



Community News

JUNE 1995

EDITOR : TONY BACON

FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER

Firm to our policy of bringing you the hot news, as it happens, the following is a straight transcription of the postcard recently received from your permanent editor, currently enjoying the fleshpots of Europe.

'Dear Waiataruans,

Having a really good time. Have just been to bonny Scotland. Lots of rhododendrons in bloom. Went to Skye on a lovely day, but the day before was 9°C. The 25 days in Europe were hectic but enjoyable. We saw the Spring flowers in Kenkenoff gardens in Amsterdam. Beautiful. The trees in spring everywhere are a lovely green. 11 days on a trip to Britain are a breeze compared to the hustle and bustle of the European Continent and being herded from here to there.

Best wishes, Margaret and Terry.'

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WRRRA SECRETARY

This is the latest of our exposés of the people who run the WRRRA. This month it is the turn of our Secretary, John Hendrikse.

A lawyer, originally from Holland, motivated by the spirit of adventure, I emigrated to Australia where, over a period of about 5½ years, I worked as a High School Teacher in Tasmania, teaching foreign languages, a legal researcher for the Department of Native Affairs in Perth, a Native Affairs Patrol Officer in the Kimberleys, a cub reporter and freelance writer in Kalgoorlie and as a librarian in Sydney. I left for New Zealand in 1957, joined the Public Service, studying N.Z. law part time. After obtaining a New Zealand Law Degree, I entered private practice and married a local New Zealand girl. I was on the judges' panel of the Auckland Debating Society for years, am a past President of the Rotary Club of Manurewa and now a member of the Rotary Club of Henderson. My hobbies are: playing the violin, ball room dancing, gardening, reading and attending the gym. About 4½ years ago Dawn and I and whatever family was left moved to Oratia and purchased the property, once a night club called "Back o' The

Moon" which we renovated and expanded. I still practise my profession in Otahuhu and in Oratia. We love Oratia, a most underrated beautiful part of Auckland, reminiscent also of the early days in New Zealand because of the closely knit, community-spirited and helpful local community. I joined the Committee to do my bit to help retain the beauty of the area.

INTRODUCING . . .

Isiah Woodhead, the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade's answer to Robocop. Isiah is a Tony Holt-inspired creation of overalls, sand, bricks, finest radiata pine and gorgeous pink lips. But he is more than just your average dummy. He has proved to be a valuable member since he joined the Brigade a couple of months ago - always keen to become involved, even if not very communicative.

Unfortunately, Isiah has been somewhat accident-prone. Over the last few drill nights his fellow firefighters have had to rescue him after he

- was involved in a car accident
- fell down a bank into a stream
- was found unconscious in a cloud of noxious chemicals

So far Isiah has survived all of these ordeals, which may have claimed a less robust individual. Give him a wave the next time you see him strapped on to the roof of the fire engine, as he cheerfully rides back from yet another indiscretion.

If you wish to meet the hapless Isiah, offer him counselling, or join the team who rescue him from himself contact Peter Hand (ph 814-8860) or Ian Ford (home 814-9618, work 8376477).

A WORD (or two) FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Waiatarua Community Hall

The residents of Waiatarua have a lovely Community Hall set back in the bush on the West Coast Road, just above where West Coast Road and Forest Hill Road meet. Our hall is suffering from underuse. New heating units (donated by Richard Hoyle) are

being installed to make the hall more comfortable for winter use. Inside, the hall is bright and airy, especially during the day when the curtains are open. The hall is licensed for 100 people and alcohol can be consumed there if permits have been arranged. Our association is working through the Waitakere Annual Plan to enlarge and upgrade the parking for the safety and convenience of those who use the hall. Currently parking above and below can handle about 30 cars.

Some suggestions for using the hall are:

1. Parties - Family reunions, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries etc.
 - Staff parties, neighbourhood parties, dance parties.
 - Combining a dinner party at Ferns with a dance at the Community Hall!
 - Card parties, BBQ parties, etc etc.
2. Classes - Fitness, Yoga, Crafts, Dance, Self Defence (phone Margaret on 814 9294 if interested)
3. Special occasions
 - Mid winter parties.
 - Club meetings.
 - A neighbourhood pot luck or BBQ.

Next time you have a large social gathering, why not organise it at the Community Hall and save yourself the agony of house cleaning, carpet shampooing etc. (*what sort of rave-ups does our president have? - Ed*). Please refer to the renting schedule elsewhere in the Newsletter to see how little it will cost you.

Let's use the Community Hall of Waiatarua. By doing so we will be raising money to keep our building well maintained and available for use.

