



Community News

APRIL 1990

EDITOR: TONY BACON

EDITORIAL

I have recently joined the daily commuter queue into the city (only temporarily), and absence from Waiatarua is certainly making the heart grow fonder. As I sit in my car while some idiot drives across the junction ahead, blocking traffic in both directions, or look out from the office towards the hills (what sadist gave me a desk facing west in front of a large window?) I realize the things that make living and working out here so wonderful. The quiet, the clear air, the sounds of the birds - even the mynahs, the smell of the bush - even the ginger are all things that we should cherish. Elsewhere in this issue you will find stuff about the mast, speed limits, the problems with ginger plant, etc., but even with all these hassles, living out here sure beats living in the city!

DRAMA CLUB

Waiatarua Drama Club invites local residents to a play-reading of "Daisy Pulls It Off" - a witty parody about life in a "gels" boarding school.

Superachiever Daisy Meredith attempts to submerge her poor elementary school background and find acceptance in the snobby confines of a young ladies private school - its all perfectly ripping, absolutely spiffing and the cost is only \$2.00 (includes light refreshment) or free to financial members.

Time - 7.30 for 8pm at the Waiatarua Community Centre, Friday 27th. April.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 7 APRIL

The Council baling station was receiving organic materials (ie. ginger plant and other nasties) free! I realise it's too late, but I thought you might like to know - the first the committee heard about it was on Wednesday 4th!

SATURDAY APRIL 29TH

Playcentre Working Bee. Starts 9.30 at the Community Centre. The main objective is to spread the bark and sawdust around the play area. All volunteers welcome. Contact Wendy Healy on 8149-766 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH

Morning Tea at the Community Centre, 10.30 am. Make a note of this now, as it won't be advertised again. Everyone is welcome, just bring a plate and a neighbour. If you need help with transport, phone Joan on 8149-747.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD

Market Day at the Community Centre. This is an advance notice - there will be more details next month.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Electromagnetic Radiation Problem

I write in response to the letter from Mrs. Preece. I do not doubt that Mrs. Preece may feel sincere in her opinion, but I fear that it is indeed a very uninformed opinion.

I wonder if she is aware of the following facts:

- a) According to Australian experts the typical EMR level near Australian transmission sites is 1 microwatt.
- b) The maximum level at Waiatarua is 230 microwatts and 1 microwatt is exceeded over 1 kilometre away from the mast.
- c) Seven out of the ten recognized Western standards and guidelines are being exceeded here at Waiatarua.
- d) When the Residents and Ratepayers Association first asked for measurements to be taken we were told that levels were too low to be measured and it would be a waste of time.
- e) New Zealand does not have a standard so there is no enforceable level here in Waiatarua.
- f) EMR levels have increased by over 200% since the deregulation of the Broadcasting Industry some 12 months ago. New services are being added continually.
- g) The only measuring instrument available is not capable of measuring the entire spectrum of EMR being transmitted from Waiatarua so actual levels are even higher than those measured thus far.
- h) Our Residents and Ratepayers Association has succeeded in overturning scheme change 169 which would have permitted unlimited numbers of masts on the Waiatarua ridge. We have succeeded in getting recognition at Government level of the major problem we are facing.
- i) The Hon. Jonathon Hunt is 'fast tracking' a New Zealand Standard through the New Zealand Standards Association. In recognition of the role

played by the Waiatarua Community, he has asked for a member of our community to join the Standards Committee. To the best of our knowledge this is a New Zealand 'first'.

- j) One reason why levels are so high near this mast is because we have been so successful in stopping further masts from being established. The result is that all services have been put on the existing mast. So while one mast is more 'visually acceptable' to Mrs. Preece she must remember that the job is only half finished. Those of us living close to the mast would not be happy to find that the rest of the community had deserted us in this predicament.

In conclusion, we can be proud of the fine work done by our Association and those unselfish residents who love Waiatarua and wish to continue living here.

