

# Waiatarua Community News

www.waiatarua.org.nz

SEPTEMBER 2003

## This Month at the WRRRA

By **Tony Bacon**

I must have sounded really desperate last month, because Dave Pocock and Royston Steer have come riding to the rescue and have joined our committee. Their welcome arrival will certainly take the pressure off a little. I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that Caroline Murdoch has agreed to be our environmental contact and expert. You will see an article by her elsewhere in this issue. Caroline brings with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise in environmental matters and I greatly welcome her offer of help.

It occurred to me that there may be people out there who would be willing to help but don't like the idea of "joining a committee". We can still use you! We want people who could:

- Look after minor maintenance around the community hall.
- Be our Graffiti Watch coordinator.

If you think you could do either of these things, please phone me on 814 9860. I promise not to bully you into coming on the committee!

We have had a formal response from the Council to our submission on the Annual Plan. As usual, it is good news and bad news. The full response is or soon will be available on the website, <http://www.waiatarua.org.nz> but the good news is:

- Waiatarua will be included (at some undefined point) in the rural and coastal village development plans.
- The redevelopment of the Piha Road/Scenic Drive intersection is included as a priority in 2004/5. This is not as good as "starting next week", but it is at least on the list.
- The Atarua Way walkway will be inspected by Council Staff and any dangerous sections rectified.
- The turning area at the end of Raroa Terrace is currently expected to have design work this year and possible redevelopment next financial year. To do the job properly requires moving a power pole. We are in discussion with the Council about less sophisticated and so less expensive/faster to implement options.
- The footpath from 837-847 West Coast Road is to be upgraded.
- The bus stop area outside 829-835 West Coast Road will have some remedial work done on it. Full sealing is not a priority.
- The same goes for the area opposite the end of Tui Crescent.
- The Bush Road footpath from West Coast Road to Atarua Gardens is to be upgraded.
- Money has been allocated for renewal of kitchen facilities at the Community Hall. Council Staff will also help us to look at future upgrades.

Of course we would have liked to have had everything we asked for, but at least we will be seeing something. Outside of the Annual Plan process, Council has changed the way it allocates funds for footpath creation/maintenance. What used to be a process where basically whoever shouted loudest got the work done has been replaced by a method of points allocation that will provide an objective measure of need. The result of this is that the Waitakere Ward is likely to get a much larger allocation of funds than has occurred in the past.

Last but not least, congratulations to the McLachlan household of Waiatarua on winning our member's prize of brunch at the Waitakere Park Lodge. We ended up with 154 members at the end of July-the highest we have been for some years. All we need now is for the other 450 households to sign up and we will be *really* happy!

## Road Safety – How You Can Help

The Police welcome feedback from motorists who observe unsafe driving. You won't need to go to court and testify - the offender is simply contacted by letter, advised of what you reported and "invited" to modify their driving behaviour. Your identity isn't revealed.

There are "Community Roadwatch" forms available for you to fill in and post, fax or deliver to our local Police Station. You can download them from <http://www.police.govt.nz/resources/2000/roadwatch-form.pdf> or pick on up at the Waiatarua Library

## Waitakere Community Board Meeting August 2003

By **Geoff Wood**

No matters were raised at the Public Forum affecting Waiatarua. Perhaps we are all content with the way things are! All in all it was a fairly quiet night.

The first raised item regarded the use of the Railway station parking at Swanson and discussions regarding parking restrictions by the café proprietors.

Other issues included lighting for the Bowling Club carpark at Piha is being asked for to give greater security and possible speed limits on Candia Road may be sought.

On the wider Community Board agenda was discussion of a proposal for a 43 lot residential subdivision at 25 Henderson Valley Road, which is adjacent to the Henderson Valley Pony Club. This is still down on the

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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flat just before the foothills to the Ranges and is close to well-developed residential areas on the city side with much lower density, open space, horticultural and rural land uses on the other side. The purpose of addressing this subdivision to the Community Board was to obtain its approval for the signing of a stormwater quality wetland on Henderson Valley Park as part of the subdivision on the neighbouring site.

Finally on looking at a new footpath request list issued in February 2003, Waiatarua features to a limited extent with some work to be done on West Coast Road - particularly from Cascade Avenue to Scenic Drive, and Bush Road to Tui Crescent, and West Coast Road to Quinns Road. There is a huge list in case I have omitted some. However the Council is working on a priority points system policy. Perhaps we should consider this list more closely as this is something clearly lacking in Waiatarua - any footpaths, let alone sound ones.

