

## Cycling Adventures in the 1950s

Frank Hogsden

In 1951, as a young twenty-three year old, having graduated and applied for a position in Auckland, I left Christchurch. I found myself in a larger, less flat but lovely city and was determined to explore the Waitakere, which were visible from our business premises and eager to see the beaches and bays of the Waitemata and Hauraki Gulf. Accustomed to going everywhere by bicycle, I bought one; the Waitakere Ranges proved to be quite magical and Sunday cycle rides around the Scenic Drive became the thing to do.

I normally returned to Christchurch for the summer break and, inspired by the feats of Eileen Sheridan who held the Ladies' Cycle Record for the UK Land's End to John O'Groats ride for some years, I thought I should try to cycle to Wellington, not as a record attempt but just to prove that a reasonably fit person, with a bit of determination, can tackle quite demanding tasks without too much distress. I decided to set off after finishing work on my last day prior to the holidays, make Mercer the first overnight stop and divide the next three days into about 110 miles stages to suit hotels at Wairakei, Taihape and Levin, and made bookings accordingly. I also made, optimistically, an arrangement to meet on Wellington Wharf before noon, some friends who were boarding the SS Monowai for Australia.

I had invested in a second hand, but good, class of British lightweight cycle, however its gearing was inadequate for some of the climbs I would encounter. The Desert Road rises to over 3,000 feet with steep descents, and climbs out of mountain river crossings that my Automobile Association strip maps clearly showed. I therefore designed and built, with hand tools, a mechanism that would give a good low gear on a four speed cog cluster fitted to replace the original 3 speed. I eventually completed and fitted this system on the day I was to leave and set forth, untested, for Huntly!

The weather was most un-December like and rain set in when I was barely clear of Newmarket, still becoming accustomed to the feel and balance of the fairly heavy panniers and front and rear bags. By Manurewa it was dark, so on with my lights powered by a lantern battery and progress was steady through the continuing rain. Walking in rain is wetting enough, but on a cycle you receive it head on and everything is saturated. The battery didn't care for the damp either and by Drury the lights had failed and I relied on the white centre line as a guide. In 1954 the traffic density was a fraction of today's and there were few big trucks to contend with. The biggest problem was dazzle from oncoming vehicles. Following cars produced distinct rainbows ahead of me. Such is dark adaptation that even farmhouse lights away off to one side were uncomfortably bright. My sense of smell was heightened also, and was useful in identifying my position by the perfume of willows when near the Waikato River at Mercer and Rangiriri. At Wihonga I was surprised and pleased to find a milk bar open (remember them?) as it was by then 10pm. A milkshake was liquid nectar after thirty long miles I can assure you.

My main memory of the long awaited Hotel was the sound of water sloshing about in my special, English, waterproof cycle shoes – water doesn't easily enter and neither does it easily leave. The English cyclist encounters rainfall akin to Waitakere's and copes with it by using a cycling cape – unknown here. The old Huntly Hotel was a welcome sight and a hot bath was a perfect prelude to a good nights sleep.

*to be continued...*

## Happy Feet in Waiatarua !

Life is imitating art up at Waiatarua Community Hall every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday. Rehearsals are well under way for WPAT latest production "Stepping Out" by Richard Harris.

Stepping Out is a comedy play about a group of diverse people whom take a weekly tap dance class. We follow their trials and tribulations both in life and dance with a lead up to the grand finale dance number.

Director Kathy Lowe has cast both actors & dancers so "it's not so different from the story". Choreographer Elizabeth Dunn is both training and setting all the tap routines & watching as the actors learn their left from their right foot. It will be a colourful show with lots of laughs and poignant moments—one that will leave the audience tapping their feet at the final curtain.

Local Waiataruans Francene McIlroy, Simone Bekshika and Celia Wood-Calvert are among the talented cast.

Season is November 12th-22nd. Bookings phone 815 1850.



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

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### Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

### Hall hire (bookings)

John Goudge - Ph 814 9744

### 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](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our 5 November get together is for a full day out in Helensville visiting three gardens. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 or email [etpowe@clear.net.nz](mailto:etpowe@clear.net.nz) for further details and car pooling. Everyone is welcome.

## Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

What treats at Waiatarua Library this month!

"The Bourne Sanction" - by Eric Van Lustbader. In this latest story Bourne tangles with a nasty, ruthless killer called Arkadin.

"Moscow Rules" - by Daniel Silva. Apparently this is "un-put-downable" and worth staying up in the wee small hours to finish. Gabriel Allon, an Israeli assassin/ art restorer is in action again.

"The Spare Room" - by Helen Garner. A dying friend comes to stay while receiving treatment. Compassionate, funny and sad.

