



Community News

AUGUST 1997

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

BOB LANGLEY, LONG TIME RESIDENT

We were looking forward to having Bob Langley come to our history afternoon but he died at 82, a few days before the event was held.

Bob came to Waiatarua and took over the store from Mick Chester in 1964 and was a most obliging storekeeper and friend for 16 years in that position. There are stories of him delivering the groceries and putting them away in the cupboard.

After he retired from the store Bob lived in Cascade Avenue and was hall caretaker for some years.

In 1992 he married Mosina and went to live in Glen Close, Glen Eden. Bob made a significant contribution to Waiatarua and will be warmly remembered.

AN AFTERNOON FROM HISTORY

On Sunday, August 3, eighty people, including Mayor Bob Harvey gathered together to share their memories and unforgettable stories from Waiatarua's unforgettable past.

My sides and facial muscles ached from laughing so hard.

As a relative newcomer to this area I was fascinated by; the tales of isolation of the women who pioneered this area; the story of the fireman who stopped for an ice cream cone on the way to a bush fire, especially the fireman who missed the departing truck and lost his trousers trying to hold on to his ice cream while he ran. Unfortunately, he had forgotten in his haste to wear his knickers. Was he embarrassed!

There was wonderful sharing of these stories and others for nearly four hours. Can you believe that that rascal Bob Harvey and friend Kelvin Lane climbed the TV mast in its early years? (outside transmission times).

You may have missed the afternoon, but you do not need to miss the event. It has all been taped and placed unedited on a VCR tape, available from the library.

The afternoon also saw the relaunching of the book "Song of Two Waters" by Jeanne Wade, with Jeanne being presented with a literary award by Mayor Harvey. If you want a written history of Waiatarua, this is it and it is available from the library for \$18.

A social tea with cakes, biscuits and sandwiches gave an opportunity for people to socialise.

Thanks to David Harré and others there was a historical of old photos, an early bushman's tent equipped with stretcher bed, pots and pans and even a sitz bath.

The Waiatarua Ratepayers Association organised this day. Thanks to all who supported it. We are talking about organising an afternoon or day to explore Waiatarua on an old bus, to stop along the way where the old restaurants, guest houses and other old buildings etc stood and talk about the history of the area.

Gerry Davis, Presiden , WRRRA.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

I have not had any offers to take on this monthly task.

The bulk newsletters need to be counted out and delivered to the volunteers who put them in your letter boxes. A small number also need to be posted.

If you are able to take on this task or need further information please phone Margaret on 814-9843.

Some newsletters are delivered to an area near the top of Opanuku Road. I notice that there are no financial members in Opanuku Road and so would not feel it worth our while bothering with this delivery unless a considerable number pay the subscription

SUPERANNUATION REFERENDUM

Marie Hasler, our Waitakere electorate MP will be chairing an evening of speakers to inform us on this issue.

This will be on September 4 at the Waiatarua Community Centre starting at 7 pm with tea, coffee and a chat until 7.30 pm when we will be addressed by Jonathan Eriksen, representing the insurance industry and Graeme Hunt from NBR. Come and be informed before you vote on this issue.

LETTER FROM JAN COCKELL

My thanks to all the residents who have sent me cards in Auckland Hospital during my eight weeks stay there. Also to the residents of Raroa Terrace who contributed to the amazing bunch of flowers and card sent more recently via Caroline Murdoch.

Although I have now moved on to Rehab Plus, 54 Carrington Road, Point Chevalier, I have brought the flowers with me and am getting the pleasure from them here.

I am scheduled to be here for at least a month or so on "non weight bearing" classification to allow my pelvis to heal further and after X rays at Auckland Hospital on September 4, hopefully starting to walk again.

GARDEN GROUP

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 August and this will be a visit to Eden Gardens to see the spring flowers. We will meet at the gate at 1 pm.

Please phone Eileen on 814-9298 if you are going and wish to join us for afternoon tea. We would also like to know if you offer a ride or need a ride.

You are very welcome to join us at any time, there are no fees and you can come as often as you like or just once.

MAIL FOUND

The two letters without envelopes have been reunited with their owners and the empty envelope owners informed.

The business concerning Trevor Morris Radiators remains unclaimed but a schedule of schools Geography providers has been claimed. I am horrified to realise that the mail was taken from boxes on the Scenic Drive down West Coast Road, Raroa Terrace, and even down to Kauri Loop Road. Phone Margaret on 814-9843 .

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Your vice-president braved the lion's den recently and fronted up to the Community Board to present some of the WRRRA concerns for our area. He emerged unscathed, but nearly asleep from boredom. Here is what was discussed:

Footpath up West Coast Road from Raroa Terrace

Your committee has presented a case for this to the last two annual plans, and has been knocked back each time, on grounds of cost. We have been concerned that what has been presented by us as a fairly modest proposal has in each case been blown up by the engineers to a major road engineering project, at an inflated price. In addition there has never been any feedback from the Council during the evaluation process, only a decision at the end, when it is effectively too late to do anything about it.