OUR LIBRARY

As a relative newcomer to Waitakere City and a consistent user of libraries I am impressed with the library facilities provided and the special services, i.e. inter library lending. Our family made extensive use of the Glen Eden and Henderson Libraries - it seems that it is so easy to drop into these libraries when you are heading into town.

Since the Whoopee party I have started to use our library in Waiatarua. Imagine my surprise at finding it well stocked. It actually had some authors that I had had trouble borrowing in Glen Eden. My family now does not mind the five-minute trip up the West Coast Road to our lovely library. What a wonderful setting it has nestled in the native bush.

Our dedicated volunteer librarians would love to see more of us make use of their collection.

ANNUAL PLAN

We are submitting the following items to be addressed in the Waitakere City Annual Plan for this year and next.

1. Finishing the parking area and handling the safety issues and drain problem at the playcentre.
2. Developing a plan to enlarge the parking at the Community Hall to encourage the use of the hall.
3. Development of a policy for walkways along West Coast Road and Scenic Drive:
 - (a) Where schoolchildren walk and congregate for school buses.
 - (b) To add walkways automatically where major road work/repairs are considered.
 - (c) To begin a programme of joining or filling in between existing walkways.
 - (d) More litter bins where people congregate.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WRRRA committee is on Tuesday, July 11th, 7.30 - 9.30pm, at the Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gerry Davis, President, WRRRA

HALL HIRE RATES	
Friday and Saturday evenings:	\$100
(includes tables and chairs)	
Hourly rate (max 3 hrs):	\$7/hour
Other evenings:	\$65
Hourly rate (max 3 hours):	\$7/hour
Daily rates:	
Monday – Friday full day	\$25
Hourly	\$5/hour
Saturday/Sunday full day	\$35
Hourly	\$7/hour
Crockery Hire	\$25
Bond	\$250
Discount for regular users	

GARDEN GROUP

To escape the winter rains our meetings in June and July are being held at 17 Rimu Road, at the home of Karen and Gerry Davis.

The June meeting, to be held on Wednesday 28th will be a video show by Margaret Marshall who will be showing film of her trip to see the beautiful Fall colours of Canada, and also a garden video.

For the July 26th meeting we have Dr. Peter Maddison who will speak to us about Insects of the Garden. Dr. Maddison is well known in the area and very knowledgeable on the subject of 'bugs'.

Or meetings start at 1pm and promise to be very interesting and enjoyable. Everyone is welcome, and any enquiries about the group please ring Eileen on 814 9298.

JUST TO REMIND YOU . . .

Membership now stands at 93 - only about 500 to go for a 100% sign-up rate! You can send your membership fee via the convenient form at the back of the newsletter to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers Association, 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua.

MID-WINTER CELEBRATION

It has been suggested that we hold a community dinner/celebration at Ferns Restaurant. The suggested date is 15th July. The restaurant holds a maximum of 50, so it will be first come, first served. The menu, price etc. has not been finalised yet, but if you are interested, please phone Chuck Humphrey on 814 9557.

LIBRARY NEWS

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road,
under the Community Centre. Phone 814-9353

Hours of Opening

Tuesday	7pm — 8 pm
Thursday	10am — 12 noon
Friday	7pm — 8 pm
Saturday	11am — 12 noon
Sunday	11am — 12 noon

Books can be returned at any time
through the chute by the library door

PLAYCENTRE

Our sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30 am - 12 noon.

If you are interested in seeing what goes on at Playcentre, come along during a session to 911 West Coast Road, down the driveway, or you can phone Marjan on 814-9832 for further information.

NEWS FROM FERNS RESTAURANT

With Waiaataruans in mind we are extending "Ferns" to the front of our premises and are opening a Café and Wine Bar. Here we will be casual, providing wine or coffee with a snack or light meal. (As a condition of our licence we have to provide you with a light snack if you wish to have a drink.)

Anyway, we should be opening the Café by the end of June. We will also be continuing to provide a full à la carte menu in the restaurant as we have in

the past for those of you who prefer a more substantial meal.

We initially intend to open the Café on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11am till 11pm. We will consider extending the days as demand increases.

Our apologies to those who have tried to phone us in the past and have been unsuccessful due to technical problems with the line. Telecom have promised better service in the future, but please don't hang up if you are met with a lengthy silence. We are told that this is normal in our exchange area when a call is diverted to a secondary number. This only happens when the restaurant is closed.

We look forward to seeing you at Ferns Restaurant or our Café in the near future.

Cheers!

Judith Walker.

