



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Waiatarua Wine, Cheese and Fruit Juice Tasting

The wine is chilling, the cheese is maturing—all we need now are people to come and taste it. The Waiatarua Wine, Cheese and Fruit Juice Tasting is all set for the 26th February. Oh, yes, and there's an AGM on that evening too. We have had some response to our pleas for prospective committee members, for which we are very grateful, but we still need a Treasurer and a Secretary. Please don't be put off by the fancy titles, they are not hugely time-consuming jobs. But they are very important to the proper running of the Association. The Treasurer's job, in particular, is vital. So if you have been debating with yourself as to whether we really need you - trust me, we really, really do!

Thursday 26th February
from 7pm

at the Waiatarua Community Hall

Enjoy tasting Artisan boutique wine, organic fruit juice, and indulge your palate in a taste of fine cheeses, whilst mixing with fellow Waiataruan's.

Memories of Waiatarua

In the early 1930's, my mother used to rent Parkinson's House on the Scenic Drive for the school holidays. The winding drive ran from just below where the TV Mast is now, down to a large rambling one-storied house commanding a wide view over the surrounding bush, down to the foothills of the Waitakeres and out to the Waitemata Harbour.

From the back of the house, a track led through the bush to a little stream which had been dammed to form a sizeable swimming pool, constructed from cement and marble slabs. (Mr Parkinson was a monumental mason.) To a child it was a little frightening, as the bottom of the pool was always blackish-green with unknown things, like rotten ponga fronds on the bottom, which were scary for bare feet. It was also extremely cold, even in summer. My mother's slogan was, 'Getting out is marvellous!'

Having no refrigeration, in those days, we were grateful for the large food safe located in the cool of the bush by the track to the pool. Amongst other things this usually housed smoked schnapper, which was a good keeper, and in those days it was cheap. Mother also use to put down sausages in tins filled with dripping. Fresh meat supplies and bread were ordered from Auckland and came out on the Piha bus to be dropped off at the Waiatarua Store. I think this

happened once, or at most, twice a week and we had to walk down to collect them.

Having no car, our initial transport to 'The Hills' was by taxi. From Auckland City the single fare was 17/6.

There was a large open fire in the Parkinson house, and we used to scavenge regularly in the bush for dead wood to bring back to burn. The unsealed road from Waiatarua ended about 1/4 mile beyond Parkinson's and from there continued as a bush track. I remember walking as far as Rua-o-te-Whenua with my mother, and being awed by pig rootings beside the track to the summit. Eventually the road was formed and put right through to Swanson. Steam rollers flattened the clay surface until it shone. When the men were not working, I did cart wheels on the surface of it.

In winter we delighted in the cloud mists which frequently enveloped us. Something we never experienced in the city. Autumn brought black berrying, and there seemed to be no limit to the areas of brambles to which we had free access for picking.

There was a cottage on the Parkinson land beside the main gate, but as far as I remember, there were no other dwellings in the immediate area.

Those, I think, were the highlights of my childhood memories.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor.

This 'voice of opinion' has come about over growing concern at the amount of cats people have per household in the Waitakeres.

We have lived in the area for 20 years. We are surrounded homes who have 1, 2 and 4 cats, per household. Every day, early morning we have fed the birds on a slab positioned on the hand rail of our deck. Each morning we take great pleasure in sitting at the dining table with a cuppa, watching 10 plus wax eyes, thrush, black birds share in this ritual.

To our horror we watched a silver flash (of the next door's cat) pounce from nowhere to hang off the feeder with one lone bird gone. Instantly I ran on to the deck but it was no where to be seen. The speed and daring of the 'pet cat' amazed me.

I would like to ask cat owners to put a bell on the collar of their pet. You may feed your loveable, cuddly pet well but it's natural instinct is to hunt. Hunt for survival or hunt for as a game to take away the boredom of such an idyllic lifestyle.

We live in these precious surroundings because we hold dearly our love of native plant and wildlife. Let's take responsibility for including ourselves in the Waitakeres and give the creatures that were here first a head start.

A Local Waitataruan.

Waiatarua Community Library

Our winners of last year's 'Voucher Book Contest' were Ethan Keller : \$30 voucher - Children's section, and Kay McGregor : \$30 voucher - Adult's section.

We are thinking of having another Mid Winter Contest later in the year.

Come and visit your own local Community Library, we are down the drive below the Community Hall. A great place to view our new books and have a quiet browse through the shelves.

