

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR:
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WEB SITE www.waiatarua.org.nz



Make it a Date!



**Invite your neighbours, Socialise with fellow Waiataruan's
at the Annual**

'Waiatarua Community Breakfast'

Sunday 25th May 2003

9.00am at the Waiatarua Hall

Adults \$8 Children \$5

Limited Tickets ... Phone Eileen on 814-9298



Time To Have Your Say *By Tony Bacon*

When you get your rates bill, do you look at the amount and say "What a great bargain – I get so many Council Services for so little money?" Yeah, right – if you are like me you groan and remind yourself that it could be worse; you could be living in Iraq.

What is this man on about, I hear you cry? Well every year the Waitakere City Council produces an Annual Plan, and it is this that is used to decide how much you pay.

The Draft Plan for 2003/2004 has just been issued, and if you feel strongly about the size of your rates bill, this is your chance to comment about it in a formal way, and actually talk to the Council about it as well if you wish.

The WRRRA will be making a submission, as it does every year, and this year we are likely to be talking about (we have not finally decided yet):

- The Piha Road junction. We believe the current speed limiting measures are inadequate and more work needs to be done to make this intersection safer.
- Keep left markings and signs are needed, especially on the Scenic Drive where many foreign tourists drive.
- The path between Atarua Gardens and Bush Road needs urgent maintenance and upgrading.

- Work is needed on Mountain Road to improve traffic safety.
- Money to fund more work on our planning to significantly upgrade the Community Hall.
- The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society has proposed to Council that some of the proceeds from the sale of United Networks shares should be used to fund a trust to support green initiatives in the Waitakere Ranges. We believe this concept is a good one and should be supported.

So that is what we are proposing-but you may have quite different ideas!

You can get a submission form from the Libraries, the Council Offices, the WCC website <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtcnl/pp/ltcp.asp#involvement> or you may have seen one in your letterbox with the special edition of the 'Waitakere City News'. If you can't find a form you can just write a letter, but the advantage of the form is that it helps you to make sure you have provided all the required information.

Submissions are open until 23 May, so if you want to reduce the groan factor when you see your rates bill next year, now's your chance to have your say. Happy submitting!

What have you done with yours?

We, (us Waiataruan's), all received a packet of 'Ecosourced Waitakere Seeds' within the March issue of the 'Waitakere City News'. We were even given step by step instructions as to how to plant them. **What have you done with yours?**

Are they in the 'When I get a round tuit' drawer or have they ended up at the Refuse Station? One hopes not.

Get that seed packet out and do the right thing. It might be fun ... involve the grand kids, have a competition with

the spouse or partner, let the kids plant them, be a greeny..???

(56,000 homes in Waitakere City received the seed packets. The mail out marked Waitakere's 10th Anniversary as an Eco City)

Waiatarua Rainfall

	RAIN DAYS	WETTEST DAY	MARCH TOTAL	YEAR TO DATE
Mountain Road	14	11th (38 mm)	124 mm	359 mm
Brabant Road	19	11th (77 mm)	193 mm	484 mm
Quinns Road	17	12th (113 mm)	224 mm	489 mm
Forest Hill Road	10	11th (73 mm)	182 mm	462 mm
Auckland City		11th (63 mm)	143 mm	305 mm

ARC Direct Rating – What does it mean to us? *By Tony Bacon*

You have probably heard by now that from July 1 this year you will receive a rates bill directly from the ARC. This will **replace** the bit in your current Waitakere City Bill that says “The General Rate includes contributions to The Auckland Regional Council of ...”. So your Waitakere City Rates Bill should go down (depending on the rate that is struck, whether your house has been revalued, and all that stuff). However it is quite possible that your **total** rates bill will increase, as the ARC has been charged with new responsibilities that it has to raise money for.

How are the rates to be levied?

- 1 Based mostly on Capital Value
- 2 No Uniform Annual Charge
- 3 No Differentials
- 4 Targeted rates for
- 5 BioSecurity
- 6 Public Transport

This chart shows how it is made up:

Using the chart, you can calculate your ARC annual rate for the coming year:

Assuming your property has (say) a land value of \$120,000 and a capital value of \$450,000:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{General rate (Capital Value):} & \quad 4.50 \times 37 = \$166.50 \\ \text{BioSecurity (Land Value):} & \quad 1.2 \times 3 = \$3.60 \end{aligned}$$

Now it becomes interesting. The passenger transport rates **only** apply if you are **inside** the “Passenger Transport Area”, and all of Waiaatarua (as far as we can tell) is **outside**.

