

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

September - October 2006



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Some content in the Waiatarua plays may not be suitable for children

ONE ACT PLAY SEASON



For the first time ever, Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust and Waitemata Theatre are working together in offering the community a wonderful opportunity of enjoying two great evenings out at discounted rates.



Waitemata Theatre

are performing two one-act plays, both comedies:
"*None the Wiser*" directed by Carolyn Gibson,
and "*The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley*" directed by Megan Toole.

The dates are October 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th.

Venue: Cellar, Corban Estate Art Centre, Henderson.

Ticket prices are \$17-00 each or go to both Waitemata and Waiatarua Productions for \$30-00.

Bookings are through Barry 827 8561.

Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust

is also presenting two one-act plays, again both comedies.

These plays are "*Last Tango in Waiatarua*" directed by John King,
and "*What's for Pudding*" directed by Christine Healy.

The dates are October 12th, 13th, 14th and 19th, 20th, 21st.

Venue: Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

Ticket prices are \$17-00 each, or both Theatre productions for \$30-00.

For bookings phone Gary on 814 8737 or email mortel@xtral.co.nz Subject TICKETS.

If people want to book both productions please mention this and organise payment at the time.

Come along, support your local theatre.

Have a good laugh as you recognise real life situations we all experience

Help Please? Your help would be greatly appreciated for **front-of-house**, at the up and coming Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust plays in October. Join the merriment of a neat bunch of locals, serving drinks and snacks to paying punters. Dates are October 12th, 13th, 14th and 19th, 20th, 21st. Even if you are available for one night only, we'd love to hear from you! What better way of getting to know people and contributing to your community? Please phone Robin on 814 1850.



The winning team - Book-Book
The Waiatarua Library Volunteers

Over forty people attended a Quiz Night on the 9th of Septemeber, making up six lively teams with various topical names. Thanks to Cathie and Ian for preparing and presenting dozens of challenging questions for punters to ponder over. In the end the Book-Book team of volunteer librarians proved to the masses that being amongst books is an added advantage. We invite them back to defend their "title" on Saturday the 11th of November. If you would like to come along for some fun and laughter, and improve or exercise your general knowledge see the back page of this publication for more details.

EDITOR:

Robin Essex - Ph 814 1850
E-Mail: robsx@free.net.nz

WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

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

Greetings to everyone, as we emerge from winter into spring and summer. I am feeling very uplifted by our community at present, which may be related to a few little 'gems' that have landed in my lap recently. The first was at Table Tennis... and by the way, this new venture in Waiatarua has taken off like a rocket. There is a good turnout every Tuesday evening, with participants of all ages – a real family atmosphere! On the second night, I overheard a young teenager (gun player) having a tiny grizzle about being paired up for a spin with a wee girl half his age and size. His mother quietly stepped in and reminded him of how he had first mastered the skills required, with the support of others. Her words of wisdom sunk in and he took his place at the table like a trooper. During that special game I observed an exchange between two strangers, which quickly developed into what almost looked like a caring brother/sister relationship. There was respect, laughter, praise, appreciation, humanity and integrity. The second gem dropped out of the sky at our recent Quiz Night. Again, this was an amazing gathering. Everyone had a fabulous time, largely due to the expertise of Cathie & Ian. At our table we had a lovely young couple who'd brought along a visiting Mum, all the way from Christchurch. It wasn't until this South Island guest commented on the wonderful atmosphere and great community spirit, that I really appreciated the moment for what it was. So, make sure you don't miss out on tickets to the marvellous plays coming to town next month. I can guarantee you'll be richer for the experience.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

We received a **bouquet** nomination this time from a grateful resident who had accidentally locked herself out of home. Brad Lucas, a local courier delivering to the address at the time, took 20 to 30 minutes out of his work schedule to assist. Thanks Brad for your random act of kindness!

We'd also like to send a **bouquet** to the Longley family, who quietly work behind the scenes in so many ways for the benefit of our community. Thank you.

A **brickbat** should go to the driver of a Fiat Uno travelling down West Coast Road around 35/40 kph. No problem with that really. However as they approached the corner just before the school they sped up and drove through the school zone well over the speed limit. You have to wonder what people are thinking when they are behind the wheel.

Editor Wanted Please

Waiatarua Community News is looking for a new editor, to step on board after the next WRRRA AGM in February 2007. Anyone interested can contact Robin or Korstiaan on Ph: 814 1850. Be prepared for lots of support, heaps of fun and becoming better acquainted with our community as a whole.