"The Glory Boys" - by Douglas Reeman. A novel about men - deemed expendable - in motor torpedo boats working in the Mediterranean in 1943. A mixture of stealth, subterfuge and daring.

"The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" - by Mary Ann Shaffer. Many of you will be waiting for this one already. A tale of post-war friendship, love and books

"Sea of Poppies" - by Amitar Gosh. The first of a trilogy, this opens in the north of India and the Bay of Bengal at the time of the opium wars

"The Bolter" - by Francis Osbourne. A biography of Indira Sackville. This book portrays the life of an "upper class" English woman from a well known family in the 1920's and then her subsequent years spent living in Kenya

Grab a book and enjoy reading. I was talking to a young man the other day who seemed genuinely surprised that anyone still read books. "But why?" he said. "It is easier to watch a DVD". Some of us enjoy the written word and all it conveys.

## Settler's Film Club

Friday 14th November to celebrate the 'birth' of the Settler's Film Club we will be showing '1 Giant Leap' in the BIG HALL so if you have already booked something for this night then cancel it or move it to another night because this is one of the most uplifting films ever made.

**Admission \$10. For more information and/or to book tickets telephone Robin on 818 2489. We are limited to 70 seats.**

**For film info and writeup check [www.eventfinder.co.nz](http://www.eventfinder.co.nz)**

**Or you can now E-mail your booking to [settlersfilmclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:settlersfilmclub@xtra.co.nz)**

### NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor

by **WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2008 - 5PM**

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697

[davepocock@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davepocock@xtra.co.nz)

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Well, Spring has sprung with the usual four seasons in one day, but at least it is warmer most of the time. Jenny our Editor has successfully had her operation, which was a biggie, and is on the road to recovery so I, for one, look forward to seeing her back in full swing. This month's newsletter copy is being set up by Tony Bacon, who is always there to lend a hand when needed. Thanks Tony!

We have a new article, from committee member Frank Hogsden, so come on, let us see if we can get one a month from readers.

Over the past few months we have advertised for a Treasurer and Proofreader and I am pleased to say the response has been amazing, just proving that the community spirit is alive and well in Waiatarua. We had two initial responses to Treasurer with a couple of later ones and it seems we do have a replacement. Proofreader attracted 4 expressions of interest with the final selection in progress.

We now are hopeful that the community spirit will continue on to next year's AGM when we will need some new committee members as numbers will be getting a bit low for us to operate efficiently. Last AGM we had 4 people stand down with no replacements which left a committee of 7, an acceptable number. Most years some leave and this year is no exception with the possibility of at least two and possibly 3 long serving members not seeking re-election, so we definitely need some new blood and I am asking that you at least give it some thought.

If it appeals feel free to phone me or any other committee member past or present to check us out as generally speaking we are a happy bunch apart from the president/ chairman getting grumpy every now and then.

I must say that we are grateful to Helen Clark (this is not a political message) for setting the election date before we went to press as, with the hall being a polling booth, it was getting difficult to set dates for the likes of season dates for the next play "Happy Feet".

November is shaping up to a busy month with the election on the 8th, Stepping Out 12th-22nd and our Community Breakfast planned for the 30th with a break then, so we can all join the Xmas rush. Did I say Xmas! Already?

We had our second Meet Thy Neighbour in August and once again well attended with a good number of different faces enjoying the social occasion. At this point I would like to extend a big thanks to Oliver Driver for being the inspiration to start these and also acting as host at them.

As the next one was due in November which is very busy we have decided that the Community Breakfast would be a good opportunity to Meet Thy Neighbour, mind you the wine may be missing. Details next month.

John Goudge is doing a great job looking after Hall bookings with a good amount of inquiry being received so if you are planning a social event or family gathering give John a bell on 8149 744 to check it out.

If you haven't checked out our library yet, I suggest you do so, as you may be pleasantly surprised at the large selection available, in a relaxed environment.

Thanks to Kubi Whitten-Hannah for providing the article on LAPs. Kubi is the chairperson of the Waitakere Community Board and a regular attendee at our monthly meetings.

That's me for another month,

Dave

### Waiatarua Rainfall (August 2008)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	26	24th - 52 mm	332 mm	1479 mm
Brabant Road	31	24th - 51 mm	332 mm	1392 mm
Quinns Road	30	25th - 42 mm	273 mm	1152 mm
Forest Hill Road	-	-	324mm	1360mm
Auckland City	-	-	170 mm	849 mm

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## Local Area Plans

Kubi Witten-Hannah

These are a feature of the Heritage Area Act 2008. This act was passed to provide protection for the private and public land that makes up the Waitakere Ranges. The Act recognises the national, regional and local significance of the Ranges and promotes the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations.