So using the above calculations, if you live outside the area your rate would be

$$\$166.50 + \$3.60 = \mathbf{\$170.10}$$

If you live **inside** the area you must add:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Passenger Transport Network rate (Capital Value)} & \quad 4.5 \times 5 = \$67.50 \\ + \text{Passenger Transport Contracts rate (Capital Value)} & \quad 4.5 \times 41 = \$184.50 \\ \text{Giving a total of} & \quad \mathbf{\$252.10} \end{aligned}$$

Remember this amount is separate from your Waitakere City rates bill, but **replaces part of it**.

Questions

(parts of these answers are direct quotes from the ARC)

Has all this been finally decided, or can things be changed?

The basic legislation that sets up the requirement is a done deal, but the details of the actual rates are still in draft form, and are open for submissions from April 1 until May 1. If you want to make a submission, contact the ARC or the WRRRA.

Why are some bits done on capital value and some on land value?

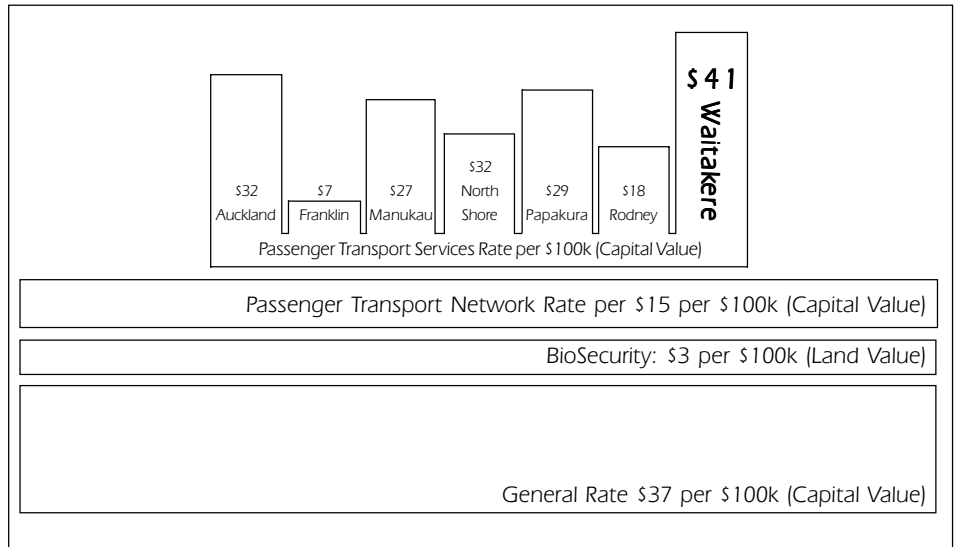
The majority of the ARC rate has been calculated using capital value as it is considered the most fair way to pay for the ARC’s services across the entire region from large rural holdings to central city towers to industry to private residences. A general rate based on capital value spreads those costs more evenly than other valuation approaches when dealing with general services. The transport rate also uses capital value, but targets 90% of the costs of transport on those who receive the greatest benefit. The BioSecurity rate is based on land value because the major users of these services (possum control etc.) are big land owners.

Why can’t it just go on the old way, with Waitakere City doing the collection on behalf of the ARC?

The main reason is that the law has changed so that the ARC can no longer assume that its funds will be collected by the local authorities on its behalf.

How often will I get a bill, and how do I pay?

The first round of bills will come out around the 7th of July. As the ARC will be billing 460,000 customers, don’t expect your bill to arrive immediately. However it will be with you no later than mid-August. The council hasn’t quite yet finalised the exact range of payment options, but you will certainly be able to pay by direct debit, (one payment or 10 monthly payments). Alternatively you can post a cheque in a pre-paid envelope. An early payment reduction of 2.5% will also be offered, but like all Councils, there will be late payment penalties as well. You will also be able to pay at local Post Shops, or you can pay at the ARC office in Pitt St. The ARC will also establish phone banking facilities with all major trading banks, and is currently investigating credit-card payment options.



Why is the Waitakere City Passenger Transport Rate so much higher than for other councils?

This rate reflects the level of passenger transport services that the ARC supplies to an area, and believe it or not, Waitakere City is said to be quite well served with public transport (we have both bus and rail, for instance, compared with the North Shore which has no rail).

How do I know whether I am inside or outside the Passenger Transport Area?