Library Report

Here is a selection of recent additions to the library this month:
 "Davy Darling" by Paul Shannon is set in the South Island during the 70's, and looks to be a great read.
 "Wild Mary" is the biography of Mary Wesley – author of Chamomile Lawn & A Sensible Life (among others) - and has been well reviewed.
 "Mustn't Grumble" by Joe Bennett – an account of his return to Britain.
 "Thriller" – an anthology of short story thrillers edited by James Patterson. For all you crime fiction devotees out there.

I have always had a positive outlook on life, one positive thing I did was emigrate to New Zealand over thirty years ago. Seeing people at gatherings like the Quiz night and the weekly table tennis, enjoying themselves, is a great buzz to me. It makes up for the times when I have opened e-mails from people who seem to live for being negative. It seems that they cannot allow anyone with an idea to present it to the people for what it is. They just have to question their motives and shoot down the ideas without offering any alternatives. When I joined the WRRRA I did not join to get involved in the politics. I was interested in (and still am) helping people enjoy the great facilities we have around us. In the last couple of years I have seen, and been involved with, some very successful community events in Waiatarua. However when we organise any political events, we get one or two locals turn up. I now tend to believe that it is the negative attitude of some people around these hills which stops others from getting involved in local politics. So my suggestion to those negative people is: try coming up with some positive ideas and plans, to inspire people with your knowledge rather than criticising everyone else who puts forward ideas to make this a better place for us and our children. Enough about that, lets get back to being positive and you can't get more positive than my older brother. He is planning to run a marathon in his birth place (Rotterdam) on his 65th birthday next year in April. He tells me he has tried every diet known to men and women, but earlier this year he took control of his own body and has since lost over 25Kg. He finished his first half marathon a few weeks ago, within the time limit. As I know he reads this newsletter via our web site every month, I would just like to wish him good luck. And some inspiration for the rest of our readers, get together with friends and family and book some tickets for the next production of the Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust. I have seen rehearsals for both one-act plays and they are good stories and will produce a laugh or two. Great casts have been assembled for both plays so it promises be a good night out. We look forward to seeing you there.

Fire Brigade

Earlier this month Ian Ford and Kevin Healy met with a Council traffic engineer to review a few black spots. He will recommend different signage and possible re-engineering at the corner on West Coast Rd above Cascade Ave. Accident-prone and still unmarked corners on Scenic Drive near Arataki and outside the Fire Station will receive the "chevron" treatment, and misleading alignment of some reflector posts will be rectified. Other problem areas on Piha Rd were also discussed, and we have since passed on and endorsed problems raised on Mountain Rd.

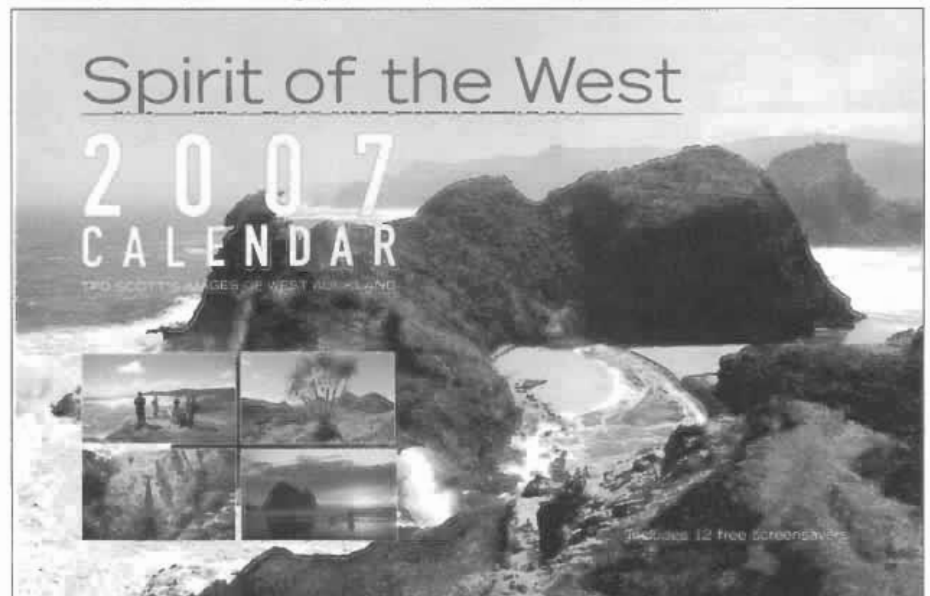
Recent calls

We had 8 weeks between calls, then:

- 11:50 am, Sat 26 Aug – House fire, Piha Rd. A passer-by called this in and by the time the first crew from Piha arrived there was already quite a bit of damage to one side of the house, but quick intervention meant that it is repairable
- 5:43 pm, Sat 2 Sep – False alarm, Rayner Rd, Piha
- 2:35 pm, Sun 3 Sep – Person fallen off cliff, Mercer Bay, Piha. This unfortunate fatality was widely reported in the media. The height of the cliffs here (well in excess of 200 metres) meant that there was nothing that the Fire Brigade could do to assist. A specialist rescue team retrieved the body the next day.
- 5:00 pm, Sun 10 Sep – Fuel spill, Piha Rd.
- 11:17 pm, Fri 15 Sep – Car fire, Piha Rd.
- 12:44 am, Sun 17 Sep – Cars rolled, Scenic Drive. We had two unrelated but virtually identical incidents about 1 km apart on the Scenic Drive at the same time. We had been at the first less than two minutes when we were advised of another just up the road. The second crew in our small truck then went to that. Nobody was badly hurt in either crash.

