



## Local News...

### ...for Local People.

Mark Large resigned as Secretary of the WRRRA in December. Mark has done a great job in helping standardise our documentation, providing advice on how to run e-meetings and was a very useful counsel on a wide range of matters on top of all his other duties as Secretary of WRRRA. We will miss him and his considered opinions. Best wishes to Mark with enjoying the best of life outside the WRRRA committee.

### WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER...

Is there anyone out there who would like to open Waiatarua Library on the 1st Saturday of each month?

We need someone for 1 hour from 11am to open the library, meet the local people and issue books.

If you can help please contact Bev Latimer: Ph.8353237. Thank you.

### It's Subscription Time Again...

...yes, fees are due for membership for the 2016 year. The princely sum of ten dollars per household gets you local discounts and more importantly at this time of year...voting rights.

I'm hopeful this year, we are going to be inundated with generous people who wish to be sterling members of the bush committee. Let's all be able to vote so we can be represented by the cream of the crop.

Catch Up And Connect

## At the WRRRA AGM

Wednesday, 24th February, 2016

7.15 pm for a 7.30 start

At the Waiatarua Hall

911 West Coast Rd

**Guest Speaker: Sandra Coney**

(Question time to follow)

Wine and Cheese

So, if you feel the urge to come, just flick Robyn a quick email on:

**munster@ihug.co.nz** specifically for catering purposes.

(It may be the difference between a glass of wine or a thimble.)

**Please don't forget to renew your subscriptions before the AGM date as only financial members can vote.**

(See subscription notice elsewhere in the newsletter.)

**Last minute subscribers can enlist on the night,**

**but we will be short on time**

**so no cash, no vote!**

### Calling All Members:

We need nominations for the committee and we need them now. Do you know of anyone (your fine selves included) who would make an enthusiastic member of our committee? Either nominate them yourselves, with their permission of course, or make a sneaky suggestion to the present members and we can vigorously pursue them.

## Hello Waiatarua!!

For Christmas in 2003 I received Michael King's Penguin classic, "History of New Zealand." In the front, part of the personal message is "...to ultimately understand." I never finished it. To be honest, I barely started it.

This time around I'm committed and ploughing through. In the first chapter I was shocked to discover that New Zealand residents, Polynesian first, and then the rest have earned our country the distinction of the most destructive to the natural environment of any recorded human settlement of a nation. Polynesian settlers eliminated over 30 species, mainly to eat. And this was without guns, bow and arrow or even boomerangs. Since the latter British colonisation and with more advanced technology, together we've wiped out another 100 or so species.

All around the world we pride ourselves on our evolving civilisation. But in our extremely short time walking upright on this planet so far we've wrecked havoc. In Paris some awful stuff recently occurred, but the city of love also saw unprecedented international agreement to try and reverse that the damage we've done.

I've loved the onset of summer in this glorious rainforest, my favourite moments being the translucency of the bush in a warm, misty, but sunny day.

But I've also been aware of the several crises occurring in Waiatarua.

Bus service - we are to lose our public bus service this year.

Broadband - the government confirmed that Waiatarua is

outside the areas that will receive Ultra Fast Broadband. Bigger! Some of us still hardly have dialup speeds. And TV on demand means that the existing connections slow many times a week.

Weeds - the 5 or 6 invasive weeds around Waiatarua continue their total destruction of all native plants they come across.

Kauri dieback - the council are threatening those of us with Kauri on our sections with total responsibility for control of dieback disease. For one of our neighbours I heard this week it is adding \$50,000 to their building costs. At up to \$5,000 arborist fees for removal of a big tree, would you want to have to pay this?

Rural rates - Yes, we pay some rural levies in our rates. International research shows that creating Super Cities shows that for urban and suburban centers costs are reduced and services improve. But the analysts in town don't live rurally; we are facing unfair increases that we shouldn't have to bear.

Civil Defence - Our biggest risk around here is forest fire. Often too wet, but they DO HAPPEN. We've been downgraded by Civil Defence as not needing a plan, even though we've done most of the work to create one.

