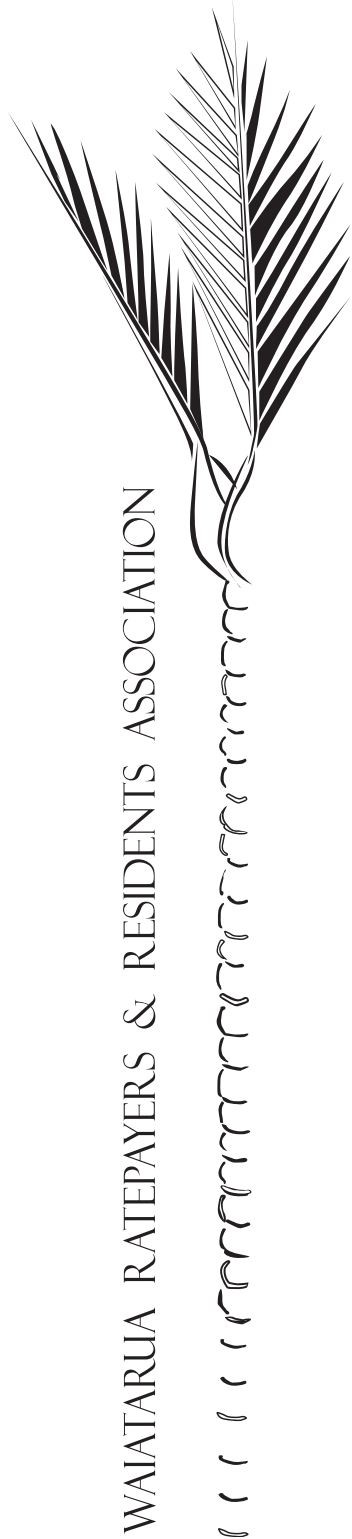


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

January - February 2006



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



PUBLIC MEETING!

'Wards and Boundaries'

February 14th at 7.00pm

in Waiatarua's Community Hall
(911 West Coast Road)

As you are aware, the Council is currently undertaking an Electoral Representation Review and has called for comments on three possible options for ward and community board boundaries.

As part of the consultation process the Council will hold four public meetings in February - one in each of the current wards. The meeting will begin with a presentation about the options, and include an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the options with Council representatives and officers.

The dates of the other meetings are: **Massey Ward**, Thursday, 15 February, 7.00pm, Massey & Birdwood Settlers Hall. **Henderson Ward**, Friday, 17 February, 7.00pm, Te Atatu South Community Centre (Main Hall). **New Lynn Ward**, Tuesday, 21 February, 7.00pm, New Lynn Community Centre (Main Hall)

Waiatarua Autumn Festival - Sunday 26th March 2006

Autumn Festival is all go! The Waiatarua Festival will be held at the Waiatarua Hall (911 West Coast Rd.) . We're hoping you will not only attend but also participate in the competitions, and there will be prizes for all categories! Anyone interested in providing sponsorship by donating prizes can contact Les Duffield on Ph: 814 1130 - your business or product will obviously receive promotional benefits. The local Spinning and Craft Group will display and sell their wonderful handcrafted items and also run a Fashion Parade of handmade garments at midday. There will be food, raffles, games and fun for all. Funds raised will go towards new Hall tables for your increased comfort at future Community Breakfasts and the like.

Competitions:

GARDENING:

- 3 varieties home-grown fruit and/or veg (Adult or family; child)
- 3 home-grown flowers all the same variety (Adult or family; child)
- Largest Pumpkin by weight (Adult or family; child)
- Tallest sunflower (under 5yrs; 5 - 12yrs)
- Largest diameter sunflower (under 5yrs; 5 - 12yrs)

BAKING:

- 3 scones (open individual)
- Sponge cake (open individual)
- Bloke's chocolate cake (no age limit)
- Kid's plate of biscuits (under 5yrs; 5 - 8yrs; 9 - 12yrs)
- Home brew ginger beer (open individual or family)

CRAFTS:

- Homemade card and envelope (under 5yrs; 5 - 8yrs; 8 - 12yrs; adult)
- Needlework (hand or machine, up to 500mm X 500mm) (child; adult)
- Decorated egg (under 9 yrs; 9 - 12yrs)



EDITOR:

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WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
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Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Michelle Stanborough
Ph 814 9707

Library hours:

Thursday	10.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday	11.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday	11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

WRRRA AGM:

Thursday February 23rd 2006 7.30pm



We warmly welcome anyone wanting to submit nominations for committee, and everyone who would just like to come along and observe - a great opportunity to see what we're up to!