Contacts

Always phone 111 for fires or any incident you want the Fire Brigade to attend. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).



Local photographer **Ted Scott** has just published his Spirit of the West 2007 Calendar, featuring twelve local views of Waitakere City plus a free down-loading option to use the images as screen savers. Also available to local groups, or charities as a fundraiser. For details phone: 812 8859.

Broadband Rollout One Step Closer for Rural Waitakere

High speed Internet access is one step closer for residents in rural Waitakere after a successful bid for funding by the Waitakere City Council. The council successfully applied to the Broadband Challenge Fund for monies to help bring fast Internet services to presently under-served or remote communities. In July the government's Digital Strategy Steering Group approved a grant of \$174,500 towards the Waitakere City Council's project. Mayor Bob Harvey says the funding is another step towards achieving the vision of a "wired city" that he announced some years ago and an important stepping-stone toward the goal of all Waitakere residents having access to Broadband, regardless of their location.

"This extension into the currently under-served areas won't happen overnight but at long last it will happen," he says.

"The success of this application is just one more example of Waitakere's unique character - we have used local companies and local people to find solutions for our local problems."

The project has been trialed successfully in Laingholm, where fifteen households have signed up to the programme.

Communications and Information Technology and New Lynn MP Minister David Cunliffe say the funding will help improve the availability and quality of Broadband Internet access.

"Improved Broadband access is one of the keys to growing our local economy and participating fully in New Zealand's digital future," Cunliffe says.

The provisional funding was secured through a community partnership project; the council worked closely with the Work Raft Trust and private organisation WiMan.



Waiatarua Table Tennis Club

Come along to the Waiatarua Hall at 911 West Coast Road on Tuesday nights, 7-00pm to 9-00pm and have wholesome fun whilst exercising. The cost is only \$2.00 per person. Coffee, tea and cordial are provided. Three tables are set up for singles or doubles, with plenty of bats & balls. Shuffleboard is available to amuse those waiting for a turn. There is a weekly trophy presentation for the best male and female player. The enthusiasm and friendly attitude of those who attend is heart warming. Improved competence of initial beginners is very encouraging. Anyone out there who may have a spare ping pong table not in use, who'd like to gift or lend it to the club, can contact Les on 814 1130.



Some action shots from the table tennis Molly keeps the score (photo to the left of the text). The Weekly trophies (photo right of text). Other games are always on hand to keep us busy while not playing table tennis

Waiatarua Rainfall (August 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	19	5th (29 mm)	177mm	1370 mm
Brabant Road	21	5th (37 mm)	173mm	1313 mm
Quinns Road	19	1st (37mm)	178mm	1105 mm
Forest Hill Road	-	-	160mm	1230 mm
Auckland City			92mm	760mm

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

We can appreciate the investigation into the school bus accident on West Coast Road. As parents who have children on the bus route, we must raise questions as to the roadworthiness of the vehicle and the competence of the driver concerned. Also, the driver's schedule - to be at certain pickup points for the children - is it achievable? In addition, a concerned resident in Forest Hill Road has contacted us about unsupervised children waiting for the school bus. They have been seen "playing chicken" on the road. It's only a matter of time before something devastating happens - an event that could be prevented!

8000 May be Eligible for Rates Relief

Waitakere City Council has received 930 rate rebate applications but Councillor Derek Battersby urges residents who think they may be eligible to check with the council. The council and Department of Internal Affairs estimate that around 8000 Waitakere residents may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$500 per year on their rates bill.

The income threshold to qualify for a rebate varies depending on individual situations - and further information on whether or not residents qualify can be obtained from the council's 24 hour call centre on 839 0400.

"The council is promoting the rates rebate scheme to ease the rates burden on super annuitants and low income families. The 930 applications we have received so far are only a small portion of those that may be eligible," says Councillor Battersby. "So, I encourage residents to phone our Call Centre if they believe they may be eligible for a rebate," he says.

Forms are also available from all city libraries.

Drive Through Bill Payments

"Would you like fries with that?"