As we state above, we believe that Waiaatarua is outside the area (Kelly Road, for instance, is outside). However if you are concerned, you can phone the ARC on 366 2000 and select 3 (for rates) and they will tell you your particular situation.

I live outside the Passenger Transport Area, but I still get (some) buses – am I getting something for nothing?

Sorry to disappoint you, but about 10% of the costs of transport are included in the general rate (\$37/100k) to reflect the fact that everybody has **some** access to public transport.

Friends of Arataki News

On June 7 Friends have a nostalgic **The Fruitgrowers Ball at the Settlers Hall** planned. The Fruitgrowers Ball was a major highlight for the Oratia Dalmatian community from the 1930s through to the 1980s, with a dance held annually following the annual apple harvest. An afternoon/evening function is planned with pre dinner entertainment to include Rudy and Pat Sunde with their wonderful Oratia folk songs, Dalmatian dancing and more. A lamb on the spit dinner will be served, and a dance will follow later in the evening, featuring Peter Posa (who was raised in one of the local fruitgrowing families) and who is a legend in New Zealand for his guitar music of the 1960s. We are collating memories of previous Balls from long standing families of the area, to publish on the day, and are also looking for old photos of this event. Tickets are \$25 per head and will be available in May. If you have any mementos that would relate to this event, or to reserve tickets, please phone Fiona Drummond on 817-5445 or Val Lyon on 818-5719.

GARDEN GROUP

Our May 7 outing will be to Coatesville starting at 1 pm with Mincher, 338 Coatesville-Riverhead Highway. This is a developing 13 acre garden although Angela Spooner, the owner tells me they are just including an additional 8 acres which should keep them busy. There are ponds, Orchards, formal and informal plantings and a long meandering drive. Entry fee \$5.

We then go on to Twin Lakes, 83 Sunnyside Rd, at 2 pm which is just round the corner. Proteas will be featuring and if there is no frost between now and the 7th, the water lilies on the 5 acre lake will still be flowering. For those who haven't seen this garden you are in for a treat. We will have afternoon tea in the conservatory and the cost for entry and tea will be \$8.

We welcome anyone who is interested in gardens to join us however we do need to have an indication of numbers.

Ring Eileen on 814 9298 for further information or carpooling.

The Next Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Meeting . . .

will take place at the Waiatarua Hall on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. Phone Tony Bacon for further information on 814-9860.

'Scene' or Heard in Waiatarua

Not quite in Waiatarua – but residents be aware, as a Waiataruan reports . . .

Today I nearly got a parking ticket for . . . wait for it . . . **inconsiderate parking**, in Shaw Road, Oratia, near Oratia School. No signs, no road markings and I had parallel parked, outside a house on Shaw Road, adjacent to some large rocks on the verge (as close as was possible to the left.) A WCC warden walked up to me and said I had to move my car or get a ticket as I was parked 'inconsiderately'. On the side of a straight road with clear visibility both up and down??? When I questioned the warden she explained that my car apparently extended too far in to the road way. Maybe I should have asked her to help me move the rocks, or perhaps upon my next car purchase I should be mindful of width and chose a mini or similar. It makes one wonder if we might all receive parking tickets if we park on the side of **any** road in Waiatarua. And, Yes, I did follow this up with Colin Waite of Waitakere City Council's Enforcement Department and was basically told that this was a 'subjective offence' which could incur a \$40 infringement notice. When asked if perhaps some of the Waiatarua Roads needed widening to cater for the increased volumes of traffic in our area, he pointed me in the direction of another department to field my queries.

Waiatarua Community Library News

We have many new books donated, some of our new additions are:

THE SEA HUNTER by Clive Cussler.

SUMMERTIME by Liz Rigby.

THE PIANO TUNER by Daniel Mason. *An excellent read, the story based in Burma.*

THE EMPEROR OF OCEAN PARK by Stephen L Carter. *A mystery thriller set in Washington.*

JESTER by James Patterson. *A very good read, set in the Crusades.*

We also have the full series of 'RAMSES'. *Donated to the library, these are 5 novels of ancient Egypt.*

We look forward to seeing new members and old. Visit your local Waiatarua Library for a quiet browse, stock up on that winter reading, bring the kids too.

Should I have told him that I had been parking there for the past 2 years, along with many other parents, incurring no previous infringement notices?

Maybe I just met an over zealous traffic warden who was having a bad day.