We are back to purchasing new books for the month of February. Remember our new books list is on www.waiatarua.org.nz

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

Waiatarua Playcentre

It's great to be back at Playcentre after the holidays, despite the weather trying it's best to keep us inside.

The children have been thrilled to catch up with their friends and playmates, and have settled effortlessly back in to the swing of things.

Waiatarua Playcentre is located down the drive at 911 West Coast Road. With over 15 different play activities to choose from, including carpentry, water play and dress ups, there's always something fun and exciting happening.

At Playcentre we believe parents are the first and best educators of their children. We have a 'free play' philosophy which means play is child initiated and directed, with parents and caregivers supporting, guiding and encouraging.

We run 3 mixed aged sessions for 0-6 years on Mon, Wed and Fri 9.30am until 12.30pm. Visitors and enquiries are warmly welcomed.

So come along, have fun while you play and learn. Phone Centre on 814-8835 or Jenny on 814-9954.

It's That Time Again....

2004 is upon us and the **Membership of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA) for this year, is presently 13 financial members.**

Become a financial member, supporting your community and this monthly Community Newsletter, by filling out the form on the back page and enclosing your \$10 per family or \$5 single occupant.

Last year 176 households became financial members.

Thank you to those who supported the WRRRA in this way.

We Always Wanted An Indoor Swimming Pool

Wouldn't it be nice if there were just enough rain to green up your garden and top up your water tanks? Then we could all enjoy the sunshine until the levels dropped again, and so on. Instead we get drought conditions for weeks, and then a torrent. The recent heavy weather has been a bit of a trial for people in Raroa Terrace, who have been suffering flooded basements and the like. It seems that stormwater from Atarua Gardens is flooding a drain above Raroa Terrace and causing the problem. The WRRRA is anxious do what it can to help affected residents, but we need to know the extent of the problem. So if you live in Bush Road, Atarua Gardens, Raroa Terrace or Rimu Road and have suffered any recent flooding from stormwater overflows, please let the WRRRA know and we will co-ordinate approaches to the Council with a view to getting the problem fixed.

The Arataki Rangers Round up

A lot has happened in the Arataki area over the last month. Much to our delight things are becoming normal after the hectic Christmas period.

There have been some great new signs installed in the Visitors Centre Grounds. The old signage was looking more than a little tired and the new signs are very effective.

The two new picnic tables, that were donated by the Friends of Arataki have been installed and are proving very popular. They were designed well and allow for wheelchair use.

Education programmes begin from the 2nd of February, so a considerable amount of staff time will be directed there.

The tracks will be a focus early February as there will be a fair bit of clean up after some almost torrential rain in late January.

There have been reports of the odd wasp nest around. If you see one whilst in the park, please contact us so that we can deal with it before anyone is stung.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have any other queries, please feel welcome to call us on 817-0099.

Ka Kite

The Arataki Rangers

Walk of the Month

This month's walk is the Rangemore Track. A short, but very interesting walk. The track leaves from Greenwood's Corner, which is a Watercare tramline access gate, approximately 2km West from Arataki, on the Scenic Drive.

The track goes for approximately 1.8km to a point on Scenic Drive further Westwards. You can then, either walk back along Scenic Drive to your start point or walk back the way you came. It will take you about 50 minutes return.

Rangemore Track has some fine mature podocarp forest along it's length. With some huge Rimu, Rata and Kahikatea found throughout the area. There is also a nice knoll of Kauri trees to be seen near the far end of the track. Some interesting swamp areas can be found along some parts of the walk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report this month. If you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Watch group in your local area, or you would like to start up a Neighbourhood Watch group contact one of the co-ordinators on the back page of this Community Newsletter.



Native Herbs in Waiaatarua

Hange Hange is also known as Maori privet. It is traditionally used to wrap food in to cook in a hangi. The leaves are also eaten, in fact both the leaves and flowers are high in nutrients.

Hange Hange is a soothing anti-inflammatory herb, it will help with digestive problems such as diarrhoea caused by inflammation, ulcers and gastric irritation.

Externally it can be used in an infusion for eczema and psoriasis. A sore throat is best treated with a Hange Hange flower and honey extract.

Hange Hange Flower and Honey Extract:



- Pack a sterile bottle to 1/3rd full of flowers.
- Make a solution of equal amounts of honey and water, and fill the bottle to 2/3rds full.
- Seal tightly, and leave to ferment 3-4 weeks (undo lid occasionally to let off pressure).

Sonja Cartwright, Naturopath.

