



# Community News

MARCH / APRIL 2000  
EDITOR:  
JOSEPHINE HALL  
WRRRA PRESIDENT:  
GERRY DAVIS PH 814-8833

## The Waiatarua Residents & Ratepayers AGM

The guest speaker at the AGM last month was Gary Taylor, former city and regional councillor for our area, and now an environmental consultant and Director of Infrastructure Auckland.

Gary spoke about the crisis on the Waitakere Ranges and the decision of the Go Waitakere dominated council to remove subdivision controls throughout the area.

Gary said that over the 25 years that he had been involved in conservation issues in the Ranges, the trend has always been to improve the controls over subdivision and development. The last council did a good job of consulting communities and came up with a district plan that has strong measures in it to protect the environment.

With the election of the Go Waitakere dominated council, the trend has reversed for the first time in all those years. Now the decision has been taken to not only weaken or remove subdivision standards in the Ranges, but to do it without any further consultation with affected communities such as Waiatarua. This poses huge risks to the future of the Ranges and the Council must be persuaded to reverse its stance.

Gary pointed out the importance of the Ranges as a single forest entity, one of few remaining that has a complete succession from the coastal escarpment up to the ridge line and down in to the eastern foothills. The other coastal forests remaining in the North Island are all fully protected as part of the Conservation estate. The Ranges are unusual in that they are a mix of reserve and public land about 65% - 35% and so they are what he called "living, working environments."

Gary described the work being done by the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, as trying to hold the line against the development pressures that are being encouraged by the council. He said that it is a tremendous workload and the Society needs all the support it can get. He encouraged people to join and outlined the many Environmental Court cases the Society is involved with.

According to Gary Taylor – and it was a view shared by many present at the meeting – something needs to be done to create a more effective means of protecting the Ranges, in the long term. The spread of development is proceeding inexorably over time, diminishing the ecological and landscape values of the area we all love so much.

He said that we need to think about what the area will be like in 50 or 100 years and take measures to secure that future, one that seems best for the area. He described the way other countries take special steps to protect their valued landscapes and said that we need Government to develop some new policy instruments to help with the task.

In particular, we need to move towards greater use of financial incentives as a way of rewarding people who actively practice conservation stewardship on their land.

Gary finished by mentioning the large numbers of visitors to the area, and the fact that it's not just local residents who have an important stake in its future. People need wild places and a sense of space in order to nurture their souls. The ranges are so vitally important to the whole region and to future generations, that we cannot afford to have them remain hostage to political fortune.

He said the Society will be working closely with the new Government

And with local MP David Cunliffe to try to develop a new framework for administering special areas like the Waitakere Ranges.

People can join the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society by sending a \$20 9\$25 for a family) subscription to : Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, Box 15-688, New Lynn.

The Society produces a regular newsletter to keep members informed of developments.

## Fire Permits Required

*It's now summer, so from now until the end of April you will need a fire permit from the Council for all outside fires except gas barbecues. Phone 839-0400*

## Comments on Gary Taylor's Address to the AGM

*by Wade Cornell*

Gary Taylor is well known and respected for his role in environmental advocacy in the Waitakere Ranges, and now as director of Infrastructure Auckland. Members of our community share most issues of conservation and protection. Mr Taylor has highlighted some of our concerns regarding the make-up of our current Council. It seems that the Go Waitakere dominated Council is trying to remove controls on subdivision within the ranges and to do away with some aspects of the consultation process that allows dissent.

These should be major concerns for all of us.

It is also obvious that with the removal of the inner-outer rating differential and cuts to funds for rural areas, the urban area councillors (for the benefit of their constituents) are squeezing us.

Mr Taylor has suggested an interesting alternative : removal of the Waitakere Ranges non-urban area from Waitakere City, and creation of a special area by Act of Parliament which would administer us. The obvious goal would be the enhancement of ecological values, and to diminish or eliminate urban pressures.

The idea has much to commend it, but we must also tread warily to ensure we do not get rid of the devil we know for...who knows what? Would Wellington exercise any consultation?

How much say would we have in our own affairs?

How do we deal with an administration that is based in Wellington for day to day affairs?