Mayor Bob Harvey will be our special guest, presenting "Where the City is at and Where it is Going"

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please fill in this nomination form and return it to 911 West Coast Road or hand it in on the night. Committee positions to be fulfilled as per our constitution are as follows and will be elected by financial members present:

I, nominate for:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor/s | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (6) |

Contact details: Phone: Email:

A cheerful, fresh 2006 to you all. I trust everyone enjoyed a very special Christmas. For the first time, my family tested the \$10-00 unisex 'lucky dip' gift which sure as heck cut down on Xmas shopping stress and culminated in such fun and hilarity on the day... from the young lady in receipt of a dinky wee remote car, to the non-swimming gentleman who opened a parcel containing a colourful beach towel. I have taken on a few New Year resolutions, the priority being to get fit again and disrupt the onset of middle-age spread. It happens to the best of us, even those considered to be relatively slim. Since a job-role change a year ago, in which I am now mainly static rather than on the move, I have gained a stone which seems to have gathered right where all my clothing waistbands sit. I refuse to upsize, so the family rebounder is in action daily.

My fortnight off work was spent in the usual in the usual way: 'dusting out the garage' and weeding the garden. It can be very satisfying afterwards (for five minutes) - probably best not dwelling on the fact that, come next stat. holiday, all will be back as it was and time to start again!

To me, the roll around of another January is all about new beginnings; and I was absolutely thrilled to receive some stunning news from afar to confirm this belief. My eldest son, whilst recently trekking in Nepal, dropped to bended knee and proposed to his girlfriend. So it looks as though we have a lovely wedding to attend in Perth later. I'm hoping this is the catalyst to my becoming a grandmother before too much longer.

Finally - without minimizing personal tragedy for some and world chaos in general, I think it's important to continue celebrating the good. I refuse to allow negative reporting and media hype to 'bring us down'. It would be all too easy to succumb to doom and gloom but hey, our kids are already becoming hardened to adversity so it's up to us to keep the magic of life alive and kicking.

Local Craft Group Hits Headlines Big-Time

The Oratia Spinning and Craft Group, which includes a number of Waiataruans, is to be featured in the February issue of the NZ House and Garden Magazine - an inspirational, quality publication showcasing the best in NZ style and design. The weather was perfect during their photographic session, enabling some great outdoor shots of folk demonstrating skills and displaying their labours of love.

This friendly group was started in the seventies as just a 'spinning' club by Mary Height of Parker Road, and later expanded to include many different craft people. "Nowadays we are like a buzz of bees", says Bev Latimer, a keen member who helps keep the cogs turning.

Approximately forty participants of all ages enjoy sharing ideas, and often assist those who wish to learn a handcraft from scratch. Works range from tapestry, weaving and patchwork to knitting, tatting, china painting and many more. Some of the ladies belong to other organisations too, such as 'Creative Fibre' and the 'Weavers & Spinners Guild'.

Locals will have an opportunity to see for themselves the amazing accomplishments of The Oratia Spinners & Craft Group in a midday Fashion Parade at Waiatarua's Autumn Festival (911 West Coast Road) on Sunday March 26th. The effects will also be exhibited at The Home Show and The Easter Show, a little later in the year.

Weekly Monday morning meetings (10.00am - 12noon) at the Oratia Church Hall resume for 2006 on February 13th. There is a door entry fee of \$1.00 per person, plus a plate of morning tea.

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

The library opened again on Thursday the 12th of January. Purchases have been carefully managed in the first half of the financial year to ensure that we are in a position to buy books throughout the whole year. Drop in and have a look around, you're sure to find something interesting to read.



