



This Month at WRRRA

The Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

We discuss and act on issues which affect our community. Please feel free to attend any of our meetings.

The WRRRA Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 22nd February at 7pm in the Community Hall. Tea, coffee and juice will be provided from 7 – 7.30pm.

Our WRRRA President, Gerry Davis, is stepping down from the committee this year and the AGM will give you an opportunity to farewell Gerry and Karen Davis, who are shortly to leave Waiatarua to live in Whiritoa.

Committee members Wade Cornell, Sandy McConnell and vice-president, Denis Graham, are also unavailable for re-election this year.

In order to continue to have a strong voice in regard to Council decisions/submissions and other community issues, **the WRRRA needs new committee members.** If you are community minded, prepared to meet once a month with a keen, active, (and sometimes humorous), group of Waiataruan's, and lend your hand to a task or three, to endeavour to improve, and maintain, the uniqueness of Waiatarua, then please seriously consider stepping forward and joining the committee.

Bill Burrill is our guest speaker at the AGM. He has been both a farmer and businessman for many years and has farmed on Great Barrier Island, in the past. He has a keen interest in the Hauraki Gulf and has been a member of the Auckland Conservation Board for seven years. He also chairs the Regional Animal Health Committee which is working towards the elimination of bovine TB in New Zealand. The destruction of possums is an important part of the work he is involved in and his varying connections has greatly assisted the process.

For the past six years he has chaired Regional Parks on the Auckland Regional Council in his nine year stint in local government work.

An entertaining speaker, he will address us on '*Conservation in the Waitakere Ranges*', so he should not be missed.

At this month's WRRRA meeting there was much 'Correspondence in' – the pile of minutes and agenda's of council meetings, and other incoming mail, being 20 cm high. Each item had been read by Denis Graham, where upon he reported on issues of interest.

The topic of Subdivision was discussed. Of late, there has been much development in the Waiatarua/Oratia area. Also a meeting concerning the development of a structure plan for the Opanuku Catchment area, (HSN Valley), was held in December 1999.

See articles and letters later in this issue.

The next meeting of the WRRRA will be held on Monday 5th March, at 7.30pm in the Community Hall at 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

Waitakere Ward By-Election

The Waitakere Ward by-election is to be held on 17th March.

This will be a postal vote. Residents should receive their ballot forms by 5th March.

There are two candidates Denise Yates (Independent) and Christine Rickard (Go Waitakere).

The WRRRA invites you to Meet the Candidates: Tuesday 27th February 7pm in the Waiatarua Community Hall, at 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

A little about each candidate...

CHRISTINE RICKARD – 'GO WAITAKERE'

Mother of three, 41 year old Mrs Rickard is no stranger to local body politics. The founder of the Bethells/Te Henga Community Group, she is

also the secretary of the Bethells Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. The great grand daughter of John Bethell, who carved a home from the Waitakere West Coast wilderness, she knows only too well how vital it is to balance concerns about the environment with the rights of the individual.

"The battles my family has had with council to farm their own land in the face of tremendous opposition from people who want to 'enjoy' the view, are legendary," she says. "Waitakere is a city in which everyone should work together. There's no mandate to say that anyone is right or wrong. We have to find the balance if we are to make Waitakere a good place to live and bring up our children."

DENISE YATES – 'INDEPENDENT'

Many of you will know me as Chairperson, Waitakere Community Board, a position I have held for nearly 2½ years. As Chairperson of the Board I have made it my business to involve the community in decisions affecting their area and the city as a whole. I believe this is an absolute basic tenet of democracy. I have built wide networks across the city.

For the last five years I have also been Chairperson of the Huia-Cornwallis Ratepayers and Residents Association. This has enabled me to build an interactive relationship with both Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council.

I currently work for the Service and Food Workers Union. Prior to this I have worked for other Trade Unions, as an Employment Law Consultant and in the Health sector. I have also been a partner in a small business.

I have three children, two grandchildren and have lived with my partner at Huia for the past fourteen years.

Democracy versus Consultation

by Gerry Davis

I attended a meeting recently at the Henderson Valley School which was attended by over 100 residents of the Opanuku Catchment Area. The meeting was organised and chaired by a member of Cato Consultants with assistants in the audience from the staff of Waitakere City Council. The purpose of the meeting seemed to be to sell the idea of a structure plan for the area.

