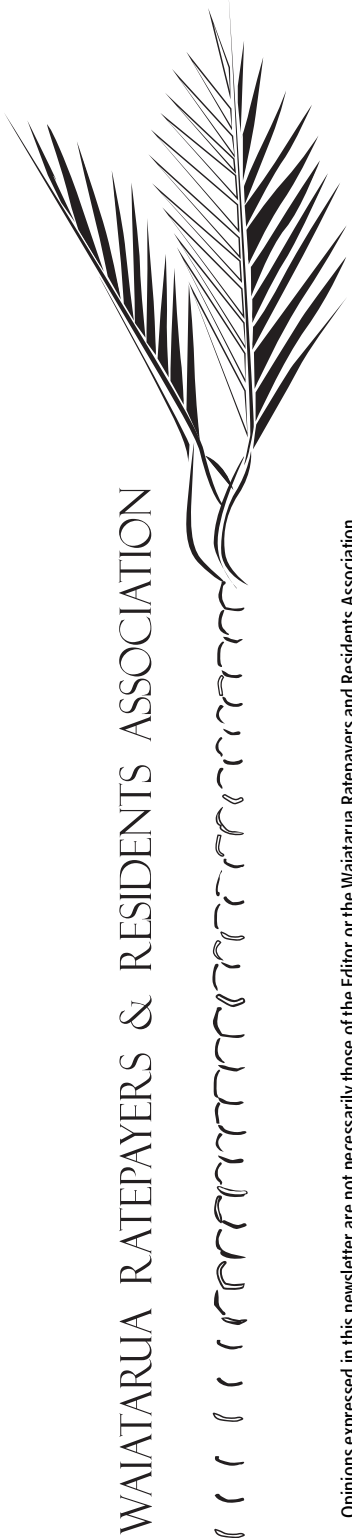


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

March 2008



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



WRRRA AGM:

Wednesday March 26th 2008 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!

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:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor/s
- Committee Member (6)

Contact details: Phone: Email:

Stop Press

Deputy Mayor and Waitakere Ward Councillor Penny Hulse and Waitakere Ward Councillor and Oratia resident Paul Mitchell will be at our A.G.M. on 26th March 2008.

You now have the opportunity to ask that question that has been bugging you for ages. Here is how: send your question by email to davepocock@xtra.co.nz or mail it attention to Dave Pocock, W.R.R.A., 911 West Coast Road. Your question must be relevant to council business, as no personal questions will be allowed.

These must be sent between March 5th and March 19th to be eligible. Please list questions in order of priority, as there may be a restriction on how many per person, depending on the response.
Dave Pocock

Waiatarua Playcentre news

We hope everyone has enjoyed the spectacular summer weather, and is looking forward to another year of fun learning through play. This year is a very special year for Playcentre as an organisation, because it turns sixty years old this year. The whole country will be celebrating by "taking small steps to effect change" which means we will be looking at our impact on the environment.

We are very happy with our own centre surroundings; the new outdoor playground has been well used. The special matting is extra safe for small children to play on and around the swings and other climbing equipment. We now have a ladder and a climbing wall for children to climb up onto the deck. The curved tunnel slide has been a hit, and is large enough for a few adults to test it out.

We have a young group here with many in the small ages and a few babies on the way. About half our families make the drive over the ranges from Piha and Karekare, with the rest coming from nearby Waiatarua, Oratia and further afield. We are open three mornings a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) and all the sessions are vibrant and full of enthusiastic children and parents. If you'd like to drop in for a look and a cuppa, we'd love to see you.

We open again this year on Friday 8 February at 911 West Coast Road - just down below the Waiatarua community library. We extend a warm invitation to all community members.

EDITOR:

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

WRRRA President:

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

Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Les Duffield - Ph 814 1130

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

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

I enclose: \$10.00 per household,

2008

Name:

Address:

Phone No.:

Email:

To Treasurer, Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or **leave at the library**

As a newly appointed Councillor to the Waitakere City Council my first three months have proved to be a valuable period of induction, and a steep learning curve. I have had a lot of contact with the Waitakere City Council over the years through my role on the Oratia Residents' and Ratepayers Committee, and as an advocate for various resident groups. I am sure this has helped me to adapt to my role as a Councillor.

Our new Council consists of a diverse and committed group of people. I am looking forward to working with them to represent our concerns, and am grateful to them for the way I have been made to feel welcome.

