

# Waiatarua Community News

www.waiatarua.org.nz

Summer Special Edition January 2004

## Autumn Festival

If you have been carefully tending your pumpkins in the hope of winning a magnificent prize at the Autumn Festival, I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that you are going to have plenty of pumpkin soup this winter. The bad news is that it won't be prize-winning soup—the **Festival isn't going to happen**. Despite all your committee's efforts, I'm afraid we just ran out of time to get the event organised. The reasons are partly inexperience and partly lack of person-power (see next story). We are committed to having a festival, it just won't be in 2004.

Were you looking forward to the event? We have had absolutely zero feedback from the community about the project. Was this just the usual apathy, or do you all think it is a waste of time? **Please** let us have your opinions. There are plenty of things to keep a committee busy, and if no-one wants an Autumn Festival, we certainly won't be left with nothing to do. On the other hand if you see it as a way of bringing the community together and everyone having some fun, we are very willing to get it off the ground (next year!)

Write a letter to the Newsletter giving your views. The writer of the best letter will receive a prize of pumpkin soup (possibly home-made by local residents Mr Campbell or Mr Wattie).

## WRRRA COMMITTEE COLLAPSE SHOCK HORROR!

*Tony Bacon, WRRRA President*

OK, now I've got your attention...

We have an AGM and committee elections coming up (26 February), and as usual, we are looking for people willing to become committee members and help make our community an even better place than it already is. This year the need is even more urgent. In one of those unfortunate coincidences that happen from time to time, many of our current committee stalwarts, for varied and perfectly valid reasons, are not standing for re-election. This means we not only need committee members, but also people willing to take on some of the committee officer positions.

### **President**

Changes to my family circumstances mean that I am not able to devote time to the WRRRA in the coming year. One of our current committee members, Dave Pocock, has offered to stand for election as President. Dave brings long experience in running voluntary organisations and will I am sure take the WRRRA forward to a great future—as long as he has a team to help him.

### **Vice-President**

Cathie Wells is one of those people who you turn to when you want something done and she will usually do it. Unfortunately for us she has said "yes" once too often, and her other commitments mean that she will be unavailable this year.

### **Treasurer**

Eileen Powell has kept us on the financial straight and narrow for 9 years now, and not surprisingly has decided she needs a rest. Eileen has been a great asset to the WRRRA and we shall miss her. So we need someone who is willing to take on the job of Treasurer. It is not high finance, but we do need someone who knows how to keep a set of books. Eileen has said she will be available for consultation, so whoever takes it on won't be dropped in the deep end!

### **Secretary**

Norma has kept our records for us this year, and she is willing to stay on as a committee member but is unable to commit to being Secretary. We need someone with a tidy mind who is willing to keep good records of committee proceedings, sort out agendas, write the occasional letter and generally keep us all organised. It is one of those jobs that is whatever you make of it. A committee secretary can be anything from a basic record-keeper to the absolute powerhouse of the organisation—we are happy to take anyone who falls somewhere between those extremes.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Jo Hall has also been doing this job for some years now, and has commitments this year that mean she can't do the job much longer. She is willing to stay on in the very short term, but by mid-year we will need someone else. If you have access to a word-processor and a way with words, we would love to hear from you.

In addition our immediate Past President, Geoff Wood has business commitments that mean he will not be available for re-election as a committee member.

On the plus side, current committee members Wayne Maguire, Royston Steer and Jeannette Ziesler have all said they will be available for re-election.

It is not too extravagant to say that this is a crisis for the WRRRA. If we don't get people to stand for election to the committee there is a real danger that the Association will have to go into recess. I think this would be a disaster for Waiatarua:

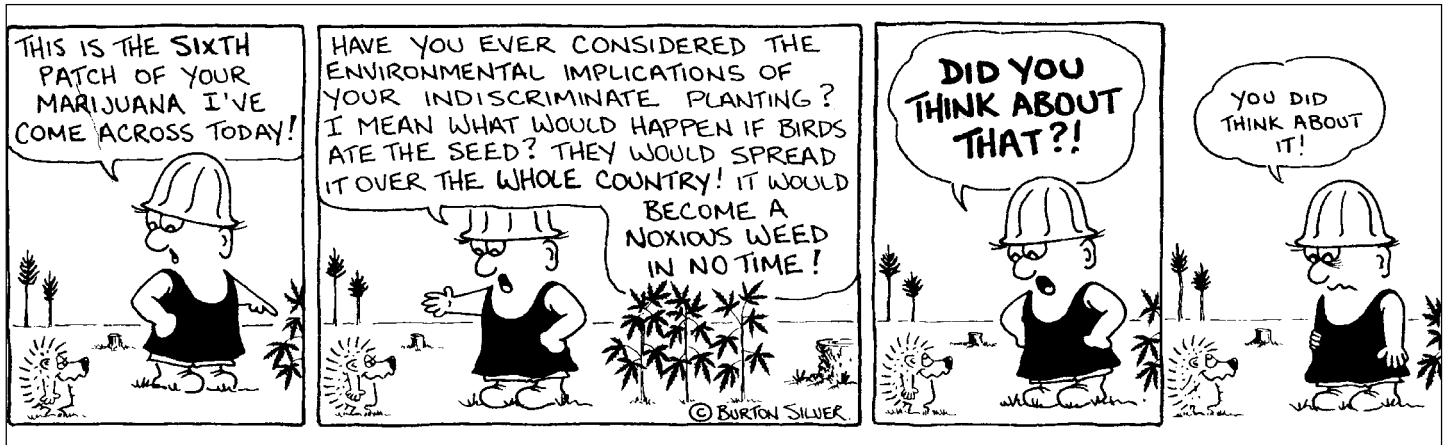
- We would no longer have a voice with the Waitakere City Council.
- We would have no means of running the Community Hall.
- The newsletter would fold.
- The Community Library would probably continue, but be thrown totally on its own resources as far as administration, maintenance etc. is concerned.
- There would be no-one organising social events – community breakfasts, market days etc.

