

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

April 2014



Musings from the Mountains

The Library Report.

Jeanette Ziesler.

We have many new books at the library. Here's a small selection.

"Stoner". A beautifully written novel sharing with the reader the life of an academic.

"An Astronaut's Guide To Life On Earth". This astronaut sang Space Oddity from the Space Station and now he has written a great book about space, life etc.

"The Old Woman Who Broke All The Rules". Great title! What more needs to be said?

"12 Years A Slave" & **"Philomena"**. Read the books that inspired the movies.

"A Mile Down". Dreams turn to nightmares in this memoir of rebuilding a sailing boat. Thrills, travels and adventures.

"Among Secret Beauties". Vivid and remarkable. A man's life story of climbing in NZ and the Himalayas.

"Jam Sandwiches". Incredibly profound. This story is told through the eyes of a child living with Downs Syndrome.

Good reading.

Well that's it - the end of an era - I have just returned from the W.R.R.A. AGM where our valiant President, Dave Pocock, has stepped down after 10 years in the job. I'd like to say that it was my stepping down as a committee member of 5 years that was the end of the "said" era but no, I can't take the glory there. We must also welcome Peter into the position of President.

I have enjoyed my time on the committee but the birth of son number 2 means that I must take a step back from things like this and concentrate on family life. Familiar readers will recollect a couple of years ago I was musing over becoming a father again in my early 50's and the challenges it gave. Well it would appear that I'm a glutton for punishment and on 24th February, Leonie and I (and William) welcomed Lachlan into the world. Lachlan's arrival into the world was a bit more dramatic than William's; emergency C-section and blood loss was not what was on the list but he's got the obligatory 10 fingers & toes, a good set of lungs and does all these new born baby functions like a trooper. Leonie still feels like she's been at the bottom of the ruck, but thankfully is on the mend. So a week and a half into baby number 2 and juggling getting number 1 to and from Day Care brings a whole new set of challenges to Waiatarua's own Victor Meldrew. So watch this space for a combination of baby stories and "I don't believe that", the first of which is that even before Lachlan's birth in anticipation of his coming we swapped Leonie's 20 year old Corolla for a 6 year old Previa to make sure we had room to transport the family about. This Christmas with just the 3 of us it was full to the gunnels, so heaven knows what we'll do next Christmas, but as I've said, watch this space.

- Paul Osborne (ex committee member and now a nervous wreck)

Table Tennis is Back

From Wednesday April 9th the Community Hall will be rocking again to the sound of table-tennis bats. There have been some masochists who have been playing all through the summer but for the rest of us 9th April is the day we try and remember how it's done after a 3 month break.

We're always looking for new people, so if you want to spend a couple of hours on a Wednesday evening having some fun and exercise, just roll up to the hall at 7pm. Total novice or potential champion, it doesn't matter; we welcome everybody. It could be the best \$2 a week you've ever spent.



Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our April visit is to Kelmarna Organic Farm in Grey Lynn to see the sustainable practices of this community garden. For further information please ring Margaret on 814 9859.

Very Important Notice.

The next committee meeting of the Waiatarua Resident and Ratepayers Association is to be held on the 9th April 2014 starting at 1730. (that's 5:30pm)

Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

The committee extends a warm welcome to all to attend. RSVP not required.

Oh and by the way we have read the rule book and found we need another 3 Executive Members (rule 8 says we need "...at least..." this many).

If you want to be an Executive this could be a good place to start.
Young executives wanted, Old executives accepted.

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 & HIRE: 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... ...for Local People.

Bird Watch !

John of Tui Cres saw a long tailed cuckoo this week.
Any one else seen one ?



And welcome to a wee scottish chick not seen before in these here parts ... Miss Madeleine Isla McIntosh



... enjoying summer fun in the 'boosh'. Her Dad will arrive in early April and will be looking for work so if anyone is looking for a Knowledge Engineer then please contact The Editor: munster@ihug.co.nz

From The President

Hello Waiatarua-ians!