RATES

From time to time there are moves by the Waitakere City Council to institute a wholesale revision of rates. A couple of years ago a capital-value scheme was proposed, and soundly rejected. The schemes all have in common fundamental changes in the philosophy of rating and necessarily mean that some ratepayers pay more and some less. The latest proposal is for multiple differentials with the aim of relieving the burden on those paying rates in excess of \$3000 per annum on one section. The rationale is that the services demanded and used for this property are the same as those for any other property; using the principle of 'user pays' the ratepayer should therefore pay no more than someone who pays \$1000 per annum in rates for the same services. This type of flat rating is not envisaged under the latest proposal, but some flattening of the rating curve, or rather cutting-off the top of the curve is envisaged. The effect would be that those in the most common rating band would pay \$52 per annum more in rates so that those paying \$4000 to \$7000 in rates could enjoy a reduction. Richard Hoyle (acting Immediate Past President) took part in a think-tank at the Council offices where 10 ratepayers from around the City discussed the proposals (four options were tabled). There is no firm commitment at this stage to proceed with the changes. Ratepayers in Waiaatarua are classed as in the non-drainage area and enjoy a differential which is supposed to compensate for lack of sewerage. Our roads are of a lower standard and footpaths non-existent, but anyone buying a house in the area is aware of this when they move here. Thus the rating applied to our sections is partly based on the facilities available and partly on the value of the land; typically one factor cancels out the other. The proposed changes, were they to be put into effect, would mean that most ratepayers in Waiaatarua would pay slightly higher rates.

COMMUNITY BOARD NEWS

Septic Tank Pumpouts

As many of you know, the Council contractors are employed to pump out every septic tank in the City once every three years. This is happening in the Waiatarua area at the moment.

You will be advised a week before, by letter, that the contractor will be pumping tanks in your area. If you wish to be present to observe the pump out process then you will need to make arrangements with the contractor.

Once the pumpout is complete the contractor will leave behind a pamphlet containing information on septic tanks and a note giving details of the condition of your tank. This is your confirmation that the pumpout has occurred. Please call Graham Leonard at Waitakere City Council (836 8000) or the contractor, MacDonald Environmental Services (412 9202) if you have any questions or concerns.

Road Safety

The Community Board has been involved in a number of site meetings over the last few months along the Scenic Drive. We share the concerns expressed by the Community regarding the dangerous intersections along this busy road. The Board will be working with Council officers and local people to try and improve the situation.

We have organised a meeting of all the Ratepayer Associations in our ward to discuss the issues of road safety on our rural roads. We hope that some useful ideas will come out of this meeting as well as the identification of accident black spots in our area.

Waiatarua Hall

The Community Board supports the Waiatarua Ratepayers Association in its endeavours to improve the parking outside the hall. We are currently investigating methods of funding this work.

An Invitation to Attend Our Meetings

Our meetings are held at the Council Chambers in Waipareira Avenue in Henderson and we extend an invitation to you to join us and address the meeting on any concerns that you may have. Meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 7.00pm. Hope to see you there.

Penny Hulse, Chairperson, Waitakere Community Board.
Phone 832 5358.

Please accept my subscription to the
**Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
for 1995**

I enclose: \$7 Household, \$4 Single Occupant

Name

Address

Phone

To Treasurer,
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association,
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1995,
January to December. A list of financial members
and receipts are available at the library,
and any queries about membership
can be answered by phoning
the Treasurer – Eileen Powell on 814-9298*

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT

Anne Wilson J.P. Special services. Bush setting for small weddings. Phone Anne on 814 9547.

VETERINARIAN

For pets and farm animals, house calls a speciality. Phone Neil Pullan, 814 9504.

FOR SALE

Computer. 386/25DX, 8mb memory, 300mb disk. High quality 14" screen. CD-ROM, Tape Backup, fax modem. Ideal small office machine. \$2100, with 3 months support. Phone Tony on 814 9860, fax 814 9140.

HOUSE SITTING WANTED.

My name is Elandra Kirsten Meredith, seminar leader, yoga teacher, actress. I am the daughter of Paul and Karna Andreassen, 18 year residents of Waiatarua. I live in Hawaii and desire to spend more time in New Zealand after August. Please call my parents on 814 9521 if you know of any possibilities.

WAIATARUA MUSIC STUDIO

Studio Mid-term break classes

5—6 year olds (Music and Movement)

Learn basic elements of music through listening, moving and playing instruments.

Six in a class – 45 minute sessions

– 5 classes – \$6 each

7—9 year olds (Simple Music Making)

An opportunity to experience simple music making on a variety of musical instruments.

Four in a class – 4 classes – \$9 each

Telephone Celia on 814-9660

JULY NEWSLETTER

*Copy needs to be in the hands of
Tony Bacon*

*911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua
(Community Centre Letterbox)*

by Thursday 6th July, 1995

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Many thanks to the Longley family for once again printing this newsletter.