



Good-Bye

A number of you will have already realised there is a new editor's name on the front of this newsletter. I have stepped down as editor, and Jo Hall has taken over.

I urge you to support Jo, and one of the best ways you can do this is by supplying information to her about the goings on within the community.

My time as editor has enabled me to meet many people within the community and become aware of how much the WRRRA committee contribute to the development of this area. Gerry (President) and his team, do a marvellous job and they welcome everybody's input.

A big thanks goes out to Carol and her team at Longley Printing, who spend numerous hours each month formatting and printing this newsletter at no cost to the association.

Also thanks to Adith and her delivery team who get out there in all weather to deliver it to your letter box.

Finally, thank you to everybody who has contributed to the newsletter in some way, be it an article, a quick phone call to up-date me on happenings or an advertisement. Without your support there wouldn't be a newsletter.

Keep warm and dry over winter and I leave you with this little joke which epitomizes the confusion over the millennium bug.

Bye for now, *Michael Griffith*

A letter from

"A Confused Y2K Engineer"

I hope I haven't misunderstood your instructions. Because to be honest, none of this Y to K problem makes any sense to me. At any rate, I have finished converting the months on all the company calendars so that the year 2000 is ready and will have the right months.....

Januark
Februark
Mak
Julk

Please note that none of the other months have a Y to change to a K.

Greetings from your new Editor

I have lived in Waiatarua for 10 years now, having built our home here to savour the peacefulness of the bush.

I am married to Geoff and we have two young daughters, Mallory (3) and Laura (1). Prior to being a mother, I taught mathematics at a local high school for several years.

I have been on the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association committee for a couple of years, having been secretary for one of those.

My motivation for becoming editor of the newsletter is the importance for this newsletter to continue to be a means of communication among us.

In past issues I have learnt the history of the area, enjoyed the humour and wit of some local residents tales, and appreciated being kept informed on council matters, local news, and happenings.

I am not a writer, and as Michael has said previously, in order for this newsletter to continue in it's fine form, it is up to all of us to contribute and support it.

I'll look forward to hearing from you. *Jo Hall.*

This Month at the WRRRA

At this month's meeting Tony Miguel of Ecowater was invited to talk to us about the Septic tank cleaning and Inspection Programme operating in our community.

(Ecowater has recently taken over the responsibility for the programme and are in the process of letting a new contract.)

Tony listened to the suggestions we made as to the improvements we thought could be made to the existing service. Two of which were....

1. A checklist supplied to the owner/occupier at the time of the pump out, to indicate the performance of the septic system.
2. That pump outs be conducted at varying times of the year, as a system's performance may vary greatly in the differing seasons.

Tony also presented two pamphlets to the committee, "Caring for your Wastewater System and the Environment" and "Where should Waitakere's Water Go?"

The former pamphlet being a simple, yet excellent guide to septic systems, their maintenance and care.

The WRRRA suggested that all households in the area should receive these.

Tricia Fitzgerald presented a comprehensive summary of the findings of the WRRRA survey. This proved very interesting reading. (see later in the newsletter)

The next WRRRA meeting will be held on Monday 5th July at 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

P.S. The WRRRA are still urgently in need of a secretary.

The secretary's role consists of taking the minutes at the monthly meeting and circulating these to the committee members along with some correspondence. Meetings are on the first Monday of the month, usually from 7.30-9.30pm. If you are interested please phone Gerry Davis on 814-8833.

Residents and Ratepayer Survey

Brings Interesting Results

The survey has been completed, counted and compiled, and makes interesting reading. Some of the results are reported below, and the rest will be reported in next month's newsletter. With 226 replies, the opinions are considered to be representative of the community.

Who is the community?

- ◆ Firstly, 81% of residents come from Waiatarua or Oratia. Some owned property in the area, but lived elsewhere.
- ◆ Many of us live here short term. The average length of time spent in the area was 10.58 years, although nearly half (44%) had spent less than 5 years in the area.
- ◆ The average household has 2.91 people. 50% had only one or two people, but 45% had between 3 and 8 people in the home. 37% had children under 16 in the household.
- ◆ Waiatarua is ethnically homogeneous: 91% of residents were European or Pakeha, with 2% Maori, and 2% identifying as other.
- ◆ 53% were members of Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association.

What did people say?

- 1) Rubbish, roads and emptying of septic tanks are the most important services to Waiataruans.

- 2) 78% said they have no footpaths and were generally concerned about this.
- 3) 56% said they have no mains water supply, but were not overly concerned about water provision.
- 4) Rates levels were not a major issue. They are perceived as being between somewhat unfair and reasonably fair, with an average score of 2.31 (out of 4)
- 5) 52% of residents make use of the ginger bins and 46% do not, but 94% make efforts to get rid of noxious weeds
- 6) 62% did not understand the rules about subdivisions. The 44% who answered the question thought the current subdivision rules were about right (2.95)
- 7) 38% did not know what a conservation covenant was, but those who did understand it thought it was very appropriate to offer rates relief, if covenants were established.

If you can't wait until next month's instalment on the survey, you are welcome to get a copy of the results from Gerry Davis on Ph 814-8833

What's On

Lopdell House Gallery

11 June-11 July – MUSIC BOX (Main Gallery)

Miriam van Wezel, Ron Left and Jonathon Besser explore the traditional form of the music box, integrating the elements of sound, sculpture and painting.

Primary : Sarah Munro (Small Gallery)

Is someone born an artist or is it a learned activity?

Munro's installation in the small gallery explores such questions.

TCAC – The Upstairs Gallery

"FIREWORKS" – 3-27 June

The Titirangi Potters Club annual group exhibition.

"Upstairs Gallery"

30 June – 11 July

AN INSTALLATION BY VERONICA LIMMER.

"Art from the Heart" – 16 - 30 July

The annual exhibition of Artwork by children from Waitakere City's primary and intermediate schools.

Fire Brigade News

Some of you may have noticed the increased activity at the Community Centre. We have, very bravely (or very stupidly), undertaken to make a movie of our first play, 1125J.

Isaiah's house has been built and filming has started. We've had, and are having, some wonderful support from people in the industry. Unitech filming course students have come on board to do the filming.

Sam and Donna are providing us with some fabulous food (much to Tony's delight).

This is all proving to be a huge learning curve for us all, and who knows, maybe Hollywood will welcome us with open arms... well we can dream can't we?



This month we are celebrating the winter solstice with a lunch and workshop at the home of Margaret Marshall, 19 Raroa Terrace, Wednesday 19th June.

Lunch will commence at 12, but if you are not able to join us for lunch you are welcome to arrive at 1pm for the workshop session.

Bring any queries, which we will attempt to answer, and we will have plenty of reference books available for perusal.

Phone Eileen on 814-9298 for additional information.

Congratulations

50th Anniversary Golden Wedding



Courtney – Hansen

Married on 4th June at St Andrews Church, Cambridge

Graeme Courtney & Peggy Hansen

Congratulations to our wonderful parents,

with love from your children and their families

Current Address: 299 Forest Hill Rd, Henderson, AK. 09 814 9678

Congratulations to Tom, Kari and Eimhin Hoey, on the birth of Patrick (7lb 3oz) on Sunday 13 June.



Library News

We have a lovely selection of new children's books, Here are a few....

Hairy Maclary by Lynley Dodd • How to make paper planes

How to draw space craft • Fancy Dress

Face Painting Books • Things to do after school and the best...The Life sized Inflatable Whale – Guess what happens! and many more.

Next month there will be a new array of books for the adults.

Open Day

Waikarua Volunteer Library

Keep Saturday 28th August free. Mark it in your diary now. A day full of activities and excitement in your local library.

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.

Mitch's Recommended Bush Walk

(Mitch spends many hours running the tracks in the ranges.

He also runs "City Lights" our local Café and Brasserie.)

The Waitakere Challenge

More than two decades ago, a group of hardy runners and myself started a race which grew to be known as 'the toughest cross country run in the North Island.'

It started at the Swanson end of Tram Valley Road, crossed the Scenic Drive past the Waitakere Dam, over the Anawhata Road, through a maze of tracks to Piha Road, following the Huia Ridge Track, Twin Peaks to Huia and ended at the Cornwallis Wharf.

No one knew the exact distance, but we estimated it to be around 50 km.

It was always held on the last day of the year and after four or five years the race had grown to be too big for this particular route, and so was diverted along the coastline to Anawhata. The race continued for another ten years until it was stopped by the ARC. At the last race I boasted to some friends that I would do the original race on my 50th birthday. (I'm not sure

if this was a moment of madness or too much New Year's cheer.)

However, my 50th birthday came around with the speed of light. Last month a good friend reminded me of my commitment so I thought I would strike a blow for us middle aged. I managed to talk one friend into running half.

I took off just as the birds were stretching, and made good progress. The tracks were in reasonable condition all the way through to Anawhata Road, where I picked up my unsuspecting running mate. I was amazed to find that I was only a few minutes slower than 20 odd years ago. It took only twenty minutes to reach Blackrock Dam.

After crossing the stream we headed up to Centennial Track, where things quickly turned to kaka.

The tracks - Margarite Lucy Cramwell and Kauri Grove Track are virtually non-existent and the exits to Piha Road so badly overgrown that we were faced with an extra hour loop to find our way onto Piha Road.

(I suggest if you are planning to walk any of those tracks in this area, take Rambo, a machete and a compass with you.)

Once crossing the road onto Huia Ridge and Twin Peaks, the tracks turn from bad to worse. Many signs have been removed and you have to sharpen your bushcrashing skills even more.

Anyway, to cut an even longer story short, we got out of the bush after two 1 hour diversions and poor old Graham, running his first marathon.

We arrived at Cornwallis Wharf after nearly 8 hours running and just moments of daylight left.

My conclusion : You are never too old if you set your mind to it.

And one more thing, if you are going to do any tramping of more than four hours duration, make sure you have plenty of daylight left, plenty of warm clothing and check with Arataki or the rangers that the tracks are still there.

P.S. Well done my mate Graham Buchan.

On the Mitch scale of 1 - 10 , a 10+, Good luck and good tracking.

City Lights Café - Winter Hours

Café	Thursday to Sunday	8.30am - 6pm
Restaurant	Friday to Sunday	8.30am - 11pm

"Biosecurity Unit on the hunt for Aussie Import"

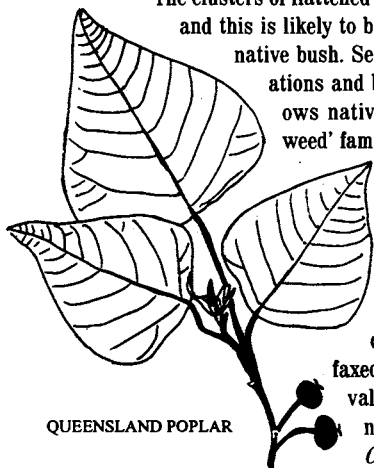
The Auckland Regional Council's Biosecurity Unit is on the hunt for an Australian import. One of the main functions of the ARC's Biosecurity Unit is to identify and monitor new plant species which are naturalising themselves in the region. The unit monitors the spread of these plants and determines the risk to the native environment. In addition to new plant species, it also monitors those naturalised plants which are starting to colonise new habitats and the impact they are having on the natural ecosystem.

One plant which I have noticed is becoming widespread in the Waitakere Ranges over the past 18 months is Queensland Poplar (*Homalanthus populifolius*) or the Bleeding Heart Tree. This Australian native is sold as an unusual, fast growing ornamental, popular for its lower heart-shaped leaves turning red before they fall.

The clusters of flattened grape-like fruits are popular with birds, and this is likely to be the way in which it is spread through native bush. Seedlings can germinate in low light situations and being fast growing, it quickly overshadows native species. It is a member of the 'milk weed' family with milky sap and therefore poisonous.

I am keen to assess the spread of Queensland Poplar throughout the Waitakere Ranges, so would appreciate if members of the public could contact me if they come across it. I can be contacted on 817 5153 or 025 222 9069 or faxed on 817 5253. This information will be valuable in determining whether the ARC needs to take action or not.

Chris McKain - ARC Biosecurity Officer



QUEENSLAND POPLAR

Playcentre

Your local playcentre now has a new session every 1st Friday of the month from 3.30 - 5.30pm.

This is for all past and present playcentre members to come back and enjoy the freeplay philosophy we encourage, and a great opportunity for older children to meet their playcentre friends.

Beginning 2nd July in the school holidays.

See you there.

Thankyou to Maria, a local resident, for her generous donation of two boxes of sellotape and a computer monitor and keyboards. This is really appreciated.

It is nearly the end of another term.

Our last session for Term 2 is the 25th of June and we resume back in Term 3 on the 12th of July.

For more information, after hours, please phone Elke on 814-8803.

Session times : Mon/Wed/Fri 9.15am - 12.15pm

Address : 911 West Coast Road, Down driveway at Community Centre
Phone : 814-8835

All in a day's work

An article by Neil Pullan, our local vet, who has recently retired after 8 years.

The receptionist told me there was a very agitated boarding cattery owner on the telephone. Could I visit this afternoon?...I could.

I was greeted by an almost tearful owner.

"I've got this glorious cat that just won't eat. He's a champion. He's only here for three days and his owners come home tomorrow. His name is Nanki-poo and he's siamese." She almost wailed. "You know what they can be like when their minds are made up."

Indeed I did!

So off we went to see this stubborn creature.

He was magnificent - a Seal Point - aloof and regal, but not exactly unfriendly. I examined him thoroughly. The whole time his expression was clearly one of... "There's nothing wrong with me. It's just that I choose not to eat in this place."

He certainly seemed healthy enough, so I gave him an appetite stimulant injection which I had found often helps in these situations. I also suggested an extra dose of love as well as some small treat that might tempt him.

The following day, the first evening appointment was an anxious woman clasping a cardboard carrying box in her arms.

"I collected my cat from the boarding cattery this morning" she said, "He was fine but now he has developed this awful diarrhoea and I'm so worried."

Right on cue and before she could reach the table, the bottom of the box fell out, and with it ...Nanki-poo.

He gazed at us a moment, then launched himself at me, winding his long legs around my neck and purring mightily. His owner was flabbergasted.

"Well, Goodness me! He NEVER does that to people he doesn't know. Fancy that."

I had a very nasty feeling that it must have been an awfully large offering of 'something special' he had had for his treat. I managed to unwind him, admire him and examine him, all the while muttering about these symptoms very often being caused by a change in diet...change in environment..

Eventually, Nanki-poo in a new carry box, and his owner with an anti-diarrhoea mixture, departed.

As soon as surgery was finished I rang the cattery.

"Oh yes. He ate last night." was the happy reply to my query.

"I decided to spoil him, and so took him into the house and told him..." Salmon, Nanki-poo, Look. Not for anyone else. No. A whole tin of salmon. Just for Nanki-poo."

"He ate it all too."

And so his feast was kept a secret between the cattery, the vet and Nanki-poo.

ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1999,
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**

JP – Mary Kelly. For personalised weddings, re-affirmation of wedding vows, ceremonies of commitment, naming ceremonies, MC, Chair for public meetings etc, Ph/Fax 814 9857.

FAY'S YOGA CLASS – Glen Eden – Your complete Health and Fitness Prog. Mon to Sat ph: 817-8233.

LAWYER & NOTARY PUBLIC - John Hendrikse. Also available at night and at weekends. Very competitive fees for housing transactions with a free will. I will accept briefs for Criminal cases in the Henderson Court. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road, Waiatarua – Ph/Fax 814 9991

DESKTOP PUBLISHING / WORD PROCESSING / WEB PAGE DESIGN – all your typing needs catered for at very reasonable prices. Call Elaine 837 8207

EXCELLENT CHEAP GLASS REPAIRS - phone 814-9786

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	PH/FAX	E-MAIL
Mary Kelly, JP	3 Atarua Gardens	814-9857 + Fax	turtle@xdra.co.nz
Dennis Graham	Back up - Atarua Gdns	814-9706	
Tony Holt	56 Bush Road	814-9688	
Ross & Kath Mullins	330 Forest Hill Rd	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Rd	814-9954	
Chris Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	chrislizi@voyager.co.nz
Ngairi Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036 + Fax	
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Rarua Tce	814-9859	
Goelena/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	
Debbie Irving	562 Scenic Drive	814-9789	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 1999

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

MUSIC TEACHER – available to teach piano, keyboard and theory. Based in Waiatarua. Offers one-to-one tuition, practical and theory exams, competitions, all at reasonable prices.

Contact NZ Modern School of Music on 0800 696874

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

PRUNING – roses, fruit trees, shrubs and Garden Design and Maintenance. Phone Linda 025 8335610 or evenings 833-7860

WINDOW CLEANING / WATERBLASTING, Chemical & House Washing. Excellent rates, free quotes. Phone Glenn 814-9480

ECSTASY AND ENERGY EATING – Food For Life – In true middle eastern fashion in my beautiful Moroccan style home, half day workshops in the ultimate way to stay lean. Learn recipes and cultures from Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria etc. Please phone Tami Vazey on 814-9024.

LEARN HOW TO TREAT YOUR FIRST AID AILMENTS WITH HOMEOPATHY. I am offering classes now in this, with further topics to include family and pet care. Ph Trica (Dip. Hom) 814-9221

FIREWOOD FOR SALE, guaranteed dry, pine \$50 a cubic metre. Phone 814-8833

BEAUTY THERAPY – Fully qualified with 9 years experience, waxing, electrolysis, facials, massage, tinting, manicures and pedicures. Phone Vicky 814-9317 (7 days)

SANDY MCCONNELL ANTIQUES: Fascinating genuine antique maps and views of New Zealand and Australia. Wide price range. Contact Sandy McConnell on 814-9962 or email: sandy_mcconnell@clear.net.nz

"MAYIM SUB – Counseling Service: Helping people overcome the problems life throws up. Contact Sandra Gibbons B.Min, Cert CPE on 814-9642 to find out more or for a brochure.

EAT AT THE HIGHEST RESTAURANT IN AUCKLAND – Yummy food and great views. Roast Dinners on Sunday Night. Phone 814-9006 for bookings etc. City Lights Cafe and Restaurant.

AUCKLAND SUN CLUB INC. The family club for clothes-free recreation invites you to visit.

For further information please call 814-9973

WOODEN FARM GATES. Tanalised timber with galvanised bolts. 10' - \$61.00 12' - \$68.00 or made to order. Ph 814-9700

ELECTRICIAN – Phone Jim your local man Ph 814-9344

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 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 Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

757b West Coast Road Road, Waiatarua. Ph 814 9945

by THURSDAY 6th JULY, 1999

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