I am delighted to hear that Mrs. Preece has sold her house after having it on the market for only a short time.

Mark Heimgartner.

Dear Editor,

The letter in the March issue from Gillian Preece was nothing short of amazing. How can she make a statement like 'one mast is visually acceptable, more are not'? I can assure her that there are SIX OTHER MASTS in Waiatarua, all with EMR potential.

I can see four of these masts from my bedroom. The largest of these (Telecom) is the link to the Warkworth Satellite Station. When it was first built there were three transmitting/receiving 'discs' on it - now there are TEN! My point here is once these sites are established, there is absolutely no control over what future development will take place - and in every case these sites have been expanded. In the 24 years I have lived here, I have watched this happen - it is still going on.

I wonder what reaction Ms. Preece would have had to a 75m mast about to be erected on her boundary? We in Quinns Road were faced with this. The lies and

deceit that accompanied this little exercise only demonstrated that the 'big guns' (in this case TV3) don't give a fig for the local population - nor do they care about the cost to establish themselves in Waiatarua.

I hope that Ms. Preece realises that there are TWO more masts beyond her property (and who knows what they are for?). That makes a total of seven known masts in Waiatarua. Sorry, but it has gone beyond 'aesthetic grounds' already, Ms. Preece!

I will continue showing solidarity with the EMR lobby group - especially when they are capable of stopping the erection of masts in a residential area. It can only do good to the value of our properties when local buyers realise the local residents will not be dictated to by these big Corporations who would be quite happy to put a bulldozer through the whole area and litter the hills with masts. And what bigger scare could they use than EMR?

Geoff Bradbury.

Dear Editor,

In reply to Gillian Preece (March Newsletter), in which she castigates the Ratepayers Association, Western Leader, 'and other sensation seeking media' for publicity given to the TV Mast/Radiation issue.

The last story about the mast appeared in the Western Leader of March 29, on page 18. In the same paper was a story about a family reunion (page 2), a playcentre open day (page 10), a lucky lotto outlet (page 13), and the Karekare beach races (page 14). The Western Leader 'sensation - seeking'? I think not.

I acknowledge Gillian Preece's point that publicity will perhaps harm property values in the area. I also hope that she acknowledges prospective buyers in any area have a right to know about environmental and health issues that could affect them

Wally Thomas
Editor, Western Leader.

Dear Editor,

At the Special Meeting last Year of the Waiatarua Ratepayers Association I voted against the idea, even though I had used it, of allowing "Letters to the Editor" to be included in the Community News. After reading the letter from Gillian Preece in the March Newsletter I am now convinced I was correct in opposing it then, and I hope that the Community now rejects "Letters to the Editor" as soon as possible.

...
It was because "Letters to the Editor" cannot always be checked for accuracy and truth before publishing and that inaccuracies can cause the people and community a great deal of harm that I voted against "Letters" being included in our "free Community News". I urge the Ratepayers Association to stop the inclusion of "Letters to the Editor" in all further Community News so that it can be a factual, truthful medium for local news and happenings.

Len Cooper.

Editorial comment: I was tempted to follow Len's advice and not publish his letter, as we are overflowing with correspondence this month, but he raises some important issues that I believe need to be discussed. I have omitted material from the middle which covers the same areas as other letters in this issue concerning the mast.

The free expression of opinion is an important concept in our society. The situation at the moment in Waiatarua is that there is a large body of people, probably a majority, that is of one opinion on a local issue, namely that of the mast. This opinion is also shared by the 'official body' of the community, the Ratepayers Association, and for what is worth, by the Editor of this newsletter. This means that it could be very difficult for anyone of contrary views to get themselves heard.

For this reason I believe it is most important that those who differ feel free to express their sincerely held views, unpalatable as they may be to the majority. Len is of course right when he says that their accuracy cannot be verified, but that could be said about almost any item that we publish. How certain is Len of the veracity of all the news items he reads in the Herald, the Western Leader or Truth? I am sure that most of us have been in the situation where we have personal knowledge of an event that differs significantly from the news reports.

