



Community News

MARCH 1989

EDITOR: TONY BACON

The A.G.M. has come and gone, and those who attended were entertained by local resident and Olympic yachtsman Chris Timms telling us of his progress from the 39th cricket XI at school via a 780 ft fall down a mountain to eventual triumph at the Olympic Games. He also brought his medals along for us to see - I am sure it is the closest the rest of us will ever get to an Olympic Gold! We also heard our new Councillor Bill Haresnape tell us of the current state of things at the Waitemata City Council, which was farce to follow the comedy of Chris Timms. The President's report is printed elsewhere in this issue.

We now have a newly-elected committee, with some new faces to help the old stagers. A list of all the committee members with their various responsibilities will be published next month.

There is a change to the meeting night for the committee, and thus to the deadlines for the newsletter. Meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of the month, and that is now also the deadline for the newsletter. If you are organising an event and want the dates published, remember that the deadline is the first Wednesday for the issue to be delivered in the third or fourth week of the month.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

36 people have paid their 1989 membership fee so far, compared with the 150 members we ended up with last year. The fee is \$5.00 per household (\$2.50 for single occupants), and for that you get this magnificent newsletter and all the other services of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. If you are not sure what those services are, just look through this issue and see how many meetings, submissions etc. have been organised in just the last few weeks! All these things take money, and all your membership fees help.

FOUND

At the Community Centre, after the A.G.M., an umbrella with a very distinctive pattern on a blue background. If you know what we are talking about, you can claim it from BOB LANGLEY, telephone 8149-324.

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TV3 TRANSMISSION MAST

TV3 have advised that they are applying for planning consent to erect a transmission mast in Quinns Road (not on the same site as the FM mast proposed last year). A public meeting is being held in the Waiatarua Community Centre on Tuesday 28th March at 8 p.m. where TV3 representatives will present their plans and answer questions. Before that date, a balloon will be flown over the proposed site showing the height of the mast.

"Television: a medium. So called because it is neither rare or well-done."

- Ernie Kovacs, quoted in Leslie Halliwell,
"The Filmgoers Book of Quotes"

PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1988

This year, 1989, is the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. I wish to give you some background to the founding of the Association. In 1962 the late Mrs. Pat Cole and 12 other residents were annoyed at the increase in rates, so decided to form an action group to protest to the council. A meeting was held at Mrs. Cole's residence on a Sunday afternoon in August. The outcome of the meeting was the establishment of the Nihotupu/Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. The first President was a Mr. Woods, his wife was Secretary/Treasurer, with a total membership of 12. On 1st October 1964 this Association became an Incorporated Society.

On 14th April 1976 the name was changed to the present Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (Inc).

To celebrate the 25th. Anniversary, your committee decided to have a project to mark the occasion. As the hall acts as a venue for the community to carry out its activities, such as Library, Playcentre, Drama Group, meetings and private functions, it was decided to propose a project of extending the hall.

The Drama Group, which has received national recognition, use the hall more than any other group. Unfortunately the facilities for putting on major productions is limited to a small stage, no dressing rooms and no access to the stage except through the audience. Extending the stage depth by two to four metres would give a larger stage area, a circular stairway to the stage from a dressing room erected underneath, and also an extension to the library to incorporate a children's reading room. It would also allow the Playcentre more storage area, and the possibility of providing a more suitable play area for the children attending playcentre.

I have discussed the engineering possibilities with the Waitamata City Council, and at this stage the project seems feasible.

As a community project we would organize fund-raising and voluntary labour programmes, but we would need the council to contribute the bulk of the costs. We have submitted our proposal to the Waitamata City Council and at present it is in the hands of the Mayor and the Chairman of the Community and Development committee. You will be kept informed of progress through the Newsletter.

1988 was a very active year for your committee. Eleven meetings were held during the year with about 90% attendance of committee members. During the winter months it was decided to hold the meetings at the Fire Station recreational facility which was more comfortable than a cold hall. With the help and approval of Chief Fire Officer Ian Wells, we have continued to hold meetings at that venue.

The social activities of the community, besides the many productions of the Drama Group, began with a St. Patricks night shindig attended by many happy people, and raised \$1500. Thanks to the efforts of the Fire Brigade.

Unfortunately the Telethon participation was nil, except for a few young ladies who arranged a stall outside the Community Hall.

A morning tea was arranged for our Senior Citizens in November. Although only a small number attended, there was much enthusiasm to maintain this social event.

December saw a Christmas party arranged for children and parents. Again the numbers were not large, considering the effort that was made by your committee and the Fire Brigade.