So, be aware fellow Waiatarua Road users .. no matter if you park as close to the left of the road

as possible, you can still be deemed inconsiderate.

Any one got a skinny car for sale?

Trees for Babies

Is there a new baby in your family?

Family and friends are invited by Keep Waitakere Beautiful, Waitakere City Council and Plunket, to commemorate the birth of Waitakere City babies born since March 2002 by planting a native eco-sourced tree in their honour. A site has been selected for a grove of 'baby trees' in each ward and an associated register to record the event.

This has been a very popular event in the past and is a wonderful free family day out. A bouncy castle, face painters, spot prizes and entertainment by the ever popular Aunties band will be in attendance at each planting, so a great day will be had by all.

So circle your calendar for 11 am–1 pm Saturday, dress up the wee tot, bring a spade (some will be provided) and sturdy footwear and head to your closest planting:

**Waitakere Area: Sunvue Park
Saturday 17 May**

If the event of rain plantings will be held on the immediate Sunday following the original date. Listen to 1ZB or ring 826 4276 for cancellation information.

Brickbats and Bouquets

This month a **brickbat** is awarded to the person who has taken (stolen) a figurine of a young man, from a graveside in Waikumete Cemetery. The son's grave being well cared and tended, regularly, for the past 45 years by his mother, a local Waiatarua. She has been most upset upon visiting the graveside to find this figurine taken.

I am sure all Waiataruan's would agree that this month's **bouquet** should be given to the above said 'mother' who has been extremely hurt by someone so uncaring.

Library Hours

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

Fire Brigade

Sadly, we say goodbye to two of our team. Brooke Kelly is moving down to the lowlands of Auckland, and Gary Ward and his family are Wellington-bound next month. We wish them all well. Gary's departure means that there is an opportunity for someone to move into his position of Deputy Chief Fire Officer, and the appointment will be made in early May.

It means that our firefighter numbers are becoming low. If you've considered it in the past, but have put it off and thought "one day", why not make it today? You don't need to be Super(wo)man – none of us are – and we provide all of the training and gear.

Our congratulations go to Derek Renata, who successfully completed his Emergency Response Driving course last month, and to Maxine Arden and Cathie Wells on gaining their First Aid qualifications.

Open Day

You'll have seen the flyer in your letterbox promoting our Open Day at the Fire Station on Anzac Day. If you were unable to make it then, we will be repeating this event periodically.

Recent Calls

MARCH

Sat 22nd, 11:24 a.m. – Wires down, Beach Valley Road, Piha. Controlled by Piha Brigade.

Sat 22nd, 8:25 p.m. – Car fire, Forest Hill Road. A Subaru (we think) totally destroyed. The wet weather helped to prevent the fire spreading into overhanging trees.

Sun 23rd, 5:32 p.m. – Scrub fire, Marine Parade South, Piha. Extinguished by Piha.

APRIL

Fri 4th, 9:05 p.m. – Car fire, Piha Road. A Ford Laser severely damaged.

Contacts

Phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For other enquiries please contact Ian Ford on 8148871 or 021 284 0757

Public Notice

To all Waiatarua Residents
Water Services Ltd. has sold the water delivery side of the business to a new operator.

I would like to thank all my customers for their business over the past 7 years. I have enjoyed the work and met some great people.

The new operator has pledged to maintain the same level of commitment and service, and I will be supporting him through the transition period.

Water Services Ltd will continue servicing water systems. (See advert at rear of the issue of Community News.)

Kind Regards, Phillip Parks.

Inorganic Collections

These are happening in Waiatarua in May. You should receive a notice in your letterbox informing you of the date of your collection and what items may be put out for collection, about a week in advance of the said collection date.

As a guide the following dates are given.

West Coast Road (and side roads) from Parrs Cross to Scenic Drive: 12th – 16th May. *Forrest Hill Road*, from West Coast Rd down to Parrs Cross Road: 19th – 23rd May. *Mountain Road and Turanga Road area*: 26th – 30th May.

Advertising

This is free to financial members
for 2003, 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.

WEST COAST VET CLINIC – Offering full veterinary service for your pets.
24 hour service Phone 818-4104.

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.
www.atarua-bandb.co.nz

LAWN MOWING: Local, reliable. Phone Eric 837-2333.

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

LANDSCAPER: For experienced, professional landscaping services (including paving,
concrete, retainer walls, fences, decks, gardens/plants, water features) at a competi-
tive price, contact Bevan on 837-1992 or 021-375 707 or at totaland@ihug.co.nz

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.

