



Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

June 2009

The Great Waiaatarua Mid-Winter Debate 2009

Spot Prizes proudly donated by:
Alessandra Zecchini, Annie Prince, Lynda Hogsden and Auckland Waitakere Estate

Saturday 27th June - 7.30pm

**"Come And Get Your Just Desserts" at the
Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road**

**Tickets \$20.00 each - B.Y.O. Drinks
(WRRRA non-Members \$25.00)**

Prepaid tickets only - Purchase before June 20th

**Phone: Jan James on 814 9194 or
email pwmandjjj@clear.net.nz**

Delectable Dessert menu created by

Thoughtful Food

**2007/2008
returning champions: -**

Simon Prast
Producer, Director, Actor

Penny Hulse
Deputy Mayor WCC

John Goudge
Singer/Songwriter, Poet, Actor, Tutor

2009 challengers: -

Paula Bennett
National MP for Waitakere, Minister for
Social Development & Employment,
Disability Issues and Youth Affairs

Karl Nuttall
Emergency Management Officer,
Volunteer Firefighter

Sherilee Swanepoel
Principal: Oratia District School, sports fan

Chaired by Tony Bacon

**Debate Moot:
that 'The Proof is in the Pudding'**

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

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 (bookings)** John Goudge - Ph 814 9744

Library hours: Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm; Friday 7.00am - 8.00pm; Saturday 11.00am - 12.00pm; Sunday 11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site: www.waiaatarua.org.nz

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

We all congratulate Kevin Healy and Gareth Mullins on their recent promotion to the rank of Station Officer. They will join Ian Ford, Helen Longley and Karl Nuttall in the management of the Brigade. Sadly, we farewelled Aaron Offenbaker this month when he and his family have moved down the hill. We still expect to see Aaron at the occasional call though as he has joined the Henderson Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Recent Calls

- 4:28pm, Mon 20 April - Car vs car, Piha Rd. Fortunately only minor injuries to occupants
- 7:13pm, Wed 23 May - Car vs bush, Piha Rd. No sign of occupants.

Getting Out

Remember that if a fire starts at home, you need to get yourself and your family outside to safety - your house can be unsurvivable in as little as three minutes. You should test your smoke alarm every month by pressing the test button. And with the burglary number on the increase you might be tempted to lock the deadbolts on the door overnight. If you do, make sure the key stays in the lock so you can get out in a hurry!

Contact

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For general enquiries please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

As a contrast to our last get together when we heard about the Piha native planting scheme we are next month visiting Coromandel Cacti. They are situated at 170 Mt Wellington Highway, Mt Wellington and we will check out their great range of cacti and succulents, meeting at 1 pm, Wednesday 3 June. A Video/DVD afternoon is planned for Wednesday 1 July and further information is available from Eileen on 8149 298.

Bouquets & Brickbats



Sponsored by the Fairy Flower Shop,
423 Titirangi Rd, Titirangi. Ph 817 3780

This month's bouquet goes to John Goudge and Kathy Lowe for services to Waitarua Performing Arts Society

John and Kathy have been a major driving force in the drama group in numerous roles, President, Actors, Directors, Set Builders and the list goes on.

JULY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by FRIDAY 19th JUNE 2009 - 5PM
Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697
davepocock@xtra.co.nz

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi!

Well May has been and gone as well as half of the year, which also means wet and cold weather of course. We can help alleviate that situation for one night at least on the 27th June, The Waitarua Great Debate (details within) sure to brighten up the most miserable day. We have had fantastic support from local businesses and as well as Annie Prince providing services and goods in Aromatherapy and Reflexology, Alessandra Zecchini gifting a copy of her book *Sweet As*, and Lynda Hogsden's Christmas puddings, we now have Auckland's Waitakere Estate offering a voucher for a night's accommodation. This is the second year the Estate has done this and we appreciate all the support. Last month we had an article on Annie and this month we feature Alessandra Zechini and Aucklands Waitakere Estate.

You will have noticed that our committee list has had a blank space besides the title of Vice-President, well I am pleased to announce that position has been filled by Murray Smith.

Murray is following things very closely on the Super City and also funding for the forthcoming year, and I am sure you will find Murray's article in this newsletter enlightening. It is good to have a right hand man and I look forward to working with Murray. We still would like another committee member or two, so don't be shy, come and join us, give me or any other member a bell.

Still looking for someone to help with the newsletter on the information gathering side and someone to administer the advertising, if you can help please give me a ring 814 9697.

Did you get to see the latest play *Ghost Writer*, if you didn't you missed a treat as not only was it at the usual high standard, we had the added thrill of magic and special effects, such as hands going through people and faces coming through walls. All extremely well done. The Director this time was Marie Goudge, John's mother, what a talented family they are, as John's dad was acting in another play at the same time.

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

New this Month:

- "Handle With Care" – Jodi Picoult. Parents facing making choices.
- "The Best of Time" – Penny Vincenzi. A moment on the motorway changes everything.
- "Gone Tomorrow" – Lee Child. A suicide bombing mystery.
- "Long Lost" – Harlen Coben. A new Myron Bolitar mystery.
- "Assegai" – Wilbur Smith. Plots and love during wartime.
- "The Italian Wedding" – Nicky Pellegrino. Feuding families and Italian food.
- "Ransom" – David Malouf. A modern twist of Homer's Iliad.
- "American Wife" – Curtis Sittenfeld. The other side of politics.
- "Corsair" – Clive Cussler. Pirates, military action, religion and politics.
- "Isle of Tears" – Deborah Challinor. Maori and Pakeha tensions during the Land Wars.

Colder weather – The perfect time to come along to the library and borrow some books to read. See you there.

Waitarua Library Book Review:

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga.

Adiga has written a poignant and fascinating story about Balram who rises above his caste and becomes a driver. Balram's life and the life of many drivers in India is clearly and sensitively described.

A book well worth reading.

Thanks to Jeanette Howie for this review and Victor Maxwell for the concept. If you wish to review one of our books give me a ring.

Jeannette ph 814 1999.

Committee members 2009

President/Community Board: Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz
Vice President: Murray Smith Ph 814 9964 s.smith@sdv.com
Treasurer: John Stagg Ph 814 8870 johnandandrea@woosh.co.nz
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Lynda Hogsden Ph 8149869
Susanne Timms Ph 8149346 shtimms@xtra.co.nz
Paul Osborne Ph 8353940 leonieandpaul@xtra.co.nz
Representative: Ian Ford (fire brigade) 814 8871 ian.ford@xtra.co.nz

Reports from Murray Smith, Vice- President

Auckland Super City

At the May meeting of your Executive Committee, a report was received that outlined the Government's legislative programme in terms of the establishment of the new Super City for Auckland.

During the week commencing 11th May 2009, two bills will be introduced to Parliament. The first bill will establish the Auckland Council as a legal entity as well as establishing a transition board. The board will be tasked with the responsibility of restructuring Auckland's existing eight councils and 6000-plus staff into a single entity. The second bill will deal with representation and go to Parliament's local government select committee for public submissions. A third bill is due to be introduced in September of this year and passed by April 2010. This bill will detail the structure, functions, roles and powers of the Auckland council and local boards. Further reports will be forthcoming once the detail of the proposed legislation is known.

Footpath Renewals

As part of the Council's proposed footpath renewal programme for the financial year commencing 1st July 2009, the following renewals have been programmed for the Waiaatarua area:

Scenic Drive - Various sections between Quinns Rd and Brabant Rd - 21 metres

West Coast Rd - outside 787- 6 metres

Between Kauri Loop Rd and Rimu Rd - 12 metres

Beyond Raroa Terrace - 20 metres

It is interesting to note that Council owns and maintains 892km of footpaths and for the financial year ending 30 June 2010, a sum of 1.5 million dollars will be committed to the renewal, maintenance and establishment of footpaths throughout the city.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Now that we can look forward to Auckland Super City we can now drop all the previous tree hugging nonsense that has been such a part of the Waiaatarua scene for so long and become an important part of the new vision. It doesn't seem that long ago that we had groups at the hall discussing what Waiaatarua should look like in 50 years' time. Well we don't need to stick to that any more. We can go ahead with a much more ambitious plan for Waiaatarua. The potential for tourism both local and overseas visitors is huge.

Here are a few ideas - you may like to add to them:

1. Widen West Coast Road to a four lane highway and include bike lanes and elevated speed walks for pedestrians. Underground all power and phone lines at the same time.
2. Drive a tunnel through the hill just below the Devils Elbow that will meet up with the Piha Road which should also be widened.
3. Widen the Scenic Drive to two lanes each way and clear the bush on either side to open up the views to both harbors as well as providing cycle lanes, jogging and walking tracks.
4. Build a replica Sky Tower on the site of the present Waiaatarua Mast complete with revolving restaurant and bungy jump.
5. Install the Waiaatarua Wheel, similar to the London Eye, at Arataki. A giant Flying Fox to be built going down to the Huia Earth Dam complete with gondola for return trips and for those not so venturesome.
6. Establish a themed Fun Park with associated rides at Jacobsons Depot to link up with an expanded Rainforest Express train ride through the bush.
7. The site of the present Waiaatarua Hall and library to be developed as a major shopping, cinema and entertainment centre. A bowling alley and indoor ski slope to be established. This area should also be developed as a major accommodation centre for the West Coast beaches and Waitakere ranges fun parks.
8. Ark in the Park to be re-developed and expanded with a fully fenced in area and netting overhead to retain the birdlife for visitors enjoyment. Revenue from entrance fees to be used to purchase further exotic birdlife as an added attraction.
9. Erect a sign similar to the Hollywood sign in Los Angeles spelling out WA I A T A R U A !!!!

As well as becoming a major tourist destination for the new Auckland Super City, Waiaatarua will attract more residents to work in the area. This offers many opportunities to present residents to develop their land and provide all types of accommodation from luxury villas to high rise apartments.

Yours with tongue in cheek,

Tony Powell

Winter at Auckland's Waitakere Estate

Winter is a great time to visit Waiaatarua's Boutique hotel, Auckland's Waitakere Estate. One of the major winter events at the hotel is mid-winter Christmas which starts this year on Saturday 13 June and runs through to Sunday 19 July. This is a great time to gather together a few friends and head into the misty mountains for mid-winter Christmas. The log fires will be exuding warmth while you feast on a traditional mid-winter Christmas menu.

Another great idea is to make a night of it and stay in one of our beautifully appointed rooms and enjoy a relaxed breakfast the next morning before venturing back into the winter weather. Our special mid-winter Christmas package includes a three course mid-winter Christmas dinner, accommodation and breakfast, all for \$370.00 per couple per night.

Winter is also a great time to relax and enjoy High tea in our large lounge with the log fires roaring away on Saturdays and Sundays between midday and 4pm.

As a winter bonus, anyone dining in our restaurant or having high tea during June will go into a draw for a High tea Package. This only applies to diners having a main course off the brunch/lunch or dinner menus or High tea.

Alessandra Zecchini

Waiaatarua resident Alessandra Zecchini was born and brought up in northern Italy, and moved to the Waitakere Ranges in 1997. She had spent the previous decade living in London and Tokyo as well as travelling in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Together with her husband Peter Dowling, she runs a publishing house, Oratia Media, with offices in Lopdell House in Titirangi, and in Oratia (just where it becomes Waiaatarua).

Oratia Media publishes a variety of books including New Zealand history, Maoritanga and children's books. A big emphasis is on the West, and many writers and contributors are based in Waitakere City.

Alessandra has two cookbooks, *Sweet As...* and *Savour*, in print with New Holland Publishers, and has copies available for sale. She writes about food and travel for several lifestyle magazines.

Her free time is spent cooking, doing voluntary work, and with family and friends. Currently she is the chair of Slow Food Waitakere and the President of the Dante Alighieri Italian Society of Auckland.

HALL HIRE

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(deposit required) \$150

Contact John Goudge on 814 9744

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Advertising & 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 2008, January to December.

Cell phone safety: Protect yourself and your family from harmful EMF. Attach a Biopro Cell Phone Chip, \$60. Phone Emily 835 3777.

Handyman work: Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Special gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708.

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. Phone Lynne & Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

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

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

Wanted to rent: Family returning to live in Waiatarua/Oratia/Scenic area (in July) looking for a 2-3 brm house to rent (prefer Oratia school zone). Excellent references available, reliable tenants with relatives in Forest Hill Rd. Please email faithtucker@hotmail.com.



ark in the park

The Waitakere Branch of Forest & Bird invite you to a...

Concert for the Birds

Help return threatened native bird species to the Waitakere Ranges!

Special Guest Artists Include:

- Helen Medlyn (mezzo soprano) with accompanist Lee Martelli
- The Three Mezzos with accompanist Warwick Gibbs
- Jubate (Irish, American and Gypsy fiddle music)
- Yuko Takahashi (mezzo soprano) with accompanist Setsuko Strang

Show West Singers (musical director Judy King)
Together with supporting artists

Friday 12 June 2009, 7.30pm

Venue: Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre
15 Glendale Road, Glen Eden
Ph 09 818 5751

Bookings: Email: events@iconevents.co.nz
Phone 09 845 5540

Tickets: \$25 adult / \$20 unwaged / \$10 child

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Wednesday - Friday 12 noon till after dinner
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