As your Waitakere Ward representative, I have been appointed to the following Standing / Sub Committees:

- Infrastructure and Works
- Policy and Strategy
- Finance and Operational Performance
- Planning and Regulatory
- Culture and Community
- Emergency Services
- Waitakere Community Board
- Swimming pool Exemption Sub-Committee
- Project Manukau Community Liaison Group
- Waitakere Action on Climate Change, Energy and Work Programme working group
- Waitakere Quarry Consultative Committee
- Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area working party
- Kay Road Balefill Site Committee
- Long Term Council community Palm & Annual Plan Committee
- Town Centres Sub-Committee

In addition to the day to day practical business of Council Organisation, it has also been inspiring to attend several functions that the WCC have organised in recognition of the wonderful role volunteers play in the Waitakere Community. On the 26th November 2007, an Emergency Services Honour Ceremony was held for Rural Firefighters and Civil Defence Volunteers. What a dedicated and professional group of volunteers – some of those receiving awards have been giving their voluntary services for up to 25 years. A wonderful achievement.

On the 17th December 2007, I attended the Christmas Luncheon for Grandparents raising Grandchildren. This luncheon was in recognition of the incredible role that many grandparents play, in raising their grandchildren. It was heartwarming to hear from some of the grandparents who spoke. It was indeed a privilege to represent Waitakere Ward at this function.

We start the year with some very important meetings on Auckland Governance. The outcome of the Commissioner's Report, will determine the governance of our city and I feel it is very important that this report reflects what is best for Waitakere, which is not necessarily what is best for Central Government.

I am available to assist with any Ratepayer's concerns and issues and will represent and serve Waitakere Ward to the best of my ability. *Cr Paul Mitchell*

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

This month's **brickbat** goes to the two cars with horns blaring which were racing each other down West Coast Road between Raroa Terrace and Rimu Road. The idiot driving down the wrong side of the road was in a green BMW with a yellow surfboard strapped to the roof and his friend was in a dark blue sedan.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi!

Happy New Year to you all! Hope everyone had an enjoyable Xmas and (for those who went camping) that you enjoyed the fabulous weather. We didn't go camping this year which probably explains the brilliant weather.

Once again the newsletter is being produced by Korstiaan with help from proofreader Jenni Hunter as our editor Jenny Bebbington is still in recovery mode and due for more surgery next month. Our thoughts are with her.

Isn't it a pleasure to drive the couple of bends leading up Bendalls Lane since the resurfacing and wouldn't it be great if the same was done further down the road on the other bumpy corners? Still we must be thankful for small mercies, so thanks W.C.C.

You may have noticed the removal of the 40k.p.h. signs at Oratia School prior to Xmas and the formation of a footpath taking place since. I am told the signs will be replaced with more reliable versions once the footpath is complete. In the meantime we should maintain the principle of them.

Our A.G.M is being held in March (see notice), so come along for what is usually a good night. By the way, you can stand for committee if you wish, I promise you we do not pressure people on the night.

As we start another year it is a good time to have a thought for all those local people that give freely of their time to make our lives better and safer, such as:

Volunteer Fire Brigade, newsletter compilers, printers, organisers and deliverers, library helpers and the drama group. Then we have table tennis, quiz nights and neighbourhood support, all possible only because of the volunteers' dedication, so thanks one and all.

2008 is already off with a hiss and a roar, with Yoga at the hall on Monday nights, the A.G.M. in March and I hear that the next offering from the Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust is in early planning, due to hit the stage late April. Table Tennis is due to re-start in early April.

By the way, here is a friendly reminder that your W.R.R.A. membership is now due for renewal. Just send \$10 plus name, 'phone number, address and email details to Jan Haime, Treasurer at 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

Well that's all from me for now, enjoy the rest of summer.

Dave

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

The Auckland Regional Council is now enforcing new legislation concerning outdoor fires. The NZ Fire Service has been working in partnership with the ARC and local territorial authorities to ensure a uniform policy is adopted across the Region. The new guidelines we have seen effectively prohibit open fires (except cooking fires) in urban areas and – apparently – the 'urban' parts of rural areas like Waiatarua. The best advice we can give is that if you want an open fire, you will still need a permit from the Council. Call the WCC helpline on 839 0400 at least 3 working days beforehand to arrange this. They will be able to let you know what is and isn't allowed. If you see any fire which is potentially endangering lives, property or the bush, is a hazard (e.g. smoke reducing visibility to traffic) or a nuisance then you should still phone 111 and ask for the Fire Service.

Recent Calls

5:06pm, Sun 9 Dec – Car crash, Piha Rd. The driver of the only vehicle received minor injuries.