Now working in Waiaatarua – Phone 814 8881

'Active Living' Friday Special Interest Walks

Friday 27 February – Upper Nihotupu Dam. Over 100 years ago the Auckland Scenic Preservation Society campaigned to save this area. Come and find out why. Meet at 9.50am at the Nihotupu carpark on Piha Road. Grade: Medium.

Friday 26th March – Karekare and North Whatipu. From Karekare we head south and into the Whatipu wilderness. With luck we may see Dotterels and no shortage of other coastal birds. Find evidence of the logging history of the region while exploring this incredible area. Meet 9.50am Karekare carpark at the bottom of Karekare Road, off Piha Road. Grade- Easy.

Registration is essential for these walks and cost \$5pp. Ph Kay Lindley, Sport Waitakere on 836-7719 or 025 274 2280.

Brickbats and Bouquets

Yes, this column has returned for 2004, so if you have any deserving locals who add flavour to, or enhance our Community in any way, please write in and nominate them for the monthly bouquet, kindly supplied by **The Fairy Flower Shop in Titirangi**.

*Don't bottle up those gripes and groans, express them through a **brickbat** nomination.*

This month a **brickbat** is awarded to those who destroyed the unique handcrafted castle letterbox that graced the upper end of Forest Hill Road. Alas, a novel feature of Waiaatarua is now missing from our landscape after such senseless vandalism.

Another nomination for a **brickbat** goes to the person who dumped loads of rocks in to the bush off the Scenic Drive (near the TV mast area).

On a more positive note we award the **bouquet** this month to all the members of the Waiaatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade. These people are volunteer fire fighters, they give of their own time to help Waiaataruan's, (in so many ways), as well as helping some who pass through Waiaatarua. The members of the Brigade have recently spent many hours, working weekends, to raise funds to upgrade the Waiaatarua facilities. We really do appreciate your commitment to our safety and your commitment to our Waiaatarua Community. Thank you.

Community Notices

It is not 'Inorganic' time up here in the hills until **May 2004**, so even though nearby suburbs are having their roadsides littered with household junk, awaiting pick up, we won't have ours until May.

The annual 'War on Weeds' campaign begins late March. Weed bins will be at various locations in Waiaatarua for the depositing of such. Plan to get digging and rid your property of these pests.

Art on the Beach. Sunday 29th February at Piha from 10am – 5pm on the north side of Lion Rock. For more information ph Bronwyn on 817 8087.



We will be visiting a garden on Wednesday 3 March.
Please ring Eileen on 814 9298 for details or email
etpowe@clear.net.nz to receive garden group information.

Fire Brigade

We acquired our "new" fire appliance at the end of January - a 1983 International. It's slightly bigger than our previous truck, which is headed to Waiuku. As well as more locker space, most of us appreciate the change to an automatic gearbox and a bit more power uphill.

Before Christmas we hosted a successful bush fire exercise on Piha Rd, with crews from Henderson and Titirangi Brigades and the Auckland Fire Police Unit. Regular doses of rainfall - and your vigilance - have ensured we haven't had to put those skills into practice. Keep up the good work. Please remember that all fires over summer must have a permit from the Council, and must be out by sunset.

Recent Calls

Our latest incidents have been either minor or non-events:

November

8:38 pm, Sun 23 – Car fire, Spraggs Bush

December

7:51 pm, Wed 10 – Tree across power lines, Tui Cres

8:57 pm, Sat 13 – Rubbish fire, West Coast Rd

8:41 pm, Fri 19 – Rubbish fire, Anawhata Rd

2:21 pm, Fri 2 – False alarm, Pomaria Rd Henderson. Turned back en route

January

3:32 pm, Sun 4 Jan – Tree across road, Scenic Drive

5:49 pm, Sun 11 Jan – False alarm, Waiaatarua Community Centre

11:05 am, Mon 19 Jan – Investigate smoke, Marine Parade North, Piha

9:06 pm, Sun 24 Jan – Investigate smoke, Forest Hill Rd

7:30 pm, Mon 2 Feb – Power pole fire, West Coast Rd

Contacts

You should always phone 111 for any fire or other emergency – actual or potential. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777)

Waiaatarua Rainfall

	RAIN DAYS	WETTEST DAY	JAN TOTAL	YEAR TO DATE
Mountain Road	16	11th (51 mm)	225 mm	1552 mm
Mountain Road	12	20th (56 mm)	153 mm	1869 mm
Brabant Road	16	20th (45 mm)	155 mm	2040 mm
Quinns Road	14	21st (44 mm)	159 mm	1716 mm
Forest Hill Road		20th (48 mm)	137 mm	1849 mm
Auckland City			70 mm	1117 mm

Fire Restrictions Still in Place

Residents living within the Waitakere Rural Fire District are reminded that they currently need to apply for a permit before lighting fires in the open.