FIREWOOD – shed stored. Can deliver. \$60 – \$70 per cubic metre. Ph 814-8833.

MAKE UP ARTIST: Prof. International makeup/hair artist available for weddings,
special occasions in your own home. Phone Juliette on 814-8802

TREE WORK: Fully insured and qualified arborists. Phone Guy Thomas 813-1481 or
021-244-8733

LOCAL ISSUES: Phone Kevin Healy, Waitakere Community Board on 814-9505
or email: kevin@healy.co.nz

PLANTS – One day lilies, taros, bulbs, mondo grass and various perennials for
sale. \$1 – \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814-9859.

JAYZ ORATIA BEAUTY THERAPY: Treat yourself to a fabulous mind and body
experience. New sunbed, facial, waxing, electrolysis. Open every day. Late night. Ph
Jaylene on 813-1199 or 025-614-6652. Located at 542B West Coast Road, Oratia.

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 Road	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Road	814-9954	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Rarua Terrace	814-9859	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2003

I enclose: \$10 Household, \$5 Single Occupant

Name

Address

Phone

Email

To Treasurer

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Auckland 8 **or leave at the library**
Web Site: www.waiatarua.org.nz

CANAL HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND Narrow boat cruising at bed and breakfast
rates. Contact Charles or Annie, phone 8149 235 or www.watergypsy.co.nz <<http://www.watergypsy.co.nz>>

FOR SALE: 2 pairs wooden french doors, almost new, 1.5m x 2.35m, high
quality hardware, no frames. \$450/pair. Phone Tony or Jean on 814 9860.

FOR SALE: Stainless steel pipe, 200mm diameter, 2.3m long, 1mm thick. Spiral
crimped construction. Ex. pottery kiln flue. \$150. Phone Tony or Jean 814 9860.

ELKE'S FOOD & WINE MARKET is now open for cake and coffee, or a prosciutto
open sandwich and a glass of wine. Fresh Pandoro bread, a large selection of wine
and gourmet goodies to tempt your taste buds. Open 10 – 2pm Saturdays at the
Seibel Winery, 113 Sturges Road, Henderson. Ph 814-8803 or 836-6113.

FAYS YOGA CLASS: Classes to suit busy schedules plus Antenatal – Glen Eden Ph
817-8233.

THE NIKAU CLUB – BAR, CAFÉ, RESTAURANT: Open 7 days and nights from
10am. We now have our fabulous deck open and licenced – so come along and dine
Alfresco on the deck, in the forest, under the stars, overlooking the city and
harbour. Ph 814-1919.

BABYSITTER: Mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$10 per hour. Phone
Juliette on 025-875-805.

LOCAL SPA POOL SPECIALIST: Registered electrical technician for all your
spa and swimming pool pump repairs. Phone Lyndsay Whittle 814-9872 or
025 925 271

WATER SERVICES LTD. Pump sales and service. Tank repairs, cleaning and new
tanks installed. Filtration and water treatment. Phone Phillip on 812-8537 or 025-
279-6036.

WEST COAST WATER. For all water deliveries phone Patrick on 812-8079 or
027-288-9111.

ACTING AND THEATRE TRAINING: 8 week drama course for adults, with tutor
John Goudge. Thursday evening classes (7.30 – 9.30) at Rimu Glade, Waitatarua.
22 May – 10 July, 2003. Course Fee \$95. Limited spaces available. Phone John to
enroll on 814-9744.

HELP! I NEED SOMEONE TO CLEAN MY HOUSE once a fortnight. It is 4 – 5
hours work. Monday is my preferred day but any day would be fine. Call Cathie on
814-8871 evenings or 837-0729 during the day.

WANTED: Person to help in garden. Saturday mornings Ph 814-8977.

FLUTE TEACHER WANTED Phone 814-1166.

WANTED; Your input in to the Waitatarua Community News. Have your say. Con-
gratulate others, welcome and farewell residents, nominate someone for a brickbat
or bouquet, tell a story, write a book review, share the local gossip...Contact the
editor now. All input eagerly received. Ph/Fax Jo on 814-9945 or email me at
forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz <<mailto:forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz>>.

FOR SALE: 1999 Holden Astra, forest green, 5 door, 66,000km, manual, excel-
lent condition \$9500 Ph Miriam on 814-9821

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 Isachsen on 814-9847

JUNE 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 21st MAY, 2003

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.