We can certainly presume that the emphasis would not be on satisfying the wishes of residents, as we would generally be impediments to the overall regeneration and conservation of the area. Much can, and should be done, to encourage and recognise the efforts of our residents to enhance conservation, and it is possible that the Central Government will be more generous than Waitakere City Council has been. But, as Governments change, so does funding policy and priorities. Consider this scary (but unlikely) scenario : If our area is governed by an agency bent on removing as many private properties as possible, for the good of the forest, and also returning the maximum dollars to Government for administration, we could wind up being rated out of existence.

A win, win for Government, and a total loss for us.

I don't know what the answer is, but I think we should keep asking lots of questions.

**Please accept my Membership to the  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association  
for 2000**

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**

## This month at WRRRA

by Jo Hall

The meeting began by welcoming three new committee members : Geoff Wood of Mountain Road, Sandy McConnell, and a new secretary, Bernadette Fastnedge also of Mountain Road.

We farewell and thank Susan Clark, Tricia Fitzgerald and Glenda Tan, for the input over the last year/s.

The membership of the WRRRA for 2000 stands at 44, so your membership of \$7.00 per household or \$4.00 for a single occupant, is now due.

### Issues discussed at March's meeting included...

- The Council is presenting it's Year 2000/2001 Draft Annual Strategic Plan, (or how available revenue will be spent in the coming year), at a meeting in March. Denis Graham will be our WRRRA representative at this meeting and will report back on all his findings in the next newsletter.
- Gerry Davis, our President, has written to the Mayor informing him that the WRRRA are directly opposed to the sale of the Waitakere Testing Station. An excerpt from the letter "...The sale of assets gives an artificial lowering, that when all sales have taken place, the rates must then jump, in order to service the infrastructure, and other costs, which have not been managed through rates collected on a yearly basis..."
- Job descriptions, within the WRRRA, were discussed, and committee members volunteered their expertise and skills to specific roles.
- The Rooding Survey was reported on. (see Gerry's article later in this issue.)
- Much discussion was had about the delivery times of the WRRRA Community Newsletter i.e. when it gets put in to your letter box. The delivery times seem to vary greatly...some residents not receiving the newsletter until well after the dates and times of events advertised, while others receiving it promptly. The WRRRA are going to explore possible avenues of making the delivery more efficient. (*perhaps, too often, we can take for granted how this newsletter arrives to us - the voluntary time spent by members of our community doing this. Can you help?*)
- Lighting, badly needed in the Community Hall car park, is to be installed. As a member of the WRRRA committee shared with the group...."....it is so embarassing when you leave here and arrive home in the wrong car..."

The next WRRRA meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm at the Waiatarua Community Hall at 911 West Coast Road.

Feel free to attend.

## Deliverers Needed

Deliverers and Back-up delivery people needed to distribute this newsletter. A person is especially needed in the West Coast Road area from 911 to the intersection of Scenic Drive.

If you can help, please phone Helena on 8374665

## Cars, Trucks, Bicycles and Pedestrians

by Gerry Davis

The Ratepayers Association has been concerned for some time about the safety of pedestrians, runners, bicyclists, school children and the mix of motor vehicles on West Coast Road, Forest Hill Road and Scenic Drive. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February members of the Association sat on the corners of West Coast and Forest Hill from 7am to 7pm. to count the various traffic patterns there. Our belief is that the road widths on these three roads are below the standards for the amount of traffic on them. (According to the NZ Transport Authority). We are working in conjunction with Roger Ward, the road traffic engineer of city council, to document the problem.

We are hoping that out of this study will come support to have city council plan over the next few years, to bring these roads up to standard, with some arrangements for walkers, bikes, runners, etc.

Our count revealed some interesting patterns, which I will share here.

That these roads are busy will surprise no one. Forest Hill Road has more traffic than West Coast Road, though both are heavily travelled. Over the 12 hour period, cars came and went on average every 20 - 30 seconds.

All who did the survey have a much greater appreciation of the dangerous nature of the Forest Hill / West Coast Road intersection. On this extreme tight corner, with a steep rise from the West Coast Road,

there were 40 times during the period when cars drove extremely haz- ardously through this intersection.