Public meetings held during the year were:

The rejuvenation of Neighbourhood Watch and the appointment of Gisella Kernot as overall coordinator for the area.

A well-attended meeting to discuss the Song of Two Waters Corp. proposal to build a Tearoom, restaurant, Craft Shop and Tourist Hotel at the Piha Rd. junction.

At 'meet your candidate' meeting for the Ward by-election was held in January. Six candidates presented their policies and answered questions from the audience.

The political situation at the Waitemata City Council has caused your committee some concern, but because of our constitution and representing the ratepayers of the area, we did not take part in any of the organized activities, relying on the democratic process to take its course at the next election.

Your President and Secretary attended many meetings during the year. These were:

With Gary Taylor to discuss the many problems of the Waiaatarua area, reconstruction of the Scenic Drive, hall maintenance and refurbishing of the hall.

With the Mayor to propose the hall extension programme.

A deputation to Jack Elder M.P. on the Waitakere Ranges Trust proposal.

With the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand on the microwave corridor and interference with domestic appliances to residents living close to the TV mast.

Planning Committee meetings of the Waitemata City Council on the proposed radar installation and scheme change 169 on the removal or erection of masts and poles on the Waitakere skyline.

A meeting to establish a Waitakere Ward combine Ratepayers Association to communicate on local issues and prepare submissions to the Transition Committee on the proposed Waitakere Ward boundary in the new City of Waitakere.

In December your President was asked to attend a meeting convened by TV3 to discuss a proposal to erect a television transmission mast and facilities on land available in Quinns Road. They proposed that the community become part of the operation by incorporating a Trust that would provide the community with a voice on the development and maintenance of the project. As TV3 would allow co-siting an income from other users would provide the community with funds to use for the benefit of the area. As I took this Trust proposal to be a bribe to give support to the scheme, I made further investigations with the Waitemata City Council. I was advised that Judge Turner, Chairman of the Planning Tribunal has made a ruling that the Waitakere Ranges are the most suitable location for transmission and telecommunication facilities to service the requirements of the populace of Auckland and New Zealand. This ruling allows the erection of masts etc. on the Waitakere skyline. However he did make a recommendation that new transmission facilities should be incorporated in existing or new multi-use transmission facilities, and where practicable co-located on one mast. Separate transmission facilities may be appropriate on the skyline where the facility is essential for public safety. More discussion on this subject will eventually lead to a decision, but you will be kept informed through the Newsletter.

I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Longley for their community support in printing the Newsletter gratis, Tony Bacon, who has upgraded the publication to a best seller and Wayne Edwards for its distribution.

Unfortunately some committee members are not seeking re-election for this coming year. They are Marilyn Trubuhovich - Secretary, Sylvia Collins - Hall bookings, Wendy Healy - Playcentre, Tony Holt, Tony Webber and Joan Rudall - Librarian. Although Joan does not seek re-election she is available as an Honorary Committee member who will attend meetings and report on library activities. To all those and the remaining members of the committee, I extend my thanks for their help and co-operation during the past year.

Finally I would ask the residents of Waiatarua to support your community in its many activities. The Ratepayers Association, Library, Drama productions, Playcentre, Fire Brigade, Neighbourhood Watch and all the other activities that makes a community a good place to live.

Many thanks,

TOM BAKER
President.

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GINGER PLANT

An alert resident tells us that you can buy small sachets of Escort (12.5 grams) for \$16.23 each from Veg-Gro Supplies, 33-35 Mihini St. Swanson.

OPEN INVITATION

Waiatarua Theatre invites you and your friends to an

OPEN NIGHT

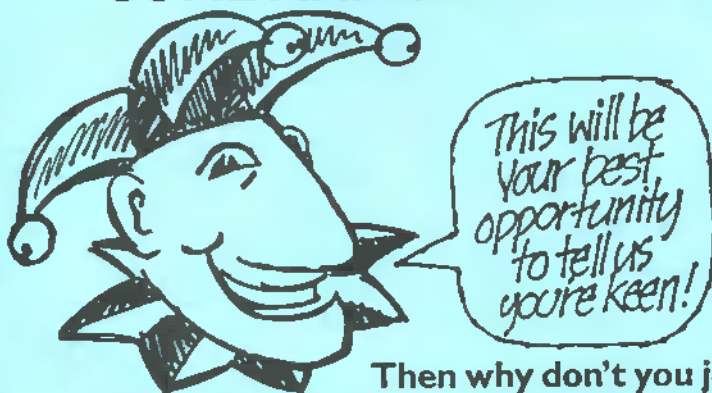
COMMUNITY CENTRE, THURSDAY, 30 MARCH, 8.00PM

LIVE DISPLAYS, PLAYREADING, LIGHT SUPPER,
COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE

COME AND SEE WHAT WE DO BEHIND THE SCENES

IF YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED ...