5:40pm, Tue 18 Dec – Car crash, Bethells Rd. Two people received treatment after their car left the road.

3:19pm, Sun 23 Dec – Car crash, Piha Rd. One driver was flown to hospital by the Westpac rescue helicopter after a head-on crash. Her injuries were fairly serious but not life-threatening. The road was closed for nearly two hours.

9:53pm, Sun 23 Dec – Medical call, Piha Rd.

7:09pm, Fri 28 Dec – Car vs pole, Forest Hill Rd. Minor injuries to the occupants.

2:53pm, Sun 30 Dec – Bush dunny on fire, Lone Kauri Rd. Lots of remarks about hot curries...

9:27am, Sat 5 Jan – Scrub fire, Piha. Out when Piha crew arrived.

6:15pm, Thu 17 Jan – Horse stuck in creek, Bethells Rd. Horse and fire crews all extricated safely.

Contacts

Always dial 111 if you have a fire or other emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Letters to the Editor

As a resident of Waiatarua and a financial supporter of the WRRRA newsletter and community, I have expressed my objections via Jan Haine regarding the WRRRA's appalling advertising of the electoral candidates. It appeared the WRRRA was supporting/promoting the same old cronies in that newsletter and now to top it off you congratulate Penny Hulse and mention Carolyn Stone, another two of Bob's cronies. What about congratulating our very own local Oratia resident Paul Mitchell who has been a West Aucklander for more than most of them (like 50 odd years) and with our and lots of others help managed to win one of the two Waitakere Councillor seats? Thank god he did; we may finally get some common sense and accountability back into that wretched Waitakere City Council.

- Robert

From the Community Board Chair

Your chairman, Dave, asked me for an update on my first two months as Community Board Chairman. Well at the moment I am sitting in Capitola, California watching my baby granddaughter sleeping so it is a good time to reflect.

I was pleasantly surprised to top the poll but disappointed that hardworking colleagues were not returned. No reflection on the new members, they are getting stuck in and have the best interests of the Waitakeres at heart and it is good to have Liz Francke on board with her experience in Titirangi, which has now joined our ward.

[The Chairmanship]... came at a very busy time of the school year. On top of that I suddenly had a whole lot of extra meetings. It has been a frantic time only easing up a bit when I got on the plane – I did take my laptop. I was really running to catch up. I had a lot of good help from my predecessor, Christine, experienced Henderson Chairman, Elizabeth Grimmer, and of course Deputy Mayor, Penny Hulse, whose open door policy has really helped me.

My aim as Chairman is to be a team leader. We are lucky to have 14 (possibly more according to rumour) ratepayer groups in our ward. [W]e have divided the ward up with each member being directly responsible for an area as close as possible to their homes. I have asked each member to keep in close contact with their ratepayer groups and to attend as many of their meetings as possible. Waiatarua is one of 'my' groups and although lately I haven't had much success making the meetings, Dave keeps in touch and knows I will do my best to support Waiatarua in what it needs.

I hope that as people see that the ratepayer groups have a major role in informing Community Board actions the groups themselves will be strengthened. Individuals who have an individual problem are, of course still welcome to contact a Board Member. On some major issues more direct consultation may need to be carried out in conjunction with the local ratepayer groups.

My undertaking to the ratepayers of our ward is that if for some reason we need to do something that goes against local opinion we, or at least I, will come to a community meeting to explain why. All in all I am enjoying the challenge of my new position. I hope that the residents of Waitakere Ward will make the most of their Board.

Keep in touch.

Regards, Kubi Witten-Hannah

Waiatarua Rainfall (December 2007)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	17	18th (33 mm)	97mm	1592 mm
Brabant Road	20	18th (32 mm)	114mm	1536 mm
Quinns Road	21	18th (34mm)	103mm	1339 mm
Forest Hill Road	13	18th (31mm)	113mm	1475 mm
Auckland City			62mm	888mm

When Dave Pocock asked me to write about my experience of being Deputy Mayor I wondered if 2 months in the role qualified me to comment in a useful way, but here goes.

The role is made more challenging as the Deputy Mayor is chosen by the councillors. Being nominated by one's peers certainly adds an extra layer of expectation and accountability but I have to say that the last 2 months have been amongst the most rewarding I have experienced.

I have really enjoyed my role as a Councillor and prior to that as a Community Board member and have learnt so much from the community. I am still chairing the Policy and Strategy committee and of course am still a Waitakere ward Councillor, I think the Deputy Mayorality wraps neatly around these roles.