For example, I saw cars coming up Forest Hill Road well over 80 km per hour, drive straight through, across the West Coast Road. If you had been coming up West Coast Road at the same time, and at this corner, with you having the right of way, there would have been an accident.

It is possible in these situations to be DEAD RIGHT as far as the traffic rules apply, but who wants to be DEAD and right?

I saw people back down West Coast Road, at this turn, and then go down Forest Hill Road.

My personal conclusion at this time, was that I would take this corner with much more caution in the future. So, be careful at this intersection.

If you wish to make your view point about having these roads brought up to standard, you can email or write to me at the following addresses, email [davisb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davisb@xtra.co.nz) or 17 Rimu Road, Waiatarua.

## Annual Plan 2000-2001

On 11 February Waitakere City Council approved their Draft Annual Plan. The public is now invited to make submissions. Closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## Unique Places in Waiatarua

The Auckland Sun Club has been in Waiatarua since 1940.

Nestled amongst five acres of native bush, and bordered by a stream, the facilities have been purposefully built to create a park-like and relaxing atmosphere.

In the 1940's, these five acres were gifted to the Auckland Sun Club, friends met there to enjoy clothes-free recreation. ( In those days it was very 'hush-hush'.) The only building on the property, then, was a small, one-bedroom cottage.

The Auckland Sun Club is a Naturist Club, where families and individuals can sunbathe, swim and enjoy all the superb facilities like sauna, spa pool and swimming pool, without the necessity for clothes, in a safe environment. The more physically inclined, can enjoy mini-ten, petanque, and volleyball, or a relaxing stroll through the bush to the stream. A spacious clubhouse with pool, billiard, table tennis, darts, games and a small naturist library, a fully equipped kitchen and comfortable lounge area with an open fire, ensures a relaxing, yet stimulating environment, whatever the weather. In the colder season, a unique geodesic dome provides surprisingly warm temperatures, without the danger of sunburn, due to the UV-filtering properties of the dome's cover.

The club is run by the members, and financed by subscriptions, donations and fund raising.

Visitors are welcome any Sunday afternoon for a spa and sauna, or just a chat over afternoon tea. Those on the 'net' can 'visit' us,(and other clubs throughout NZ) at [www.nznaturally.org.nz/asc](http://www.nznaturally.org.nz/asc).

There are four Sun Clubs in Auckland and 22 throughout New Zealand.

For further information contact Wolfgang or Birgit on 814-9973.

## Thank you...

to Pauline, our Community Hall Custodian, John Isaachsen, and helpers, for the "face-lift" they have given to the grounds at the entrance to our Community Hall.

## Welcome to Waiatarua

**Graham and Ruth Kendrick** of the Scenic Drive. Graham and Ruth moved to Waiatarua from Te Atatu South in September 99, where they had lived for 14 years. Says Ruth...We have always wanted to live up here, but never took the plunge. What made us decide in the end, was that we thought Te Atatu South was getting busier, noisier and more polluted. We think Waiatarua is a wonderful place to bring up our 4 year old son.

**Chris, Sarah and Emily Wheatley** new to West Coast Road, having recently immigrated from Wimbledon, England.

## Neil Pullan

Our deepest sympathy to Margaret Pullan on the passing away of her husband Neil Pullan, on 7th March. Neil was known to many of us as the warm, friendly, professional Veterinarian, serving Waiatarua for many years. He will be sadly missed.



This month we are visiting the fantasy sub-tropical garden of Peter Brady, who is a retired florist and plantsman and recently described as a garden decorator. Sculpture, garden ornaments, ceramics and pottery add interest and intrigue to this garden which is planted entirely for Auckland conditions. Meet at 56 Marsden Ave, Mt Eden, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at 1pm. Entry fee \$3.

For further information, or car pooling, please ring Eileen on 814-9298.

I am compiling a list of e-gardeners who would like to receive earlier notice of our programme by e-mail. Please contact me on [etpowe@clear.net.nz](mailto:etpowe@clear.net.nz).

## Library News

Terry Chapman's book reviews in the last issue were brilliant, and we hope he will make these a regular feature. The new books that we stock, (by Grisham, Rendell, Coontz, WilburSmith etc), are always in demand, but Terry is drawing attention to the many "oldies but goodies" tucked away on our shelves.