Waitakere residents and home-owners can now pay their rates and other bills without having to leave their vehicles. Waitakere City Council's new drive through customer service facility - the first in the country - is now open to the public. The facility allows people to literally drive up to a cashier's window and pay rates or infringement notices by cash, cheque or eftpos; and then drive off.

This service means that many customers who previously had to park, go into a council building and possibly queue at a counter, can now make their payment and be on their way in a matter of moments.

"It's a great service to our customers and it also reduces the need for a considerable amount of parking," says Councillor Janet Clews, chair of the council's Finance and Operational Performance Committee.

The drive through is located in the western end (nearest Smythe Road) of the administration wing -- the 6-storey building in the Waitakere Central complex. Access to the facility is from Smythe Road, off Henderson Valley Road.

Men with Cats

Support **Auckland Cat Rescue** by ordering your calendar of hot NZ male celebrities and their pussycats! Only \$20-00 for 12 months of viewing pleasure!

Featuring:

Blair Strang (aka Rangi from Shortland Street, Orange Roughies)

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Dominic Harvey (The Edge Morning Madhouse Host)

Frank Bunce (All Black)

Haimona Ngata (Extreme BMX'er)

Iain Stables (ZM Shock-Jock and NZ Idol Judge)

Isaac Bell (aka Eti from Shortland Street)

Joel Defries (C4 Host)

Nathan Rarere (Ice TV, Sportzah)

Paolo Rotondo (aka Andrew Solomon from Shortland Street)

Rodney Hide (ACT Epsom MP)

Sam Wallace (Sticky TV)

All proceeds go to **Auckland Cat Rescue**. For more details go to www.aucklandcatrescue.org

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 2006, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the president Dave Pocock on 814 9697

ADMIN. PERSON NEEDED: - We are after a reliable and mature person to run our office. Hours to suit, around 27.5 hrs per week. Must be able to work school holidays. Situated top of Scenic Drive. Please ring Waveney on 814 1953.

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

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: - Waitarua's annual Community Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday November 19th. This is always a favourite event, so make sure you experience it. There's nothing quite like getting off the treadmill and having a delicious Sunday morning breakfast with your own community. Tickets available from next month. Feel free to call Robin and Kor on 814 1850 for more info.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Phone Mike 814 9708

HOME HELP REQUIRED - Busy family with two small children require help weekday afternoons. Duties, hours and days negotiable. Experience with young children, as well as a driver's license, essential. Contact Grace on 814 8758.

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

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

MATHS TUTOR: - Preparing for tests and exams at all levels up to and including year 13. Phone: 814 9269

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.

QUIZ NIGHT: - back by popular demand: Waitarua Quiz Night at the hall, 911 West Coast Road. Starts 7-30pm Saturday November 11th. Make up a team of 6 to 8, or come along and join a team. The cost is just \$5-00 per person. BYO drinks and own nibbles please. Great prizes to be won, and a fantastic night guaranteed. For further information call Robin or Korstiaan on 814 1850 or Ian on 814 8871.

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Bible Study and Prayer Group: Tuesdays 1.00pm. - Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

THURSDAY CHURCH SERVICE: For the elderly or infirm: 1st Thursday of each month. 10am cup of tea, followed by an informal half-hour church service. Drivers available for those requiring transport. For more information call Frank or Lynda on Ph: 814 9869.

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

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NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION...

ELEVATION NEWS

New Managers - Chad and Ruffy, promote a friendly relaxed ambience
New Menu 16th August - Scott has prepared a new menu. Come and check it out - the first ten bookings mentioning this advert will receive two complimentary glasses of Forrest Estate Sauvignon Blanc!
Kawiti plays great guitar every Saturday night 7 - 10pm. Dine & dance! We roll back the carpet and sprinkle the talcum powder!
Charlotte Johansen - Sundays 2 - 5pm. She really is worth the visit - relax, enjoy a coffee or a wine and listen to Charlotte sing.
Takeaway - Feeling lazy? Ring through your order, we will prepare it to takeaway.
Kids Nite Out - Wednesdays kids eat free from the kids menu.
Coffee Club - We keep the card for you!!!
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We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Wednesday	9.15-10.45am General Waitarua Community Hall	6.00-7.30pm General Oratia School Hall
Thursday	6.00-7.15pm Beginners Oratia School Hall	7.30-8.30pm Restorative Oratia School Hall
Friday	9.15-10.45am General Waitarua Community Hall	
Saturday	10.00-11.30 General Oratia School Hall	

General: must wear shoes. Restorative: please bring your own mat and blanket. Wear comfortable and loose clothing. Do not eat for approx. 1.5 hours before the class.

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for brochure / more info

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OCTOBER - NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER, 2006**

Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waitarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz