

Waiatarua Community News

November 2009

900 copies



The Arataki Rangers Roundup

Spring seemed to have crept up and then retreated rather quickly this last month. Heavy rains have seen many staff and track crews attending to the repair of track surfaces and

drains. Tree falls too have been cleared as a priority. Our thanks to those that have informed us of these issues in areas of the Park that we may not have got to yet! The popu-

lar Zig Zag Track at Titirangi Beach has a track crew extending culverts and repairing steps. This will be welcome news to all those that use this track in accessing Titirangi Beach through spectacular bush.

What a busy time on the coast! Earlier in the month a bottle nose dolphin beached itself at Mill Bay but despite the best efforts of locals, Department of Conservation Staff and Rangers, it could not be saved. This was upsetting for everyone involved but the cooperation and goodwill experienced on that rainy night was much appreciated. A boat ran aground at Whatipu but was successfully re-floated several days later. This again involved a large and coordinated response in order to prevent any environmental impact to the area. And to close our coastal files, a green turtle that appeared on Whatipu Beach is now convalescing at Kelly Tarlton's. Thanks again to all the reports we received from observant park users.

Unfortunately, this last month has also seen an increase in rubbish dumping off Scenic Drive, in particular the area between the Arataki Visitor Centre and Mt Pukematakeao. The timing seems to coincide with the warmer weather as much of the refuse consists of garden and renovation materials. Please, if anyone witnesses or has information regarding these dumpers, contact the Arataki Visitor Centre on 09 817 0089. Help us protect our beautiful Park.

And in winding up, the Arataki Nursery has been very busy supplying Park wide planting days with a variety of natives. Attention is now focussed on propagation for planting over next winter. Talking of native plants – how good were the Kowhai blossoms this year!?

That's all for this time around.

Ka kite ano

The Arataki Rangers



Waiatarua Performing Arts

in association with the Play Bureau NZ Ltd.

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4 - 14 November 2009

8.00pm, matinee 6.30pm Sunday. No Performances Monday or Tuesday

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RICOH

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

EDITOR: All enquiries to Robyn O'Sullivan - Ph 814 1143, E-Mail: munster@ihug.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 7.00pm - 8.00pm; Saturday 11.00am - 12.00pm; Sunday 11.00am - 12.00pm

WEB Site: www.waiatarua.org.nz

Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

Fantastic new books at the library this month:

From your favourite authors:

Diane Gabaldon – “An Echo In The Bone”. This next in the Outlander series sees Jamie and Claire continue their journey through time.

Tracy Chevalier – “Remarkable Creatures”. Women amateur scientists and fossil hunters find amazing fossils in the 19th Century.

Edward Rutherfurd – “New York”. Rich/poor, black/white, immigrants/natives all feature in this history of New York and it's families.

Phillipa Gregory – “The White Queen”. This new series is set in the times of the War of Roses and the fight for the throne.

Ian Rankin – “The Complaints”. Rankin's new detective is a cop investigating cops.

Dan Brown – “The Lost Symbol”. The brotherhood of the Freemasons gets the Brown treatment.

Dawn French – “Dear Fatty”. The great comedienne shares her life with the reader.

Also we have a great lot of new books by local authors that are well worth reading.

Maurice Gee – “Access Road”.

Keith Woodley – “Godwits”.

Michelle Powles – “Weathered Bones”.

Kate de Goldi – “The 10pm Question”.

Michael Hill – “Toughen Up”.

Lynn Loates – “Butterscotch”.

Joanna Orwin – “Collision”.

Environmental Report

Susanne Timms

It's good to see the weed bin at the Waitarua Fire Station is being so well used. Over the last few months, it has been emptied every 2 to 3 weeks. Please remember it is for environmental weeds only - no bamboo or inorganic materials. If you are unsure what is permitted, please read the sign next to the bin. If you pack your weeds into plastic bags, please empty the weeds into the bin and take the plastic bags back for re-use.

For those of you who want to remove your weeds but don't have the time or they are growing in places difficult to access, I can highly recommend a contractor called Ryan, phone 0274844152. My neighbours and I have used him on several occasions and we have found him to be a very fast and efficient worker.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

by FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2009 - 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

munster@ihug.co.nz

Please note there will be no newsletter in January, first 2010 issue out around Anniversary Weekend.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Well just when things are going along nicely a bomb shell arrives right on one's lap.

I received a phone call from Murray Smith informing me of his resignation from the committee; no, we hadn't had an argument but a nice home unit became available in Hillsborough and of course the Smiths have grabbed it. I will miss Murray from the committee and although he had only been with us a short time he had become very involved and was marvellous at keeping us up to speed on The Super City and Funding applications as well as supporting me on various occasions, but I am sure you will join me in wishing Murray and Bev a very happy future in Hillsborough.

This of course once again leaves us down one committee member /Vice-President so give it some thought and if there is a glimmer of interest how about coming along to our November meeting, phone me on 814 9697 for details. There are only three more committee meetings before the A.G.M so this provides a great opportunity to get a taste of the way we operate without full commitment until February.

In September we had a Meet Thy Neighbour followed by an update on the Waitarua LAP presented by Mark Tollemache, which was very laid back and casual but very interesting. The disappointing part of it was the small number of you that attended either event with only fifteen present and that included six committee members so from that we can only assume that you are all happy with what is happening and with what we decide to do. Susanne Timms once again provided some beautiful background music on her harp which always provides a nice relaxing Sunday atmosphere.

On the fifth of October Frank Hogsden, Paul Mortensen (Jan James' partner) and myself attended a combined Ratepayers associations meeting at our hall on the Local Government Commission Auckland Governance Review to which we have made a submission based on the following concerns from that meeting

I. Local Boards

- One Board to include the whole of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA), which must not be split up.
- Effective & consistent management of the Heritage Area will be compromised if it is split.
- This Board could also include other areas not currently within the WRHA, but which share its community of interest, e.g.. Muriwai, Waitakere Village etc.
- What is it that your community identifies itself with (bush, beach, wilderness, small community, rural etc)?

There were other concerns raised but a lot of the concern is really about not yet knowing quite what is going to happen with a lot of speculation so we will follow progress with great interest.

Frank Hogsden kindly agreed to draft the submission for us and I am grateful to Frank for this.

We have also made a submission to the Waitakere City Council regarding their proposed new community leases policy, pointing out some of the anomalies in this document especially for halls like ours which is predominately a community facility and would not be feasible with the proposed increased lease fees. Fortunately we have applied for the five year right of renewal as per our current lease so things should stay as they are.

John Stagg handled the submission for this so as you can see we all pitch in.

Another highly successful Quiz night was held on the 10th October with 55 keen people ready to test their brain power, thanks once again to Ian Ford and Cathie Wells for the fantastic job of collating all the questions and acting as quiz masters.

If you haven't been to one yet, do yourself a favour and look out for the next one.

By the time you read this, the latest play from our drama club will be about to open at the hall and once again will provide you with an enjoyable night out with a laugh or two guaranteed.

So all in all it has been an interesting few weeks which brings Xmas closer and closer.

Thanks

Dave

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From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

What a good night the Quiz Night turned out to be. The hall was filled with highly intelligent people who know an awful lot about nothing in particular. My group (aptly named Wipeout) came first at the wrong end. We can but improve next year. Two-thirds of my groups were under thirty and their heads not yet filled with enough trivia to excel. I will plan my strategy carefully next time... cull the youth and trawl geriatric homes for suitably knowledgeable prospects.

And on the subject of suitable prospects, it would be great to have more members on our noble committee. Dave has already mentioned the loss of our vice-president so that position is immediately available or you could join the rest of us. We meet monthly to solve the problems of the Waiatarua world and possibly create a few more. So, it's all good fun with a nice bunch of people. Give it some thought and come join us!

Fire Brigade

Louisa Ferguson

After 15 years in the hot seat, our Chief Fire Officer Ian Ford has decided it is time to step aside and allow someone else to take charge of the Brigade. We are not losing him altogether though as he will be continuing on as a volunteer fire fighter. Other members now have the chance to apply for the Chief's job, and the Fire Service will interview the applicants and make an appointment in the next few weeks.

Last month most members of the brigade participated in a chainsaw training day. A big thanks you to InForrest Training for taking the course. Also a big thank you to Karekare Chief, Rural Fire Officer Kevin Ferguson for letting us come to his property and chop down his trees

Guy Fawkes:

The Fire Brigade will again host the community for a bonfire .

This will be held on Friday 6th November from 6.30pm with a rain day back up of the 7th. 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, the bonfire will be lit as it gets dark, probably some time after 8pm. If you'd like to BYO fireworks we will have an area set aside where you can let them off. Please only light fireworks in this area.

Phone station on the night if doubtful on 814 9213

Fireworks Fire Safety

If you are not planning to attend the Community Bonfire or public Displays then please remember:

Only one person should be in charge of fireworks. If that's you, then make sure you take all the necessary precautions.

Read the instructions in daylight and don't drink any alcohol until they've all been discharged.

Make your preparations in advance, and in daylight. On the night, you will need...

- A torch.
- A bucket or two of water.
- Eye protection and gloves.
- A bucket of soft earth to put fireworks in.
- Suitable supports and launchers if you're setting off Catherine wheels or rockets.

Protect your animals.

You should take precautions to protect your pets during, before and after Guy Fawkes, make sure they are safely inside and safe when fireworks are being let off.

Recent calls

8:57pm, Mon 14 Sep – Van rolled, Piha Rd. Handled by Piha Brigade.

9:48pm, Tue 22 Sep – Car crash, Piha Rd. No injuries.

2:11pm, Sun 11 Oct – Person injured by army tank, Bethells Beach. This call originally came to us as "army tank rolled", certainly the first one of these that we've been called to. Apparently a crowd at Bethells has a privately-owned ex-army tank that they use on private property. One of the hatches was knocked off by the turning turret and inflicted some nasty injuries to the person that it landed on.

Contacts

Phone 111 for any fire or emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855), Kevin Healy (814 9505), Gareth Mullins (814 9402) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Neighbourhood Support

Les Duffield

May I first start by thanking Dave Pocock and the WRRRA for their continued support towards NSW.

All quiet here in Waiatarua, hopefully due to some smart work by neighbours, which led to the arrest of at least two individuals who were acting suspiciously.

We now have 42 Street Contacts in the area, so there is no excuse for not belonging to our organisation. If you are not registered, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the nearest Street Contact. We operate mainly by email, passing on police reports, individual reports from residents and criminal trends and current activities. Although Waiatarua has minimal activity compared to our urban neighbours, it is good to see so many individuals contributing information.

We still need NEW MEMBERS to justify our funding arrangements and we are also looking to the communities for Committee Members, if you feel you have something to offer which would be useful to our Committee, then again please ring me.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the Street Contacts to say a big thank you.

Les Duffield - 814 1130 or 021 720 100.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our November 4 garden visit is a full day in the Waiuku area of South Auckland where we will visit the Four Winds and Windy Heights gardens plus Leafy Hollow which is the Rosemary and Lavender Specialist. On December 2, we will visit the Burnlea Garden in Kumeu which was recently featured in the Weekend Gardener and the following Wednesday will be our Christmas lunch. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 or email etpowe@clear.net.nz for further details.

Obituary

A long-time resident of Waiatarua, Phyl Vincent, died on Friday 25th September. Phyl was well into her nineties, and will be remembered by many as a mainstay of many Waiatarua activities – drama, craft, and general community affairs. What she lacked in stature she made up for with general feistiness and personality. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our sympathies go to the Whyte family at this time.

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Half day & evening function
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Contact John Goudge on 814 9744

Facing Your Future

How many of us have a crystal ball and can actually use it to predict the future? How many of us believe 'that won't happen to me'? How many of us would want to see our families suffering due to our failure to plan?

If I asked you if you have your major assets insured you would almost certainly say "yes, my house, my car, my boat, and my belongings". What about you? You are your biggest asset due to your ability to earn money and provide a life for your family.

Major illness or injury can strike anyone at any time and the statistics are frightening. There is no crystal ball to see what is around the corner. If you became severely impaired and were unable to work, what would you do? How would your family survive without your income?

If you want to discuss facing your future with peace of mind, my services are free.

Maxine Arden, Independent Insurance Advisor, SureCover 021 1365 691 or 09 814 1868; maxine@surecover.co.nz

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Contact Robyn O'Sullivan, munster@ihug.co.nz, ph 814 1143.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2009, 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 Out West. Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation and decoration eg gutter cleaning, water blasting, deck building, tree felling, painting etc. Reliable and no GST charge. 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 Lisa and Aaron 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 Thursday of each month.

Wanted: A volunteer to take a few photographs for Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust, to promote their next production. Perhaps there is a budding photographer or student who would like this opportunity. Please phone Robin Essex on 814 1850.

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Oratia Christmas Picnic

FREE Community Event

FREE Sausage Sizzle

Local band & entertainment

Bring a picnic tea, rug, and relax to an Oratia version of Christmas in the Park

Sunday December 6th

(Rain date Sat 12th)

6:30pm Oratia Church grounds

Please bring an unwrapped gift for charity

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