



Community News

APRIL/MAY 2001
EDITOR:
JOSEPHINE HALL
WRRRA PRESIDENT:
GEOFF WOOD PH 836-8630

The next Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Meeting

... will be held on **MONDAY 7TH MAY AT 7.30PM AT THE WAIATARUA COMMUNITY HALL**, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

Our guest speaker will be Heidi McLeod from Waitakere City Council, who will speak on the Auckland Regional Water Review. All residents and ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Check out the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers new Website at www.waiatarua.org.nz.

Ward Boundaries Stay

The final decision on the Ward Boundaries and the number of councillors for each ward, has been made by the Local Government Commission.

The four wards of Massey, Waitakere, Henderson and New Lynn, and the number of councillors representing each ward will stay the same.

Waitakere ward will not lose one councillor and Henderson will not gain an extra one, bringing them up to 4. The commission 'did not feel it had been presented with sufficient evidence that the current arrangements did not provide for effective representation of either of the areas proposed for change, or the city in general, or that the proposed arrangements would increase that effectiveness.' It was decided that there was "no clear consensus for change".

There were 69 submissions to the council about the ward system, 37 of these opposed any change. A petition with 225 signatures in support for the status quo was also presented to council.

The ward system will be reviewed again in three years' time.

Appointment of New Councillor – Waitakere Ward

Denise Yates is the successful candidate of the Waitakere Ward by-election, our new councillor for the Waitakere Ward.

The Waitakere Community Board Meeting 3 April 2001

by Geoff Wood

The meeting opened with Owen Hughes appointed as Chairman and Kubi Witten-Hannah as Vice-Chairman.

The Board then proceeded with the presentation of proposals for Auckland University of Technology establishing a campus for up to 2500 full time students at the Corbans Estate Winery premises at Henderson.

The speakers' promotion of AUT was outstanding and extremely well received by the Board. AUT is one of 8 Universities in New Zealand and has strong international links. Growth over the last five years has been 30% in full time students.

The essence of AUT is employability for the students. A partnership is established between AUT and the community so that the tertiary education centres around the express needs of that community, in this case Waitakere City.

By way of example, courses could be offered in Winemaking, Boatbuilding, Healthcare and Forest Preservation. Each campus is more or less unique for the particular area. AUT deserves our full support and encouragement.

Only one group from Western Heights Ratepayers Assn. spoke at Open Forum. It was short and very much to the point. At their AGM the members had expressed their great concern at a budgeted zero rate increase for Waitakere City when it seemed this is to be achieved at the expense of cutting back vital resources such as libraries and the care of the environment by reducing litter control and looking after parks. If this is to happen it is your President's view it is not so much the zero rate policy which is at fault, but whether it involves reduction in important Council services. If it can't otherwise be achieved without doing this then we should be prepared to accept modest rates increases for the good of the community.

Our infrastructure must not fall behind or we will suffer in later years when large increases may be forced upon us to catch up, as the two speakers explained.

Finally before passing on to more routine matters, the Board passed a resolution calling for expressions of interest for the vacancy on the Board. Anyone out there?

Fire Brigade News

Care in the Kitchen

- Quarter of all household fires start in the kitchen

- Of these kitchen fires, half start while the evening meal is being prepared and nearly two-thirds occur while frying using fats or oils.

By taking a few simple precautions you can substantially reduce the risk of fire in your kitchen. Avoid the temptation to go off and watch TV or chat on the phone when you are frying with fats or oils. These products are safe when used properly but can quickly lead to a rapidly developing fire if left unattended. Other simple precautions include removing grease build up from your oven, checking the condition of electrical cords, and ensuring that stove elements and ovens are off before you sit down to your meal.

Recent Calls:

Fri 9th March, 6:11 pm – Rubbish fire, Forest Hill Road – no action required.

Fri 9th March, 8:52 pm – Car accident, Scenic Drive. A wet, slippery road and mismatched front tyres combined to put a Honda City on its side while cornering. The driver escaped unhurt.

Sun 1st April, 3:49 am – Car fire, Scenic Drive. Yet another torched Honda Prelude.

Sun 1st April, 4:52 pm – Car accident, Forest Hill Road. Head-on collision near Kelly Road after the downhill driver lost control in the wet. Although the crew on Avondale's Rescue Tender had to cut him out of his car, his injuries weren't thought to be too serious. The three occupants from the other car had only minor injuries.

Contacts:

Phone 111 for all fires and emergencies.
Contact Ian Ford 8148871 or Richard Secombe 8148860.

Weed of the Month –

Plectranthus

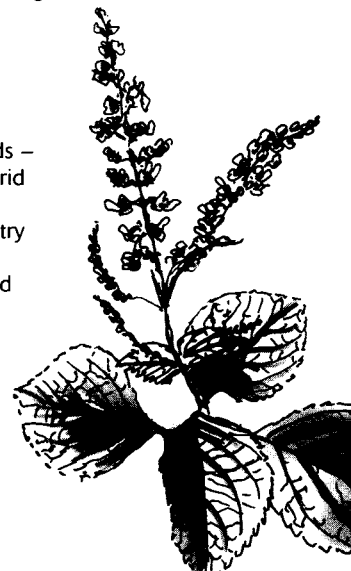
It's difficult to miss the masses of white to pale lilac flowers along the roadsides at the moment – in patches on West Coast Road, and widespread on Scenic Drive. They belong to *Plectranthus ciliatus*, an escapee from the garden. When not flowering, it's still easily recognised by the purple veins on top of the leaves, purple undersides and succulent purple stems.

Left to its own devices, this weed will spread into the bush from the open edge and completely smother the forest floor to knee height or deeper. This will completely prevent the growth and regeneration of all native species. Propagation and sale of *Plectranthus* is prohibited.

Both physical control (by slashing, mowing or rake) and chemical control are effective. After cut material has dried out it can be composted or buried deeply. The recommended herbicide is Roundup at 100ml in 10 litres of water. The most efficient (and cheapest) method is to remove what you can, then spray the remainder along with any regrowth.

Tip of the Month

For all weeds – if you can't get rid of them this season, at least try to remove the flowers and seed heads. The task then won't be any bigger next year, for you or your neighbours.



Something for Nothing

Each month the 'Waiatarua Community News' is formed, type-set, printed and distributed to 600+ households in Waiatarua. These jobs are done by people in your community who volunteer their time and abilities.

Each month a committed group of Waiataruan's meet to discuss, tackle and act on, council and community issues, on your behalf.

Each month a group of regular volunteers maintain, organize and run our local library.

Are you getting something for nothing?

Membership of the WRRRA is \$10 per household, \$7 for a single occupant for the calendar year. Send yours in now to join the other 71 financial members for 2001 and support your Waiatarua Community. (MEMBERSHIP COUPON ON BACK PAGE)

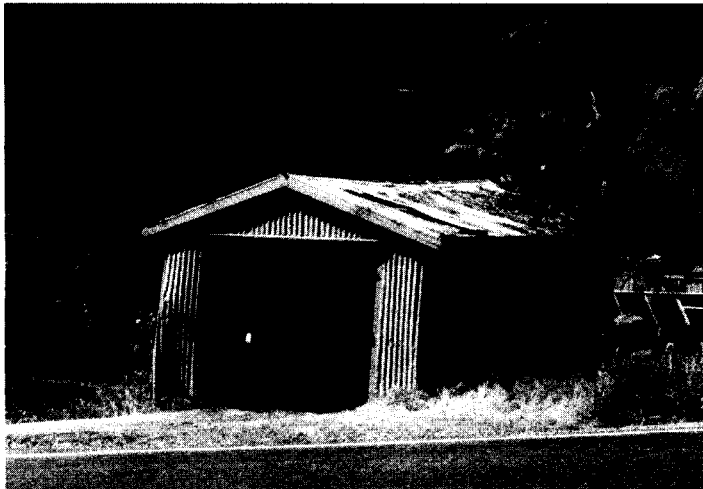
Unique Places of Waiatarua

'Going, going, gone...'

by Greg McGee

After many years of faithful service, a Waiatarua landmark on West Coast Road has been retired, (somewhat helped along in recent years by a close encounter with a large Wattle tree).

It is believed the corrugated iron garage was built in the 1930's, and then sometime in the 50's, the property was purchased by the Whittle family, from a Mr Blake. Lyndsay Whittle can recall many happy hours spent in the garage tinkering with his Morris 10.



It only took two attempts with a four-wheel drive and a tow rope to bring the garage to the ground. Parts of it live on, though, in a tree house in the bush, built for two young boys.

In it's place will stand a new double garage, the added space, not to mention the solid structure, will serve a more practical purpose, however, it will certainly lack the personality and character of the original garage which will be missed.

Congratulations

... to Len and Doris Parkin who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26th March 2001.

Len has lived in Oratia for 74 years. His grandfather was Captain Peter Theet, (1853 – 1943), one of the earliest Waiatarua residents.

Doris has lived in the area since 1935 and is the granddaughter of Edwin and Rhoda Gash who built and owned the Nihotupu Guest House (1917) in Waiatarua.

... to Sandy and Peter McConnell on the birth of their daughter Darcey Summer on 5th March 2001, weighing 6lb 10oz.

In Sympathy

... Keith Alexander Cathie passed away on April 4th 2001. He was 88 years old. He is survived by his wife Frances, son Bruce, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Keith and his wife Frances have lived in Rimu Road for over 60 years.

Waiatarua Playcentre

by Lisa Latham

On a weekend early in March, Playcentre families rallied together to gather tents and camping equipment and set off to Te Haruhi Bay at Shakespeare Park on the Whangaparoa Peninsula.

The Playcentre children, together with their older and younger brothers and sisters, had fun helping to pitch tents, swim, gather shells and build sand castles and some also had great delight in finding the yummy morsels other families had brought along in their chilly bins. On Saturday night we enjoyed a shared barbecue dinner followed by a good old kiwi camp fire with the children toasting marshmallows and a guitar strumming away accompanying a few fireside songs under a beautiful starry night.

While we could all have stayed longer, the weekend was a fantastic success and a great chance for all the parents and families to meet and enjoy each others' company.

Waiatarua Playcentre is open Mon/Wed/Fri 9.15am – 12.15 down the drive at 911 West Coast Road.

All children aged 0 – 6 years and their caregivers are welcome to attend.

A supervised session for children aged 3 years+ is held on Thursdays.

Playcentre re-opens for Term 2 on Monday 23rd April.

For further information contact Elke on 814-8803.

Waiatarua Library

POLITE NOTICE: No one has come forward to man the library on the first Friday of each month from 7 – 8pm.

Please, this is urgent, we cannot manage without a full team. Is there a man out there? Phone Bev on 8364420 before, or 814-9430 after 27th April.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO SEE OUR LIBRARY LATELY?

New books have arrived this week:

Stephen King... Dream Catcher

Wilbur Smith... Warlock

Jack Higgins... Edge of Danger

James Long... Silence and Shadows,

Michael Connelly... A Darkness more than Light,

Barbara Taylor-Bradford... The Triumph of Katie Byrne,

and a non fiction, *Jochen Hennleb... The Ghosts of Everest.* (Search for Mallry Irvine) Very Good.

THE HISTORY OF WAIATARUA ... The 'Song of Two Waters', written by Jeanne Wade, gives an interesting account of the early history of Waiatarua. Photos, maps and the life and times of the early residents of Waiatarua, make for a great read.

A copy of "Song of Two Waters" can be purchased for \$18 from Eileen Powell on 814-9298 or from the Waiatarua Library.

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.



Our next get together will be a visit to Isaachsen's Bamboo Farm at 833 West Coast Road on Wednesday 2nd May at 2pm. Many residents will have read about the farm in national publications, and this is your opportunity to find out all about bamboo. We suggest that gumboots would be suitable, especially if the weather has been wet. Ring Eileen for more information on 814-9298.

The Waiatarua Fire Brigade

are at it again

... putting on plays, that is.

'PHONE 1125-J - Three'

The play opens on Thursday 10th May at the Waiatarua Theatre, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.

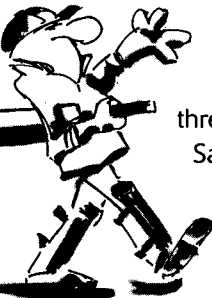
The season is Thursday, Friday and Saturday for

three weeks, closing Saturday 26th

May. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Included in the ticket price is a free glass of wine or beer and a supper of traditional Kiwi fish 'n' chips.

Bookings can be made by contacting Helen Longley on 814-9855 (Evening) or 8370729 (Day) or Email print@longley.co.nz.



Situations Vacant:

At the present time there are three situations vacant in the Waiatarua Community. These unpaid positions are fulfilling, and rewarding and will introduce you to fellow Waiataruan's of like mind. (Remember if no one does it, it wont get done.)

1. We need a representative from Waiatarua to attend reference group meetings for the Waitakere Hospital Upgrade. The purpose of this group is to review and provide advice on current and developing services from a community perspective. The group meets once every two months for two hours in the evening. Phone Jo Hall on 814-9945 if you are willing and able to volunteer.

2. Waiatarua is badly in need of some one to coordinate community 'clean ups' and 'graffiti out' awareness. Phone Jo Hall on 814-9945 for further information.

3. More 'Neighbourhood Community Watch Coordinators' are needed in Waiatarua. Would you be willing to coordinate the Neighbourhood Watch for your small area of Waiatarua?

Phone Trish Maxwell at West Auckland Neighbourhood Watch/Support on 8344331. if interested.

What's On...

The ARTY FARTY STAMPING GROUP meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Oratia Settlers Playgroup Hall at 569 West Coast Road. Phone Jan on 818-6706.

FRIENDS OF WAIKUMETE GUIDED WALKS through Waikumete Cemetery on the first Sunday in every month. Meet at the Chapel entrance at 5.30pm. A different theme each month. \$5 adults. Phone Barry on 818-4228.

TITIRANGI FILM SOCIETY membership is on sale at each screening. Phone 817-9362.

ORATIA SPINNING AND CRAFT GROUP meet every Monday 10am - 12 noon in the church hall in Parker Road. Good company, learn new crafts, spinning, knitting etc. All welcome. Phone Bev 8364420.

WAIATARUA WALKERS meet every Saturday morning at 8am sharp, outside the Oratia church for a brisk hour's walk. Phone Jo on 814-9945.

Letter to the Editor

To: Editor of Community News
Josephine Hall
Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association

Sunday, February 25, 2001

Dear Josephine

Re: SWANSON STRUCTURE PLAN
Response to articles in your Feb/March newsletter by Gerry Davis and Wade Cornell.

In reply to the articles concerning Structure Plans in your recent newsletter I wish to make the following points.

I was extremely disappointed that neither writer had approached any of our Executive Committee members, Structure Plan Liaison Group members or myself for opinions or comments before bursting into print with some rather rash statements and conclusions about the Structure Plan process in our area of Swanson. In order to present a more balanced view to the very strong "anti-Structure Plan" sentiments expressed in these articles I wish to strongly emphasize the following:

- The Structure Plan process is a Council provision within the District Plan that provides an environmental tool for considered, sensitive and ecologically sound sub-division with very strict criteria and constraints. It fully supports the Resource Management Act. The process is lengthy, involving extensive consultation with all landowners. It is totally public, transparent and, by its very nature, utterly democratic. If your assumption that the majority of residents strongly oppose this process (because you think it automatically implies "sub-division") then surely this majority will oppose sub-division on their own land, in which case you have no need to worry about unwanted sub-division.
- (b) I object to the suggestion that "some vocal minorities" with "vested interests" have somehow tricked Council into getting their own way. This just isn't true. The Annual Plan submission process is a totally democratic process open to everyone regardless of their point of view. Swanson has had dozens of landowners make repeated submissions for a Structure Plan process, and only after four years of perseverance has the process just begun in Swanson. Lets be real about this. How often do things get done by holding an election on every issue to find out what the silent majority really wants? Even if you did they are unlikely to fill out the forms or turn up at meetings. We can only get balanced consultation and true representation when people get off their backsides, take an interest and become involved in the process.
- (c) I strongly believe that the Structure Plan process (not sub-division) is an excellent way to protect the foothills while enhancing and significantly improving our environment. Obviously Wade Cornell would not agree. As it would take too long to present my arguments here, I would welcome the opportunity to debate the issue at one of your meetings, giving practical examples and illustrations to support my case.
- (d) I have deliberately only commented on the Swanson situation because I am intimately involved with it. I have made no rash statements about what the majority really thinks because until the process is complete we will not know. I will say, however, that while we do have widely varying opinions I have been impressed and reassured by the level of communication, willingness to listen, and gracious tolerance of opposing views demonstrated at the Swanson Structure Plan meetings held to date.

While the views expressed above are largely my own personal feelings on this issue, the Swanson Residents and Ratepayers Association Executive Committee has read this letter and formally endorses it. We, as an Association, look forward to more healthy, open debate on this and any other issues that affect our Associations in common.

I trust that you will print this letter in its entirety in your newsletter.

Yours faithfully
Steve Healy
President
Swanson Residents and Ratepayers Association.

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

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.

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

MUSIC TEACHER – available to teach piano, keyboard and theory. Based in Waikarua. Offers one to one tuition, practical and theory exams, competitions, all at reasonable prices. Contact NZ Modern School of Music on 0800-696874

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

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

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.

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

LAWN MOWING: Local, reliable. Phone Eric 8372333

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

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

FOR SALE – Laying hens and broilers \$2 – \$7 Phone 814-9724.

FAY'S YOGA CLASS – Unique programme of stretching, relaxing fitness health – Glen Eden Phone 817-8233

CARRIER – Auckland wide deliveries, Fragile Freight, Household Removals, 24 hours, 7 days Phone Chris 814-9266 or 025-949-022.

WOODEN FARM GATES: Tanalised timber with galvanized bolts. 10' – \$76.00 and 12' – \$82.00 or made to order. Phone 814-9700.

WANTED: HOUSE TO RENT, 3 bedroom Oratia/Waikarua area for a careful family. Long term. Phone Rachel on 814-9934.

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
Ngaire Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036 + Fax	
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrick	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waikarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2001

I enclose: \$10 Household, \$7 Single Occupant

Name

Address

Phone

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

Waikarua 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

Hall phone 814-9353

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

MAY / JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

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

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WEDNESDAY 9th MAY, 2001

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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