There are two ways of supporting the Society. One is by making a donation to the Society at PO Box 15668 New Lynn. The donations will be used in the Environmental Court for all significant appeals relating to the Waitakere Ranges protection. The second way is to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30 March at the Arataki Visitors Centre. Start time is 7.30pm in the Conference Room and guest speakers will be Phil Warren (Auckland Regional Council), Hon. Marie Hasler, MP for Titirangi and Associate Minister for the Environment and David Cunliffe, Labour candidate for Titirangi. All three speakers will outline their policies for the ranges and will answer questions from the floor.

This is your chance to get involved in really helping keep the ranges as they are today.

Your Backyard Counts

Waitakere City Council has realised that looking after bush and streams on your property is not always easy. An attractive plant you planted in the corner of your garden may start smothering the neighbouring bush like a blanket, making it hard for native vegetation to push through.

Or if you have a stream that doesn't have enough plants on its banks to stop erosion, stream life gets sunburnt.

Or maybe you are worried about how to protect the bush on your property for future generations.

Well help is now available. The Waitakere City Council offers assistance for communities and individual land owners who are improving the environment by:

- Taking care of streams or bush on their property.
- Making sure weeds are not using their land as a base to invade native vegetation.

The assistance is in the form of technical advice, weed bins, some weed spray, some plants and help with fencing and voluntary legal protection.

If you want to find out more about protecting your property then call 836-8000 ext 8777 and ask for a brochure to be sent out or speak with Melanie Dixon who is the Weeds and Pests Coordinator for Waitakere City Council.

What's On —

Lopdell House

Martin Parr – Common Sense

25 MARCH - 25 APRIL

World class photographer Martin Parr will be exhibiting his latest series of A3 sized images. A total of 350 images taken all around the World. The images focus on details of contemporary life from fast food, clothing details to flowers and money.

Studio Ceramics Student Design Competition

25 MARCH - 25 APRIL

Inaugural exhibition of student ceramic design competition. Highlights the work of the ten selected finalists. Competition is supported by Studio Ceramics as part of a search for new design talent.

Check Lopdell House's internet site on the for more information. www.lopdell.org.nz or phone the Gallery on 817-8087.

TCAC – The Upstairs Gallery

"A Slice Of Europe – Croatia"

12 MARCH – 5 APRIL

Exhibition of Arts and Crafts by members of the Croatian Community.

If you are interested in joining the TCAC or want to find out more about forthcoming events phone Sue (Gallery coordinator) on 817-8087 bus.

ADVERTISING

This is free to financial members for 1998, 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

JP - Mary Kelly. For personalised weddings, re-affirmation of wedding vows, ceremonies of commitment, naming ceremonies, MC, Chair for public meetings etc, Ph/Fax 814 9857.

FAY'S YOGA CLASS - Glen Eden - Your complete Health and Fitness Prog. Mon to Sat ph: 817-8233.

LAWYER & NOTARY PUBLIC - John Hendrikse. Also available at night and at weekends. Very competitive fees for housing transactions with a free will. I will accept briefs for Criminal cases in the Henderson Court. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road, Waiatarua - Ph/Fax 814 9991

DESKTOP PUBLISHING / WORD PROCESSING / WEB PAGE DESIGN - all your typing needs catered for at very reasonable prices. Call Elaine 837 8207

MUSIC TEACHER - available to teach piano, keyboard and theory. Based in Waiatarua. Offers one-to-one tuition, practical and theory exams, competitions, all at reasonable prices. Contact NZ Modern School of Music on 0800 696874

KEEP HEALTHY NATURALLY - Tricia Lukas, Classical Homeopath Dip. A.C. Hom. First Aid and Chronic Health Problems. Phone 814-9221

FOR SALE, PASTA MAKER - Brand New. Cost \$550 will sell for \$300. Phone 814-9456

LEARN TO SPEAK ITALIAN - with an experienced native teacher. Private or groups, all levels - conversation, grammar, business. Phone Alessandra, 814-8993.

EXCELLENT CHEAP GLASS REPAIRS - phone 814-9786

PRUNING - roses, fruit trees, shrubs and Garden Design and Maintenance. Phone Linda 025 8335610 or evenings 833-7860

WINDOW CLEANING / WATERBLASTING, Chemical & House Washing. Excellent rates, free quotes. Phone Glenn 814-9480

VETERINARIAN - Full veterinary service for dogs, cats and other pets; including spays and neutering, X-rays, urgent medical and surgical treatment. House calls. Phone Neil Pullan on 814-9504.

FOR SALE - 2 x 2 Seater leather settees. Beige colour, \$600.00 the pair. Phone Gabrielle on 814-9691.

WANTED - Accounts person, the job includes preparation of GST returns, wages and PAYE, cashflows and budgets, compiling yearly tax return information for chartered accountant. Good computer skills important. Part time 2 - 5 days per month. Please call 814-8818.

THINKING REAL ESTATE - Give me a call to discuss, selling, buying or investment property advice. Phone Michael Griffith (the editor) on a/h 814-8995 or bus 817-0101.

ECSTASY AND ENERGY EATING - Food For Life - In true middle eastern fashion in my beautiful Moroccan style home, half day workshops in the ultimate way to stay lean. Learn recipes and cultures from Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria etc. Please phone Tami Vazey on 814-9024.

Neighbourhood Watch

The names of our current co-ordinators are listed below. If you haven't been approached yet and would like to belong to one of these groups, give the co-ordinator a call.

NAME	ADDRESS	PH/FAX	E-MAIL
Mary Kelly, JP	3 Atarua Gardens	814-9857 + Fax	turtle@xtra.co.nz
Denis Graham	Back up - Atarua Gdns	814-9706	
Tony Holt	56 Bush Road	814-9688	
Ross & Kath Mullins	330 Forest Hill Rd	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Rd	814-9954	
Chris Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	chrislizf@voyager.co.nz
Ngairi Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036 + Fax	
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tee	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	
Debbie Irving	562 Scenic Drive	814 9789	

Waiatarua Community Hall Hire

Remember to hire this excellent facility for your meetings, parties, dances, birthdays (children's and adults) etc. Lovely wooden floor for dancing.

Friday and Saturday evenings, (including chairs & tables) \$100.

Hourly rate, (max 3 hours) \$10 per hour

Sunday to Thursday evenings \$65, hourly rate \$7 per hour, (max 3 hrs)

Daily rates Monday - Friday, Full day \$25, hourly rate \$5

Saturdays & Sundays, Full day \$35, hourly \$7

Crockery hire \$25, Bond up to \$250.

Discount for regular users. Community Barbecue hire \$20

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

Please accept my subscription to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
for 1999

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

APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

35 Quinns Road,

Waiatarua

by THURSDAY 15th APRIL, 1999

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