- ... To produce the play of your dreams
- ... To know how to get those sound & light effects
- ... To design and/or make costumes
- ... To paint a masterpiece of scenery
- ... To slap up a set that won't fall down
- ... To wap up a succulent supper for 80 on a budget
- ... And yes act too!



Then why don't you join our group and have fun.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! This is a social event so bring your friends and relatives.

No charge to financial members, \$1.00 to all else.

Phone Gill 8149-220 or Phyl 8149-837 for further info.

LIBRARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1988

I should like to thank all 27 helpers who enabled us to keep the library open for four days and sometimes five days a week throughout the year, and the Waitemata City for their continuing financial support. The City's Librarians have been very helpful at all times whether trying to find special requests for us or in the matter of the twice yearly change of the two hundred books they loan us.

We bought 197 books and were given ten more. We have tried to meet the requirements of all our readers, young and old and in-between. A small reference section has been started which we hope to add to in the future. During the year we became a free library, charging only for overdues. In view of Waitemata City's current financial difficulties and an imminent merger with other areas it may become necessary to re-introduce a system of charges.

We would like to see a lot more of our 600-plus ticket holders, and for new mums in this area may I say we have continued to add to our books for pre-schoolers. It may not appear to be so but there are about 2000 of these books for our very young borrowers.

All in all it has been a very successful year and we look forward to an even more successful 1989.

Joan Rudall
Librarian.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do you realize that (other than Piha) we are surrounded by areas that have their mail delivered by Post Office car? In these days of user pays why are we not part of this system? Leaving outward mail in your post box for collection is the only advantage with Rural Delivery, but is that worth the delivery fee? Since part of Henderson R.D. changed to free delivery up Forest Hill Road and part of Scenic Drive, boxes for posting mail have been installed. Our present contractor could still be employed to deliver mail by Post Office car.

If the fee is not paid, the mail is available for collection at the Oratia Superette. If nobody pays the fee, NZ Post will be forced to review the situation.

Margaret Blumhardt.

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SEPTIC TANK MANAGEMENT

Many of you will have seen the notice about a meeting at Oratia Hall concerning the above subject, one I am sure that is dear to all our hearts. Fear not! Your committee is organising a similar meeting for our area. As this issue went to press, we have been unable to tie the council down to a date, but we will let you know as soon as it has been confirmed.

The reason for the meetings are a Council proposal to introduce, at a price, a scheme for regular emptying of septic tanks on a 3-year cycle. The price is estimated at \$40 per year, payable through the rates. The scheme would be compulsory, but would also include an education booklet about how to love and nurture your septic tank, an advisory service and an updated set of standards for the installation of new septic tank systems. The scheme is being proposed to cover the whole of the outer drainage area, and arises at least in part from the problems that have occurred in Laingholm and a desire not to see them repeated elsewhere. The scheme is

based on one currently operating successfully in Whangarei.
It must be emphasised that these are only proposals at the moment - if the community totally objects, they will not go ahead. Your committee's initial reaction is that the scheme has a lot of merit.

So come along to the meeting and let your views be known. Remember, if you don't speak up, you can't complain if what happens isn't to your liking!

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Quote of the month:

"Give me a firm spot on which to stand, and I will move the earth."
- ARCHIMEDES, commenting on the principle of the lever.

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PLAYCENTRE

Playcentra has opened its doors again, welcomed some new mothers and children and increased its numbers with quite a few new babes. Many thanks to those who continue to support our aluminium can collection at the Fire Station. Certainly your efforts make our efforts worth while.

If you are new in the area and have children 0-5 years of age we would love to meet you. Please feel free to join in on our informal and supportive morning get togethers. We meet each Tuesday and Friday between 9.30 and 12.00 at the Waitatarua Community Centre. Lots of fun for the children and for the Mums or Dads.

Any enquiries phone Debbie Vander Walls on 8149-654.

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ORATIA FOLK MUSEUM

Needs your help. Volunteers are needed to join the Sunday roster or the mid-week gardening group. There is also a Working Bee on Sunday 2nd April, starting at 9 a.m. If you would like to be part of this excellent community project, phone Sue on 818-3153 or Barbara on 818-7816.