We have ordered the "Consumer" to keep for reference in the library, and will let you know when the first issues arrive. We also have an interesting selection of jigsaw puzzles for borrowing.

( see *Library Hours* on back page)

### **This Month's Library Book Review by Terry Chapman**

"THE DIAMOND THRONE" by David Eddings.

You may have met the author's earlier series, 'The Belgariad', in which young Garrion takes up with the legendary sorceress Polgara, and her grumpy, if talented, father, Belgarion.

The Diamond Throne is the first volume in 'The Elenium'. Here the central characters, led by one Sir Sparhawk, are mostly middle aged knights, the writing consequently has a more mature feel to it. It's about the struggle between various militant orders and a rather nasty head of the church, who wants to size the throne for a puppet King, while the Queen yet lives, albeit encased in diamond to prevent her dying of a terrible poison. Magic is, of course, central to the plot: 'He looked at them a bit more closely. The horses on which they sat now appeared even more skeletal, and Sparhawk shuddered as he saw that the animals had vacant eye sockets, and their bones protruded through their tattered coats. Then, the two knights removed their helmets. Their faces seemed filmy and indistinct, almost transparent "Guard well our beloved mother, Sparhawk. Should she fail, our deaths are without purpose and the Queen will die".'

A good read, the only negative criticism I will make is that most of the 'goodies' seem to share the same whimsical sense of humour.

## What is the highest peak in the North Island?

In the recent WRRRA survey, many people said they would like to see more social events held at the Community Hall.

The first of these, will be a Multi-Media Quiz Evening - as well as the usual verbal questions, there will be mystery pictures, smells, objects and so on. (no computers!)

I am happy to set the questions and organise the event - but it's not going to work unless somebody turns up to answer them! There will be a charge (yet to be decided) to cover the cost of nibbles, and the prize for the winning team. BYO wine. A raffle will be held in support of a noble cause. Which might be redecoration of the hall. If you think you can organise a team of four or five people, please ring me, Terry Chapman on 814-8778

Editor's comment.. this is bound to be a great night, with Terry's sense of humour. Ken Stacey has his group of four all set to challenge other locals.

## "Ginger Out 2000" Campaign

**Look out for ...** plants up to 2m high, large dark green, glossy leaves and yellow, sweet smelling flowers with orange stamens.

**Dig out ...** every piece of the root system, or it will grow back

**Spray it ...** if the area is too large or hard to get to "Escort" is effective.

**Bin it ...** after cutting off the flower heads, and dug out the roots - or it WILL grow back.

**Public bins for disposal of Wild Ginger are at**

**Parkinson's Lookout or Kauri Loop Road, from March 1 until 6 April  
USE THEM**

For further information Phone 83-90400

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam,

I would like to compliment you, as well as the previous editors, for an excellent newsletter. It is a shame, however, that your efforts are let down by the distribution system.

We have lived in the delivery area and received the newsletter for nearly sixteen years. In all that time we have received the newsletter only once on time. (I am presuming that the notice for the Garden Group's intended visit should be sometime after the delivery date)

What date should we be receiving these newsletters? Who do you complain to if they do not come? Would it do any good since you rely on volunteers?

Why don't you post them? The cost of membership would be just as much a bargain at, say, \$12 as it is at \$7. Some of the issues you cover (Council matters that may affect us) need to be received in time for us to react. It would also be nice to receive it in time to attend the Garden Group occasionally, and other functions organised by the WRRRA Association.

Name and Address supplied.

....You should be receiving your newsletter about the third week of each month. If you are not, then phone Helena on 837-4665.

**The newsletter is dependent on volunteers for its creation, publication and distribution ... often a thankless task, but rewarding in other ways. As to posting the newsletters...what do Waitaruan's think? Please make your voice known by way of the editor....Ed.**

### **A "Thank you" from Mary P Chanter.**

I am sure that many of you have noticed the excellent resurfacing of the road in the area of the Community Hall. On behalf of Waitakere City Council, and their contractors, I would like to thank all those Waitaruan residents who used their cars to perform the over night 'rolling-in' of the new metal. Without this sterling effort, the contractors would have had to have spent extra time and money sweeping up the surplus granite chippings themselves. Well done.