## Dead Letterboxes

Letterbox brutality is occurring in the Titirangi, Oratia and Waiatarua areas. This sort of thuggish vandalism is the 'work' of a small minority.

Scenic Drive and Mountain Road in Waiatarua has had a spate of this vandalism of late.

Five dead, or severely maimed, letterboxes were counted as a Waiataruan drove the length of Carter Rd in Oratia, recently.

There is some good news, however...

One Waiataruan was able to supply a car registration number resulting in two men being 'interviewed' by the police. The Waiataruan was pleased to receive reparation, along with each of the two men paying \$100 to charity and supplying letters of apology, adamant that they would not re offend.

A great result. Let us all keep our eyes and ears open and take note of car registrations and descriptions of these vandals.

## Fire Brigade News

Congratulations to Liz and Mark Gosling on the safe arrival of baby Cara. Mark's had a busy month - by the time this newsletter arrives, he, John Hinde and Maxine Arden will have completed their Basic Skills course at Mt Wellington Training Centre. John and Mark will also have completed their First Aid course.

### Recent Calls - July

- 12:45 am, SUN 20th Car fire - Scenic Drive past Arataki
- 3:16 am, FRI 25th Car fire - Scenic Drive at Spraggs Bush
- 6:51 pm, SAT 26th Car crash - Piha Rd at top of Darkies Hill.

### AUGUST

- 5:58 pm, SUN 3rd Car crash - Scenic Drive past Waitakere Dam. Road closed for 4 hours by Police for Serious Crash Unit investigation
- 10:20 pm, SUN 3rd Road washdown after above crash
- 9:21 pm, MON 4th Van fire - Keeling Rd, Henderson

It appears that there are a few who just don't get the message. Both crashes we attended allegedly involved high speed and alcohol, and one of the vehicles was reported stolen to boot. The only redeeming factor was that these idiots didn't manage to involve any innocent vehicles in their carnage.

### CAR FIRES

Nearly all of the car fires we attend are deliberately lit, usually stolen and torched. But cars can and do catch fire in other ways. In 2000, eighteen New Zealanders died in car fires, most (if not all) when they were trapped in a vehicle that caught fire after an accident. Many could have been saved if passing cars had a working fire extinguisher on board, but only 1 in 15 carries one. It's worth considering - a multi-purpose dry powder extinguisher is best. We can supply more information - just call us.

Please dial 111 for any fire or other emergency. Otherwise you can contact Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

	RAIN DAYS	WETTEST DAY	JULY TOTAL	YEAR TO DATE
Mountain Road	20	6th (28 mm)	161 mm	937 mm
Brabant Road	21	7th (30 mm)	181 mm	1112 mm
Quinns Road	21	8th (35 mm)	44 mm	1056 mm
Forest Hill Road	20	8th (26 mm)	176 mm	1048 mm
Auckland City			101 mm	647 mm

## Ark in the Park update

The Ark project is thriving with many volunteers helping on the first and third Saturdays of the month setting out bait stations and bait, weeding, checking round stoat traps. We're catching stoats still partly due to the regular re baiting of traps and use of rabbit as a lure, but probably because there are unfortunately so many stoats and some ferrets in our forest. We're getting low on rabbit though so anyone with cousins on the farm etc, get them to shoot and freeze some bunnies for us. With the second cycle of bait we are finding some bait stations are untouched which means the local rats have perished. We look forward to seeing this more often and to a steep decline in rat presence when we monitor next. Currently it's about 90% and we'd like this down to less than 5% but this is quite possible so that we are confident we'll have good stats to make our application to DoC for our first reintroduction in autumn next year!

We've been in touch with the brown teal recovery group who are interested in our site and the stitchbird recovery group have us listed as a possible mainland site for release. All this is fairly medium term but the Auckland Zoo have over half their staff keen on assisting the project and among them are people expert in kaka and kakariki breeding and also in giant weta breeding. Some zoo staff have had their first volunteer day and are going to patrol a particular sector of our bait grid to control its rats. Unitec are doing a phenology study, that is a food diary which chronicles which trees are fruiting or flowering at different times of year. Along with the invertebrate monitoring we'll be able to support applications for whitehead, robin, and even stitchbird when we show predator numbers are low enough and food sources are present all year.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY** we have this month started our public appeal. See us on [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) <<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz>> or get a form from the Waiatarua library to HELP A HECTARE !  
John Sumich [cjnk@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cjnk@xtra.co.nz) <<mailto:cjnk@xtra.co.nz>> or 8185267

## Arataki News

Hello from Arataki.