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AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

Waitatarua Theatre will be holding auditions to cast its next production on Sunday 2nd April at 10 a.m. at the Community Centre.

The play is "Ladies in Retirement", directed by Gill Preece.

The cast requirements are:

Lucy Gilham	-	a pretty young maid
Leonora Fiske	-	a retired lady of easy virtue
Ellen Creed	-	Housekeeper/companion
Albert Feather	-	a cad who likes Gilbert and Sullivan
Louisa Creed)	
Emily Creed)	Housekeeper's two pretty sisters
Sister Theresa	-	a middle aged Nun.

If you want to become part of the glamour and glitter of show business, or just have some questions, phone Gill Preece on 8149-220 (evenings).

COMBINED RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Local Government reorganisation includes a provision for ward committees to be appointed/elected as a means of liaison between the council and the electorate. With this in mind the Waitatarua Association convened a meeting of all the Associations in the Waitakere ward with a view to forming a combined Ratepayers grouping that could talk to the Council with one voice on matters that concern the whole ward.

The meeting resulted in an agreement to form such an Association, to meet on an ad-hoc basis. Two members from each Association will form the new committee. The objectives (still to be ratified) are:

- The establishment of a united front for major issues concerning and/or affecting the Waitakere ward.
- To provide better communication between Ratepayers and Residents associations within the Waitakere ward.
- To provide support for important local issues.

In addition it was decided that decision-making should be by consensus, members should be able to consult with their own Association before voting on motions, and releases to the news media would only occur with the consent of all the members.

The other topic of discussion at the meeting was the draft reorganisation scheme, concerning ward boundaries, council membership and ward representation in the proposed Waitakere ward. A deputation is to approach Waitemata City Council to ask for the exact boundaries and population criteria to be used in establishing the ward.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Waitakere Ward Ratepayers and Residents Committee (see the story above) has made a submission to the Local Government Commission concerning the Waitakere Ward. In essence, the submissions are:

- That the ward boundary should follow the boundary suggested for the Waitakere Ranges Trust. This would keep Waitakere as an exclusively rural ward, emphasising the environmental importance of the area, and would also incorporate all of Parau, which is currently proposed to be split between Waitakere and New Lynn.
- That the powers of ward committees should be more clearly defined, particularly to minimise the possibilities of political manipulation.
- As the Waitakere ward covers about half the land area of the proposed Waitakere City, and contains eight geographically isolated communities the ward committee membership should be increased from four to eight, plus the elected ward Councillors.
- That the Chairperson of the Ward Committee should be elected by the committee, not determined by the City Council.
- That voting for the ward committee, as opposed to the Council, should not be restricted to residents, but should include non-resident ratepayers.

WORK WANTED

Houseworker available - Waiatarua area. Phone Lilian on 8149-638.

WANTED

Student for outdoor work, e.g. lawns. Scenic Drive, Waiatarua area. 3 hrs every second week. \$5 per hour. Phone 8149-228 evenings.

WANTED

Tripod - heavy duty, suitable for binoculars. Will pay approx \$40. Phone 8149-228 evenings.

FOR SALE

Lounge chairs (4), velvet upholstery, browns. \$50 each. Also a roll-top Kauri desk. \$450. Phone 8149-818.

FOR SALE

2 single bed bases - one a divan with 3 drawers beneath. \$10 & \$20. 1 single mattress - \$10. 1 baby's cot in good condition complete with sheets - \$35. Phone Debbie or Gerard Vander Walle 8149-654.

FOR SALE

Stainless steel bench top, 6 foot long, \$100. Formica Table, extending, colour mother-of-pearl, black pipe legs, \$50. Phone 8149-703.

HOUSE WANTED

Reliable young couple require house to rent in Waiatarua or surrounds. Anything considered. Phone 546-964, ask for Annette.

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Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, 5th April. Please send legible copy to the Editor, Tony Bacon, 11 Cascade Avenue. All submissions must have a name and contact phone number, even if that is not for publication.

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This Newsletter is delivered to all Households in Waiatarua by the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. IF you are not already a member, your subscription of \$5.00 per household (\$2.50 for single occupants) will help us to maintain and improve the services we provide.

Please accept my 1989 subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I enclose \$5.00 (Household), or \$2.50 (Single occupant)

This is a renewal / new subscription (Delete one)

Name _____

Please send to

Address _____

The Treasurer,
Gisella Kernot,
12 Tui Crescent

or leave at the Library

Telephone _____