

Community News



FEBRUARY 1998

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WARRA

The Annual General Meeting of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association will be held at the Waiatarua Community Centre 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua on Thursday 26 February 1998.

The evening commences at 7 pm with a social half hour for you to meet other residents over a cup of tea or coffee, followed by a speech from Mayor Bob Harvey.

He will speak about the inner - outer differential among other subjects. This is very important for you to understand and help your committee and community board justify it's future existence. Government now requires all local authorities to reassess this and the information compiled by supposedly neutral staff of our council seems to be biased towards the inner area. If we lose this differential rates will rise thirty percent.

The Annual meeting will follow after this. Please come and participate in the affairs of your community and hear what has been done over the last year.

There are a number of committee members resigning this year and so please consider helping out in this way.

The minimum commitment is to be able to attend the monthly meeting for about two hours. A secretary is also required. Gerry Davis, our president would be happy to discuss any queries about this. He is available on phone 814-8833.

This will be your last newsletter unless a new editor is found. If you have any queries about this position please phone Margaret Blumhardt, phone 814-9843.

This is what our vice president, Tony Bacon had to say in our December newsletter.....

"If you think the community is important and that people power **can** make a difference, please consider standing for election to the 1998 committee.

I can just see all the thought balloons now—"they don't need *me*", "What can *I* contribute?", "I'm sure they'll find someone *else*", "I haven't got the skills". Well trust me, we *do* need you, you *can* contribute, we may well *not* find someone else and all you need is the time to attend a monthly meeting and a commitment to looking after your community. **Please** don't assume someone else will do it. Come along to the AGM in February, listen to our guest speaker (entertaining, informative, provocative—at least one of these, and with luck all three), and when the time comes, stick up your hand!"

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I found this on the wall of a voluntary organisation that I visited.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER

THE KIND THAT WOULD BE MISSED

OR

ARE YOU JUST CONTENTED
YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST?

DO YOU ATTEND THE MEETINGS
AND MINGLE WITH THE FLOCK

OR

DO YOU STAY AT HOME
AND CRITICISE AND KNOCK

DO YOU TAKE AN ACTIVE PART
AND HELP THE WORK ALONG

OR

ARE YOU SATISFIED TO BE
THE KIND THAT JUST BELONGS

DO YOU PUSH THE CAUSE ALONG
AND MAKE THINGS REALLY TICK

OR

LEAVE THE WORK TO JUST A FEW
AND TALK ABOUT THE "CLIQUE"

THINK IT OVER MEMBER
YOU KNOW THE RIGHT FROM WRONG

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER
OR DO YOU JUST BELONG

Congratulations

... and Best Wishes to two of our committee members who are marrying on Valentine's Day. Kevin Healey and Christine Wickham. Kevin is also a volunteer fireman and produces the drama productions for them. Christine was asked by a workmate to come and help with a production.

The rest is history!

Waiatarua congratulates two very community minded people who greatly contribute to our community.

WAIATARUA FIRE BRIGADE

would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in being in their new production of "Red Hat, No Knickers".

Rehearsals start in April for June opening.

We are particularly looking for singers, dancers, magicians, comedians or any cabaret type acts.

Please contact Christine, 814-9505 or Lyndsay, 814-9872.



This month we are starting the year again with a visit to the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens at Manurewa to view the dahlias and perennials. We will meet at the entrance at 1 pm.

For car pooling and any further information phone Eileen on 814-9298.

LIBRARY NEWS

New members always welcome!

A Happy New Year! The library is open for borrowing with a variety of new books waiting for you, including:

The Mataress Countdown	Robert Ludlum
Under the Tuscan Sun	Frances Mayes
Food in a Minute	A. Gofton

We need a volunteer librarian for the second Saturday of each month from 11 am til midday and the fifth Friday evening from 7 pm - 8 pm. Full training given. A good way for new residents to get to know the people in the area.

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 & Sunday	11am — 12 noon

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

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 Playcentre during these hours on 814-8835 or Debbie on 814-9187 after hours.

TITIRANGI VILLAGE FESTIVAL

This will be held on 15 March. Any artists or community groups wanting to have a stall should contact Ann Grighthouse at Waitakere City Council, phone 836-8000, ext 8509

THE NIHOTUPU TRAMLINE ADVENTURE

We're finally off!

A delay of half an hour reshuffling cars fails to stem the excitement of nineteen walkers intent on exploring the Nihotupu tramline track and it's tunnels on this damp June morning. The group consists of several fit looking grey haired ladies, a few not so grey heads, two couples, myself and our leader Charles, who works for Watercare.

Lissie of Sport Waitakere has organised this walk as part of a special Walking Programme but is not to join us. She has spent the last half hour giving instructions, collecting money, (\$7), and arranging five vehicles to be at the end of the track so we weary walkers can be driven back to the start of the trail avoiding a long slog up Piha Road.

We enter the track at Greenwood's Corner and after a slight ramble down the hill come to a halt by the tramlines to await instructions on how to conduct ourselves over the next few hours.

"In the army nobody gets lost" explains Charles as he hands out the bright yellow and white hard hats. "The reason is because we're taught to not be concerned with keeping up with the person in front of us as much as making sure the person behind us is always there."

"How far is the walk?" asks one experienced looking trumper. "Five to six kilometres" is the reply. "What about wetas?" asks a short blonde lady. Charles assures a few anxious faces there would be few if any. He then warns us to be careful of wet sleepers under the tramline and the wood on the bridges we'll be crossing. Bush black makes them very slippery.

Lissie has apologised earlier for not reminding us to bring torches although the more sensible among us had anticipated darkness and tunnels with needing light and brought theirs. Charles instructs us to shine the torches along the side of the wall rather than straight in front as this provides better light.

As we prepare to depart, hats perched on heads, one of the more mature ladies notices Charles strapping a knife around his waist. She asks him what he is going to do with it and mumbles something about having seen the movie "Scream" recently. "You're not a murderer?" asks another bravely.

Charles assures us that all he uses the knife for is to dig a hole if necessary, cut through bush or open a tin of baked beans.

With that assurance we depart down the tram line. Installed from 1911 onward these lines and tunnels were used to carry building materials to the site of the dam for it's construction. The dam took five years to build and was completed in 1923. This walk takes us along the original tracks through seven tunnels around the dam, past two waterfalls then back on to the Piha Road. There are eighteen tunnels in this area.

The first tunnel, known as "Hauler Tunnel" looms up in front of us. A notice just inside says a permit is needed to enter and that it is 234 metres long. Charles suggests that instead of going through it we can go around and along "Incline Track" to view a large kauri tree, one of the few left in the area. After a few "haws, hums" and "not sures" it's put to the vote. Democracy

prevails as the majority opt to go around much to the relief of some and disappointment of others.

"Incline Track" was developed to winch building materials such as aggregate, stones and rock from the Parau Valley for the construction of the concrete dam. Around we go with the fast walkers setting a brisk pace, so brisk in fact that several of us missed the turn off to the kauri. By the time we back track the more leisurely walkers have heard quite a bit of detail about the tree.

This is one of the few remaining in this part of the bush and is approximately six hundred years old. Charles tells us of a grove of kauri in a nearby locality which had they been left to grow, would have been an even greater attraction than the ones in the kauri forests up North. We bemoan the ignorance of man then continue on along the grassy slope toward the second tunnel.

In we go single file with our heads nearly touching the roof. Suddenly the tunnel appears a little longer than first anticipated. A torch in front so carefully placed along the wall appears to be fading. All a little disorientating as my hand flails to touch the nearby wall for balance. I feel my heart start to beat rapidly but resolve not to mention it as even those who had earlier professed to a little claustrophobia appear to be doing remarkably well.

All's well, we're out on the other side. On along the tramline we walk with beautiful views down a bush clad valley, then hit the third tunnel. Into the narrow opening we go, my heart races. It's difficult to see where my feet are going with such a small light.

We're out! Another good view and quick walk to another short tunnel. Once again a few unpleasant claustrophobic feelings. This time I resort to prayer. "Lord Help" We're out! It's good to see the dull grey sky and more beautiful native bush.

The next tunnel named "29 chains" or "Tunnel 29" is 559 metres long. Charles says the light we see at the end of it will disappear for a while as we get deeper in. Without appearing too obvious I shuffle my way to the back of the group and place myself between Beryl and our leader Charles who has the biggest torch of all. Yes!

In we go. My prayers have been answered. No panicky feelings no racing heart just the steady thud thud of Charles feet behind me and the bright light of his big torch shining all around. This tunnel is quite dry and like the others it has the pipeline which carries 300,000 cubic metres of water to the city each day running parallel to the tramline.

Charles assures us that safety inspections take place weekly. The only problem being the occasional rock fall and tree across the track. "I wouldn't like to be in here during a tremor" he says. "Mè too Charles" I think to myself as I look eagerly for the light at the end of the tunnel.

We're out! The beautiful bush covered Waitakeres loom all around us. We look over the edge of "Quinns Bridge" to a large drop down under the tram lines where water gushes.

On we tramp across the valley to "Quinns Tunnel" which is 328 metres long. This is drier than the previous one. Someone suggests it's because it's running uphill. Charles confirms this and says that some people have been known to walk through these tunnels without a torch by legtapping the tramline all the way along.

A lot of laughs come from those further in about the domino effect should one of us fall forward on the person in front. We'd

all go down like skittles.

We're out! Once again a short walk along the bush lined tramrails brings us to the short tunnel and out the other side. Charles explains that the two clear grassy areas here were where the workers building the dam had their huts.

We all stand at the edge enthralled by the stunning view across the valleys to the Manukau Harbour. A look back shows the imposing Nihotupu Ridgeline we have just walked under.

Charles issues instructions as to where the toilets can be found, then leads some of us in a lively discussion on politics. Sandwiches, biscuits, hard boiled eggs and cups of tea appear and are eaten and drunk with relish before continuing the last part of our walk.

The group splits in two as we prepare to climb the hill to the top of the Nihotupu Dam..... The more energetic opt to climb the 149 steps up the dam face. I opt for a more leisurely stroll and chat with Charles up a more gentle slope. We arrive on the dam at the same time as the last of the dam face climbers who are panting rather hard but look pleased with themselves.

A spectacular view looking up to the waters cascading down to the dam then out over the damface to the valley at the bottom. The dam was built on top of a 100 foot waterfall. Quite beautiful and well worth the effort to get here. More uphill walking along the side of the dam brings us to another gentle waterfall. One lady remarks she could easily spend hours sitting here.

A short stroll uphill leads us to a small hut where we're instructed to leave our helmets. It's been cleverly suggested that if the walks are going to continue the hats could have lights on them like the miners. Charles locks them away in the hut and calls for a time check. Exactly 12.30 pm and it's all over.

A highly recommended walk. I'll be back with family, friends and a big torch next time they're open to the public.

Permission to walk the track should be obtained along with hard hats from Huia Filter Station. Phone 817-8867.

Written by Robyn Collins, member NZ Freelance Writers

The All New . . .

RITCHIES TRIAL BUS SERVICE

From: Muriwai, Piha, Bethells, and Waitakere Rural

To: Te Atatu, Henderson, Avondale, Pt Chevalier, Downton and Newmarket

Starting on Monday 23rd February – this new service may be of use to some of our residents.

The Piha Route is as follows:

Leaves Piha at 6.30am – Scenic Drive – Forest Hill – Farwood – Hindmarsh – Bruce McLaren – Railside Avenue (Henderson Railway approx. 7.10am), then across Great North Road to Edmonton Road, changing at Te Pai Place to the route of your choice, arriving at Downton/Newmarket at 8am.

The return route is the reverse of the above arriving at Henderson Railway Station at approx. 5.50pm then Piha at 6.40pm

This service will only operate if there is sufficient passenger support and will continue on a "use it or lose it" basis.

For further enquiries or information –

PHONE BOB HARLIWICH ON 832-5428

ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1998,
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**

LEARN TO SPEAK ITALIAN with an experienced native teacher.
Private or groups, all levels - conversation, grammar, business.
Phone Alessandra, 814-8993.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE, SECTION CLEARING,
WATERBLASTING ETC.

Friendly professional service and great rates. Call now for that
summer project. C & S Garden Services.
Please phone Colin, 817-7825 or Steve 814-9191.

WATER SERVICES LTD - Water delivery, tank cleaning. Sales and
service of tanks, pumps and filters.
For water solutions phone Philip Parks 812-8537 or mob 279 6036.

ELECTRICIAN - phone your local man, Jim on 814-9344

VETERINARIAN Full veterinary service for dogs, cats and other pets;
including spays and neutering, Xrays, urgent medical and surgical
treatment. House calls. Phone Neil Pullan on 814-9504.

FOR SALE -Drop front desk, mahogany veneer, good order, \$100.
Particle Board - 2400 x 1200 x 5mm, 20 sheets at \$5 each,
Phone 814-9843

EXCELLENT CHEAP GLASS REPAIRS - phone 814-9786

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - guaranteed dry split macrocarpa, \$55 per
cubic metre. Call at 17 Rimu Road or phone 814-8833

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
Ngairi 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
Gaelene & Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788

Please accept my subscription to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
for 1998

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

Name

Address

Phone

To Treasurer

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

WAIATARUA

COMMUNITY HALL HIRE

Remember to hire this excellent facility for your meet-
ings, 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 hrs)

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

911 West Coast Road,

Waiatarua

by WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH, 1998

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