



Community News

JUNE/JULY 2001
EDITOR:
JOSEPHINE HALL
WRRRA PRESIDENT:
GEOFF WOOD PH 836-8630

What's Happening in Waitakere City?

by Geoff Wood

"Keep Waitakere Beautiful" is a volunteer campaign that aims to create a beautiful city that is attractive to residents, visitors and businesses and seeks to directly involve residents in the beautification of their community.

"Managed Natural Areas"

These include areas which are characterised by significant native vegetation, wildlife habitats and water systems. The Managed Natural Area is primarily located in the Waitakere Ranges, although there are sizeable portions elsewhere.

"Significant Native Vegetation" is defined in the Proposed District Plan. In the Waitakere Ecological District (the Highlands) 83% of the native vegetation cover has re-established against 9% for Tamaki District (the Lowlands). The Waitakere District represents a valuable regional and national resource. A review of what is significant native vegetation is under review by Waitakere City Council.

Thank you

... to all those Waitakereans who have paid their annual membership to the WRRRA for this year. We now have 95 financial members for 2001. (that's about 15%) The membership coupon is on the back page. Send it in now.

Report from the Community Board Meeting

- 5 June 2001

Our new Community Board member Kevin Healy was present.

There was no open forum as there were no submissions from any concerned ratepayers. We must all be satisfied with things as they are!

One of the issues discussed by the Board was the speeding restrictions. Comments made were that local communities need greater control in their own areas. It was mentioned that progressive trialling of lower speed areas is being looked at. Another remark was the importance of explaining to the public the process to be gone through before any changes can be made so as to avoid people's expectations not being met. This information is still being sought.

The meeting then went on to deal with some localised issues which do not here call for comment.

New Party Launch

The launch of the new local body party "Team West" took place at Titirangi on 29 May with an interested audience of several hundred.

The base is seemingly built around existing councillors previously standing as independents. Indications of early planks of their policy was the protection of the Waitakere ranges and foothills while still having regard to the importance of urban centres. They promote a more solid, more healthy community path.

Mayor Bob Harvey talked of "sustainability" being the key word for the vision of our Eco City. He supported the use of dams for Waitakere City water and not linking up to the Waikato Pipeline.

The new Party promises to preserve the rights of councillors to exercise their own votes on specific issues. They also spoke of putting the Community back into the Council. We shall await with interest as they develop their policies for the forthcoming elections.

Fire Brigade

You may have noticed the fire engine parked out in the rain for a few days a couple of weeks ago. This was forced on us by the appliance bay door repeatedly jamming – about 15 times since it was installed less than a year ago. Fortunately, none of these problems occurred when we had an emergency call. However it wouldn't have stopped us responding – we had a Plan B. (The door would have looked a little sad though if we'd had to drive an 11 tonne truck through it.) It's now had a major upgrade and been motorised, and fingers crossed all is now well. But we still have Plan B.

A Cunning Plan:

Good, safe housekeeping practices and prevention can greatly reduce the chances of a fire in your home. But although the chance of a fire in your home can be minimised, it can't be eliminated altogether. If it does occur, you need early warning from your smoke alarm and then the rule is – get out, stay out. Your escape plan should include 2 ways out of every room and a safe meeting point outside, like the letterbox, or the punga at the top of the driveway. Phone the Fire Brigade on 111 from the neighbours'.

Thank you...

To all who supported our recent fundraising efforts with our latest play in the Phone 1125J series – If That's Not Out I Won't Play. We anticipate that with the assistance of a grant we received from the Waitakere Licensing Trust last year, we'll have enough to seal an area behind the Fire Station. We'll then be able to use the back door (and be able to revise Plan B accordingly). Many thanks also to Brigade members, families and friends for their help in putting the show together. Over 35 people were directly involved in the production – performing, front of house, backstage and preparation.

Recent Calls

- Sun 3rd June, 12:02 p.m. – Car fire, Anawhata Rd.

This was the first call for the full Brigade in over 7 weeks. However, Gareth had attended 3 calls with other Brigades when he was out in our ute. They were:

- Thu 24th May, 2:00 pm. – Car crash, Bruce McLaren Rd, Henderson
- Thu 24th May, 4:29 pm. – Car crash, Candia Rd, Henderson Valley
- Fri 25th May, 1:50 pm. – Power pole on fire, cnr Parker Rd & West Coast Rd

Contacts

FOR FIRES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES PHONE 111. Otherwise you can call Ian Ford on 814 8871 or Richard Seccombe on 025 915 525.