If something appears in this newsletter that a reader believes is inaccurate or untrue, then the recourse is to write a letter of refutation, as has happened in this issue. To say that no correspondence should be allowed seems to me to be the first step on a potentially very slippery slope.

Tony Bacon.

Dear Editor,

I have been wondering what has been happening to our Community spirit over the last few years. At the moment we have quite a lively debate amongst the residents over the effects of radiation from the transmission site on the Scenic Drive. This has brought up many pertinent points, such as health, property values and where the testing should be carried out. This is a reasonable debate from which we may all profit.

On the other hand, it appears that a small group of residents, with tunnel vision, narrow minds and nothing better to do, are now complaining about the colour of a privately owned building, namely the Fork'n'View.

Some time ago, public hearings were carried out over the owners' plans to develop this site. These plans included buildings which would have blended with the surroundings, and would have brought some sorely needed employment into the area.

I am quite astounded that these people, who got what they wanted, are now prepared to spend even more of the ratepayers' money on Council committee meetings over the colour of the said building.

Maybe the old adage 'reap what you sow' could be applied to these people.

P.M. Hand.

Dear Editor,

The new speed limit signs along Forest Hill Rd should be attached to tombstones, not signposts, for they present an open invitation to add further victims to the road toll. ... The speed limit in this semi-residential area should not exceed

50kph but many drivers take full advantage of the big O with some alarming near-misses.

There has been one fatal accident on this stretch. And in Kelly Rd., - a narrow, winding steep hill with concealed driveways, children on horseback, sheep, goats (even peacocks) wandering about, there is a notice right beside 'School Bus Route' which says 100kmh! One morning we saw a carload of youths ... tearing down Kelly Road and skidding past a group of scattering children waiting for a bus.

The Transport Dept must surely agree that in this area the '100' signs should be replaced with '50s' or '70s' before the ambulance is called to the scene.

Peter Mill.

Peter, you are not alone in your concern. The Association Committee is currently pursuing this issue with the Waitakere City Council and the Ministry of Transport, with a view to establishing a rational and safe set of speed limits throughout the community. (This letter was edited for length) - Ed.

Dear Editor,

You will all be aware by now of the recent fight for life of one of our residents, Tui Slater of Forest Hill Road. Tui is making nothing short of a miraculous recovery from her liver transplant. She is up and about now and beginning to resume some sort of normal living at the hostel attached to Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

Steps are underway to initiate a trust fund for costs incurred (these are significant, you can imagine). On 5th April Greg Phillips, the Marketing Manager for Suburban Newspapers, met with medical people and other interested parties to launch this project.

As a resident, I know that there must be many folk in Waiatarua that would want to support this Trust Fund, and I have therefore asked the Ratepayers' Committee if they will act as a 'collection point' in Waiatarua, where donations can be sent and then finally forwarded on to the trust.

Cilla Cooper.

It is really great to have so much correspondence, but please, writers, keep your letters short. We only have a limited space, so it is important to use it effectively. The editor reserves the right to edit letters if necessary to fit the space available.

Dear Editor,

LIBRARY NEWS

Due to the recent controversy regarding colour coordination within the green bush-clad hills of Waiatarua, we would like to seek clarification of the acceptable spectrum of colours allowable in these hills. We have seen houses and buildings coloured blue (the Fork'n'View Restaurant), Karitane yellow (the house on the hill above it), bright red sheds on West Coast Road and glaring white buildings dotting the landscape.

Therefore in the interests of peace, good taste and harmonious living, could someone please assist us in choosing an acceptable colour for our fire engine?

We get called out approximately once a week, and our fire engine is a very environmentally unacceptable colour (bright red).

We endeavour to cater to all the residents tastes and go out of our way not to upset the delicate balance of nature and environmentally conscious people.

