



Community News

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2001
EDITOR:
JOSEPHINE HALL
WRRRA PRESIDENT:
GEOFF WOOD PH 836-8630

This Month at WRRRA

by Geoff Wood

Unfortunately numbers were down at the meeting. A large number of apologies were received (probably all skiers). We could not reach a quorum so no decisions could be made (instead we held a general discussion on topics of interest to members). Coming up on Thursday the 20th is a "meet the candidates evening" which promises to be a lively affair. All are invited to attend and Waitakere Ward Council and Community Board candidates will be present to be heard from and to be questioned on their policies. Please show your interest by attending on Thursday the 20th September at the Hall. The meeting gets underway at 7.30pm.

Last year we ran a successful mid-winter breakfast and wasn't it a cold morning! This time however we would like to be able to run one on the last weekend in October on Sunday the 28th. We will resolve this at the next committee meeting in October and confirm the function. However you should pencil in your diaries for Sunday 28th. We would expect there would be a small charge as for last year.

The Painted Apple Moth – you would have read of the spread of this nasty pest which attacks exotic trees but can also attack natives. There are groups other than ratepayers that have formed committees to question the effects of any possible spraying. This could become a concern to our committee if aerial spraying was to be extended to the Waitakere ranges. We would want to know whether it would have effect on insect life which could in turn affect birds if there was a shortage of food supply. This is apart from any question it might have on one's health. We will be following what happens very closely over the next month or so.

Finances – we talked about ways of obtaining further funds for the hall development. There are a lot of things we could do to upgrade our hall which we hope would see it used even more by the community than at present and this would be on future agendas.

New logo for the association. We might even look at T-shirts to wear for the members!

Meet the Candidates

On Thursday 20th September in the Waiatarua Hall, 7pm for tea and coffee, ready for the meeting at 7.30pm.

The Mayor, Waitakere Ward Council and Community Board candidates will be there to answer your questions and persuade us why 'they' should be in office.

Come and be informed before you vote.

Fire Brigade

by Ian Ford

Thanks Lynz.

In October 1967, an enthusiastic, 17 year-old, cheeky-faced Lyndsay Whittle joined in with other people from our community at the first meeting of the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade. After thirty-four years of leaping out of bed at 2 in the morning to answer the fire siren, Lyndsay found that his initial enthusiasm was starting to wane, so at this month's Brigade meeting resigned as an operational firefighter.

Lyndsay and Christine, we thank you for your enormous contribution to all aspects of Fire Brigade life and to Waiatarua. We look forward your continued association and friendship through your Life Membership of the Brigade.

Recent Calls:

- **Tues 28th Aug, 2:21 am** – Car vs. power pole, Scenic Drive. The result was a draw, with both written off. The occupants were luckier. And in the first few days of September –
- **Sun 2nd, 1:46 am** – House fire, Scenic Drive. Our recent investment in BA training paid off when we saved a cottage which was being renovated. Dry timber around a brick fireplace ignited and caused damage to the adjoining wall and roof structure. Crews from Glen Eden and Titirangi provided backup and water. The morning after this call we went to Avondale to replace some damaged hose, then on the way back home –
- **Sun 2nd, 10:52 am** – Fire alarm activation, Great North Road, New Lynn. False alarm.

We've always said that if Waiatarua Brigade gets called to flooding, then it's REALLY wet. Well, it was. We were greeted by floodwater nearly half a metre deep in the middle of the Fire Station carpark when we responded to . . .

- **Tues 4th, 9:28 pm** – Flooding, Raroa Terrace.
- **Tues 4th, 9:48 pm** – People trapped in a house by flooding, Glen Esk Road, Piha. Four of our crew responded in our 4WD ute, but neither they nor the Piha crew could get near. Fortunately, the stream levels started to drop as quickly as they rose.
- **Tues 4th, 10:15 pm** – Flooding, Brabant Road.
- **Thurs 6th, 5:35 pm** – Slip blocking road, Scenic Drive.
- **Fri 7th, 10:44 pm** – Car fire, Pukematakeo, Scenic Drive.

Contacts:

111 for fires and other emergencies. Otherwise, phone Ian Ford 814 8871 or Richard Seccombe 025 915 525.