Well, Xmas has gone and a New Year begins. You will have noticed that this report was supplied by Molly Whittington for October/November last year. That was because Shirley and I were fortunate enough to do a six-week trip to South America; and it was fabulous.

During my absence Molly took the reins and what a great job she did, along with the whole committee - one thing in particular, the Community Breakfast which if not the biggest, had to have been one of the biggest.

Unfortunately Molly is not seeking re-election, due to involvement with her children's interests; but I'm sure we will see her back in the future.

That's the bad news for the AGM (23rd February 2005).

The good news is that a number of committee members have put themselves forward for re-election. We have a busy time ahead with our public meeting concerning Septic Tanks, Electoral Wards and Community Boards... matters that should interest us all. I urge you to attend, as complaining afterwards is too late especially if you don't get the facts first.

The Autumn Festival in March is shaping up to be a "cracker" so mark that on the calendar.

You know there is a positive aspect to attending these functions, apart from knowledge and entertainment. You might just get to meet and talk to that neighbour whom you have waved to from the car for years, or heard through the hedge or bush and never seen.

That's it from me, pop up and say "Hi" at one of our up-and-coming gatherings.

New Water Safety Signs

The ARC, Waitakere City Council and Surf Life Saving Northern Region have created new water safety signage at West Coast beaches: Piha, Karekare, Whites Beach, Anawhata, and Muriwai beaches.

Waitakere City Council and ARC have worked together and met with residents and local community groups to coordinate messages and agree upon the style of signs. The new signs have standardised international symbols, so international and multi-lingual visitors can still understand them.

The signs have three primary purposes:

To inform people about significant coastal hazards at the site; they have a unique numbering system so emergency services can easily identify the location; to inform people about lifeguard and emergency services at the location.

The symbols are specifically diamond-shaped to communicate they are a hazard sign and people should pay attention to them. Each site has been risk-assessed and there are three sign types. The location and the placement of signage will dictate which of the three sign types will be used.

Vehicle access sign - These will be located in prime catchment locations such as car parks and vehicle access points so visitors are informed on important information before undertaking water activities.

Pedestrian access sign - These will be placed near pedestrian access points, in a clearly visible position.

Identified Hazard sign - Stand-alone hazard symbols warning visitors of specific dangers.

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

An updated version of smoke alarms is available free to over 70,000 West Auckland homes, compliments of The Trusts. By now every household in Waiatarua should have received its voucher, redeemable at any King Dicks or Local Liquor outlet (take proof of residency - phone or power bill).

These new alarms are capable of detecting smouldering fires, different to the ones distributed in 1998: a type designed to pick up flash fires. Residents are advised to replace their existing alarms with the new ones, although the older versions can still be used to protect alternative means of escape. Both are effective in warning against different kinds of fires.

Vouchers are valid until February 28th. If you have not received one you may phone 826 2746 weekdays between 9am and 4pm.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

It seems as though some people are still confused about fire permits. If your fire is outside, and it's between the start of December and the end of April then you need a permit. Phone the Council's call centre on 839 0400 to arrange this, and allow at least 3 working days for a visit to your site and the permit to be issued. It's free. For more details, go to www.waitakere.govt.nz and type "fire permit" in the search box.

Recent calls

6:35 pm, Mon 21 Nov - Car over bank, Scenic Drive. No injuries

5:41 pm, Tue 29 Nov - Car crash, Piha Rd. No injuries

9:22 pm, Mon 5 Dec - Car fire, Piha Rd

2:51 pm, Sat 17 Dec - Car crash, Piha Rd. Slight injuries after two cars collided

11:50 pm, Sat 17 Dec - Smoke detector set off, Waiatarua Community Centre

8:46 pm, Sun 18 Dec - Toilet block on fire (true!), Bethells Beach. Extinguished by Bethells crew

8:53 pm, Thu 22 Dec - Medical assistance, Turanga Rd

3:35 pm, Fri 23 Dec - Power lines arcing, Old Forest Hill Rd

5:35 pm, Tue 27 Dec - Rubbish fire, Forest Hill Rd

7:50 pm, Fri 30 Dec - Rescue from cliff, Glen Esk Rd, Piha. Handled by Piha crew

The Brigade was called out 51 times in 2005.