A suggestion was made to move the bus stop down West Coast Road to be opposite Raroa Terrace. This would certainly be a low-cost response, but it was pointed out that while this would improve the safety for children coming from Raroa Terrace, it would in fact significantly worsen the safety of those coming from Bush Road. In addition the sight-lines opposite Raroa Terrace would make the siting of a bus stop there a general traffic hazard.

Community Board members have visited the site and now appear to have a better appreciation of the problem. While they did not give any firm promises, citing general budget restrictions, they undertook to provide better feedback during the evaluation process, and also invited us to comment on the general budget allocation for footpaths for the whole city.

Scenic Drive/Piha Road Junction

We expressed concern that a clearly identified traffic hazard has yet again missed out in the Annual Plan. The committee agreed that the hazard exists, and responded favourably to the suggestion that as an interim measure large hazard warning signs could be placed on the approaches to the junction. Council officers will look into it.

Speed limits

We expressed concern that the speed limit of 70 kph along West Coast and Forest Hill Roads effectively carried over into the side

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

Hours of Opening

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.

roads (Rimu Road, Cascade Avenue etc.) due to lack of specific signs on those roads. Council officers stated that while that was not in fact the case, they acknowledged that the lack of signage meant that drivers were given no warning to slow down in the side roads. They will look into the possibility of providing speed limit signs on the side roads.

Waiatarua Locality signs

Your committee has for some time been trying to get permission to put "Welcome to Waiatarua" signs on the roads leading to our fair land. This has been stalled by council officers who say they have been unable to identify the boundaries (notwithstanding our clear historical evidence.) We expressed concern about this lack of progress. Council Officers were dubious about the idea of putting signs at the boundaries as being contrary to Council policy, but suggested that general identification signs may be possible (which is what we wanted anyway!) We await progress with bated breath.

Community Hall Access

During the negotiations for the transfer of the lease of the hall to the WRRRA, the council undertook to provide wheelchair access to the hall, and a wheelchair-accessible toilet. Nothing has yet happened. The City Infrastructure Manager promised to chase it up.

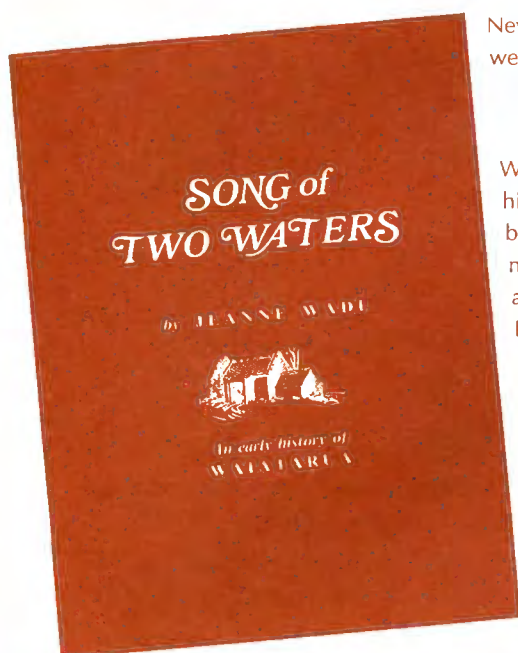
Inner/Outer Area Differential Study

This was an agenda item rather than an issue raised by the WRRRA, but it is of importance to us all. The current plan is to start the community consultation process during August, with the objective of having a draft funding policy by the end of the year. Concerns were expressed by board members about the timetable, and by officers about the limited resources available for the consultation process. It was suggested that in that case the process should be extended to allow the resources to be available as required - which was not met with huge enthusiasm by the officers. It was stated that there is no predetermined view - the study could result in recommendations that range from no change to complete abolition of the differential.

(Vice-Presidential comment: while this may be the "official" view, there is certainly a political movement to remove the differential)

This is an issue of huge importance to local residents—in a worst-case outcome your rates could go up by at least a third—so it is in your interests to be fully involved in the consultation process. Watch this space!

LIBRARY NEWS



New members always welcome!

"Song of Two Waters – an early history of Waiatarua" by Jeanne Wade is now available for \$18 at the Waiatarua Library (under the Community Hall). Community support has made the second edition of this remarkable book possible.

New books this month include Jessie Munro's Montana Book Award winner "The Story of Suzanne Aubert" – Also "Drum-beat" by Danielle Thomas (wife of Wilbur Smith).

MESSAGE FROM SERGEANT MARTIN LANDSEY

Recently I attended an incident in the Waiatarua area where a burglar had parked at an address where both were known by a vigilant neighbour to be at work. Due to the timely and accurate information from the house, our Eagle Helicopter ensured that any attempts to flee were useless. The offender gave himself up to Police after preparing to steal approximately \$5,000 worth of property.

This story had a happy ending, but unfortunately the majority of house burglaries are only detected when property owners arrive home from work to see the mess left by the offender. In the Waitakere Police District there are between 380 and 400 burglaries reported every month.

What can you do about this invasion upon your community by people who do not generally live among you? These invaders are most likely from outside of Waiatarua and target your area because it is seen as offering burglar protection from being detected.

- (1) Firstly become an active participant in your local neighbourhood watch group. This will ensure that everyone in the Waiatarua community is looking out for each other and not just concerned about number one.
- (2) Secondly, take some steps to minimise the risk of being a target. How easy is it for a burglar to get into my home? What invitations do I signal to the burglar? If you would like some information on different crime prevention techniques you can obtain a free book called "Practical Crime Prevention" from the Waitakere Police Station.

I hope that you all support Mrs Mary Kelly and her efforts to get Neighbourhood Watch functioning well in the Waiatarua community.

Sgt. Martin Landsey, Community Relations Co-ordinator, Waitakere Police.

BUILDING WITH BAMBOO II

With Pauline Isaachsen and Paul Rodgers.

The morning workshop will focus on the various species utility bamboo and their unique uses. A hike through the bamboo nursery will familiarise you with their size, growth habits and culture. After lunch Paul Rodgers will demonstrate stages of constructing a bamboo fence panel with a Japanese influence. Paul brings extensive knowledge of Japanese gardening and bamboo working from his training with Kubo Landscapes, Kyoto, Japan.

- The day will be held at Bamboo Specialists Nursery, 833 West Coast Road. Call 814-9847 for directions.
- The time is from 10 am – 3 pm and you will need to bring your own lunch.
- The cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. The minimum class size is 15.
- Prepayment is necessary to guarantee enrolment.
- For enrolment and further information for all classes contact Betsy Kettle on phone/fax 576-5948.
- Email dbkettle@clear.net.nz
- 14 Tiraumea Drive, Pakuranga, Auckland.

This workshop is arranged by the Permaculture Institute.

Information about the Permaculture Institute of New Zealand can be obtained by calling Dave Edwards on 834-4075. Membership in the institute is open to everyone.

To join send \$20 for a one year subscription which includes four issues of PermNewz.

Post to the membership secretary,
PINZ, PO Box 56, Dominion Road, Auckland

ORATIA FOLK MUSEUM

The Annual General Meeting of the museum will be held on Thursday 2 October 1997 at the home of David and Barbara Harre', 527 West Coast Road, Oratia commencing at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

PLAYCENTRE

The Playcentre is situated down the drive next to the Community Centre, 911 West Coast Road, and if you would like to join us our session times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12 noon. You can phone us on 814-8835.

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB

The Spring Show, called Orchids in Toyland, will be held at the Corban Winery Estate on August 22 – 24.

Friday 22 August	1pm - 5 pm
Saturday 23 August	9.30 am - 5 pm
Sunday 24 August	10 am - 4 pm

The club would be pleased to have new members and for further information you can contact Lee Ducker, 416-6737

**132 members
so far this year.
Come on and send in
your subscription
now – let's have a record
number!**

ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1997,
January to December. A list of financial members
is available at the library,
and any queries about membership
can be answered by phoning
the Treasurer – Eileen Powell on 814-9298*

**Repeat commercial advertisements of financial members will only be printed as space allows,
for the remainder of the financial year**

ALL STUDENTS!! – Do you need help in 5th form Accounting, Economics or mathematics. I am offering my services as a one to one tutor and am prepared to teach within your own home.
Phone Paul Goldsmith, BCom on 818-8139

HELP !!! – Henderson CMA Day Centre for the disabled urgently need a volunteer to assist on Wednesdays. For further information phone 836-7370 or 818-6056.

BUSINESS FOR SALE – The Oratia Superette is offered for sale. This is a great opportunity to run a community based business close to home. Ideally suit a couple or partners.
Please call in for further details or phone 818-6462.

JOHN HENDRIKSE, lawyer and Notary Public; now available full time at 914 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua by appointment.
Phone 814-9991.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The names of our current co-ordinators are listed below. If you haven't been approached yet and would like to belong to one of these groups, give the co-ordinator a call.

Name	Address	phone no.
Mary Kelly	3 Atarua Gardens	814-9857
Tony Holt	56 Bush Road	814-9688
Ross & Kath Mullins	330 Forest Hill Rd	814-9402
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Rd	814-9954
Chris Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876
Ngaire Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036
Bernie Oudemans	15 Quinns Road	814-9941
Margaret & Paddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tce	814-9859
Daniel Muller	550 Scenic Drive	814-8998

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY HALL HIRE

Remember to hire this excellent facility for your meetings, parties, dances, birthdays (children's and adults) etc. Lovely wooden floor for dancing.

Friday and Saturday evenings, (including chairs & tables) \$100.

Hourly rate, (max 3 hours) \$10 per hour

Sunday to Thursday evenings \$65,

hourly rate \$7 per hour, (max 3 hours)

Daily rates Monday – Friday, Full day \$25, hourly rate \$5

Saturdays & Sundays, Full day \$35, hourly \$7

Crockery hire \$25, Bond up to \$250.

Discount for regular users. Community Barbecue hire \$20

Phone the custodian, Terry Blumhardt, on 814-9843

Please accept my subscription to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
for 1997

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

Name

Address

Phone

To Treasurer
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua, Auckland 8
or leave at the library

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

Margaret Blumhardt

PHONE 814-9843

849 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua

(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1997

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.