I attended my first WRRRA AGM on 5 March and came away from that with the title and responsibility of being President of the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association.

This week I chaired my first Executive Committee meeting of the WRRRA and I'm pleased to say it is an organisation in great health, both financially and operationally.

The credit for this goes to the previous committee members of course, notably Dave Pocock who has just retired from the role of President after a fantastic tenure of 10 years. Of course Dave is still living in the area and his knowledge is not lost to us should we need it. Thanks from me Dave for leaving the WRRRA in such good shape. Certainly a class act for me to try and follow.

I'm very pleased to say we have a strong and invigorated Committee on board as well. Susanne Timms continues as Vice-President, and in case you didn't know, also continues to wage the war on weeds in these parts. Two new members join us, Sue Bowers as Treasurer and Gary Ertel as Secretary. John Stagg has resigned from the Treasurer role after also making a strong contribution to the WRRRA, thanks John; good to retain you as a committee member. Robyn O'Sullivan continues with the Newsletter, and the other member of the committee is John Andersen. But we have room for more as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter. Lynda and Frank Hogsden continue as co-opted Committee members.

I live with Lhara and our kids, Jade and Leo, right in the heart of Waiatarua beside the hall at 909 West Coast Road. We've just moved back there after a couple of years in the city for 'school zoning' reasons and it is very nice to be back. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at some point, so if you see me as you're passing feel free to stop and say hello or flick me an email. You can also find me via the Waiatarua Facebook group.

As President I do have a plan! For the first few months I'll be getting to know as much as I can about Waiatarua and what the people of Waiatarua care about. As I learn I'll reflect that back to you, the community, and see what comes to the surface. There will undoubtedly be a few things we can work on. In amongst that are the appeal hearings on the Unitary Plan. The Plan takes effect in September this year, so this will be our last chance to make sure it's sensible for Waiatarua and the Waitakere area. More on that next month.

Until then, take care; and I hope you didn't get pranked too severely on April Fool's day.

Road Resealing Around Waiatarua

Most of you will have been very much aware of the road resealing that was done a few weeks ago around Waiatarua. For each stretch of road the speed limit was lowered to 30km/h for about 3 days and then the loose stones were swept and removed. Since then the WRRRA has noticed a few comments from people with concerns or questions about the resealing. So far the comments we have are:

...**The road has been widened**, perhaps by mistake, at the top of Forest Hill Road, which has removed the narrow path area and leaves no space to get off the road to get away from cars.

Walkers on the quieter roads (e.g. Bush Road) continue to be hit by flying stones from cars. Were these roads swept properly?

...**The new seal** creates a LOT of tyre noise from cars. Some sections have been left as smooth seal which is very quiet. Why can't the whole road be sealed this way?

...**Cyclists and motorcyclists** have commented that they are still finding the new seal dangerous and difficult.

The WRRRA plans to write to Auckland Transport this month to obtain a formal response and to reiterate that while it's great to have resealed roads, are there ways of improvement that are more in keeping with a heritage area? If you have anything to add to this list, then please email Peter (peter@petercasey.co.nz) as soon as possible.

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As I write this editorial, my inbox is being flooded (or should that be awash) with warnings of cyclone Lusi and dire expectations for the upcoming weekend.

Now I have been sorely disappointed in the past with weather warnings promising much excitement and delivering zilch. The last time we were told of winds of 100-120k, all we got was the merest zephyr gently pffting up the side of the house.

However, tonight we are loaded to the gunnels with batteries, candles and fresh water for when the inevitable happens i.e. no power. All our hatches are battened down, so bring it on I say ... or if yet again, nothing much happens, at least can my tank be filled? After a good start to the season, courtesy of last year's rains, we are quite low at the moment having had twice as many people here over summer than usual.