All those wishing to claim for restoration of car paint work and under-body seal, should send their bills to Waitakere City Council for the usual generous compensation.

## Waitarua Playcentre

Your local Playcentre is situated at 911 West Coast Road, down the driveway by the Community Hall. Our hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.15-12.15pm.

Phone 814-8835 or after hours Elke on 814-8803

## Fire Brigade News

### **New Station**

The bulldozer moved in on 13th March, and construction is under way. The top shed which houses the fire engine will remain intact for the 14 weeks it will take to build the new station on the lower area, then it will be demolished once there is a new home for the truck.

### **Change Your Clock, Check Your Smoke Alarm**

There's no point in having a smoke alarm in your home if it's not in good working condition. International statistics show that up to 30% of smoke alarms are not kept in working order, and the Fire Service wants to reduce that number in New Zealand. As daylight saving ends, we're on our way into winter - the most dangerous time in NZ for fires in the home. This is the perfect time to check that your is in working order (the smoke alarm that is), and to change the batteries if necessary. Some batteries need replacing every year. Alarms should also be tested monthly and cleaned gently by vacuuming.

Smoke alarms won't put out a fire, but they will give you the crucial warning required to get out of the home quickly if there is a fire. Fires start quietly and grow quickly. When you're asleep you can't smell smoke and can't detect a fire. A fire in a room can be unsurvivable in less than 2 minutes, and a house can be engulfed in less than four. So every second counts. **HOWEVER A SMOKE ALARM CAN ONLY WARN YOU IF THE BATTERY IS WORKING.**

# ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 2000,  
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 members will only be printed  
as space allows.**

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

LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC : John Hendrikse, also available after hours and at weekends. Fee when buying a house : All up \$800 ; when selling : All up \$508, with a free will.  
Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road Ph/Fax 814-9991

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.

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

AUCKLAND SUN CLUB INC. The family club for clothes-free recreation invites you to visit. For further information please call 814-9973.

## 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@xtra.co.nz
Denis Graham	Back up - Atarua Gdns	814-9706	
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	chrislizf@voyager.co.nz
Ngairi Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036 +Fax	
Adith Stonemon	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Poddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

## WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

### Hours of Opening

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

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

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

ELECTRICIAN – Phone Jim your local man Phone 814-9344.

HOME & INVESTMENT PROPERTY LOANS : Mortgage restructuring, debt consolidation & reduction, line of credit facilities. Free independent service.  
Phone your local broker on 814-9544 or 025-297-0322

WEST COAST VET CLINIC – Offering full veterinary service for your pets, including medical treatment, surgery, radiology, dental services, selected petfoods and housecalls.

Mon –Fri 9.00am –12.00noon, 2pm–7.00pm. Sat 9.00am–12.00noon  
3 Raroa Terrace, Waiatarua. Phone 814-9419

DRIVEWAYS, Garage floors, Pool and Patio Areas, Timber Decking, environmentally friendly chemical cleaning, waterblasting and sealing (to minimise future maintenance). Free Quotes.

Phone Ian on 814-8902 or 021-433-009

MASSAGE for Relaxation, treat yourself (or a friend).  
Vouchers available. Ph Irene 814-9311.

HORSE MANURE - \$1.00 per large bag. Available from the gate at 253 Forrest Hill Road. Phone 814-9771.

THE GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT HAS A GROUP CALLED “PIPPINS” who meet at the Oratia Settlers Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Pippins are girls aged between 5½ and 7 years old. They have lots of fun during the hour, playing games, singing and making a small craft of some sort or another. If you are interested, or would like further information Phone Val on 814-9992.

KENDRICK PAINTING AND DECORATING : for quality and service  
Phone Graham on 837-1612

PHONE “HERE FOR HAIR” MOBILE CUTS.  
Phone Lesley 814-9242 or 025-203-9276

VISIT “EARTH SEED” 100% ORGANIC SHOP  
for a great selection of organic and GE-free foods.  
547–549 West Coast Road. Open 7 days Phone/Fax 818-6411

## 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

## APRIL / MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of  
The Editor,

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

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WENESDAY 5th APRIL, 2000

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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