We have had some exciting changes at the centre. The kids' corner has been revamped and there are new books and puzzles, see a tree weta through the tv microscope and identify some of the native birds we see and hear in Waiatarua. With funding from the Friends of Arataki, our Geckos have a new home and we now also have Wetas and Stick Insects on display. These cages are looked after by Brian Norton, a local Titirangi resident who also raises all the insects which are required for food for our geckos. Come and have a look sometime.

Our Education team are very busy with school programmes and are just finishing a fantastic story of an alien who visits and knows nothing about the forest. The children visit the forest and come back and share their experiences with Arlec, who then takes them on a journey through the Solar System and gets help to fuel his spaceship by using recyclable materials. There are certainly some budding engineers and scientists among our young visitors if some of the suggested repair methods for the spaceship are to be put into practice.

Illegal rubbish dumping in roadside lay-bys is an ongoing problem. If you see anything suspicious, please try and obtain a registration number and ring the Waitakere City Council call centre on 8390400 with the details. This is how some of our unwanted weeds get introduced to the area when garden waste is dumped.

We have a fantastic environment to live, work and play in so let's keep it that way.

Come and call in and see what we are doing any day of the week. We resume full hours from 1 Sept and these are 9-5pm daily, except Christmas Day. We'd love to see you.

### This Month's Favourite Walk

Go for a walk back in time... The Manukau Timber Company Heritage Walk 25 minutes return (900m)

This is the newest trail in the park. Start at the Huia Settlers Museum and follow the signs along the foreshore. Learn about the local history and discover remnants of the old mill site.

*The Team at Arataki.*

## Welcome to Waiatarua

Welcome The Langereis Family to Tui Crescent.



# GARDEN GROUP

Our September 3 visit will be a guided tour of Landsend, 108 Parker Rd, Oratia. There are display gardens of palms, bromeliads, bananas, succulents, rare and unusual plants, plus a nursery. Entry fee is \$5 and we will meet at 1 pm.

Ring Eileen on 8149 298 for any further information. All are welcome however we would appreciate some idea of numbers beforehand.

## What's on...in Waikatarua and beyond

- **ORATIA SCHOOL PRESENTS 'JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT'** on 17th and 18th September in the school hall. Phone the school office for details.
- **THE FIRST FORMAL CONCERT OF THE WCO** at Glen Eden's Playhouse Theatre on 6th September at 7.30pm. Admission \$20 and \$15. Tickets at Titirangi Pharmacy. Limited door sales available.
- **THE 'WAIATARUA AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2004'** - Do you grow pumpkins? How big do your pumpkins grow? Are you a contender for 'Blokes Best Baking'? Try your entry for Waikatarua's Best Bread, Jam, Chutney or Sponge cake? What about Waikatarua's Best home brew? ... but wait there's more. Advance notice is hereby given... **Keep 27/28th March 2004 free for Waikatarua's inaugural Autumn Festival 2004.**



## Do you want to tidy your property and get rid of those weeds?

There is help and advice available to create a Green Network to enhance and extend our fantastic native flora and fauna. I am 2 years into a 5-year management plan, and am thrilled about the changes, The Waitakere City Council has many ways to assist us:

- Free management plan.
- 1 free weedbin per property each year. These are huge and need to be placed off the road for safety reasons. The bin must be filled with "approved weeds" only, not other rubbish. Get together with a few neighbours with weedy problems.
- 2 free ginger bags each year for tubers and flower/seed heads only. Great if you have a minor ginger problem. Put out with the weekly rubbish.
- Up to \$300.00 rebate if you employ a contractor. I used Weed Free Waitakere Trust with great results. Phone them on 826 4276.
- Free Escort spray. It comes in large amounts, so get together with the neighbours again. Remember inexperience can also kill native plants. Get advice. Escort can also be painted on instead of sprayed.
- Some funding is available to assist with fencing streams and bush patches from stock.
- Free eco-sourced plants to replace the weeds.
- Many leaflets for advice and information on how to apply for bins, spray, funding and plants.