Our firemen's suggestions are:

- 1) Fire appliance currently red - proposed green.
- 2) Firefighting uniforms currently silver - proposed green.
- 3) Fire station currently grey - proposed green.
- 4) Fire gumboots currently black - proposed brown.
- 5) The fire siren is currently loud, obtrusive and environmentally unacceptable. We have proposed to change this to a loud rendition of Greensleeves.

Please forward your suggestions to the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade.

D.J.Carson,
L.A.Whittle,
A.J.Holt,
L.W.Hayward
P.M.Hand
(The environmentally conscious Firemen)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The library will be open on Sunday morning from 11.00 am to 12 noon, starting Sunday 29th. April. This will be for a trial period in the first instance.

These are some of the books which have been added to the library this year:

Readers Digest Visitors Guide to the Great Barrier Reef	Non-fiction
A Fragile Paradise	Mitchell Non-fiction
For Love and Money Recommended for lovers of good English	Raban Non-fiction
Mongoose R.I.P	Buckley Jr.
Daughter of the Prince	Barber
Spy Line	Deighton
Kingdom of the Shadows	Erskine
Caribbean	Mitchener
The Message of the Planet	Murdoch
The Secret History	Theroux
Memoirs of a Dance Hall Romeo	Higgins
True Stars	Kidman
Born to New Zealand	Porter Biography
The Reluctant Conservationist	Galbreath Biography

and many more, come and see for yourselves.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Are you proud to live in Waiatarua? Imagine driving into the area and seeing it for the first time. A beautiful bush area, with road frontages covered in ginger, gorse, woolly nightshade (tobacco weed) and countless other weeds.

What is the Council doing about it, you ask? Nothing. And why not? The reason is that your road frontage is your responsibility. How about making 1990 the year we cleaned up the area and gave our bush a chance, without all these weeds choking our native flora. The Ratepayers Association is looking at ways to

coordinate community efforts to clean up ginger in particular, but when it comes to the crunch, only the goodwill and efforts of all of us will ever make an impact.

HALL EXTENSIONS

Waitakere City Council, in their wisdom, have decided that the old Council didn't mean what they said when they approved the finance to extend the Community Centre, and the project will have to be considered again as part of this year's estimates. Silly us, thinking that a commitment was a commitment. Watch this space for the next gripping instalment of what is turning out to be a longer project than building the Mangere Bridge.

ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

A selection of baby clothes, from newborn to 2 yrs. old. Most have never been worn. Phone 8149-557.

ART CLASSES

Are you interested in attending art classes in the Waiatarua Community Centre on Monday or Thursday evenings? I have a wide experience with painting, drawing, ceramic sculpture, hand-built pottery and photography, plus teaching experience. I would encourage individual projects as facilities permit. Phone Gillian Pragert, 8149-241.

ACADEMY OF CREATIVE DANCE.

Classes now available at Oratia Hall. Thursdays 3 - 4 pm creative ballet for 5 - 8 year olds. 4 - 5pm creative dance for 8 - 10 year olds. Limited vacancies. Phone Lynette Hubbard 8149-662.

COAL FOR SALE

We will be selling coal for fundraising again this year starting on 28th. April. \$7 a 25kg bag or 3 for \$20. 849 West Coast Road, opposite Raroa Terrace. Phone 8149-843.

FOR SALE

Computer printer. Star SG-10, 9-pin dot-matrix. Parallel interface. Very reliable, high print quality (it used to print this Newsletter!). \$400 + GST. Phone Tony Bacon, 8149-860.

Please accept my 1990 subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I enclose \$5.00 (Household)/\$2.50 (Single occupant)

This is a renewal/new subscription (Delete one)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please send to the Treasurer:

Wayne Edwards,
3, Quinns Road,
Waiatarua

or leave at the Library.

Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, 3rd May. 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.

Our thanks to Waiatarua residents Grant and Carol Longley of Longley Printing for their help in the production of this Newsletter.

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.