Our July get-together is a Floral Arranging Workshop with Shirley at her home 202 Carter Road where we can also see her range of crafts and her garden. Wednesday 4 July at 1 pm. For any further information ring Eileen on 814 9298

— Obituary —

'A Son's Tribute to his Dad'

KEITH ALEXANDER CATHIE

25 JULY 1912 – 4 APRIL 2001

My Dad passed away on 4th April 2001 and had lived in the Nihotupu area since 1937.

I would like to tell you a little about him and his surviving wife, Francis.

Dad was born in Sydney in 1912 to my grandparents Neil and Gladys Cathie. Dad spent most of his childhood years in foster homes and schools on Sydney's Northshore, Manly and Curl Curl. His mother and father had separated early on in his childhood and at the age of 15 he joined his father Neil, in Auckland in Rata Street, New Lynn. Dad attended the brand new Mount Albert Grammar School as a foundation pupil. Dad was, prior to his death, one of only a dozen surviving foundation boys.

The Depression had hit the world when he left school at 18 years of age. School had introduced him to his great passion... Cricket. He returned to Sydney to live. No work, little money, but he did have cricket and represented NSW in interstate cricket and had the pleasure of playing against 'The Don' three times, but never claimed his wicket. In 1936 Dad returned to NZ where Neil, his father, rebuilt the Waiatarua Tea Kiosk. Dad had the good luck to meet and marry my mother, Francis. They looked after the Post office and store at 'the elbow' (corner of West Coast and Forest Hill Roads).

Dad continued to get centuries by playing for Western Suburbs cricket, becoming captain, when I was born in 1939 and my sister Valarie in 1941. To this day I remember intimately the rooms of the old elbow store and getting red clay on my 'washed sugar-bag pants' from the bank opposite the shop.

In 1943 Mum and Dad purchased the 10 acre farmlet in Rimu Road. Times were hard and they both worked fulltime while Val and I had absolutely the most fantastic fun-filled childhood on the farm, thanks to mum and dad. In 1945 we had 12 fresian milking cows. Hand milked initially, the three legged stool still exists, although slightly bored, in the old milking shed. The unpasteurized milk was delivered to residents on the Scenic Drive from the back of the old Ford Model A out of standard galvanised milk cans into customers billy cans by way of 1 or 1/2 pint ladles. (my job). Remember the skin off the top

of the boiled milk? (yummy!)

In 1948 the farm went horticultural... tree tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and tomatoes as cash crops.

Mum and Dad had 63 years together, sixty of these in Rimu Road, Waiatarua.

As a son I would like to pay tribute to other people of those days after the second World War, who contributed to my life in the area. The Isaachson's, Wally Eyre, Mick Chester, Mrs Meek, Harold Tintner, The Warby's, Miss Hellaby and so the list goes on. They, like my Mum and Dad, were later day pioneers of Waiatarua. I salute them all for their work ethics, their company, their honesty and above all their strengths of character and generosity, even when they had little to give.

You will always be remembered by me Dad, as strict, frugal, of extremely high moral standards, ('Make your bed and lie in it' was his phrase.)

He loved animals, the soil, the bush, and above all his beautiful bride, Francis.

Thanks, Dad, for those last months together when we all found closure and joy in our past, together.

Your son, Bruce.

A resident from Rimu Road would like to add...

As Tyler, our 6 year old son, and I walked to or from the school bus stop, whenever he was there at his gate, he was never short of a cheery hello and a bit of a chat - always a friendly smile on his face. Sadly we learned of his passing. The next time we walked by his gate, Tyler stopped, lowered his head and stood there looking. "I'm sad, it's not fair" he said. It was his first encounter with death. After a moment though, his expression changed, he looked up beaming and exclaimed, "I know, we have to look for the brightest star tonight, that will be Mr. Cathie!" Even though we did not know Mr. Cathie personally, the brightest star that night was given a heartfelt name...

Weed of the Month

Woolly Nightshade

Also known as flannel weed or kerosene plant, *Solanum mauritianum* forms a shrub or tree up to 10 metres tall. It's very distinctive with its pungent smell when broken, felt-like hairs on the trunk and on the very large leaves that are up to 25 cm long, grayish-green and top and white to yellow-green underneath.

