



## A Tale of Waiatarua

It's a beautiful fine sunny summer morning in January so I think I'll go for a walk in wonderful Waiatarua. I've got a

couple of hours to kill so I'm going to take my time and take in the sights this wonderful part of the world has to offer.

Just as I'm about to walk out the door I realise my car needs some petrol so I think to myself, "I may as well drive the car to the petrol station up by the Piha Road intersection, fill up with gas, park the car at the convenience store and start my walk from there, after all it'll be an easy start to my walk, what with it being all down hill."

I think aloud, "you know it's such a warm hot summer day that I may as well take my swimming shorts and stop in at one of the two public swimming pools in the area while I'm out and about."

So I get in my car and drive to the filling station and fill 'er up. While I'm paying for the petrol I see some teenagers who have stopped off on their way to the surf, buying ice creams and my mouth starts to water. "Think I'll have one of those" I say to myself. I decide on vanilla 'cause there's so much of a selection of flavours that I can't make up my mind as to what else to choose.

I finish my ice cream and park my car, say hello to two kids who are waiting in the bus shelter at the corner of Scenic Drive and Piha Road and ask them where they're off to and they tell me they're going to Piha.

As I set off down the hill I wonder whether I should pop down to the swimming pool right by the shop or whether I should sneak into the pool at the bottom of Cascade Avenue for a quick dip.

"Damn it" I think to myself, I should've brought my tennis racquet with me just in case I see someone who'd be up for a game or two, that is assuming the court isn't busy today. After all it's only a five minute walk from the court to the Paramount swimming pool near Bush Road.

I carry on down to the end of Cascade Ave and sure enough the tennis court's full, "wouldn't matter anyway, I forgot my racquet didn't I" I think aloud, so on I walk for five minutes, boy does that cool water in that pool ever look inviting.

I slip my shorts off from over my swimming trunks and dive in. After a few minutes in the water I shake myself dry and stand in the sun for another five to dry a bit more, slip my shorts on and off I head to Bush Road. Another five minute's walk sees me back on West Coast Road, ready for the hard slog up to Devil's Elbow.

It's such a lovely day with the birds singing in the trees that it isn't very long before I've reached the sharp corner just above Cascade Ave.

Ruby Booth, sitting in the sun on her front deck smiles and says good morning. She's one of the kitchen hands at both of Waiatarua's restaurants. She works at one of them in the morning and the other at night.

By the time I reach the Forest Hill Road, West Coast intersection I'm feeling a little knackered so I pop into the local coffee shop right on the corner and order a pot of tea.

Just as I'm leaving, three tour buses pull up and a whole load of tourists get out, all are marvelling at the fantastic view. By the time they've finished their lunch there'll be another load of tourists arriving, by then it'll be time for the restaurant to set up for the dinner guests.

By the time I've made it back to where my car's parked I'm ready for a swim at the Scenic Drive swimming pool, so I take a quick dip before heading off home having had a wonderful morning out in fabulous Waiatarua.

I can already hear the cries of "poppycock" "bull" "##" "What mind-altering substance is this guy on" etc. "I know" someone says, "it's a look into the future, like sometime in 2045."

Would anyone care to take a guess what year I'm talking about, 2020, 2050 maybe? I'll give you a clue, it's not 2012. We didn't have any sunny summer days in January 2012!

The answer will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter.

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It has been suggested to me that with Spring just around the corner, we have a street frontage competition to show Waiatarua in best and most beautiful light. I'm aware that not everybody has a street frontage, but a lot of people do, and we're not necessarily talking exotic. Some people do amazing things with native plants, and if we truly value them (the plants, I mean) as much as we say we do, we have to agree that they're inherently beautiful in shape, texture, size, colour and variety.

The WRRRA think it's a good idea, and members were almost unanimous in saying, "You organise it Norma!" Okay! I will! I'll even take my begging bowl to Mitre Ten Mega and ask for sponsorship, since the person who approached me about it also suggested MTM vouchers as prizes! But really, it needs to be a team effort, if only so that I can still fit my hat, and I thought there might be a number of environmentally conscious folk in this magical place in which we're so fortunate to live, who might be willing to help me sort out the details.

It occurs to me that there may be some people who (1) would love to be involved, but don't have a street frontage, and others who (2) have a street frontage and like the idea, but don't have the time or energy to be involved. So perhaps it would be possible to satisfy both groups! Wonderful opportunity for some community cooperation! If you're in group (1), and are interested in teaming up with someone in group (2), or vice versa, send me your details and I'll be the match-maker! A mail-box competition was also suggested, if anyone is keen on that idea too.

This could be a fun community project in the spirit of "Just because we can!" I'll be happy to rope in any and all volunteers, if they call me on 814 1868!