All the above is generously available through the Green Network. Call the Waitakere City Call Centre on 839-0400 or the Parks and Community Projects Co-ordinator: Jacki Byrd, phone 836-8000 ext 8707 mobile 025-718 897 email [jacki.byrd@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:jacki.byrd@waitakere.govt.nz) <<mailto:jacki.byrd@waitakere.govt.nz>>

### Free untreated sawdust for weed suppressant mulching from:

- Whitecliffs New Lynn Phone 8276047  
Alloy Yachts – trailer loads phone 838 7350, 361 West Coast Road phone 818 6893  
Molloy Furniture View Road phone 8387966 – a huge truckload, free delivery.
- Great eco-sourced plants and planting advice from, our own Oratia Native Plant Nursery phone 818 6467
- Talk with your neighbours. Many have already done the hard work and are enjoying a weed-free life. You may want to have a working bee day and include the children or give a days work to an elderly neighbour.

If you remove the weeds, the birds will happily sow the seeds.

Call for a chat – Caroline Murdoch 814 9629

## Graffiti

A local resident of Waikatarua was getting fed up with the increasing amount of graffiti he noticed as he drove around the local area, so he made a list of the graffiti and it's whereabouts.

He faxed this in to the Waitakere City Call Centre, who in turn passed the information on to the Tag Out Trust.

Upon seeing little improvement to some of the tagged sites a few weeks later, the resident followed up with a phone call to Waitakere City Council (8390400) and Tag Out Trust.

This is what he found out.

1. The Tag Out Trust appreciated being kept informed by a local resident of Waikatarua. They would revisit some of the sites listed, as they may have been missed during recent work in the area.
2. The Tag Out Trust can not however remove graffiti from private property but any private landowner can request paint from the Tag out Trust and attend to graffiti removal themselves.
3. For any Telecom structures i.e. the white boxes on the roadsides, if these are graffitied, phone 'Telecom Faults' and they will log the site address and attend to this.

So, fellow Waikataruan's be proactive. If you see graffiti, report it to the appropriate people. If you see graffiti on private property, encourage the property owner to contact the Tag Out Trust for free paint, maybe even offer to lend a hand.

Let's rid Waikatarua of graffiti.

## Native Herbs in Waikatarua

Kawakawa, also known as the Pepper Tree. This small shrub is primarily found along forest margins, but can be found deep in the bush. It has heart shaped leaves. It's leaves and fruit are used medicinally. Kawakawa is a general tonic herb, it improves circulation, digestion and helps carry oxygen and nutrients around the body, therefore increasing energy levels and gradually improving the function of all organs.

Kawakawa can also be used externally (made up as a tea). It can be applied to cuts, boils, wounds and eczema and may have some insect repellent activity.

To make tea from kawakawa steep 5-6 leaves in a cup of boiling water. It has a lovely refreshing peppery taste. Caution : as this plant may stimulate the uterus it should not be taken internally during pregnancy.

Sonja Cartwright, Waikataruan and Naturopath at Healthwise Naturopath Clinic.

## Waikatarua Playcentre

"Lots of fun to be had at our friendly playcentre. Games and stories, treasure hunts and super heroes, painting and playdough making bread and foaming volcanoes. Magnificent sculptures in the sandpit. All in a days work for a little person. They are learning while they are playing in peaceful surroundings. Come and find out for yourself. We can be found down the drive from the Waikatarua community hall.

Our sessions are Mon, Wed and Frid 9-15 - 12.30. First three sessions are free. Our AGM is on the Monday 15 September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

## Rose Hellaby House

There is still pedestrian access to the grounds of Rose Hellaby House where the view of the city is truly magnificent. The ARC are still interested in receiving applications for the use of the house, itself. Although there have been a large number of enquiries, and some are promising, the doors are still open for applications. Contact Jane Aickin Ph 366-2000 ext 8560 for further information.

## Waikatarua Community Library

"Where's Wally"! Have you seen these time filling books for children? Keeps them quiet for hours, also the 'Eye Spy' series. We have half a dozen of the latest. There is also a new Lynley Dodd book - 'Cat's Whiskers.'

More new titles added to our shelves this month are:

- Andrew Crowe's *Life Size Guide to NZ Insects, NZ Birds and NZ Flowers.*
- Barbara Else - *'The Missing Kitchen'*,
- Julia Glass - *'Three Junes'*
- William Dalrymple - *'White Mughals'*,
- Robert Goddard - *'Days without Know'*

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

# Advertising

This is free to financial members  
for 2003, 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.