Structure plans allow for greater subdivision than the "District Plan currently does.

The 4 hectare limit on larger properties would no longer be in place.

Cato consultants chaired the meeting after requests from landowners who wished to have greater subdivision possibilities than the current limits.

Our "council" has in the past few years created two structure plans, one in Oratia and another in Swanson, paid for by ratepayers, at costs of around \$300 000 per plan. Consultation meetings were held by the Waitakere City Council in both these areas and the majority of residents in both areas were strongly opposed to the plans which allowed small subdivision units.

The majority of residents in Oratia and Swanson did not get what they wanted through their "consultation process". The development interests of a few carried the day.

Consultation has nothing to do with democracy.

Someone at the Opanuku meeting said they will never go ahead with this plan now, as by far, the majority of people in attendance were strongly opposed.

That is what the people in Swanson thought too, but now they have a plan developing and the ratepayers are going to pay for it.

Consultation as experienced in these two meetings at best gives an impression that Council and Staff are listening to the residents and at worst it may be a deceitful process hiding different agendas.

I am all for structure plans for all areas as long as the majority of residents wish it and their interests are taken into account in a democratic process, a vote if necessary.

Will the residents of Opanuku have a similar experience as the

residents of Oratia and Swanson?

What can you do to make sure your vote and voice counts? After all you pay the bills.

Subdivision News

Below is a summary of the current subdivision applications lodged with the council in the Oratia Structure Plan Area.

30 Holdens Road at 5.8049ha to be subdivided into 3 lots

75 – 99 Parrs Cross Road 5.0ha to be subdivided into 2 lots with an extra 2lots that would be vested as esplanade reserve.

130 – 140 Shaw Road at 10.7994 ha to be subdivided into 5 lots and 1 lot would be a bush reserve.

580 – 594 West Coast Road at 3.8445 ha to be subdivided into 3 lots.

587 West Coast Road at 2.5672 ha to be subdivided into 2 lots.

90 Shaw Road at 9.1224ha to be subdivided into 6 lots.

60 Carter Road at 1.9040ha to be subdivided into 2 lots.

600 West Coast Road at 4.6518ha to be subdivided into 4 lots and 1 lot to be vested as esplanade reserve.

132 – 152 Parker Road at 23.179 ha to be subdivided into 17 lots.

160 Parker Road at 3.9284ha into 4 lots

141 Shaw Road at 6.029 ha into 4 lots.

Wow, it's certainly going to be busy out there...Ed.

Waitakere City Council is hosting a drop in day

on Tuesday 27th February from 4.30pm – 8.30pm and Saturday 3rd March from 9am – 12noon at the Oratia Settlers Hall, 569 West Coast Road, Oratia. Council staff will be able to answer your questions about the Oratia Structure Plan, the interim Environmental Court Decision, what you will need to do if you wish to subdivide or develop your property ...Everyone is welcome. See the flyers up in community spots advertising this event.

FireBrigade News.

Situations Vacant

Did you know that your local Fire Station is staffed exclusively by volunteers? The Waitarua Volunteer Fire Brigade is a dozen of your neighbours – ordinary men and women – who train one evening a week. If you'd like to join us there are 2 roles available for you to choose from. You may join as a firefighter, or in areas of operational support such as Fire Police, Fire Safety education, training or administration.

You'll need a desire to help your community and to enjoy teamwork. If you've read this column regularly, you'll know that emergency calls sometimes come at inconvenient and unsociable hours. If you wish to become an operational firefighter you don't need to be Super(w)oman. But you should live or work within about 3 km of the Fire Station – in Atarua Gardens, Brabant Rd, Bush Rd, Cascade Ave, Forest Hill Rd (above about no. 230), Old Forest Hill Rd, Quinns Rd, Raroa Terrace, Rimu Rd, Scenic Drive (nos. 400 – 600), Tui Crescent or West Coast Rd (above Kauri Loop Rd).