And so to a whirlwind of another sort... we have new people on the committee! Three volunteers have sprung forth... Peter Casey, Sue Bowers and Gary Ertel and we are still looking for more. (Please check out the notice in this issue) Have a think about it and come join us! Have a good month!

Fire Brigade Newsletter

At the time of writing this article, the team have just headed out to a Motor vehicle accident on Piha Road in the middle of the winds & rain from cyclone Lusi. With no injuries or assistance needed from the brigade, they headed off to attend two other incidents... power lines down near the Refreshment Room, Scenic Drive and a tree down on Scenic Drive between the TV Mast & Mountain Road. Three calls in the space of an hour; a busy night.

You may have seen the Brigade out testing water hydrants in the last month. Thanks to the guys who are putting in that extra time to get this done!!

Interested In Joining The Fire Brigade? We Need You!

The Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade is looking for willing people to come on board. Volunteers can be Women & Men from any walk of life. Volunteers include Students, self-employed, mothers at home, shift-workers, trades people and professionals. They are people who care about their community and want to be actively involved. You must be at least 16-18 years old, fit and healthy and available to attend weekly Monday night training nights, and preferably live within close proximity to the Fire Station.

Interested?? For more Information Contact or call into the fire station about 7pm on a Monday night and have a chat with the team.
Helen Longley 8149885 or call or TXT on 0274814312 or email helen.longley@fire.org.nz
Gareth Mullins 8149282 or call or TXT on 0275854020 or email gareth.mullins@fire.org.nz

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ I ENCLOSE: _____

Email: _____ \$10 household.

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City, or leave at the library Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

- Glen Eden Landscape Supplies 293 West Coast Rd Ph:818 6129
- Auckland's Waitakere Estate 573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622
- Awakenings Massage Therapy 36B Clayburn Rd Glen Eden Ph 813 1166
- Blow Moulders Ltd 8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden Ph 818 7709 (cash and cheque sales only)
- Elevation 473 Scenic Drive Ph 814 1919

PLEASE REMEMBER FEES ARE DUE NOW FOR 2014

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 current financial members.

Better Scrapbooking Ltd: Scrapbooking workshops on the last Saturday night of each month. Cost \$15 Other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes and supplies available. 153 Solar Road, Glen Eden Phone Megan 818-2045

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

Creative Drama Workshops for 6 & 7 yr olds. Tuesdays Titirangi School.3.30-4.30 Upper Primary and Intermediate. Community House Titirangi Mondays 3.30-4.30 Director Edith Shawyer 8149410 edipus@orcon.net.nz

dance dance dance school. Classes for kids at Oratia Settlers Hall. Creative, contemporary and dance Jam ranging from pre-school to 11 years. 5 classes a week. Tuesday 3:20- 5:20, Wed 2:00pm preschoolers, Thursday 3:20- 5:20. ph or text Christina 02102237414 or dancencedanceschool@gmail.com

Electrician & Alarm Installer - Small local business providing a professional, reliable, quality service. From new installations to additions and small maintenance jobs. Including: power, lighting, alarms, data, TV, phones and home ventilation. Ben Fitness 833 1052 or 021 184 5276 FIT Electrical & Alarms.

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 friendly. Phone Mike 814 9708.

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

Local Justice of the Peace: Adrian Delaat JP, 26 Rimu Rd, phone 09 814 9038.

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 meets on second Thursday of the month at 1pm in the Church Hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

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. **West Auckland Yoga** at Oratia Settlers Hall: Tues 9.30am and 6.30pm, Fri 9.15am (cost \$15). Ph Tasha 021 0274 9136 or Steph 0272 841 178 www.westaucklandyoga.kiwi.nz

Work Wanted: Drainage - 40 years experience, call Ray on 814 9242.
Zumba With Grace It's Dance! It's Fun! It's Zumba! Oratia Setter's Hall Monday, Tuesday and Thursday \$10 per session Phone Grace or Megan on 818 2046 for times http://gkapma.zumba.com/classes

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By FRIDAY 11TH
April - 5PM

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