

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

September 2010



From Your Board Chairman

It's September so one more month to elections and another until local government in Auckland is turned inside out. If we make the right choices in

October it may turn out well. However, there is so much we just don't know, particularly about the roles and responsibilities of the local boards. I must admit to a few twinges of sadness that I won't be playing a part in shaping the changes. I believe and hope that the job of the local boards will be bigger than that of a community board and with my other commitments I just can't put in any more time now. That means my time as board Chairman comes to an end on October 31st.

I have enjoyed the time I have spent on the Waitakere Community Board. The highlights have been the people I have met, friendships made and the belief that sometimes I might have made a difference for the better. I think the Waitakere Board area is a pretty amazing one. The stunning vistas of sea and surf and the beautiful bush-clad hills are what drew me to Karekare nearly 40 years ago but the real highlights are the people this environment attracts.

It really stands out in the 14 to 16 ratepayer organisations (the number that are active varies) in our ward. Each one has a different character but they all have in common people dedicated to the bet-

Storyfest 2010....

...is a FREE fun-filled, festive, full-on day of storytelling, performances, workshops and displays at **Kelston Community Centre** on **Saturday September 25 from 10am – 4pm**.

This year's theme is: **Storyfest – all things WEST**. It's a great chance to celebrate the West, its people, places, history, natural environment and culture. Performances, workshops and activities will be based around this theme and many local groups and professional entertainers will engage children in the wonderful world of learning through story and performance. Come along to be entertained, take part in a workshop or activity, view the many displays from local groups and join in with some of the performances. FREE for children of all ages. Enquiries phone 839 0400.

Special Notice For Old Codgers With Good Memories:

If there is someone out there who has lived in Waiatarua for many a long year and wishes to try their hand at writing the odd historical article for the newsletter, then by all means contact the editor. We can ably assist with old newsletters to prompt your memories if needed.

Are there any interesting stories out there? Who has them? Who knows the gossip?

Come on....it's your duty to share!

terment of their communities and the preservation of the environment they live in. Best of all was the way these organisations banded together to make the Heritage Area Act a reality and now are doing their best to make sure it works. Those ratepayer groups also produce an impressive list of local newsletters – as well as your wonderful Waiatarua News, there is the Window on Swanson, The Valley View, The Piha News, the Karekare Billboard, The Oratia Apple, The Titirangi Tatler, and the Huia and Laingholm Roundabout. That's not bad!

The Resident and Ratepayer organisations have played a key part in enabling the Community Board to function. The board area covers around two thirds of Waitakere City. I drove my fellow Board members on a tour of the ward and although we spent most of the day on tour we still didn't reach all parts of the ward. We get out there as often as we can and attend Resident and Ratepayer Committee meetings but we rely on those groups to be our link to their communities.

Here in Waiatarua you are very well served by your ratepayers group. They keep the hall in tip top shape, produce a newsletter and run community events. There always seems to be something going on in Waiatarua. I have attended information evenings, community breakfasts and plays. The highlight for me was getting asked to take part in one of the famous Waiatarua debates. For a few years I have sat in committee meetings thinking, "Pick me, pick me!" Last year I finally couldn't stand it and actually offered to fill an empty spot on a team. I got told, "No thanks. We don't want too many politicians." Well that put me in my place and I thought that was it. Funnily enough when I did get asked this year I got really nervous because although I've debated before I've never had people pay to see a debate I was in. Once I met up with Molly and Lindsay I felt a lot better. On the night I felt better once I saw the food and knew that even if we were boring people had got their money's worth. Well, much to our surprise, we won and we get to come back again next year. So although I am saying goodbye to local politics at least for the meantime I won't be saying goodbye to Waiatarua just yet.

- Kubi Witten-Hannah

Titirangi Community House

An Open Day is being held at the Titirangi Community House – Sunday September 26th

Running from 10 am to 2pm this Community event will focus on "What's Going On" in the Community House.

We'll have Tea and Coffee for adult visitors and a Free Balloon for the children

Titirangi Community House provides room hire and classes with something of interest for everyone.

Come and pay a visit and find out what we can offer you!

For any information please see www.titirangihouse.co.nz or email admin@titirangihouse.co.nz

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

From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

Well, I had hoped to bring you the Great Election Special this month but alas it's turned into something somewhat smaller than I'd been expecting. However, a big thank you goes to the four candidates who got their copy in on time.

One thing I can be fairly certain of this month, is that weather will perk up and get warmer. And so in honour of the season I will introduce a little culture and leave you with my favourite spring poem:

Spring has sprung,
the grass is riz,
I wonder where the boidies iz,
the boids are on the wing,
but that's absoid,
I thought the wing was on the boid!
(ANON New York)

Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

A snapshot of some of the new books at the library this month.

"At Home" - Bill Bryson. Bill explores the history of his 150-year-old ex-rectory home. Room by room, the history of toilets, food, clothes etc. is explored. Bryson at his best.

"The Lonely Polygamist" - Brady Udall. Golden's life is spiralling out of control. No wonder - he has 4 wives, 28 children and a lover. This well-written novel is funny, sad and empathetic and has had top reviews.

"Think Of A Number" - John Verdon. This is a suspense story that gets darker and scarier as it progresses. A killer sends his victims increasingly menacing letters telling them he knows what they are thinking. Full of twists and turns.

"Baking Cakes In Kigali" - Gail Parkin. Set in present day Rwanda, the past is ever present in the lives of the people. The baker has had her share of trauma but shares wisdom as she counsels neighbours and acquaintances towards a positive future, in spite of their history. Full of hope, renewal and delight. Read it.

"Killing My Own Snakes" - Ann Leslie. A Fleet St correspondent, Ann writes of an exciting life reporting wars, civil disorder, the fall of the Berlin Wall and so much more. An account of an extraordinary career.

"A Simple Time" - Peter Fitzsimons. Peter writes of a childhood spent on the rural outskirts of Sydney in the '60s. Children running free, exploring, having fun.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2010 - 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

Fire Brigade

Louisa Ferguson

Another quiet month for the Fire Brigade, but we have been keeping busy with practices and training exercises.

This month our Fire Chief Helen Longley and DCFO Karl Nuttall attended the Annual CFO/DCFO Seminar held at the Duxton Hotel.

We congratulate DCFO Karl Nuttall on his recent nuptials. On Saturday 7th of August 2010 Karl married his long time partner Sue Higgins at the Waitarua community centre. It was a lovely ceremony. Congratulations Karl and Sue!

Fire Safety - Portable Gas Heaters

Portable gas heaters such as LPG cabinet heaters and other unflued space heaters need special care.

- **Test your connections (cabinet heaters):** After securely connecting a new or refilled cylinder, apply soapy water to the cylinder connections and turn on the cylinder. If bubbles appear you have a leak. Close the valve and either call an LPG service agent or take the heater to the agent.
- **Safe Space:** Always keep your heater at least 1 metre away from anything that could catch on fire. Put a safety guard around your heater if you have young children in your home or there is a lot of foot traffic.
- **Fresh Air:** Keep a window open when you use your unflued heater, to help remove heater emissions (combustion products) and to keep the air fresh and reduce condensation. Never use unflued heaters in bedrooms and bathrooms.
- **Burner:** If you see soot building up on the burner it is a sign there is something wrong and you should not use the heater. Call an appliance service agent or gasfitter to have the appliance checked
- **Use your nose:** If you smell fumes TURN OFF your heater and cylinder IMMEDIATELY. Call an appliance service agent or gasfitter, or take the heater to the agent to have the appliance checked.
- **Get a check up:** Get your heater checked and serviced before winter every year by a service agent so you know it is in a safe condition for winter.

Outdoor gas appliances should never be used indoors. This includes patio heaters, barbecues and camping cookers.

Fire Calls: Only two calls since the last newsletter:

17 July, 23:20 - Assist Ambulance, Bush Road.

27 July, 03:58 - Rubbish Fire, Scenic Drive.

Contacts: Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency.

Otherwise please call Helen Longley (814 9855), Karl Nuttall (814 8777), Ian Ford (814 8871), Kevin Healy (814 9505), Gareth Mullins (814 9402).

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi, I hope you have enjoyed hearing from some of our other committee members over the past three months, I know I have. You will hear from the remaining members over the coming months but I wanted to write for this issue being the last before the elections. Of course as we all know Waitakere City Council will cease to exist and the Auckland Supercity will be in place.

In saying goodbye to Waitakere City I wanted to extend thanks to the Waitakere Community Board members past and present for their support of Waitarua and in particular Christine Shepherd, Penny Hulse and Sharon Davies who provided help and advice to a bunch of greenhorns some six years ago, not to mention attending most of our activities, judging cake competitions and participating in debates.

This tradition has continued with Kubi Witten-Hannah and Paul Mitchell joining Penny from the current Board in supporting us with Kubi being the leader of the current debating champions, he still is in shock at having beaten Paula Bennett's team in this year's debate. I am hopeful that the same kind of support and dedication will continue under the new structure and it is up to us to help that happen by voting for the right people in the Waitakere area.

I have found over the years that council staff has always been helpful and we have been lucky to have the likes of Jack Burton, among others, to attend to our requests and queries. I know that if I made a request for a footpath to be cleared or repaired, or any other maintenance, to Jack it would happen.

We have just successfully negotiated our lease renewal on the hall for another five years and although this has meant an increase in outgoings for us in the way of increased rental and increased public liability, we feel the benefits to the community outweighed those increases. Margaret Groot, Tenancy Manager of Community Leases has been our contact for the negotiations over the past twelve months and we thank her for her patience and assistance.

Talking of the hall, it has been rewarding to see a number of local family affairs such as weddings and birthday parties ranging from 5 to rather forget, in ages and of course table tennis is still getting great support every Wednesday night, 7 pm start.

Waitarua Drama club has just started rehearsing for their next production due to start early October.

Well that's me for another month or two, Dave.

Auckland Council Local Body Elections 2010

Voting is one of the most direct ways you can influence who will represent you and look after your community's interests.

Local government elections, which are held every three years, are all by postal vote.

You should by now have received in your mailbox a publication entitled 'Auckland:Your Council.Your Vote'. This is a 16-page guide to the new Auckland Council and how to vote in the upcoming elections. Copies will also be available in libraries and other council buildings.

Published by the Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) and including some content from the Electoral Officer, the publication explains how the new Auckland Council will work and how Aucklanders can have a say in who governs Auckland and their community.

In mid-September, please look out for your voting pack. This will contain your voting document and information about the candidates standing in your area, as well as an orange envelope to send your vote back in.

Voting papers must be returned by midday Saturday 9 October. You can check if you are enrolled to vote at www.elections.org.nz.

The below candidates have provided profiles for your information, and are not necessarily endorsed by the WRRRA.

JUDY LAWLEY, J.P., M.Sc(Oxon)
Waitakere Ranges Local Board,
Waitakere Licensing Trust
Waitemata Health Board



As a full-time city councillor for the last 9 years I have gained a reputation for courage and integrity and for reasoned independent decision-making. I don't do deals, I listen to the people and advocate for the real needs of the community. I

have lived, worked, raised my family and been active in many local organizations for over 30 years. I have governance training, and have studied abroad on international scholarships. I chair the council's Culture and Community committee, I am a certified chair for consent Hearings, and my previous career was in business, education and health.

- Experience - Training - Reputation

JANET CLEWS

Candidate for Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

Vastly experienced, Janet has been a Councillor since Waitakere was formed and was previously Mayor of Glen Eden. While against the extent of the changes, it is critical that the structure works for the people who must pay for it all. The Local Board needs people who understand what has been planned and the background to it. It must keep pressure on the Auckland Council to implement what is in the Long Term Council Community Plan. As Chairman of that committee, Janet has put in place the final messages on behalf of Waitakere. Please allow her to finish the job.

PAUL MITCHELL
Waitakere Ranges Local Board
Waitakere Licensing Trust

- Honest & Energetic
- Conscientious & Dedicated
- Independent & Focussed on Results
- Experienced with Balanced Views
- Common Sense & No Nonsense



I have sincerely enjoyed being your Ward Councillor and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past 3 years. Under the new Auckland City Structure I am seeking nomination to continue to represent and advocate on your behalf. I believe I am the right person to manage these challenges that will ensure a united committed local board that will work for you. Councillor Paul Mitchell.

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PIM VAN DER VOORT
Independent Ratepayers & Residents

I am standing for the Waitakere Ranges Local Board. My affiliation with Waitatarua and Ranges goes back many years. From time to time I stayed at a bach near the TV mast. In the earlier days as president of the Titirangi Ratepayers & Residents Association, I was in contact with other associations. At present a New Lynn Community Board Deputy Chairman involved with various community groups. Under the new structure the local identity must not be lost. My experience and dedication is important to the new Board of which I wish to represent you. I ask for your vote. - *Authorised by Pim van der Voort*

PENNY HULSE
Independent Candidate for the Auckland Council

Penny Hulse has been a Waitakere City Councillor since 1995 and Deputy Mayor for the past three years. She has a proven track record of building strong relationships with community and is totally committed to retaining the unique identity of Waitakere within the wider Auckland region. The new Auckland Council will need to make some hard decisions in order to balance the needs of future generations with the needs of today. Economic decisions must be made with an understanding of the environmental and social impacts. Penny has the skills, experience and commitment to ensure that this happens.

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.

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.

Household Items For Sale: Folding table tennis set, size 7 ladies intermediate ski boots and poles, car bike rack, new shower 3 door slider, a moped and a holiday timeshare. Ring Nadine Fletcher on 0272 942 344.

Otimai: Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Phone Bruce 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 to Rent: Professional couple looking for 2-3 bedroom home in Waitatarua. Close proximity to the fire station is desired. Can provide references. Lock up garage also preferred. Please contact Kerry 027 272 9312.

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