It can be very invasive, and has been recorded as a weed in NZ for over 100 years since being imported from Uruguay and southern Brazil. In the Auckland region it's a Total Control Plant, which means that landowners are obliged to clear this plant from their properties. The good news is that it's not widespread in Waiatarua yet, and we have a very real chance of eliminating it if we act now.

Seedlings and small plants are best controlled by just pulling them out. Many herbicides don't control woolly nightshade, but there are a number of effective methods for larger plants including -

Completely ringbarking, applying downward cuts with a machete or tomahawk, below the lowest branch and ideally within 15cm of ground level, and then painting with neat Roundup G2 (Glyphosate), Tordon 50-D, or Amitrole.

Chainsawing 15cm above ground level, then completely painting the stump with Woody Weed Killer® (diluted 1 part to 5 parts water), Tordon® 50-D or Amitrole (1:10 in water) or Grazon (1:20 in diesel).

Apply the herbicide within 15 minutes of cutting.

An excellent fact sheet

is available at: Arataki Visitors Centre.

Tip of the Month

If you need advice, phone ARC Enviro Line 0800-80 60 40.



Oratia Spinning and Craft Group

We meet every Monday 10am - 12 noon in the church hall in Parker Road. Good company. Learn new crafts. Teach spinning, knitting etc. Recently a stamping expert has joined us.

All welcome. Phone Bev on 814-9430.

What's On

'ART FROM THE HEART' The 8th annual primary and intermediate school's art exhibition at Lopdell House from 1st June - 30th June, open 10.30 - 4.30pm daily.

THE MUG SHOW 27th July - 19th August in the Upstairs Gallery, Lopdell House.

'ACTIVE LIVING' SPECIAL INTEREST WALKS - Whatipu Caves - Friday 20 July at 9.15am. Phone Kay 836-7719 to register.

SPECIAL INTEREST SCIENCE WALKS: 'Sport Waitakere' and 'Ark in the Park' are organising 'Bump into Science' morning, afternoon and night walks on Wed 4th July with 'Ark in the Park' researcher Brent Booker. They are free but registration is essential. Phone Kay on 836-7719

GLEN EDEN ATHLETIC AND HARRIER CLUB ANNUAL FUN RUN/WALK/OPEN DAY... Saturday 4th August... features 16km road race, 5km fun run/walk... Phone Steve Tilton on 817-6996 for information.

Wanted

Volunteer needed to help with gardening at the Oratia Folk Museum. A few hours a month are required to keep this 1800's style Cottage garden tidy and in keeping with the Museum.

Please ring Sharon Walker on 813-3884 if you are able to help.

Waiatarua Community Library

We are looking for another Friday night helper, only one hour per month, 7 - 8pm. Phone Bev on 814-9430.

Do remember we have the May Consumer magazine for your perusal. Come in and spend some time.

NEW BOOKS:

Amy Tan - The Bone Setters Daughter.

Paulina Simons - Tully

Maeve Binchy - Aches Pains

Jeffrey Deaver - The Blue Nowhere (A very good read.)

Ian Rankin - The Falls (A very descriptive Crime writer.)

Amelia Batistich - Never Lost for Words (A local write, very interesting.)

(Library hours on back page)

Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Assn.

Submissions to Waitakere City

Draft Annual Budget 2001 – 2002

Over the next two month's newsletters, a shortened version of the submissions to Waitakere City Councils Draft Annual Budget, from the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association will be printed for your information.

Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association (WRRRA) supports all of the submissions made by the Waitakere Community Board to the Waitakere City Draft Annual Budget 2001 – 2002, in particular the following items:

Introduction

WRRRA is supportive of Council's Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Strategy, and the vision for the future expressed through those documents.

We are therefore deeply concerned that Council, in its determination to achieve a 0% rates rise, has proposed an Annual Budget that deflects it from its path towards those long term goals.

WRRRA recognises that there is a responsibility to build and maintain infrastructure and facilities to support the growth of every aspect of the city and to build and maintain a city that its residents will thrive in, and be proud to live in.

We cannot therefore support through this Annual Budget a low rate target, if it is below that demanded by the realities of the needs of Waitakere City.

We are unable to support a 0% rates rise if the price is accepting lowered standards and deferment of maintenance and new projects, along with the use of financial practices that move the burden on to future ratepayers.