The biggest crisis of all right now for the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association is that our executive committee numbers have dwindled through attrition and we barely have the quorum to allow us to make decisions. And when we make decisions, there are not enough of us to do justice to initiatives to address the issues I speak of.

We need your help!!! Even if you only have a small amount of time, a bit of passion can go a long way.

At a minimum, please join your household up as a WRRRA member.

Then, come and join us at our AGM where you can present yourself as a candidate for the committee, or just share your ideas and meet a neighbour or two. If you're unsure, send me an email or give me a call. I have a lot of ideas, but unless we join together we can achieve little. Come along, be informed and maybe lend a hand.

Peter Casey president@waiatarua.org.nz 0274 32 32 49

## From The Library

Jeanette Ziesler

Isabel Allende never lets the reader down. "**The Japanese Lover**" ranges over period of 70 years and though basically a love story, there is much in the reflection of issues such as race, ageing, war, and reconciliation.

Dawn French's latest novel is a light hearted read. In "**According To Yes**" an English woman goes to New York to work as a nanny but becomes too involved in the family's life.

Our well known golf caddy Steve Williams reflects on his career as a caddy and gives an insider's view of the life of a professional golfer in "**Out Of The Rough**".

In "**Snow On The Lindis**" we read of life on the high country station Morven Hills. Madge Snow has lived there most of her life and has seen many changes and a comparative easing of the hardships she once accepted as normal.

Rebus may have retired but Ian Rankin hasn't. In "**Even Dogs In The Wild**" has Rebus called in to help find a killer. Some retirement.

## From The Editor:

Robyn O'Sullivan

Hello to everyone who survived the summer holiday period and welcome to another year in Waiatarua. There's no fire report this month but we should have a new reporter by the next issue. I understand they've been busy over the holiday period as I heard the siren three or four days in a row from January 1st and thought... that's not a very good start to the year. From reading many reports over the years, it appears cars and their drivers cause more problems than actual fires, so as I write this morning it's good to remember than the speeding limits along the Scenic Drive are changing today to a much needed lower limit and as I tentatively exit my driveway this morning, I hope the drivers I meet remember it's now no more than 70 along this stretch and not 'the sky's the limit'.

The AGM is on at the end of this month. Please come! Please join us! We are now working in 'crisis mode'. Last year, we had six committee members and this year we are down to five. We should have ten as a minimum. We have about 900 households in Waiatarua, of which usually around 100 are financial members, so at the very least, we would have 200 good people to choose from. Where are you?

Are there any budding journalists out there wishing to join my stable of fine reporters? Well, maybe not stable... maybe a shed... oh heavens, to be truthful I have only two so they'd probably fit into an outhouse, but I can dream! I need a few occasional writers, capable of witty ditties. You must know someone. Give me a name and I'll do the rest. Have a great month!

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For more details see the CPNZ website: <http://www.cpnz.org.nz>



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.

**Art Classes:** Pathway Studio & Gallery, 786 West Coast Road Oratia. Starting February 2016 Ph Carol 814 9438/021 033 0055

**Better Scrapbooking Ltd:** Regular Scrapbooking workshops as well as other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes. Supplies available. 153 Solar Road, Glen Eden. Megan ph: 818-2045

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**Table Tennis** every Wednesday at the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week. Contact Tony 8149860 or email tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

**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.

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

**Yoga/Chi Kung/Meditation,** Waiatarua Hall. Monday Evenings 7pm - 8pm No experience necessary. Enq: Kath Ph. 814 1108

**Zumba with Grace...** Thursday 7pm-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall. Ditch the workout, come join the party! Cost \$10 per class Grace ph: 818-2046

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2015

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I ENCLOSE:

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 household.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12th @ 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

munster@ihug.co.nz

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I have recently moved to Waiatarua and am really enjoying the lifestyle here. I have been successfully selling houses in Titirangi and the surrounding suburbs for the past 11 years. If you like an honest and open approach to real estate, I'd love to have a chat.



Robyn Baldock  
Bayleys Titirangi

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