Weed of the Month – Mistflower

by Ian Ford

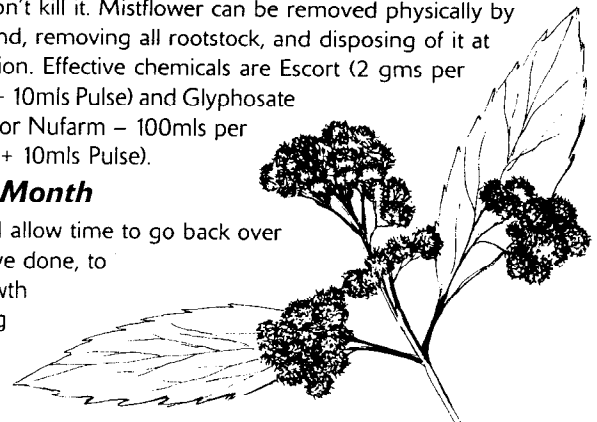
You know that spring is on the way when mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*) starts procreating on the roadsides. As the name suggests, it's easily recognised by masses of tiny white flowers from August until December, and sometimes until autumn. It forms large dense mats of brittle semi-woody stems up to a metre deep, which completely smother native plant communities and prevent regeneration. Originally introduced from Mexico and the West Indies, it has been a weed in the Waitakere Ranges for over 70 years.

You'll typically find it on the edge of the bush, on stream banks and roadside cuttings – there's plenty to see near the top of Forest Hill Road and on West Coast Road between Bendalls Ridge and Kauri Loop Road.

A fungus has been introduced as a biological control agent, and this has been effective in weakening the plant and slowing its spread. However, it won't kill it. Mistflower can be removed physically by clearing the land, removing all rootstock, and disposing of it at the baling station. Effective chemicals are Escort (2 gms per 10 litres water + 10mls Pulse) and Glyphosate (Roundup G2 or Nufarm – 100mls per 10 litres water + 10mls Pulse).

Tip of the Month

You should allow time to go back over the areas you've done, to prevent regrowth from becoming established.



Encouraging Bird life on to your property

by John Sumich

Waiatarua residents are probably already observing the benefits to bush and bird following Operation Forest Save, but are they ready to gain further improvement in the wildlife around their own homes?

With intensive predator control currently in three small sites in the ranges and with the planned release of new species in the future, once the large 'Ark in the Park' sanctuary is established, how can a property be made more attractive for the birds that will disperse from these places?

TWO ASPECTS ARE VITAL: HABITAT AND SAFETY

Typically in Waiatarua, there is good forest or scrub to some extent, on most properties.

Variety is important in the flora to offer a range of seasonal berries, buds, new leaf tips or nectar. This variety of vegetation and its leaf litter also provides a diversity of habitats for the insects and other invertebrates which are dietary components of birds, geckoes and skinks. Plantings of particular shrubs or trees could enhance a property's interest to wild life.

For a list of suitable plants including some non-invasive exotics, phone the Ark line 8178050.

Improving habitat for geckoes or skinks means undisturbed groundcover, and rock piles or stacks of timber slabs allowing safe crawl spaces. Safety for wildlife means reducing predator numbers; chiefly possums, rats, stoats and cats. Wasps and hedgehogs are also pests.

'Operation Forest Save' dealt a body blow to possums and remember these are not just harmless vegetarians but relish eggs and chicks.

Forest Save is ongoing in the ARC parkland but residents should maintain the thrust on their own properties. Timms traps are a humane & tidy way to deal with possums and are available from the city council or at Arataki.

Rats are controlled by baits or traps. The Victor type with the larger bait plate is superior. Make a cover to make the rat approach in the correct direction.

Stoats are elusive. Fenn traps with attractants of eggs, fresh rabbit meat, or fresh caught rat are used to catch these.

Cats are ALL killers. Even the fat, pampered lazy ones – do we need them?

At least ensure they are sterilised; well fed; amused with mobile cat toys; perhaps a night curfew and consider making this cat the last you'll own. A few things to consider then, to increase your local wildlife, aren't there. Working with groups of neighbours will give a better result as larger areas are less readily re-invaded.

Advice, [and perhaps some support] is available for planning predator control on large combined areas. Phone the Ark line.

Waitakere Ward Ratepayers Associations Meeting

by Kevin Healy

In August the WRRRA hosted a meeting of Waitakere Ward Ratepayers Associations at the Waiatarua Community Centre. Representatives from Huia-Cornwallis, Karekare, Laingholm, Oratia, Piha, Swanson and Waiatarua attended, along with our Councillors and Community Board members. At the meeting we discussed the common issues of our Ratepayers Associations and explored how we can work together to resolve them. Two major issues for Waiatarua – subdivision and road safety – proved to be relevant for most areas of the Ward. Three speakers addressed the meeting:

Philip Brown – Waitakere City Council, Service Manager: Resource Management / Building: Philip spoke about the District Plan, Structure Plans and subdivision. A complex topic that will always be the subject of much debate.

Kitch Cuthbert – Waitakere City Council, Road Safety Co-ordinator: Kitch explained that the NZ road toll is one of the worst in the developed world. Waitakere City has twice the national average of traffic offenses, higher blood-alcohol levels and a poor record of

licensing, registration and WOF. On the bright side, we have the highest level of front seat-belt wearing. Speeding is the main problem – attitudes are the same as for drink driving 20 years ago. Solutions? Reduce speed! More funding for safety education would also help.