That includes increasing debt (taking out loans) and relying on non-rates sourced funds (e.g. the Waitakere Asset Acquisition Fund and the "Power Shares").

Council is not, in our view, attempting to adequately and transparently fund the impact of growth on our city.

...to be continued next month...Ed.

'If that's Not Out, I Wont Play!'

A review by our local bush reporter, Ken Stacey

It was 7.50pm on a wet and stormy Saturday night when I and the Mrs. eventually arrived in the ute, up at the Waiatarua hall. Those roads up in the hills are so narrow and poorly lit that I had to take my time navigating the windy ones, with dog on the back.

I trudged in the lobby, having tied up the dog at the door, and was welcomed by Fire Brigade members and other supporters. A warm welcome by the lads, and a drink of my choice thrust in to my hand, I entered through the curtains to a well built mini theatre, already nearly full, of eager Waiataruan's.

What followed was a feast of innovation, hilarity and one-liners.

'Arty' has a problem with flatulence, it seems. 'The Colonel' is seen in some interesting places and the cricket game never does get finished. 'Isaiah' finally gets his leg over with 'Betty', thanks to the sound advice from his more experienced mates 'Arty' and 'Bulldog'.

The setting was 1969 and the Fire engine on the stage was a sight to behold, life-like indeed. The fire team from Nihotupu looked both tough and cool as they cruised to the sound of "Born to be Wild", Arty with his arm out the window in great 'westie' style.

Fish and chips were served at half time, (Left overs being fed to the dog outside.) 'Supper' became a time to meet fellow Waiataruan's, chat and laugh again at certain parts of the play.

Act Two delivered more of the plot, more one-liners (some of which the Mrs. had to explain to me), and greater indepth study of some of the newer characters –these being the gay photographer (Karl Nuttall) and the vicar (Kevin Healy)

Another entertainment success from the fire crew of Waiatarua.

Ken Stacey

... and from other members of the audience ...

"Each character was well developed. I especially liked the introduction of the new ones . . . the gay reporter and the clergy man."

"Some great one-liners from the 1125J crew. A fun night out."

"Awesome acting by 'Betty Swollocks'. 'Ivor Cheslenkoff' continues to introduce such hilarity to the scenes and the play just wouldn't be Waiatarua without 'Arty Trembol'. I haven't laughed so much for a long time. Thanks."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam Editor

I feel compelled to respond to Kevin Healy's article on Structure Plans. Mr Healy is technically correct in calling Structure Plans neutral tools. A similar argument is offered in America by the National Rifle Association in defending the accessibility of guns to all. The gun is neutral, just a tool. In both cases it is the use of the tool that's a problem.

Our community should seriously question any and all our representatives trying to justify keeping this loaded gun close at hand.

Mr Healy correctly states that structure plans will potentially allow subdivision up to any limit the catchment will allow. This opens the door to any developer who can engineer a project that mitigates those effects. Yes, it is feasible that use of a RMA sanctioned tool could be the wedge that opens the Waitakeres to massive development.

IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!

Neither the RMA nor the District Plan requires the use of Structure Plans, and the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy identifies the Waitakeres as a no Growth area. Why then do we hear any of our representatives even contemplating Structure Plans? Are they so naive as to think that use of phrases like "environmental effects" equates to desirable outcomes?

The Structure Plan process is about subdivision to some level less than 4 Ha sections.

The initiation of any structure plan by definition looks to establish that outcome. Thus far the initiation of Structure Plans has never taken into account the desires of the majority in the affected area until after the fact (which has made no difference).

Take note: elections are to be held this year. The community will demand clear and concise statements regarding each politician's position on subdivision in the Waitakeres and Structure Plans.

Regards,

Wade Cornell

Dear Madam Editor

I, like many others, operate a home business and rely heavily on the net and fax but the service on both is very poor. We can't have fax ability – there is not even a fixed date to provide it. Often the net transfer speeds are often down in 100's of Bytes rather than tens of kiloBytes. If people would like to e-mail me (r.gibbons@xtra.co.nz) with their stories I will collate these and approach the R & R Association meeting with a view to lobbying Telecom to give us a date when they will replace the obsolete exchange and provide modern services. I need numbers to support this as the normal attitude is that there isn't enough demand to do anything!