So what am I expected to do?

At one level I work closely with Bob Harvey supporting his role when he is not able to attend engagements. This is a mixed blessing; I have had the chance to do some lovely things like hosting the celebration for couples married for over 50 years but I am keenly aware that people are always a bit disappointed that Bob isn't there. I feel a little like a slightly short stunt double, but I do enjoy that part of the role and Bob certainly is an inspirational and energetic man, and a lot of fun to work with.

Bob has roles that put him out on the wider national stage so I need to focus on things 'back at the ranch'. My role is to keep a close focus on the day to day work of council to make sure that my colleagues are kept in the loop, and that they have opportunities to participate fully, which ensures that we get the best out of all our elected members.

We have a good range of skills around the council table and my role involves being a listening ear for all elected members to ensure they are well supported in their roles. This is an aspect of my job I particularly enjoy.

I have found that my office is a bit like a GPs waiting room; busy and with a huge variety of people waiting to see me for all sorts of reasons. Staff, fellow elected members and community people who have just dropped in to talk over issues of concern keep my day pretty full. I feel very privileged to be in the position to facilitate solutions to the problems raised with me.

We have some big challenges facing us this year and one of the biggest is the Royal Commission review into Auckland governance. Waitakere has a fantastic reputation as a city that is achieving great things and pushing a sustainable approach to running a city. We have achieved international recognition and we are making progress economically, Henderson is now one of the hottest suburbs to invest in according to the Herald. I don't think that amalgamating all the Cities into one super city will benefit us in any way. There are however opportunities for some amalgamation of regional activities that can save money, and make things work more smoothly. We will certainly be promoting these.

I am working very hard with our staff on our presentations to the Commission that will explain our strengths and our unique community and will be coming out to the community to about how you can all be involved in this discussion and submission process. I believe that if we all work together to present a united front to the Commission we can give them an idea of just what a wonderful community we are and share our ideas for strengthening community governance in the region.

So Waiatarua please "come up and see me some time". If you are at Council or in Henderson, I'd love to see you.

Have a great New Year.

Penny Hulse

Advertising and Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Dave Pocock via Email davepocock@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 9697. Community Notices are free to financial members.

BABYSITTER REQUIRED : - on casual basis, Forest Hill Rd area. Please 'phone Jane on 021 542 532 or Mark on 021 747 938.

FREE FREEZER : - Large Bonaire chest freezer (122cm/75cm) - goes well. Collect & takeaway. Call John or Kathy on 814 9744

GARDENER: Trained and experienced. For regular garden maintenance. Phone Hugh 838 3594.

GARDENER WANTED : - Our lawn gets mowed but we need a gardener once a month to maintain easy bark/weedmat landscaped section. Phone 814 1850

HANDYMAN WORK : - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. SPECIAL gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708

LAWN MOWING : - LOCAL, RELIABLE. PHONE ERIC 837 2333.

OTIMAI : - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Lynne & Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

PORCELAIN POTTERY FOR SALE : - My studio shop is open again for a trial period up to Christmas. Vases, bowls and boxes in soft colours with carved and pierced decoration - ideal for special gifts. Also collage cards and mosaic mirrors. Please phone first - Jan 814 9701.

RARE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE : - Mid Forest Hill Road. Couple or 2 singles for fully furnished 2 bedroom apartment (in top half of house). Sunny, quiet, peaceful, idyllic spot overlooking bush to Auckland. All services, phone, fax, wireless internet and Sky TV available. Parking for 2 vehicles. Prefer workers. Smoking ok and possibly pets. Refs required. \$310 per week. 814 9891 or 814 9871

RESPONSIBLE ecologically aware couple require a 2 bdrm home to rent/house - sit in local environs. Call Colin/Helen on 838 1320

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.

WAIEMATA 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.

WEST COAST GALLERY : - presents IN YA FACE - mixed media PORTRAIT exhibition 1 March - 23 March - a celebration of our people through portrait - print sculpture, painting, photography - open to all members and Waitakere residents. enquiries/bookings West Coast Gallery 8128-029 Wed - Sun 10 - 5

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Waikarua Community Hall
Monday night 6.30pm -- 8pm

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Contact Les on 814 1130 or Dave on 814 9697

Advantages of being a WRRR 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

Elevation Licenced Café & Restaurant
12.00pm till late - 471 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper
Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

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APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by **WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH, 2008**
Dave Pocock - Phone 814 9697
davepocock@xtra.co.nz