David Croft – Land Transport Safety Authority, Traffic Safety Engineer: David (a resident of Waiatarua who was roped into speaking on the night!) presented statistics for the West Coast-Waiatarua-Oratia area. Major crash type (71%): 'Curved road lost control/head on'. Not surprising really. As well, we discussed informally some of the individual issues of our Associations.

A friendly and informative evening – the start of a closer relationship among our Ratepayer groups.

Waitakere Community Board Report

by Kevin Healy

A huge agenda this month as it was the last Board meeting before the election. Not much specific to Waiatarua, though we hope one item will make a difference here in the future – the Footpaths' budget. As a Board member, the one thing I do not enjoy is having to divvy up the pathetic amounts of funding in the Annual Budget for vital improvements like footpaths. The amount we need for footpaths in our Ward is over \$3,000,000. This financial year we have \$132,400 – 4% of what we need! This situation could be improved without increasing rates.

The Board resolved to try and change the current system where the urban wards usually have footpaths both sides of the road (sometimes unnecessary), before we have any. In other business, approvals were sought for the Te Henga Park and Swanson Reserves Management Plans, Parks Development Fund projects, Corban's Reserve Workers Memorial, Laingholm and Parris Park Sportsfields Developments, and several reserve / recreation projects. On behalf of the Waitakere Community Board I would like to thank all those who have attended Board meetings, Ratepayer meetings or somehow had your say. That's what we're here for – to bring the community into council.

'Operation Spring Clean'

17th September to 13th October

Would you like to become involved and help clean up an area of Waiatarua? . . . meet and muck-in with other locals to make an area of Waiatarua even more beautiful? Phone Helen on 814-9855 to express your interest in giving up only a few hours to Keep Waiatarua Beautiful on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd. All help gratefully received.

Neighbourhood Watch

No news or incidents reported on the bush telegraph for this month.

Did you know . . .

that Waitakere City has 60 doctors per 100,000 people while the national average is 90 doctors per 100,000 population.

Waiatarua Library News

Spring is here. A good reason to enjoy some of our new books.

'For Richer, for Poorer' by Maria Konings . . . the New Zealand facts on defacto, marriage and wills.

'The True Story of Nancy Wake' by Peter Fitzsimons.

'Joseph's Mansions' by Richard Pitman . . . a very good read.

'The Ice Child' by Elizabeth McGregor.

'Bon Appetit' by Peter Mayle.

Do come and have a look at our – your – library. New-comers are most welcome.

Waiatarua Playcentre

The winter months are coming to an end, much to the delight of parents and children alike. It is so much more fun to run outside wearing shorts, t shirt and sandals rather than the 'winter wrap-ups'.

As we are a Playcentre in the Waiatarua bush, our outdoor area is a little restricted . . . but watch this space . . . that is all about to change.

The plans have been drawn for a new playhouse and shed.

We are re-designing the outdoor play area to moveable, changeable, challenging, colourful and fun structures. A busy time for the Playcentre families.

Come and visit us down the drive by the library at 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

Session times are Mon, Wed and Fri 9.15am – 12.15pm

For further information contact Elke on 814-8803.

Did you notice . . .

all the cars parked at the school on Friday 19th August? Well, let me tell you the Oratia Kindergarten had organised a 'Soup Night' for all the kindergarten families.

The smell of the ever popular sausage sizzle treated the nose as you arrived . . . next thing . . . aroma's from Pumpkin soup, chicken soup, Miso and Pea soup and Ham, to name but a few, wafted towards you. Beautiful breads and buns, and for dessert a large bowl of fresh fruit salad made by the children.

Good food, great company and to top it all off a wonderful display of the childrens' art work.

Then the auctioning of children's art work on canvas, various raffles and the Big Prize a beautiful quilt made of the childrens' art work on calico.

Almost \$900 was made on the night. A great success.

Thanks Jo, Lorainne and Phillipa for all your efforts. A good night had by all.

By Adith Stoneman.



Next month (3 October) we are visiting the garden of Ian and Shirley Baldick in Ramarama who are proving that Tree Peonies are able to be grown successfully in this area, with October being the prime flowering season for these beautiful blooms. The Baldicks also grow a range of magnolias and have an interest in vermiculture, which they will be able to explain to us. The entry fee is \$2. We will then go to the Botanic Gardens for lunch and to check out the seasonal displays. Ring Eileen on 814-9298 for further information and for car pooling.

GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM D.H. LAWRENCE:

*'The fairest thing in nature,
a flower, still has it's roots in earth and manure.'*

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam Editor

My partner John and myself have been in Rimu Road, Waiatarua for 4 months now. We have joined the Ratepayers Association and are enjoying the monthly Community newsletter we receive, immensely.

John is a drama tutor who teaches with Titirangi Drama.

Our property in Rimu Road has a studio which we hope to renovate so John can start teaching drama classes from there, next year.

On 26th – 29th September he has a production of 4 Fairytales coming up. One named 'Princess Wanted', is an original fairy tale written by John, and performed by the adult students. The junior students perform 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves', while the youth theatre perform 'Cinderella' & 'The Three Little Pigs' . . . all of which have been re-written by John in a modern and quirky way.

Bookings can be made at the Titirangi Pharmacy on 817-7658.

Dear Madam Editor

On October 13th, the people of Waitakere City get to vote for three Board members to sit on the Waitemata District Health Board.

The Board will consist of eleven members and will comprise of **three** elected members from North Shore, **one** elected member from Rodney, **three** elected members from Waitakere City and **four** members who will be appointed by Government. There will be plenty of candidates to choose from, as forty people from Waitakere are standing for only three positions on the board. The Western Leader will be running a publication of candidate profiles closer to election time.

I am standing for the Board as I have a definite interest in ensuring the people of Waitakere City receive adequate health care and enjoy a fair apportionment from the Health Funding purse. I am particularly concerned about the welfare of the growing number of older adults whose needs are often overlooked.

There will be many issues to discuss in the weeks leading up to the election and beyond. I would ask that anyone who has a particular point of view they would like to air, or any question they would like to ask, please phone or email me.

I can be contacted at: Phone 814-9872, Fax 814-9088 or lynchris@voyager.co.nz

Yours faithfully

Lyndsay Whittle

Dear Madam Editor

My name is Marguerite Crickmer and I am standing as an independent candidate for the Waitemata District Health Board.

What do I offer you?

Thirty years practical nursing and management skills, a Diploma of Business Studies and a commitment to making a difference. That sums up my background and my passion.

Hospital lists are too long, too many have to wait for the health care they need.

I am dedicated to making a difference for the Waitakere Area. I support a health service that is affordable, available, and appropriate to all. If elected I would work for a free emergency service, reduced waiting lists, and greater commitment to community consultation.

Yours faithfully

Marguerite Crickmer

(Authorised by: Mrs Marguerite Crickmer, 176 Candia Road, Henderson)

The Parade

For your social diary – the Grand Re-Opening of the historic Glen Eden Railway Station will be celebrated with a community parade on Sunday 7th October from 12:30 p.m. This will be 'A Parade Like They Used To Be' – brass bands, pipe bands, community groups, clowns, fire-eaters, vintage cars, trucks and tractors.

A highlight will be the steam train "Diana" arriving at noon, with an excursion to Helensville and back leaving at 2:30 p.m. Bookings will be ESSENTIAL for this trip – phone Dan on 8178297 or email sudan@connected.net.nz

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.

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 818-4104.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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: shed stored, pine and macrocarpa \$50-\$65.
Phone 814-8833.

BABYSITTER: Friendly, mature and responsible 15 year old girl. \$6 per hour. Phone Danielle on 814-9131 or 021-268 4401.

HORSE MANURE: \$1 per bag at 253 Forest Hill Road. Phone 814-9771.

WOODEN FARM GATES AND ENTRANCE GATES made to order.
Phone 814-9700.

STRESS? NECK AND BACK PAIN? OOS? SCIATICA? CARPAL TUNNEL? SPRAINS AND STRAINS?.. if so, maybe I can help. I am TMA (NZ) registered. Phone Rowan anytime on 8337866.

WANTED: Tuition required for 6th form Biology and 7th Form Maths with Stats and Physics. Please contact Mrs Grave on 814-8834.

BABYSITTER: Friendly, outgoing and experienced 6th form pupil available evenings and weekends – \$6 per hour. Phone Tara on 814-8834

HOUSE FOR SALE: Waiatarua. Views for ever – 2 harbours, Coromandel, outer islands – glorious! 3 – 4 bedrooms, plus workshop and large separate studio/workshop. Heart rimu floors, large deck' tuis and pigeons in the birdbath. \$480,000. Phone Tony Bacon on 814-9860.

HOUSE FOR SALE: ORATIA/WAIATARUA – low maintenance, double storey, 4 bdrm. family home, diesel central heating, dble garaging with workshop, large rumpus. Extensive valley views. \$317,000. Phone 814-9251.

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 Raroa Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrick	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

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

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

Name

Address

Phone

To Treasurer

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

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

Hall phone 814-9353

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of
The Editor,

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

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WEDNESDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 2001

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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