



## This Month at the WRRRA

by Terry Chapman

At the latest meeting of the Residents and Ratepayers Association, we discussed the Council's plan to sell off the WOF Testing Station – exchanging a regular annual income of \$750 000 for a cash input, to subsidize the rates (A Go Waitakere Plan). We also discussed the attempt to allow the Waitakeres to be subdivided in to 1/8 acre plots (also Go-Waitakere) – which has caused the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society to force the Council in to the Environmental Court. Note ; that the WRRRA does not condone or condemn any one political party.

Also under discussion was how dangerous our squiggly bit of hill is, for motorists, but particularly for pedestrians, runners, and cyclists. To this end we are engaging with the Roothing Department to employ some of those car counting things on the road; volunteers are needed for manually counting the pedestrians and cyclists for one Sunday afternoon.

In the long term this could result in the road being widened where it is dangerously narrow; (ever exchanged paint-work with a school bus?), and, perhaps, the addition of a pathway.

The next AGM is almost upon us; it was decided that it would

help any new members become more actively involved if a brief 'job description' for each of the areas of activity (e.g. Hall Coordinator, Social Activity Organizer). Talking of which, we are thinking of holding a Waiatarua Mid-Winter Feast event in June.

**Help! We need a secretary for this year. To encourage someone to do this we are trebling the rate of pay for this position, contact Gerry if you are capable of performing this essential role.**

## Waiatarua Residents & Ratepayers Annual General Meeting

Special Guest Speaker, Gary Taylor, from the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.

Gary will be speaking on the future of the Ranges and the crisis the community faces because of the hostile Council. A Council that has resolved to remove subdivision controls in the ranges.

**When :** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Where :** Waiatarua Community Hall  
911 West Coast Road

**Time :** 7pm

## — Obituary —

### Tony Holt, 1944–2000

Waiatarua – and the rest of the world – became a poorer place on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January with the death of Tony Holt at the age of 55, just 6 weeks after he was diagnosed with cancer. Many people recognise Tony best through his role in the Fire Brigade, and through his authorship of the plays produced by the Brigade over the last few years. However, there was much more to Tony than this.

We all know him as a person who has made a real difference to our community, to the Fire Brigade and to us as individuals. He leaves us a wonderful legacy and heritage, and foremost in this of course is his family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Liz, Charlotte, Reuben, Danny and Didi.

Tony was born in Derbyshire, England in 1944 and when he left school he followed both his parents to work at Rolls Royce where he completed an engineering apprenticeship. His unselfishness was soon visible with a spell in Nigeria for Volunteer Service Abroad, where he taught Mathematics and Science, and in his spare time coached boxing. Soon after Tony and Liz and their young family arrived in Waiatarua in 1976 he continued his fabulous and long-standing support for his community and neighbours. There was soccer coaching at Oratia, Neighbourhood Watch, graffiti and rubbish removal, service on the Ratepayers Committee, and over 22 years with the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Within the Brigade of course, most recently we've had his creativity and drive leading us into the uncharted territory of drama and movie production. We can never forget Tony's character – the hapless Badger Davies, who managed to burn down his house, was forever losing his trousers, and reminiscing about the Llanelli Rugby Club.

He actively encouraged and joined members of the Brigade in achieving examination success. Tony himself became a Fellow of the NZ Fire Brigades Institute less than 18 months ago. He led from the front

in promoting our fitness, being a keen runner for many years and joining his mates in a number of marathons, half marathons, fun runs and the inaugural World Firefighter Games. Tony was always keen to challenge extend both himself and his friends in all areas, to work outside the comfort zone.

We remember a wonderful, caring friend. We've discussed Tony's love of life, his infectious enthusiasm, his wit, his sparkle, and his wonderful sense of fun and mischief. Always on the lookout for the ridiculous. In a particularly turgid part of a Brigade meeting, we'd see the smile, then hear the chuckle, and the comment – "I think I feel a new scene coming on."

To paraphrase Ivor Cheslenkoff, one of the characters Tony created: "Well my friend, you must go". But far too soon.



## Fire Station News

by Ian Ford

Well, it has only taken three months, but the Council have finally recommended Resource Consent for the new Fire Station building. We expect tenders to close before the end of next month, and before winter, the current disreputable collection of buildings (generally regarded as the worst Fire Station in the country) will be replaced with something more functional and sympathetic to our location. Plans are on view at the library.

You will be pleased to learn that the Fire Service (and Waiaatarua) survived the advent of the millennium. Since the start of the new year we have had very few calls to attend, with just three in January – two of which were false alarms. We welcome Steve and Gareth to our ranks, and welcome back Marie. There's still room for others to join, either as firefighters, or as support crew.

**"Isaiah's Fire" is now available on video for a mere \$20, with profits going towards the building of the new station. Contact Ian Ford on 814-9610 or Richard Seccombe on 814-8860.**

## Be at the Rumble tonight . . .

By Terry Chapman

Those of you with CD players in your cars can now find out how well they keep going, when driving over rumble strips – because we now have our very own set on the Piha Road. The idea is to force drivers to stop, (or at least slow down), at the compulsory stop at the very nasty junction with Scenic Drive. A dangerous junction notice should appear in the near future. This improvement to local road safety comes as a result of discussions last century between the Council Roading Department and the Ratepayers Association.

## The Waitakere Community Board

. . . often referred to, mentioned in the local papers  
. . . But what is it exactly?

**What is it? . . .**

An elected body which deals with community issues, and makes recommendations to Council.

**What does it do? . . .**

It has delegated authority to make decisions about footpaths, roads and reserves, and ensures community input in to Council decisions.

**When is it? . . .**

Usually the first Tuesday of the month, at Council Chambers.

**Who can attend? . . .**

Meetings are open to visitors to observe, but not speak, except at "Open Forum" meetings, which is an opportunity for the public to address the Board for up to five minutes on local issues.

**What area does it serve? . . .**

The Waitakeres, from Laingholm, Huia to Rodney in the North; from the West Coast to Swanson, Parris Park, the edge of Titirangi.

**What is its relationship to Council? . . .**

It is a separate statutory authority. Ward councillors are members of the Board.

**What can it do for me, as a Waiaataruan? . . .**

Represent your views and protect the interests of your local area, and advocate to council. The chairperson is able to speak at Council meetings.

## Unique People and Places in Waiaatarua

by Jo Hall

The two character signs along West Coast Road had often interested me . . . *Otimai & Burgin Field* . . . I had heard they were a Girl Guide Camp, but not living within earshot, I hadn't investigated further, until a "Health Day" was hosted there in January. This prompted me to go and have a look.

Since then, I have re visited Otimai, and met Val, (of George and Val, the caretakers), and found out more about this beautiful and unique place in Waiaatarua.

The history of Otimai tells of a dwelling on it's site in 1881 bought by John Thor and sold in 1885 to a Danish sea captain by the name of Peter Theet. At that time there was 97 acres and a small dwelling. It was Captain Theet who planted the Norfolk Pines at Otimai. He brought them as seedlings from Norfolk Island.

In 1927 a small kauri house and 4½ acres of bush, with winding paths leading to a creek, was given to The Girl Guides Association by a Mrs Wilson, (of Wilson and Horton).

"Otimai" meaning 'Welcome, Come and Stay' is now a Girl Guide Training Complex.

Otimai's grounds and facilities have expanded over the years. "Little Otimai", a neighbouring tiny cottage and it's land were purchased, and in 1954 "Burgin Field", the property below Otimai became the large camp site area. An Open Air Chapel has also been created in bush setting.

The main building at Otimai is vast. There are no dormitories, (these indicative, I thought, of a 'girl guide camp'), but instead beautifully kept rooms, with ensuites, lounges and dining room. Polished wood enhancing the beautiful 'feel' of the complex.

The girl guides of today, who attend Otimai, are truly fortunate.

Otimai also hosts weddings, family reunions and conferences or any other special occasion.

Why not phone Val or George, or call in and see them and have a chat sometime.

## Library News

We are starting the new year with a selection of the very latest books. (You don't have to wait for months).

<i>Ruth Rendell</i>	– Harm Done
<i>Colin Dexter</i>	– The Remorseful Day
<i>Stephen Coonts</i>	– Cuba
<i>Harry Potter</i>	– Chamber of Secrets – Philosophers Stone
<i>Bryce Courtney</i>	– Solomon's Song
<i>Robert Goddard</i>	– Set in Stone
<i>Terry Prachett</i>	– Fifth Elephant
<i>Scott Furow</i>	– Personal Enquiries

Another twenty or so books are in the pipeline, being processed. Among them are works from the authors *John Grisham*, *Colin Forbes*, *Helen Forrester*, *Alan Duff*, *Dick Francis*, *Judy Sheindin (Judge Judy)*, *Clare Francis*, and many more.

Come and see us and keep us busy. We love it.

## WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

### Hours of Opening

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

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

## An Avid Library-Goer reports . . .

The Waiatarua Library has recently acquired another fine selection of new books, which can be seen on the New Book display at the end of the room. Try them. The other week we had a discussion at the library about the frequency with which some books are taken out once they move from the New Books section: looking at the date stamp sheet at the back revealed that some of my own selection had been "resting" for 11 years! Go on, wake up an elderly book . . . Such as:

**Dragonsdawn by Anne McCaffrey:** Set on the planet Pern where telepathic dragons protect the planet from the all consuming "thread" that falls from the skies; this is the Prequel, set at the time that the people of project P.E.R.N. first set out to colonize the planet. A good read if you know and love the Dragon Riders series; but her writing has gone down hill a bit over the years. Find it under "McC".

**Road Rage:** One for the Whodunit fans, and nothing to do with angry people in traffic. This is an Inspector Wexford mystery, centered around the building of a by-pass. Who killed the visiting German student; was it the driver of the midnight taxi? Why are people, including Wexford's wife disappearing? Some of the anti-road protestors are a dubious crowd, but is it really their doing? Unlike a lot of Agatha Christie novels, you can apply your mind to solve the mystery, but you will probably be too exited reading to stop and be that clever. A clue: to misquote Mr. H. "The puzzle is the victims who peed in the bucket." "But they didn't pee in the bucket Holmes." "Exactly Watson, exactly!"

**The Veiled One:** Another Wexford mystery: Why did some one murder an elderly lady at closing time in the shopping Mall car-park.? Is the son of the woman who found her a complete fruitcake? Is he safe teaching young children; or should someone be protecting him? Was the murder victim such an amazing do-gooder, as her husband says. Was the car-bomb meant for Wexford, or his daughter? Why does Wexford always prefer his other daughter? Like Road Rage, the prose is very well written: descriptive, and full of insight in to human nature.

Find these two books under . . . well if you are a fan of the detective novel, you won't need any help.

*By Terry Chapman*

## Editor's Note

A new year begins, and this is the first issue of 'Waiatarua's Community News' for this century.

A big thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter . . . perhaps the new millenium will be a catalyst for many of you avid readers, to write in and share your views, news, wit, congratulations, moans, or humour? As stated in past issues, the e-mail is just a button away, and the letterbox a pleasant walk . . . I look forward to your input.

If you are not getting it regularly, (the Newsletter, I mean), please let me know. The newsletter should be delivered to your letterbox the third week of each month. Some copies are also held in the library and at the Oratia dairy.

Included in this month's newsletter is your free copy of the latest Parks brochure, "Our Favourite Places" highlighting favourite parks in Waitakere City.

*. . . Jo Hall*

## Waiatarua Playcentre

Your local Playcentre is situated at 911 West Coast Road, down the driveway by the Community Hall. Term One for the New Year has now begun, and we welcome all new families.

Our hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9.15 - 12.15. Phone 814-8835 or after hours Phone Elke on 814-8803.

- ★ Play opportunities galore ★ Learning for children and adults
- ★ Ages 0 - 6 years ★ Your contribution is valued
- ★ Community focused ★ Exciting Stimulating Environment
- ★ Nice, friendly people ★ Time for fun with your children
- ★ Really great equipment ★ Early childhood Centre

## Welcome to Waiatarua

Bessie Te Ao Marama born on 25 October 1999, daughter of Pauline Isaachsen  
Rosemary Stein and Murray Coyle new residents in West Coast Road.

## Congratulations

to Adith, Shane and Eden Stoneman on the birth of their son and brother Finn, (8lb 8oz), born 26 January 2000.

## What's On:

Garden Group We are starting the new year with a treat for all Dahlia lovers with a visit to Dahlia Haven at 235 Wilkes Road, Dairy Flat.

Meet at 1pm on Wednesday 23 February, and depending on the numbers the entry fee will be 4 -5 dollars. Phone Eileen on 814-9298 for more information, or to arrange car pooling.

Waitakere Dam Tramway : Ride the train from the filter station to the Waitakere Dam for an hour of fun through bush and tunnel, with a 20 minute stop over at the dam. Originally the train was horse drawn but now it is pulled by a diesel-hydraulic locomotive. Bring lunch, cameras hats and sunscreen, parents and grandparents.