9:36 pm, Sat 7 Jan - False alarm, Scenic Drive

9:42 pm, Mon 9 Jan - Medical assistance, Metcalfe Rd, Ranui.

12:38 am, Sun 16 Jan - Car fire, Scenic Drive

Contacts

Always phone 111 for fires or other emergencies. Otherwise contact Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8871).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Who would have thought over the holidays there'd be a web-site called www.christmaslightsoutwest.co.nz where you can view West Auckland homes decorated with festive glamour? Unfortunately, Waiatarua did not feature - but something to strive for next year perhaps!
- *Santa's Helper*

Hello Robin,

We live at Forest Hill, have been here for the last 7 or 8 years, enjoy the living up here very much. maybe an idea for the next newsletter is the following.

In the middle of the year the septic tank contractor turned up on our shared drive way (by the way owned by the council but not maintained by them) to service (read empty) the septic tanks, upon my request if he was going to do mine as well, his answer was "no, you are not on the list". Then we received a demand from the council to increase our rates by 40% since they overspend on their budget by 7% (I am sure we are not the only ones), I put in a submission to no effect, no change, no reaction either although I was promissed on the day. We then got our first rates demand, however we deducted the full amount of the septic tank service, and paid the rest. This woke-up somebody at the council as I got told to expect a 10% fine if I wouldn't pay, I then explained why. 2 weeks before the next instalment was due still no word from the council, which made me email Bob Harvey and told him that since the council had elected to ignore me, I was going to do the same to them and wouldn't pay any further rates till I had heard from them. Again a reaction straight away. My tank got emptied and I received a letter from the council staining black on white that there had been a mistake in the scheduling and that our tank had been cleaned last in 2001 (a 4 year cycle and not the 3 years we pay for in the rates) and since it now had been done we had to pay the outstanding amount of \$154. I received a phonecall from John Mckeown, that he couldn't change any of the rates and to explain what was going on, in this conversation I mentioned that, theoretically, the council could potentially by going around every 4 years in stat of every 3 years make 200 houses times \$154 equals \$30000. just in our street.

It would be very interesting to find out when the last time was the other tanks in the street were emptied and therefor can my neighbours expect a refund from the council. It is just a matter of principal, the councilours we have at the moment seem to think they can get away with blue murder, we are all overrated, and unless pushed the council isn't doing a lot for us.

The slip at the bottom of our road took them 5 month to fix (what a great effort, pitty it wasn't Lincoln rd, but that wouldn't have taken that long.....).

J.H.

(Ed. as received) **Following, a response from WCC**

Dear Editor

Mr H is correct: his septic tank should have been serviced at the same time that his neighbour's was. Unfortunately, the H's tank was left off the service list by mistake.

Obviously, the truck driver would not know this but once Mr H had drawn the error to our attention we rectified the mistake and the tank has now been serviced.

Mr H also says that his tank was last emptied in 2001 and therefore, he hadn't had the service he paid for. We provided that information initially but later discovered that it was incorrect and that the tank was, in fact, last emptied on 5 April 2002. So, yes we provided the wrong information but the reality is that the service was provided. We apologise for these two clerical errors.

Mr H is not correct when he says that his rates increased because of a Council overspend. There was no overspend. The Council increased the average rate by 7% in the Annual Plan 2005/2006. In the same period, properties were re-valued by an independent company. It was the increase in the value of Mr H's property that accounts for his rates rise of 35%.

Mr H implies that he got instant action after he wrote to the Mayor. Although the Mayor is very good at getting action for people whose issues have "fallen between the cracks", that was not the case on this occasion because Mr H's septic tank was emptied 5 days before he wrote to the Mayor.