Regards,

G. Richard Gibbons

Waiatarua Playcentre

The cold wet Winter weather we have been having has kept us all indoors from time to time at Playcentre. However, being stuck inside certainly isn't a recipe for disaster, as there is always the cosy library corner to snuggle up into with a kneeful of children and an armful of stories. And the playdough table is forever enticing especially when the dough has just been made and is nice and warm, soft and inviting for those little fingers to squeeze into. And if neither of those grabs your fancy, how about blocks, collage, painting, family play, dress-ups, music, science, puzzles, train sets and of course the perennial favourite— morning tea.

At Playcentre we have over a dozen different areas of play (both indoor and out) available to the children all the time, so why not pop in for a visit, we would love to see you. Playcentre caters for parents/ caregivers and their children (0-6 yrs), and our session times are Mon, Wed, Fri 9.15-12.00, and on Thu 9.15-12.00 we hold a supervised session for the over three year olds.

We are located down the bottom of the driveway next to the Community Centre. For any further information please phone the centre during session on 814-8835, or Elke on 814-8803.

Brickbats and Bouquets

A bouquet to Helen Longley, who has offered to coordinate community cleanups for Waiatarua. Thank you Helen. We will no doubt be hearing from Helen in the near future.

No nominations for the brickbat this month.

Advertising

This is free to financial members
for 2001, 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.

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

WEST COAST VET CLINIC – Offering full veterinary service for your pets.
24 hour service Phone 814-9419.

VISIT "EARTH SEED" 100% ORGANIC SHOP for a great selection of organic and GE-free foods. 547-549 West Coast Rd. Open 7 days Phone/Fax 818-6411.

SOLICITOR – Are you buying and/or selling your business/house? Are you interested in setting up a Family Trust? Phone Geoff Wood for your legal needs at 623-7541 DDI or 836-8630 a/hrs weekdays. Home visits by arrangement.

WORK WANTED: Registered drainlayer, 30 years experience. 6 tonne and 2½ tonne diggers for hire. Phone Ray 814-9242.

WEB PAGE DESIGN, Desk top publishing, Graphic Design, Computer Support, Phone Petrik 8365202.

RELAXING, REFRESHING AND REJUVENATING – for a therapeutic massage ring Rowan on 833-7860.

ATARUA GARDENS BED AND BREAKFAST: No room for your out of town visitors? Contact Carol and Denis. Phone 09 814-9706 or 025-283-7544.

LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC: John Hendrikse, available 24 hours by appointment. Are you buying and/or selling your house? Competitive fees. Home visits by arrangement. Overseas documents can only be witnessed by a notary public. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road. Ph/Fax 814-9991.

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/Liz Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	crislizf@voyager.co.nz
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Rarua Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrick	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
for 2001

I enclose: \$10 Household, \$7 Single Occupant

Name

Address

Phone

To Treasurer

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

ELECTRICIAN: Phone Jim your local man Phone 814-9344.

OUTBACK COUNTRY COLLECTION: Gorgeous Preserves. Chutneys and relishes. Available in three sizes. Large bottles \$5. Medium bottles \$4. Small bottles \$2. Gift baskets available at various prices on application. Free delivery in the Auckland area. To order Phone Jill 814-8825.

BABYSITTER – Mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$8 an hour Phone Juliette 814-8802.

WANTED TO BUY: Land, with or without house. Prefer private, sunny, flat-ish location in Oratia/Waiatarua district. Ph 814-9251 or 021 649 251.

LAWN MOWING: Local, reliable. Phone Eric 8372333.

MATHS TUITION, ALL LEVELS. Experienced high school teacher Ph 814-9269

FAY'S YOGA CLASS – Unique programme of stretching, relaxing fitness health – Glen Eden Phone 817-8233.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Dry, split hardwood \$65 cubic metre Phone 814-9724

KENDRICK PAINTING AND DECORATING:

for quality and service Phone Graham on 837-1612.

TREE WORK: Fully insured and qualified arborists.

Phone Guy Thomas 813-1481 or 021-244-8733.

VICKY'S BEAUTY THERAPY: 10 years experience. Facials, waxing, massage, manicures etc. Available 7 days Phone 814-9317.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Split, dry hardwood \$75 cubic metre. Phone 814-9724

WANTED: Large birdcage to house cockateel. Phone Fiona 817-5445

IRONING: Someone who can help us for the month of July only.

Please phone 814-9855 (Evenings).

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.

Waiaatarua 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

Hall phone 814-9353

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

JULY / AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

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

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WEDNESDAY 4th JULY, 2001

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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