Sunday 12 March 2000, 10am at the Filter Station at the end of Christian Road.

Limited to 22 people, and bookings essential - Phone Michael Cryns 8366397.

## By Jo Hall

### *A little bit of humour . . .*

Did you hear the one about the man who entered the vet's office carrying his dog, screaming for help. The vet rushes him back to an examination room and has him put his dog down on an examination table.

The vet examines the still, limp body, and, after a few moments, tells the man that his dog, regrettably, is dead.

The man, clearly agitated, and not willing to accept this, demands a second opinion.

The vet goes in to the back room, comes out with a cat, and puts the cat down next to the dog's body. The cat sniffs the body, walks from head to tail, poking and sniffing the dog's body, and finally looks at the vet and meows.

The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the cat thinks your dog is dead, too"

The man is still unwilling to accept that his dog is dead. So the vet brings in a black labrador retriever. The lab sniffs the body, walks from head to tail, and finally looks at the vet, and barks.

The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the lab thinks your dog is dead too.

The man, finally resigned to the diagnosis, thanks the vet and asks how much he owes.

The vet answers, "\$110"

"\$110 to tell me my dog is dead !?!" exclaims the man.

"Well," the vet replies, "I would only have charged you \$20 for my initial diagnosis. The additional \$90 was for the cat scan and the lab tests."

(Zoran assures me he has a sense of humour...Ed.)

# ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 2000,  
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 members will only be printed  
as space allows.**

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

**LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC :** John Hendrikse, also available after hours and at weekends. Fee when buying a house : All up \$800 ; when selling : All up \$508, with a free will.  
Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road Ph/Fax 814-9991

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

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

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

**AUCKLAND SUN CLUB INC.** The family club for clothes-free recreation invites you to visit. For further information please call 814-9973.

**WOODEN FARM GATES.** Tanalised timber with galvanised bolts. 10' - \$61.00 12' - \$68.00 or made to order. Phone 814-9700.

**ELECTRICIAN** – Phone Jim your local man Phone 814-9344.

**HOME & INVESTMENT PROPERTY LOANS :** Mortgage restructuring, debt consolidation & reduction, line of credit facilities. Free independent service. Phone your local broker on 814-9544 or 025-297-0322

**WEST COAST VET CLINIC** – Offering full veterinary service for your pets, including medical treatment, surgery, radiology, dental services, selected petfoods and housecalls.

Mon –Fri 9.00am –12.00noon, 2pm–7.00pm. Sat 9.00am–12.00noon  
3 Raroa Terrace, Waikato. Phone 814-9419

**DRIVEWAYS,** Garage floors, Pool and Patio Areas, Timber Decking, environmentally friendly chemical cleaning, waterblasting and sealing (to minimise future maintenance). Free Quotes.  
Phone Ian on 814-8902 or 021-433-009

**MASSAGE** for Relaxation, treat yourself (or a friend). Vouchers available. Ph Irene 814-9311.

**HORSE MANURE** - \$1.00 per large bag. Available from the gate at 253 Forrest Hill Road. Phone 814-9771.

**LOST CAT:** Beloved black cat (white star under chin) missing mid Forest Hill Road area, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Any information please ring Carole 814-9891.

**POETRY WORKSHOP** to be taken by Whitireia poetry prize winners, Bronwyn Bryant and Jenny Clay. Experiment with different forms of poetry, tap in to your creativity, build up material, workshop, edit and have fun. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 3pm. \$25.00 for the day. Limited to 10 participants. Booking essential. Phone 814-9241 or 273-2290.

**THE GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT HAS A GROUP CALLED “PIPPINS”** who meet at the Oratia Settlers Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Pippins are girls aged between 5½ and 7 years old. They have lots of fun during the hour, playing games, singing and making a small craft of some sort or another. If you are interested, or would like further information Phone Val on 814-9992.

## 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	
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 Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the  
**Waikato Ratepayers and Residents Association**  
**for 2000**

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

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

To Treasurer

Waikato Ratepayers and Residents Association  
911 West Coast Road, Waikato, Auckland 8  
or leave at the library

## Waikato 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 814-9647

## MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of  
The Editor,

757b West Coast Road Road, Waikato. Phone 814 9945

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WENESDAY 8th MARCH, 2000

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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