Local authorities may prepare and adopt LAPS to help achieve these goals. In providing for LAPs the Act recognises the importance of the different communities that exist within the Heritage Area and provides for their economic and social wellbeing. The LAP process recognises that these communities are not all the same and gives local communities a say in how the Act is applied in their area. The LAP allows the community to articulate their vision of what their community should look like 10, 20, 50 years from now.

A LAP will do two main things. First it will document the things that the community values:

- identify the extent and nature of the heritage features existing in the local area.
- state how it is intended that the objectives in section 8 will be promoted in relation to the local area.
- identify the distinctive natural, cultural, or physical qualities or characteristics of the local area that contribute to the local area's longterm pleasantness or aesthetic coherence and cultural or recreational attributes.
- state policies and objectives in relation to the amenity, character, and environment of the local area.

Secondly it may identify issues that require changes in the district plan. It will be up to the Council to decide to implement any plan changes and then put them in place. Because there may be district plan changes arising out of a LAP it is important that the area of the LAP is clearly defined and it is the responsibility of the council to do that.

The Council must consult with local communities and tangata whenua but it decides the process. I am sure that Waitakere City will have a most robust process of consultation to ensure that a LAP really reflects the values of the community it applies to.

It would be a good idea for the people of Waiatarua to start thinking about what they would like in a LAP. However, the Council has decided that Oratia will be the first cab off the rank in the LAP process. This affects Waiatarua in that it will be important to decide just where the boundary between the two districts lies. Waiatarua will also have the opportunity to learn from Oratia's experience.

## Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Well, nice to see the weather finally warming up and seeing some days without significant rain. Please put the 28th September in your diaries. This is the change of daylight saving. Our clocks go forward but more importantly, change the batteries in your smoke alarms and test them.

We also have a major cultural celebration fast approaching. The Fire Brigade will again host the community for a bonfire on the occasion of Guy Fawkes. This will be held on Saturday 8 November with a rain day back up of the 9th. What to bring: family, fireworks and common sense. We would remind parents that they will remain responsible for their children whilst on the station grounds.

### Recent Calls

- 11:38am Sun 24 Aug - Flooding, Cascade Ave.  
8:21 pm Mon 25 Aug - Car fire, Lone Kauri Rd.  
10:49 pm Mon 25 Aug - Fireplace door exploded, Scenic Drive.  
3:22 pm Sat 30 Aug - Injured cyclist, Scenic Drive.  
11:41 am Sun 31 Aug - Scrub fire, Anawhata. We'd had 47 consecutive days with rain in Waiatarua, but still the coastal grass and scrub was dry enough to burn.  
5:31 pm Tue 2 Sep - Stove-top fire, Lone Kauri Rd. Handled by Karekare crew.  
6:23 pm Tue 2 Sep - Rubbish fire, Karekare Rd.  
8:58 pm Tue 2 Sep - Car fire, Scenic Drive.  
1:33 am Fri 5 Sep - Smell of smoke, West Coast Rd.

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## Advertising & Community Notices

More on the back page

### ROSE SUNDAY

On 9th November at the Oratia Church Family Service - at 9.30 am.

Come and bring a bunch of roses. These will be given to local elderly, the sick, or those who need cheering up.

For further information contact 8149 859.

Upstairs Gallery at Lopdell House presents:

**Terry Prince** – Roads West. 18 September–12 October.

### The Portage Mug Show

Opens Thursday 16 October 6 at 8pm until Sunday 9th November.

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Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School 21st Celebrations - Sat 25th October. Commemorative event held at school 10.30am incl children's activities. Evening celebratory Review & Dance with band Twisty Willow \$21/person. Email [johncole@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:johncole@slingshot.co.nz) for further details and ticket sales.

Watercolour Painting Workshop: Colour stories and transformation with Susie Gay. Sat 4th Oct, 10.30am-3pm. Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School. 5 Helios Pl. \$45 incl all materials. To register ph Isabelle 811-8871

Illness and Biography: International speaker Dr David Ritchie from Christchurch looks at a deeper understanding of illness. He has a long interest in learning behaviour and health as one picture. 8pm, Wednesday 15th October, Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School, 5 Helios Pl. Ph Kathy 817-3172. Koha appreciated

Titirangi Village Market. Over 130 stalls, inside/outside, rain or shine, music and cafe. Titirangi War Memorial Hall 10am-2pm, 26th October (last Sunday of the month) Ph Judith 817-3467

Wheatgrass Workshop. Learn how to grow and juice your own organic wheatgrass with Tanya Bibby. 10am-12pm, Sat 1st November Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School, 5 Helios Pl. To register ph Isabelle 811-8871

## WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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7pm

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Community Notices are free to financial members 2008, January to December.

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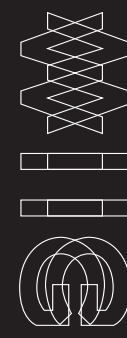
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