As a general guide, all the areas west of a line (described below) to the West Coast, is deemed to be in the Waitakere Rural Fire District.

Redhills Road, Birdwood Road, Swanson Road, Candia Road, Henderson Valley Road, Parris Cross Road, West Coast Road, Shaw Road, Exhibition Drive, Huia Road and Shirley Road.

The Waitakere City's fire season ends on April 30th. To apply for a fire permit (which is free), phone the Council's 24 hour Call Centre on 8390400.

Advertising

This is free to financial members
for 2004, 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.

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. Ph Phillip on 812-8537 or 025-279-6036.

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

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

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	Backup – 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 2004

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

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

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

ROOFING AND SPOUTING – Free advice, consultation and 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.

TREWORK – Fully insured and qualified arborists. Ph Guy Thomas 021 244-8733.

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

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)

ELKE'S FOOD & WINE MARKET. A small gourmet food store stocks fresh European sourdough breads, authentic german meats, organic cheeses, chocolates and many more yummy treats. Also a large selection of award winning wines, including a delicious port. Pop in for a glass of wine & a sandwich or a cake and coffee. Open Saturdays only from 10am – 2pm at the Seibel Winery, 113 Sturges Road, Hsn. Ph 814-8803. Catering for private functions available.

CREAM FOR JOINTS, MUSCLES, BRUISES. Essential oils and all natural ingredients. Ph 814-1868.

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY? For best results and free advice please call John on 814-9000 or 0274-122-853. Bayleys Titirangi.

THE NIKAU CLUB: Bar, Café, Restaurant. New Spring hours. Open weekdays 12 noon until after dinner for lunches and dinner. Open weekends 10am until late, for breakfast, lunch or dinner. On Thursday from 9.45pm we have a live DJ. No cover charge. Phone 814-1919.

FABULOUS WOODEN TOYS Have a look at our website www.creativetoy.co.nz for amazing wooden toys imported from Germany and Switzerland. Free delivery in Waiatarua! Phone 814-9903

FIREWOOD – Shed Storage. Can deliver. \$60 - \$70 per cubic metre. Ph 814-8833.

MARVELLOUS MOAIS: A fun 2 day workshop embracing this easy to learn artform. Sundays 7th & 21st March. You'll complete 1-2 pieces. 9.30am – 5pm @ Titirangi Community House. \$65. Call Dianne on 8177448 to enrol, then Helen (tutor) on 814-9963 for materials list.

RELAXATION AND LIVING POSITIVELY. Workshops/Courses available Term 1. Call Helen on 814-9963.

DRAMA CLASSES with tutor John Goudge. At the Theatre, Lopdell House, Titirangi and at Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Oratia. Acting training for children and adults. Year courses, Weekend workshops, Corporate Drama and more. For more information, or to enrol, phone John on 814-9744 or goudgedrama@zip.co.nz Limited places available.

FOR RENT: Tidy 2 bedroom home in quiet location, close to bus, dairy etc. \$320 per week. Off street parking with garage. Available 30th Feb. Suit professional couple. Ph 021 649 251

FIRST CITY CARE SECURITY SERVICES. For all your security requirements. Ph Greg on 814-9954. Mobile 021-356-066. Email gregmccgee@firstcitycare.co.nz Website www.firstcitycare.co.nz

"HEALTHWISE" Your local Naturopathic Clinic at 765 West Coast Road, Waiatarua Ph 814-8881. For menstrual, digestive problems, low energy, freq. colds and flu etc.

PSYCHOTHERAPIST: Marguerite Laing BSP. Phone 814-9889.

Waiatarua Community Hall Hire

Hire this excellent facility for your meetings, parties, dances, birthdays
(children and adults) etc.

Lovely wooden floor for dancing.

Friday and Saturday evenings (including chairs and tables) \$150

Sunday to Thursday evenings \$85

Hourly Rates (daytime): weekdays \$10, weekends \$20

Other times by arrangement • Discounts for regular users

Community Barbecue hire \$20 • Crockery hire \$25

Phone the Custodian Pauline Isachsen on 814-9847

MARCH 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 3RD MARCH, 2004

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