A special word to members of the community who have been on the committee in the past—please consider whether you would like to do it again. We could certainly use your experience.

I have always considered the WRRRA to be one of the strongest of the Ratepayers' Associations in Waitakere City. If this is to continue we need people to work on the committee. If you care about our community and want it to stay as the beautiful place it is now, phone me **now** and offer your services. You can reach me on **814 9860** or email [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz).

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR:  
JOSEPHINE HALL  
WRRRA PRESIDENT:  
TONY BACON PHONE 814-9860  
WEB SITE [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)



## GARDEN GROUP

Our first visit for the year is a day in the Pukekohe/ Karaka area on Wednesday 4 February.

We will first visit Wrights Watergardens which is 3 hectares of numerous ponds filled with over 70 varieties of Waterlilies. The address is Mauku Rd, Patumahoe and we will meet there at 10.30 am.

Lunch will be in the cafe at St. Margarets Country Garden (6 Dyke Rd, Karaka) and then we will explore the six acre garden which has sweeping lawns, wide paths and a variety of trees with flowering shrubs, roses and perennials.

Ring Eileen on 8149 298 for car pooling or further information.

## Holiday Reading

**"The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" and "Tears Of The Giraffe"**  
by Alexander McCall Smith.

These two delightful books follow the adventures of Mma Precious Ramotswe as she sets up Botswana's first (and only) Ladies detective agency. Using a combination of natural intelligence, insight into human frailty and low cunning, she finds missing persons, traps fraudulent insurance claimants and exposes errant husbands, all in the context of the Southern African slow-paced way of life. These books evoke wonderful images of an African country that is not torn apart by racial or economic strife, where various ethnic groups co-exist with tolerance and mutual curiosity (bit like New Zealand, really). Her relationship with Mr J.L.B. Maketoni of Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors is a source of amusement, sympathy and admiration.

The writing is clear, light and funny in an understated way. McCall Smith makes us feel the African sun, the always close dangers of snakes and other nasties, and that just like everywhere else, all most people want to do is to try to do their best and get along. Recommended.

**"The Pedant In The Kitchen"**

by Julian Barnes.

If you are like me and hate cooking because the recipes never tell you everything you need to know and the end result never looks like the pictures, then this is the book for you. A brief excerpt: "How big is a 'lump', how voluminous is a 'slug' or a 'gout', when does a 'drizzle' become 'rain'? Is a 'cup' a rough-and-ready generic term or a precise American measure? Why tell us to add a 'wineglass' of something when wine glasses come in so many sizes?" When I read that I had one of those "this man speaks my language!" moments. Although the book segues into a more general rant about celebrity chefs and their recipes, it is still an entertaining read, and for people like me, confirmation that cooking is for other people. Worth a look.

**"The Other Boleyn Girl" and "The Queen's Fool"**

by Phillipa Gregory.

Interesting historical novels describing the courts of Henry VIII and Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) from the point of view of someone intimately involved but not part of the main action. Enjoyable.

## Grow The Green Network

Caroline Murdoch

Caring for your patch of native bush or including native plants in your garden landscape is very satisfying. Especially knowing you can be planting the same varieties that have been flourishing in our area for aeons. Yes, we can turn the clock back in a positive way as we replace the weeds with eco-sourced native plants.

Now is the ideal time for pulling weeds or digging out ginger tubers as the soil is relatively moist from the winter rains.

Do not dump any weeds in the bush or over the fence where they will multiply the problem. We are indeed fortunate that our council will safely dispose of our worst weeds for free. Phone the Call Centre on 839 0400 to arrange for a bin to share with your neighbours, or for ginger disposal bags.

The ginger stalks and leaves are good for mulch. The resulting space once occupied by the tubers is perfect for an eco-sourced treasure.

Remember to water new plants regularly. A decent watering twice a week in the summer is better than a daily sprinkling. A feed of good compost or blood and bone is advisable if you are using untreated sawdust for mulch.

Get rid of those weeds **before** they flower and spread their seeds for another seven years! There will be a bin in Raroa terrace soon (maybe Saturday 22 January)—for approved weeds only!

## Brickbats and Bouquets

A brickbat this month to whoever was setting off fireworks in the Bendalls Lane area on New Year's Eve. Which parts of "Bush Fire Danger" and "Restricted Fire Season" don't they understand?

## 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

## FEBRUARY 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](mailto:forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz)

by WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2004

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