Norma

*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

## Local News In Brief:

Local student Caitlin Brogan has had her garment 'My Maria' selected as a finalist in the American Express Open Section of the Brancott Estate World of Wearable Art (WOW) Awards Show. We wish her every success for the awards night which is on Friday Sep 28<sup>th</sup>.

Oratia Church Fellowship: 13<sup>th</sup> September at 1pm. Margaret and Paddy Marshall will be speaking on an overseas trip.

Games Evenings - Last Friday monthly - Rummikub, Scrabble, Chess. Supper provided. Gold coin donation. Oratia Church Hall, Parker Rd.

## From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Fortunately, the days are becoming longer and soon we won't need headlights to drive home after 7.30pm but at the moment, we still do! So I would like to request that drivers, who don't know the etiquette on dipping their lights, please get out the manuals and learn. I am constantly followed home by people with their lights on full, lighting up my wee car like the Starship Enterprise (indeed sometimes I quickly look across to make sure Spock is not sitting beside me) and ... approaching intersections... it is customary *not* to sear holes in your fellow Waiataruans' retinas! End of rant!

I do try to accommodate my readers' requests for certain articles etc but sometimes it just doesn't work out. Not everybody wants their 15 mins of fame so you ever expect to see your suggestions in the newsletter and you're disappointed, know that I tried!

Enjoy this month. Spring is just around the corner.

## Garden Group

Eileen Powell

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Redgrove recently at the grand age of almost 98. Mary and her late husband Hugh lived at Stanstead on West Coast Rd and opened their beautiful garden to the public every year. Hugh was a great plantsman and is remembered by a Vireya named after him, one of which is planted outside the Oratia Church. There is also a plaque to his memory in the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

This month we are visiting an Orchid Grower in Whenuapai as this is the best time to see these wonderful blooms. The date is September 5 and further information is available from Eileen on 814 9298.

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor  
by FRIDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2012 - 5PM  
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
munster@ihug.co.nz

## New Books at Waiatarua Library

Jeannette Ziesler

The Taliban decides to run a cricket tournament and will allow the winning team to travel to Pakistan to become a representative team. Cricket is not played in Afghanistan but this may allow the winners to escape to freedom. Rukhsana learnt to play in Delhi. She disguises herself as a male and coaches a team as well as plotting the escape of "The Taliban Cricket Club".

From the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the male employees of the East India Company lived and worked in India with very little chance of returning to England and so finding a bride was difficult. The company paid the passages of young unmarried women and maintained them in India for 12 months while matches were made. Rapid romances and marriages followed, but any woman unmarried after 12 months had to return to England. The story of these women and their life in India is told in "The Fishing Fleet".

In 1954 two teenage girls in NZ were convicted of the murder of the mother of one of them. After their release from prison, both left the country to start a new life in Britain. One became a very successful crime writer and her previous identity remained secret for a very long time. It is often mused as to what degree her past influences her writing. We are given some insight into this in "The Search for Anne Perry".

The prequel to the Godfather tells the story of the young Sonny and Tom Hagen in New York during the years of depression, prohibition and crime. This story of the rise of the violent and tough is told in "The Family Corleone".

A man, run out of a Scottish village by the local gangs, returns home to attend a funeral. Gilmour has to confront his own guilt and face up to past relationships. The gangs may not be the only bad thing in "Stonemouth".

When a family loses everything in England they move heaven and earth to start afresh in NZ. However, some issues travel with them. What really caused the five-year-old to fall from an upstairs verandah? In the circumstances the mother has to decide between loyalty to, and protecting her family. Her choices are limited in "Second Chances".

## Letter to the Editor

Our names are Michael and Sharnie Hill, we live in Forest Hill Road (near Old Forest Hill Rd junction) in tranquility and peace with our nearly 5 year old for the past 15 months. All that was shattered last Friday when we arrived home to find our house had been broken into and ransacked.

I gave birth to our second child after a complicated pregnancy on the 13th of July, was discharged from hospital on the 17th of July our family were looking forward to starting a new routine and getting into the swing of being a family of 4 up in wonderful Waiatarua. I am not sure what time our house was broken into, but I can say that the vermin who invaded our house were in there for a considerable amount of time. I am hoping that someone in the community may have seen something or noticed something unusual on this day. They got in by jimmying a sash window on our verandah, and exited by kicking out the back door - leaving it as good as useless. Quite a significant amount of property was taken - including a rather large 40 inch flat screen TV, the thieves would have required a vehicle to transport it.