Recent Calls:

DECEMBER:

Mon 4th, 10:22pm – Car fire, Mountain Rd

Sat 10th, 1:29pm – Medical assistance, Arataki

Fri 22nd, 12:08 am – Car fire, West Coast Rd

Sun 24th, 9:03 am – Rubbish fire, Atarua Gardens

Tue 26th, 11:27 pm – Car fire, Scenic Drive

Fri 29th, 12:33 pm – Bedroom fire, West Coast Rd (out on arrival)

The Brigade was called out 49 times last year, the lowest total since 1995's 35 callouts. Well done all! This was a welcome change to the trend of call numbers increasing year by year – 52 in 1996, 79 in 1997, 81 in 1998 and 95 in 1999.

JANUARY:

Tue 9th, 5:20 pm – Rubbish fire, Forest Hill Rd

Thu 25th, 22:56 pm – Possible car fire, Scenic Drive

A member of the Brigade prevented the dumping (and likely burning) of an abandoned car at this last incident. The sight of a car being towed up Scenic Drive late at night looked more than a little dubious, so he noted the registration number and phoned the Police with his suspicions. He then followed it from a distance, and the potential offenders were disturbed as the towed vehicle was being backed into the bush. They left without completing their task, and although the Police

didn't catch up with them at the scene they were looking forward to a chat with the car's owner later.

Quote of the Month – "The New Zealand Fire Service is an equal employment opportunities employer and provides a smoke free environment." – from www.fire.org.nz/recruit/index.htm

Contacts:

For all fires and other emergencies phone 111.

To contact the Brigade, call Ian Ford on 8148871 or Richard Seccombe on 8148860.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Madam,

STRUCTURE PLAN FOR WAIATARUA?

Many of you may not be aware of a recent notice to, and meeting of, residents within the Opanuku catchment circulated by Cato Consultants. A meeting was held at the Henderson Valley Primary School Auditorium and attended by over 100 residents. Several members of your ratepayers group attended, and distributed a handout expressing our concerns for a proposed Structure Plan. As the meeting progressed those concerns were unfortunately confirmed by comments from the audience and Council staff.

Structure Plans can be initiated by the Council, or on request by ratepayers or other community groups. In theory, the request could come from a consultant (as in this case) although the vested interests are obvious. Attendees from other areas, and those familiar with other Structure Plans confirmed that in each case a vocal minority had caused the initiation of such Plans. There was no democratic process in which the view of the majority was considered before initiation of the Structure Plan Process. Once a Structure Plan is in progress there is no stopping the process. The end result is subdivision based upon the physical/environmental constraints of the land/catchment in question.

Currently large properties can be divided into 4-Hectare sections. During the subdivision process the Council can demand that riparian strips are set aside, linkages and restoration areas established, etc. The landowner can only object by going to the *Environment Court*. The Council's original District Plan tried to impose these same demands on all landowners but could not legally do so. It seems that some Council Staff see a new opportunity through *Structure Plans* and subdivision to achieve this same environmental wish list. **The notion of saving the Waitakeres through subdivision is a nonsense that should not be tolerated.** The Council has at its disposal the ability to encourage landowners toward better environmental management through education and rates incentives. Failure of the Council to adequately staff or fund these incentives shows a lack of political will toward these goals.

Council Staff at the meeting stated that they have difficulty in rejecting developers' requests to subdivide without the backing of a *Structure Plan* identifying further development as detrimental to the environment. Some of us see this attitude as a threatening posture especially when the Staff's point is arguably misleading. Developers can apply for non-complying subdivisions with or without a *Structure Plan*, and can always appeal to the *Environment Court*. **The Staff's utilisation of environmental constraints as the sole restriction on development is fundamentally flawed.** If the Council staff's only objection to development is environmental, and a developer can prove to the *Court* that they can mitigate their environmental impacts, then they could be granted subdivision.

It is time for our City to recognise and reaffirm that:

- 4-Hectare minimum sections are appropriate and defensible for the Waitakeres.
- Everyone must pay for protection and enhancement of the environment.
- A democratic process should determine if a *Structure Plan* (or any other change) is wanted by a community and not by a minority with vested interests as has happened in Oratia and Swanson.

Yours faithfully,

Wade Cornell.

'The Ark in the Park' Update

by John Sumich

The proposal for the Ark in the Park project was formerly put to the ARC Parks committee at the end of November 1999 and was endorsed with several of the councillors expressing great support.

The chosen area being the 'Waitakere reservoir/Cascades Kauri Park'. Among its advantages were high existing biodiversity, good infrastructure with existing tracks, carparks etc., a high profile with extensive current use of tracks such as the Auckland City walk and the Waitakere Dam walk and the recent installation of a permanent set of bait lines in the Reservoir catchment. Another major advantage was potential vehicle access around the entire perimeter, which would aid management.

Our next task is the development of a strategic plan which will outline how our goals and objectives will be met.

Day and night walks in the Waitakeres, where ARC rangers and committee members have lead groups over several of the tracks and pointed out the thriving night life of cave wetas, tree wetas, orb spiders, tunnel spiders, eels and crayfish, glow worms and bats, will be held again this year to raise awareness of the project and to fundraise.

Contacts with Unitech and Auckland University have been made and expanded. We anticipate a vigorous set of studies this year to provide a baseline inventory of the sanctuary's flora and fauna.

At our Friends of Arataki AGM on Sunday 18th February at 3pm in the lecture theatre at the Arataki Centre, our guest speaker will discuss 'Birds of Waitakere Past, Present and ? Future.' New and potential members are invited to attend.

Brickbats and Bouquets

Sadly, no nominations this month.

Waiaatarua Walkers

We are out there every Saturday morning, meeting at the Oratia Church at 7.30am.

Our walks are varied and usually only for an hour. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Phone Jo on 814-9945 for further information.

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 – 12 noon

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

Waiaatarua Library

Welcome back everyone.

If you are new to the district please come and join us.

A new volunteer is needed for the first Friday night of each month from 7pm – 8pm. Please phone Bev on 8364420.

Thank you Gerry Davis for your generous help over the years. Good luck in your new venture in Whiritoa.

Each month the library receives four magazines. These are Next, Cuisine, NZ Gardener and NZ House and Garden.

New books are arriving and will let you know more about them next month.

Remember to **USE** the library or **LOSE** the library.

Also available from the library – the latest 'Report of the Mayor'. Bob Harvey Pt.V, which mainly focusses on Education in Waitakere City. It includes ERO reports of several local schools. (*Did you know that Waitakere City has 8 secondary schools, 1 area school, 6 intermediates and about 46 primary schools.*)

Within the report there is also a very interesting study on 'The Old New Lynn Hotel' by a local 7th former, Richard Wood of Kelston Boys High School.

The library also has information regarding the Oratia Structure Plan.

What's On:

- **KAREKARE BEACH ANNUAL HORSE RACE ...**
Sunday 18th February, 11am. Enquiries to 812-8760
- **MEET THE CANDIDATES ... WAITAKERE BY-ELECTION.**
Tuesday 27th February in the Waiaatarua Community Hall at 7pm.
- **THE ORATIA STRUCTURE PLAN** drop in days at the Oratia Settlers Hall, 569 West Coast Road, on Tuesday 27th February 4.30 – 8.30pm and Saturday 3rd March 9am – 12 noon.
- **KIWI VALLEY OPEN DAY ...**
Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th March, 10am-4pm, at 308 Henderson Valley Road. A country gala weekend with rides, food and drinks, craft stalls, artwork, the maze, Argo rides and much more. (Kiwi Valley has been developing over the last two years. On site there is an equestrian centre, The Last Straw Café, The Kiwi Maze, Old MacDonald's Country Kindy, The travelling farm, The Kiwi Valley Function Centre and a stunt school.)
- **ORATIA SCHOOL FAIR ...** Sunday 18th March at 10am.
- **JOIN ARTIST SIMON SHEPHERD ...**
to create a sand sculpture on Piha Beach at 10am on Sunday 18th March, North of Lion Rock.
- **A SPECIAL INTEREST WALK...**
to Whites Beach via Rose/Laird Thompson Tracks – fantastic views, 10am – 12 noon on Friday 30 March. \$8 per person. Register with Kay Lindley at Sport Waitakere Ph 8367719.

Neighbourhood Watch

'No news is good news' they say... or perhaps 'it is the calm before the storm'... keep your eyes and ears open, and let others know about any suspicious sightings. See the list of Neighbourhood Support Coordinators on the back of this newsletter.

Is there a Waiaataruan out there who would like to take responsibility for writing and sourcing information for the "Neighbourhood Watch" article in each month's newsletter? Please contact the editor.

Waiaatarua Playcentre

New Year's Wish...

*to spend time with my children
in an environment where we can
play, learn, have fun, make
friends, be creative, build things,
swing, slide jump, dance,
make music, read books,
get ideas and use our
imagination.*

Answer : Visit your local Playcentre
at 911 West Coast Road. We are open Mon/Wed/Fri
9.15am - 12.15pm (0-6 years) with a
supervised session Thurs 9.15 - 12.15 (3 yrs +)
For more information contact us on
814-8835 or after hours Elke on 814-8803.



Our March get together will be a visit to Green Acres Garden in Coulter Road. The garden is on the right hand side just 3 or 4 properties from the first entrance on to Coulter from Candia Road, Henderson Valley. The date is March 7th at 1pm. We should also have time for a visit to Crystal Mountain on Candia Road for afternoon tea. Ring Eileen on 814-9298 for further information or if you can offer, or need, a ride. Everyone is welcome.

Advertising

This is free to financial members
for 2001, 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.

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

WEST COAST VET CLINIC – Offering full veterinary service for your pets.
24 hour service Phone 814-9419

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.

TREE WORK – Fully insured and qualified arborists.
Phone Guy Thomas 813-1481 or 021-255-6418

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.

SOLICITOR – Are you buying and/or selling your business/house? Are you interested in setting up a Family Trust? Phone Geoff Wood for your legal needs at 623-7541 DDI or 836-8630 a/hrs weekdays. Home visits by arrangement.

WORK WANTED: Registered drainlayer, 30 years experience. 6 tonne and 2 1/2 tonne diggers for hire. Phone Ray 814-9242

WEB PAGE DESIGN, Desk top publishing, Graphic Design, Computer Support, Phone Petrik 8365202.

TYPING OUTWORK WANTED: Secretary with general and legal background wanting work for own computer. Skilled in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. Affordable Rates. Phone 814-9788.

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

RELAXING, REFRESHING AND REJUVENATING – for a therapeutic massage ring Rowan on 833-7860

VICKY’S BEAUTY THERAPY: 10 years experience. Facials, waxing, massage, manicures etc. Available 7 days. Phone 814-9317.

ATARUA GARDENS BED AND BREAKFAST: No room for your out of town visitors? Contact Carol and Denis. Phone 09 814-9706 or 025-283-7544

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT PLUS VENUE PLUS J.P. for your specifically designed ceremony and garden setting (if required), talk to Peter George Ph 814-9456

HORSE MANURE FOR SALE \$1 per bag at 253 Forest Hill Road.

LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC: John Hendrikse, available 24 hours by appointment. Are you buying and/or selling your house? Competitive fees. Home visits by arrangement. Overseas documents can only be witnessed by a notary public. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road. Ph/Fax 814-9991

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

ELECTRICIAN: Phone Jim your local man Phone 814-9344

OUTBACK COUNTRY COLLECTION: Gorgeous Preserves. Chutneys and relishes. Available in three sizes. Large bottles \$5..Medium bottles \$4. . Small bottles \$2. Gift baskets available at various prices on application. Free delivery in the Auckland area. To order Phone Jill 814-8825

WHITE FANTAIL DOVES FOR SALE \$10 each. Call 814-8833 for viewing.

BABYSITTER – Mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$8 an hour Phone Juliette 814-8802

WANTED TO BUY: Land, with or without house. Prefer private, sunny, flat-ish location in Oratia/Waiatarua district. Ph 814-9251 or 021 649 251

LAWN MOWING: Local, reliable. Phone Eric 8372333

HOUSE TO LET: 2 bedroom on 2 acres with tennis court, double carport, at the top of Mountain Road. Suit professional couple. Available 23 February. \$250 per week. Phone 8374207

WANTED: Courier service from Waiatarua to Penrose/Mt Wellington. Phone Pauline 814-9847

MATHS TUITION, ALL LEVELS. Experienced high school teacher Ph 814-9269

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/Liz Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	crislizf@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	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2001

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 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

MARCH / APRIL 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 WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH, 2001

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.