- *John Mackenzie*

Dear Editor

I can go further into the dim past for the fire brigade but can't remember the date. I was on the ratepayers committee at the time (maybe secretary?). We divided the district up and mapped all available supplies of water - amazing how many people had rainwater tanks behind their houses, not easily accessible up steep paths and drives. Then I led a delegation of two to Council and we were put into a little box like a jury box at council meeting to put our case and we were given permission for a fire party.

There weren't enough men in the district during the day to man this (mostly the rangers) so Marge College of Quinns Road and I volunteered. We used to practise at Isaachsen's the only place with spare water. After a while the fire party was absorbed into the Titirangi Fire Brigade at a time when they wouldn't insure women so we got thrown out! First big fire was the wooden Dutch Kiwi restaurant, ex Jacobs Boarding House.

Regards, Phyl Vincent

Roadwatch Report

It's good to see the Council have responded quickly to our request for signage, warning of bends on Forest Hill Road. The place of concern is where the major slips occurred near Sumich Winery. Please take care here as there is a very steep drop if you miss the bend.

Hey Kiwis, slow down near pedestrians! Folk on foot walk on the right side of the road facing traffic. I would like to remind all drivers that on un-laned roads (no white lines) you drive at a speed where you can stop in half the distance you can observe.

We have one resident and his dog, who had a scare when a vehicle just missed them due to bad driving and speed.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy FlowerShop,
423 Titirangi Road, Titirangi Phone 817 3780

Unfortunately we have a **brickbat** for the vandals who thoughtlessly caused damage recently to our community hall during a 21st party. The young lady in whose honour everyone had gathered even had her car stolen and dumped.

Committee members responsible for assisting in such situations were quick to respond in assessing the circumstances, and also the ensuing clean up and repair work. Many thanks to The Waiatarua Fire Brigade who arrived on the scene after a smoke machine set off the fire alarms.

Continuing on a positive note, we would like to sincerely thank the girl's parents for taking financial responsibility for rectifying matters.

ARATAKI

Busy park staff have had their ranks strengthened by student rangers, who are assigned to each field unit and perform daily duties alongside the rangers throughout the summer. On November 21st 2005 park staff, in an inter-agency training day with the Department of Conservation, attended a Marine Mammal Rescue course at Kaitarakihi. Feedback from all those involved was extremely positive and can only help to increase the chances of a positive outcome from those who answer such distressing calls.

The nursery has stepped up bagging of native seedlings in readiness for the 2006 revegetation programme.

The stone staircase on Lion Rock at Piha is now completed, offering a safer and more enjoyable ascent of the classic landmark.

The pest control programme at Arataki is planning an expansion of its range. Such programmes are dependent on the much-appreciated contributions of local volunteers. If you hold an interest in becoming involved in this essential and rewarding programme, please contact the Arataki Ranger Station, ph: 817 0099.

The Arataki Visitor Centre is installing two more stylish macrocarpa picnic tables, courtesy of the Friends of Arataki - just the ticket after a hot summer saunter around the Nature Trail...

Ka kite from The Arataki Rangers

Waitakere Sounds

Waitakere City Council is pleased to present 'Waitakere Sounds' - the inaugural free concert series in parks, beaches and reserves around Waitakere City during February and March.

This is an opportunity for friends, families and neighbours to gather together in our local parks and enjoy free music for all. Venues include one of Waitakere's most popular coastal reserves at Huia Beach. Music ranges from jazz and big band to country rock and hip-hop.

For further information call WCC call centre on: 839 0400 or visit www.waitakere.govt.nz

Any cancellations will be announced on 1080AM or 97.4FM.

Oo La La in the Loo

For those who just cannot resist perfumed dunnies and delicate toilet tissue, take note that there are "apparently safe" products available... even for residents of the Waitakeres. Harpic have ticked the box beside 'suitable for toilets with septic tanks', and more recently Cotton Softs have produced an equally harmless lavatory paper.

Yin Yang

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are the cat's pyjamas.



Advertising and Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Korstiaan Prins via Email korprins@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 1850. Community Notices are free to financial members 2005, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the treasurer - Rod Maunder on 814 1831

ATARUA GARDENS BED & BREAKFAST: No room for your out of town visitors. Phone Carol or Denis on 814 - 9706 for quality accommodation at an affordable price.