The bizarre thing with this burglary is that the thieves left a motor mower on our property. We do not have any grass to mow, and I know for a fact that this mower comes from the vacant property next door, I have seen it up there, it is a wreck, I think it has been stripped of all valuable metal. I am hoping someone may have seen these idiots pushing a motor mower down the driveway - certainly something a little bit out of the ordinary.

Is there anybody who may have any information about this burglary and for everyone else - just be aware/vigilant. I am hoping someone out there may have seen something/anything no matter how trivial, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

We are devastated at the fact that our home has been invaded and our privacy security violated. The possessions can be replaced over time, our security and peace of mind not quite so quickly.

Thanks and regards,

Sharnie Hill

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## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Well here we are again, another month has gone and although slightly warmer I think considerably wetter with my ride-on sitting in the garage unused since I spent \$2,500 having it repaired, still I suppose it will last longer.

It has been somewhat disturbing over the last month to hear of the number of homes being broken into and robberies taking place, we really do need to keep ears and eyes open for suspicious activity.

On that note there is a group of islanders in a white van under the direction of Junior, canvassing for tree trimming etc. They are rather unorthodox but I have been assured by a number of people that they are genuine, just doing things island style.

I would strongly recommend that if you do not belong to either WRRR or Neighbourhood Support that you do join at least one as the information on these undesirable characters is relayed by email as it happens.

For Neighbourhood Support, which I believe is free to join, contact Les Duffield [les.duffield@xtra.co.nz](mailto:les.duffield@xtra.co.nz) or phone 814 1130.

To join WRRR, which has a fee of \$10 per household, per calendar year contact me on [davepocock@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davepocock@xtra.co.nz)

Our last Quiz night was once again a roaring success, so much so that we are planning another one in November, just waiting on date confirmation, with the 10<sup>th</sup> looking highly likely.

That is quite scary that we are talking about November which means another year is rushing past, still enjoy the ride while we can,

Thanks

Dave

## Fire Brigade Report

RFF Louisa Mullins

This month has again been quiet with fire calls, but as a brigade we have been busy. Our Chief Helen Longley and Deputy Chief Gareth Mullins attended the Annual Chief & Deputy Chief Seminar at Region Head Quarters in the city for the weekend.

**Fire Safety:** In an area like Waiatarua it is very important that emergency services can find your house quickly. Make sure your house number is correct; Make sure your house number is clearly displayed; Clear branches and foliage away from number/letterbox; If possible get someone to stand at the gate to direct emergency services, especially if you live down a long driveway.

### Fire Calls:

18/07/2012, 18:48: Chimney Fire, Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. While this was a small fire that was easily dealt with it had the potential to be something much larger and with a lot more consequences.

12/08/2012, 21:00: Medical Assist, West Coast Rd, Waiatarua. The brigade was called out to assist ambulance officers with a medical call.

**Need A Smoke Alarm!!!** Standard Smoke Alarms are available Free from the brigade; If you would like some smoke alarms or advice on where to put them or help installing them, Please contact Louisa Mullins on 814 9282.

**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 Gareth Mullins, Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505).

## Pilates Classes in West Auckland

**Mondays:** Beginners classes: 4:30 & 5:30pm – New Lynn

**Tuesdays:** Intermediate classes: 9am - Titirangi & 10:30am – Oratia

**Wednesdays:** Pregnancy Pilates Class: 5:30pm – Titirangi

**Thursdays:** Core and Stretch class: 10:30am – Oratia

**Fridays:** Core and stretch class: 1pm – Glen Eden

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Additional classes are also available in Ranui, Henderson and Blockhouse Bay.

For more information and for full timetable details view [www.westphysiopilates.co.nz](http://www.westphysiopilates.co.nz)

## 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 current financial members.

**Babysitter** Jade Casey Waby, 16 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.

**Broadband in Waiatarua** - To be kept informed about developments (or lack of them), send your name, phone number and email address to Tony Bacon at [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz)

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**Lawn mowing** and section clean ups. Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 8149493 mob 02102475610

**Musical instruments for sale: Baldwin piano** + stool, approx 20 years old but in excellent condition, beautiful tone and holds tuning well, has anti-humidity heater; \$1,800. 3/4 size Acoustic guitar: Sonic Jag 7300-BB-S (blue with steel strings); as new and comes with nylon carry case: \$110. Ph Molly 814 9034 or email [mollymat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mollymat@xtra.co.nz)

**NORMA** is available to take bookings for weddings and other ceremonies. Phone 814 1868.

**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:** Bromeliads \$5 - \$6; Taros, cannas and various shrubs \$4 - \$5. All sales to Nepalese Educ Trust. 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.

**Tiler / Stone layer,** 20 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021610408.

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

**Work Wanted:** Drainage - 40 years experience, call Ray on 814 9242.

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