**WEST COAST VET CLINIC** – Offering full veterinary service for your pets.  
24 hour service Phone 818-4104.

**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.  
www.atarua-bandb.co.nz

**LAWN MOWING:** Local, reliable. Phone Eric 837-2333.

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

**LANDSCAPER:** For experienced, professional landscaping services (including paving, concrete, retainer walls, fences, decks, gardens/plants, water features) at a competitive price, contact Bevan on 837-1992 or 021-375 707 or at totaland@ihug.co.nz

**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.

**MAKE UP ARTIST:** Prof. International makeup/hair artist available for weddings, special occasions in your own home. Phone Juliette on 814-8802

**LOCAL ISSUES:** Phone Kevin Healy, Waitakere Community Board on 814-9505 or email: kevin@healy.co.nz

**PLANTS** – One day lilies, taros, bulbs, mondo grass and various perennials for sale. \$1 – \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814-9859.

**FAYS YOGA CLASS:** Classes to suit busy schedules plus Antenatal – Glen Eden Ph 817-8233.

**ELKE'S FOOD & WINE MARKET** is now open for cake and coffee, or a prosciutto open sandwich and a glass of wine. Fresh Pandoro bread, a large selection of wine and gourmet goodies to tempt your taste buds. Open 10 – 2pm Saturdays at the Seibel Winery, 113 Sturges Road, Henderson. Ph 814-8803 or 836-6113.

## 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 Road	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Road	814-9954	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Rarua Terrace	814-9859	

Please accept my Membership to the  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2003

I enclose: \$10 Household, \$5 Single Occupant

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

Email .....

To Treasurer

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Auckland 8 **or leave at the library**

Web Site: [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

**BABYSITTER:** Mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$10 per hour. Phone Juliette on 025-875-805.

**WATER SERVICES LTD.** Pump sales and service. Tank repairs, cleaning and new tanks installed. Filtration and water treatment. Phone Phillip on 812-8537 or 025-279-6036.

**WEST COAST WATER.** For all water deliveries phone Patrick on 812-8079 or 027-288-9111.

**AUCKLAND'S WAITAKERE PARK LODGE:** Open Thurs to Sun for lunch & dinner. Now open for Sunday brunch from 10am. Enjoy the log fires in our luxury lounge bar, magnificent views & dining on the deck. Ph 814-9622.

**FOR ALL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT AND INFORMATION** please call your local La Leche League leader, Adith on 818-7728.

**"HEALTHWISE" YOUR LOCAL NATUROPATHIC CLINIC @ 123 Glendale Road Ph 813-3615.** For menstrual, digestive problems, low energy, freq. colds and flu etc.

**THE NIKAU CLUB BAR, CAFÉ, RESTAURANT.** New hours. Open from 5pm till finish Tues – Friday. 10am – finish Sat and Sun. Closed Mondays. We will be putting on some music over winter so phone and check if you are interested. Don't forget we have the open fire going most of the time. Ph 814-1919.

**LIFESTYLES MESSAGE THERAPY:** Providing therapeutic, sports and relaxation massage in a safe, professional environment. Ph Doug Maynard on 814-8981 or 021-543-302.

**GARDENER AVAILABLE** – Excellent, honest and reliable garden labourer with 2 years experience. \$18 per hour. References available. Please leave a message on 021-145-5725 for Daniel.

**ROOFING AND SPOUTING** – Free advice, consultation & inspections, 28 years experience. Quality new and reproofs, repairs, spouting etc. Onduline organic and non polluting roofing, gutter leaf protection Ph Mark 812-8337 or 025-958-058.

**COOKING CLASSES** – Italian, Japanese and Chinese cuisine in small classes right here in Oratia, \$40 including food and wine, Saturday afternoons August 2, 16, 30, September 13, 27. Ph Alessandra on 814 8993 or email pdaz@clear.net.nz

**TREWORK** – Fully insured and qualified arborists.

Ph Guy Thomas 021 244-8733.

**PAINTING AND DECORATING.** For quality an service phone Graham on 8371612.

**FOR SALE:** Shacklock Stove, 4 elements, oven and lower oven/warmer. Gd working order - full black glass door \$150.00 Ph 837-4616.

**FOR SALE:** Mattress, Queensize Postureline. Suit slat base \$250 Ph 837-4616

**REAL ESTATE.** Here providing a local service. Selling or Buying call Wayne on 814-1964 or 0274-223377 (Harveys-Titirangi Real Estate Ltd MREINZ Ph 817-8011)

## 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.

HALL PHONE 814-9353

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of  
The Editor,

757b West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Phone 814 9945

EMAIL: [forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz)

by WEDNESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER, 2003

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.