BABYSITTING: Reliable and mature girls are looking for babysitting work. References are available. Please phone Jessica or Angelique on 814 9577.

DRAMA CLASSES FOR ADULTS: at Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Oratia, with tutor John Goudge. Nine week "Acting for Theatre" course starts in February. Ring John for details: phone: 814 9744.

FREE COMPUTER COURSES: Learn Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, MYOB and more. NZQA approved Quas. Study at home using your computer & internet connection. Phone: Active Computer Learning on 836 7572 or email: active.learning@xtra.co.nz

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

LA LECHE LEAGUE: Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

OTIMAI: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Cherie and Graham to view 814 9992 or 638 9060 for bookings.

PLANTS: - taros, bulbs, cannas and various perennials for sale. \$1 - \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814-9859.

TOASTMASTER: - meetings held on every other Thursday morning from 7.00 till 8.20 AM - more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728

WAITEMATA TECORIAN SPEAKERS: - Gain confidence, communicate more effectively, extend knowledge, stimulate imagination and have fun at the same time. We meet at the Titirangi community centre every second and fourth Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Men and women are welcome. Contact Margaret on 817 0520 or Gill on 838 1983 for further information.

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Craft Group: This is very popular. People come from far and wide. Mondays 10.00am - 12.00noon. - Bible Study and Prayer Group: Tuesdays 1.00pm. - Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

Neighbourhood Support

There have been three incidents during the last month that proves to me a Neighbourhood Support scheme works: - **1.** Suspicious vehicles and occupants near post boxes. **2.** Mail box bashing. **3.** Observed a vehicle and occupants stopped near an abandoned vehicle. The occupants then started smashing the windscreen. I'm happy to say all of these incidents have been reported to the appropriate authorities.

Free Legal Advice

One of 27 government-funded community law centres across the country, The Waitakere Community Law Service, is busily keeping up with about fifty clients per week. The centre relies on final year law students to assist people who perceive the law as being difficult to understand and access. A student will listen to clients, take notes and consult a lawyer to obtain advice on the client's best course of action. The service does not represent clients in court; but will in the tenancy tribunal, benefit review hearings and Child Youth & Family group conferences. A series of legal seminars will also be run this year at Rutherford College. For further information phone: 835 2130 or email info@waitakere.law.org.nz

Missing Mail

Anyone believing they have missed mail over the holiday period should be advised that post was stolen, and some found dumped in Oratia. Two cars were seen acting suspiciously in the area, particularly near letterboxes. Their details were reported to New Zealand Post.



Handyman Services

- Many years experience
- Any work considered
- No Job too small

Contact Les on 814 1130

Thinking of Selling?

General enquiries and after hours appointments are my pleasure.

Michelle Stanborough
Sales & Marketing Consultant

Res: 814 9707
Mob: 021 605 996



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Saturday 9am - 12noon



Phone 818 4104 for an appointment

The WRRRA Committee would like to thank

Longley Printing Co. Ltd.

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for their support in printing this publication.

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For booking enquiries phone
Michelle Stanborough on 814 9707

Neighbourhood Support

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.

Denis Graham Atarua Gardens	814-9706
Ross & Kath Mullins 330 Forest Hill Road	814-9402+Fax
Jenny McGee 886 West Coast Road	814-9954 jenny.mcgee@xtra.co.nz
Margaret/Paddy Marshall 19 Raroa Terrace	814-9859
Sandy McConnell 550 Scenic Drive	814 9962

For more information about
Neighbourhood Support
take a look at the website at www.ns.org.nz

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (does not apply to already discounted or sale items).

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies

293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

The Nikau Club Café

Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper

Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

Elkes Wine and Food Market

113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10.00am-5.00pm)



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SHERYL HAWKES

HENDERSON / WAITARUA

RES: 838 6520

Mob: 021 757427

Email: newfie@xtra.co.nz



JANUARY - FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY, 2006**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waitarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz