



## Less Litter Looks Lovelier

Mostly, I think our neighbourhood is reasonably clean and tidy. Not too many rotting cars (apart from the occasional burnt-out wreck along the Scenic Drive) or piles of dumped garbage. However I was surprised the other day when I was walking up to the Hall (trying to convince myself the exercise was good for me) to notice how much small-scale litter there was along the road – bottles, burger boxes, scrap paper and the like. With the big event just around the corner that we are not allowed to name in case we get sued but will bring untold number of tourists, the WRRRA is promoting a “roadside cleanup” weekend for the 3rd and 4th of September. The idea is that we should all get out over that weekend and just pick up all the litter we can find along our own road front-

ages, and maybe the other side of the road as well if it fronts unoccupied land. No huge effort – 30 minutes should cover it for everybody.

There are of course some bits of roadside that don't obviously belong to anybody (the corner of West Coast and Forest Hill Roads springs to mind), and we would like some volunteers to do the same thing for those areas as well. So if you feel able to go that extra mile – or at least a couple of hundred metres - phone Suzanne Timms on 814 9346, email [shtimms@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shtimms@xtra.co.nz) or Tony Bacon on 814 9860, email [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz), and we will find a suitable spot for you, or you can suggest one yourself.

It just so happens that this weekend coincides with the start of Operation Spring Clean, so it seems like a good time to make our community even more beautiful than it is at present!

## It's Snow Joke

Yes folks, unless you've been in Outer Mongolia in the past few days, you'll have seen a strange sight for these parts. When I was a kid back in the UK, I was told that when it was raining, it was God watering his garden. I can't remember the reason for snow and the only thing that springs to mind is he's getting rid of his dandruff.

Well Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August will go down in the annals of Waiaataruan history (well until the next time) because it was on that day that it snowed enough for my neighbour, who should know better at his age, to make a snow ball and throw it at his better half.



Personally I missed this great event being stuck in my office in East Tamaki, where all we had was a biting wind and hail. By the time we got home there was nothing to show for the day's goings on. That said, that evening we were graced with something best described as snail, either soft hail or hard snow, not enough for a snow ball but snow (of sorts) all the same. When I got up at 4am the following morning I looked out hoping to see a vast expanse of white, but alas no, there was a slushy white mess which by 5am had frozen solid. I pity the poor sods following

me along the North Western motorway with chunks of ice coming off the roof.

But judging by the reports flying round the local Hotmail, snow to various degrees was falling all over the hills around us. A rare event in these parts and as New Zealand basks in the most snow it's had in 50 years, I must remind you that it's apparently called “Global Warming” [sic].

As I write this to try and get it to the editor before the cut off this Friday, I am sitting in an air-conditioned office at a pleasant 20 degrees, the editor however, is languishing in the frozen north, namely Scotland, where apparently (in the Summertime) it reached the heady heights of the mid teens yesterday. A fact that she'll probably deny but we shall blame this on the whiskey!

(For more snow pics, please go to the website: [www.waiaatarua.org](http://www.waiaatarua.org))

- Paul Osborne

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

**EDITOR:** All enquiries to Robyn O'Sullivan - Ph 814 1143, E-Mail: [munster@ihug.co.nz](mailto:munster@ihug.co.nz) • **WRRRA President:** Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697, E-Mail: [davepocock@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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.waiaatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiaatarua.org.nz)

## Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

New books to borrow:

“Iron House” – John Hart. Two young brothers spend some time in a tough orphanage – Iron House. One runs away after a murder and ends up in the Mafia. The other is adopted and lives a life of privilege. Twenty years later and things are changing. This is a highly rated book.

“Wolfram” – Milton Giles. Wolfram’s family were not in favour of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich, but their young son was conscripted and endured the horrors of war. This is his story.

“Fair Game” – Stephen Leather. Spider Shepherd goes undercover for the M15 in an attempt to rescue hostages from Somalian pirates. This turns out to be more than a simple hostage situation.

“The Trouble With Fire” – Fiona Kidman. Fire and flames in a metaphorical sense loosely link these 11 stories from one of our NZ’s best authors.

“River Of Smoke”- Amitar Ghosh. In this Ghosh continues his saga of the opium trade. Sea of Poppies was about the growing and processing of opium. Now he writes about the trade. Chinese authorities enter a stand-off with the traders who benefit financially.

“A Deniable Death” – Gerald Seymour. The M16 send a covert team of three into Iraq to hunt for a bomb maker.

## Garden Group Eileen Powell

Something different for September 7 as we will visit the Pah Homestead on Hillsborough Rd for lunch and a look round at the exhibits. We will then go to Rogers in Mangere as this is a good planting time and Rogers will have some good bargains to fill those empty patches in the garden. Our October visit is to Westridge in Titirangi. Please ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information.

## Thank You, Waiaatarua

Thanks largely to Dave and the support of the WRRRA, I am delighted to report that Waiaatarua now has its very own Marriage Celebrant!! I have to apply to renew the registration every year, in December, and each request for renewal is treated as a new application! Seems a funny way of doing business! I already have two couples who are getting married in January, and want me as their celebrant, but at this stage, I can’t say whether I’ll still be on the register then! I imagine it depends on how many marriages I conduct between now and December! So a big THANK you for your support, and for your efforts on my behalf!

- Norma

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Well it has been an interesting month in as much that our newsletter a couple of months ago carried a piece regarding noxious weeds in our area and a call for those interested in attending an information session at the hall. Well I received two replies. One from a weed exterminator and one from a resident concerned on the general weed build up roadside, obviously not enough interest to warrant a public meeting.

On the other hand we received an article regarding Broadband in the area and have since had enough correspondence to completely fill this newsletter, to the point where Robyn cried “enough already”.

Does this mean that being able to get enough speed on our computer is more important than noxious weeds taking over our native plants, or does it mean broadband users are more vocal? I believe it is the latter and in view of that Susanne is working with Sandra Coney to keep us all informed.

I am pretty ignorant on both subjects - just being happy if my computer connects to the internet and as far as plants go, if you can’t eat it don’t grow it. Just as well I have a wife for the gardening.

We have three events for which congratulations are in order:

Robyn O’Sullivan has become a Grandma for the second time.

Norma has successfully been accepted as a Marriage Celebrant, which means we have the facilities in Waiaatarua for the complete wedding, right through to the honeymoon.

Leonie and Paul Osborne are to be parents with Paul tendering his apologies for our next A.G.M. as that is when the little one is due.

Of course the advent of snow in Waiaatarua created some interest but for me not a sign of it, not even ice on the windscreen so obviously Shirley and I have our own micro climate, but of course the Hotmails and Photos did substantiate the claims.

That’s about all for now, hopefully next time I write it will be somewhat warmer,

- Dave

## Cyclist Training: 101

Please remember with the Round Taupo Cycle Race just a couple of months away, cycling traffic in the area is going to increase dramatically.

Perhaps we should devise a system to warn one another when approaching these cyclists eg. if you have passed a group within the last 200 metres flash your lights once.

We sometimes get sick of hearing how we have to make all these allowances for cyclists and they seem to break every road rule going, but the paperwork involved if you hit one is not worth it, so this may be a good idea.

If you are a law abiding cyclist that doesn’t ride 2 or 3 abreast, doesn’t travel through red traffic lights, doesn’t ride footpaths at speed, we apologise for these comments.

## Cyclist training: 102

I followed a cyclist who refused to keep to the left all the way from Waiaatarua to Arataki where I could finally pass - I was so cross I stopped in front of him after I passed him. I forced him to stop and suggested he should pay attention to the traffic behind him. He was not pleased but then neither was I. A trip that should at most take 20 minutes took nearly 30 and made me late - I will continue to take this action (only when it is safe) for as long as it takes to train them to take care on the Scenic Drive

More on the same theme - I realise that the call of nature cannot be ignored but taking a pee at the end of Brabant Road without trying to move into the bush to a more appropriate place is unacceptable - I asked him if he would like me to come and pee on his front lawn! AND.....

While out walking I have found other less mentionable body waste at the side of the road - if a cyclist has time to stop then he can take his effluent with him - here are some links to sites that are helpful:

<http://www.edengreennz.com>

<http://www.eco-grow.co.nz/bioproducts.php>

<http://www.naturallyorganic.co.nz>

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor  
by FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2011 - 5PM  
Robyn O’Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
[munster@ihug.co.nz](mailto:munster@ihug.co.nz)

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## From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Scottish strawberries are to die for! Plump and juicy and just the right amount of sweetness, much like the ones I remember in my youth. And blueberries are huge and tasty and cheap and this morning I feasted on fat blackberries almost the size of golfballs... yep, unfortunately greatness of size applies only to the berries and I am to be found wandering the aisles of Tesco's and Asda, magnifying glass (not a whiskey glass, Paul) in hand, trying to find fruit of decent proportions!

But at least I don't have to suffer through The Big Freeze! Reports from home have the weather being a tad chilly! The summers may not be brilliant where I am but today I am sitting in 21 degree warmth and enjoying every minute.

The Kingdom of Fife, wherein Princess Robyn currently resides, would beat Auckland hands-down when it comes to recycling, even with the smallest of things eg earning points for using your own bags in a supermarket. Every household here has three or four good sized bins in their front yard for various items and then there are recycling points outside your local supermarkets, libraries and community centres where you can drive up and deposit your items. They even separate the glass bottles into their different colours. I have been having a smashing time and am very impressed with their system. Oh that it would catch on here!

I thank the many people who are still sending me varying ideas and opinions on the broadband issue (too many to print all) so I have given the last word to a resident geek who has written a very informative article that those of you with broadband issues will much appreciate. Thank you, Tony.

Please see our website ([www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)) for this article as there was not sufficient space to publish it in this issue.

## Fire Brigade Report

Louis Ferguson

This month we farewell QFF Shane Moore and RFF Elaine Alexander. After nearly three years' service with us, Shane and Elaine are moving their skills to Te Atatu; we wish them well.

The cold wet weather has prompted us to get on top of our theory work for training, so we have had a few indoor Monday nights. The year is moving on quickly, but we are keeping busy. Last Month our CFO Helen Longley and DCFO Karl Nuttall attended the annual Chief and Deputy Chief Officers Conference.

### Daylight Saving Begins

Please put September 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 in your diaries as this is the change to Daylight Saving. Our clocks go forward one hour, but more importantly it's time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and test them. Also it's a good idea to clean your smoke alarm as well. To do this, remove the end from your vacuum cleaner and slowly move the pipe around the unit as this will help remove dust and other particles from the filter.

### Need A Smoke Alarm!!!

Standard Smoke Alarms are available Free from the brigade; Please Contact DCFO Karl Nuttall Details Below

### Fire Safety

Every winter we remind people on the correct disposal of ashes from your fireplace! After writing last month's newsletter, eight West Auckland fire appliances including Waiatarua Fire Brigade and support staff attended a house fire at Karekare, which following a specialist fire investigation the same morning the fire was believed to have started from the incorrect disposal of ashes some three days earlier!

Please remember always place ashes in a metal container and well clear of your home.

### CALLS

20/7/11, 04:05 - House Fire, Lone Kauri Rd, Karekare

25/7/11, 23:19 - Car Accident, Piha Rd, Piha

6/8/11, 11:14 - Car vs. Cyclist, Scenic Dr, Waiatarua

13/8/11, 18:03 - Rubbish Fire, Glenesk Rd, Piha

14/8/11, 21:19 - Car Accident, Scenic Dr, Waiatarua

### Waiatarua Fire Brigade Contacts

Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency.

Otherwise please call Chief Fire Officer Helen Longley (814 9855), Deputy Chief Fire Officer Karl Nuttall (814 8777), Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505), Station Officer Gareth Mullins (814 9282)

## Advertising & Community Notices

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

Community Notices are free to financial members 2009, January to December.

**Babysitter** Jade Casey Waby, 15 yrs, reliable and has experience with babies and little kids. Price negotiable. Ring 814 9386 or text 021 153 8582 if you want a babysitter.

**Community Pet Service - Oratia Church.** Bring your pets and celebrate the animal kingdom. All pets and owners are welcome to attend on Sunday 11th Sept 9.30am - 622-624 West Coast Rd Oratia.

**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.

**Iyoga formerly Yoga Aravinda** at Waiatarua hall: For Iyengar Yoga call Vanessa Greenwood on 816 9522 or 027 541 4810 or visit [www.iyoga.co.nz](http://www.iyoga.co.nz) for timetable information.

**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.

**Social card player** wanted to make up four-some to play Canasta/Samba for occasional Saturday nights. Please ph Lynn on 8149468 or 0274918294 or email [lbainbridge@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lbainbridge@xtra.co.nz)

**Thanks** to the support of a wonderful community, WAIATARUA now has its very own Marriage Celebrant. NORMA is available to take bookings for weddings and other ceremonies. Phone 814 1868.

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

**Waiatarua Playcentre:** 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Phone 09 814 8835. Sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

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**Contact John Goudge on 814 9744**

Contributions  
(articles or photographs)  
and suggestions for  
the newsletter are welcome;  
however publication will depend  
on available space


Contact Robyn O'Sullivan  
Phone 814 1143  
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or in the body of the email,  
but send as a separate attachment,  
preferably JPG, at high resolution*

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