

New!! Play and Win - Where am I ?

- see page 3

Fire Brigade Open Day

It was with excited anticipation I headed up to the local fire brigade's Open Day. I think the average woman imagines all sorts: "Is this the place where muscle-bound men strip for calendars?" or "How often do they slide down that highly polished pole?"

Well, I asked about the pole, and there isn't one - not at Waiatarua anyway. Perhaps that's because the building is just single storied (I am currently blonde)!

First impressions inside were all good. The place was pristine, shining from floor to ceiling. I guess they knew we were coming, but all the same I got the impression of 'boot camp' standards.

The communications room is pretty impressive, with everything necessary for an absolutely smooth operation.

A lovely pool table has pride of place in the 'Ambassador Lounge', surrounded by homely-looking cushioned couches. Apparently this room was named after a favourite watering hole of past fire-fighters.

Photos on the wall resemble a high school hall, except at a closer glance these folk aren't students but rather dedicated heroes. The comradeship seems to ooze from the images. Gold Star members who have clocked up twenty-five years stare back with seasoned pride.

'Wally's Bar' caught my attention next. It is named after Ian Wells who evidently enjoyed this particular area. All the little room signs are professionally made and matching colour.

Last but not least we discovered 'Tony's Kitchen', named in honour of Tony Holt whom I am told loved food.

Back out to the garage we trooped to witness the action of engines and demos. Legless boots with handles stand to attention underneath fireproof suits and hardhats. One uniformed female was fervently polishing her footwear like I've never seen done before.

A fine mist blowing indicated the hoses were in use to the rear of the station. Those hollow, canvas snakes full of water are obviously very powerful and not easy to control at the best of times. I still can't work out what the purpose of the paddling pool was and please don't ask me to explain why a fringed, tiffany, standard lamp was dragged onto the asphalt.

Members of the brigade were soon busy preparing for a rescue demonstration. Lyndsay Whittle took on the appearance of someone on a serious mission as he began to don all the necessary apparatus, including twenty minutes worth of compressed air. The time frame allowed for this part of the exercise is only ninety seconds, and I can tell you just getting that tank on your back uses the best part of a moment. It is HEAVY.

Excitement mounting, I was moved to ask who was about to be rescued. The answer came quickly, "Betty Swollocks".

I continued questioning, "Who is she?" Reply, "One of our team"

The demo continued as Lyndsay entered a mock tunnel. The clock was ticking. Precious moments passed. Suddenly we sighted an exit from the other end of the concrete pipe. Someone else was assisting Lyndsay, and the two of them fair struggled to get



this poor woman out of the awkward gap. I thought 'Gee they are damn rough with her'.

Moments later, as the recovery position was established, it became shockingly obvious that this female in question with a tea-cosy hat was just a dummy!

After I'd calmed down and regained my full composure, I had one more query and so asked how the poor dear got her name Betty Swollocks.

Two firemen looked at each other with sheepish grins, and one explained their clever play on words. Almost simultaneous to his hilarious explanation, my penny dropped. And I was silenced by the sound of a thousand bleached follicles clapping.

- Grateful Resident



OBITUARY

Leo Rothschild – 11.05.20 to 24.03.04

Leo died in Waitakere Hospital after a period of illness.

Born in Wellington, Leo Rothschild spent the major part of his adult life in Auckland, working as a medical representative. A member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron for over forty years, sailing was one of his main interests. A self-taught navigator, he began his 'blue water' career by participating in the inaugural Auckland / Numea and Auckland / Suva races. Mr. Rothschild was a member of the NZ Meteorological Society, and also trained as a volunteer guide for the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Leo married Ros in 1965, and in 1970 the couple moved into their newly built house at 216 Mountain Road, Waiatarua. Ros shared that Leo loved the Waitakere environment, taking great joy in feeding and talking to his "resident" Tuis by day and observing the movement of the planets by night. Ill health dictated a move to Pinesong Retirement Village in 2002.

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR:

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www.waiatarua.org.nz

Waiatarua Rainfall (April 2004)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	April Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	17	5th (21 mm)	67 mm	517 mm
Brabant Road	19	27th (20 mm)	80 mm	579 mm
Quins Road	19	28th (17 mm)	62 mm	481 mm
Forest Hill Road	15	27th (27 mm)	76 mm	532 mm
Auckland City			37 mm	388 mm

Native Herbs In Waiatarua

Puwaha

Also known as Sow thistle, this plant is usually thought of as a weed, occasionally as a vegetable or a food for birds. However it also has some medicinal uses. The leaves can be soaked in water and then the water applied to boils and ulcers. Alternatively, the raw leaves can be crushed and applied to cuts. For digestive problems, make a tea out of the leaves and sip slowly.

- Sonja Cartwright, Naturopath and Medical Herbalist



Letter to the Editor

"Encountering Cyclists"

A few weeks ago I was driving to work at approximately 7.45am along Anawhata Rd., pretty sedately I might add, only to come face to face with a couple of cyclists riding two-abreast. I braked suddenly and exclaimed, "What are you doing?!" No response - they kept going. Gradually, my shock subsided and I processed the arrogant, potentially disastrous event.

The message I endeavour to get across is to heavily recommend all cyclists ride in single file on West Coast roads, if they want to live long lives! Drivers are much more unpredictable now and to ride two-abreast on Anawhata Rd. or any West Coast road is asking for trouble, and putting both driver & rider at unnecessary risk. I rest my case.

- Helen Falla

Know Your Boundaries!

How do you know when you are entering or exiting the area of Waiatarua? What landmarks do you normally provide visitors with? Maybe you're tired of saying, "After Oratia, and before Piha."

Imagine being welcomed and fare-welled by unique, eye catching signs. Now that would really be something!

This is all possible. Ranui has done a great job with a similar project. The WRRRA is happy to do the ground work necessary. However, they would love to get a feeling for what the community wants.

Maybe some of you are graphic designers, or just plain artistic. Dust off those drawing boards and submit ideas. Please phone Robin or Korstiaan on 814 1850 and we will steer you in the right direction.

According to Jeanne Wade's book 'Song of Two Waters', when the WRRRA first drew up their constitution, the following boundaries were established for Waiatarua: -

- Ø Shaw Road to the South
- Ø Lone Kauri Farm to the West
- Ø Mountain Road to the North
- Ø Kelly Road to the East

At the time it was found that the Waitemata District City Council accepted these boundaries, as Council had no clearly defined area on record.



Library Report

Amongst our new books are some by favourite authors. We have the new Edward Rutherford one (London, Ruska etc.) DUBLIN, James Patterson's latest 3RD DEGREE and the follow-up to the very popular NZ novel 'Denniston Rose' written by Jenny Patrick. Her new novel is HEART OF COAL.

Included in the non-fiction is Mike Coburn's SOLDIER FIVE. This is that true story of the SAS soldier the British government tried to stop being published. Also new on the shelves is GHOST DANCE, a memoir by the well-known NZ dancer Douglas Wright. Remember there is a complete list of all new books on the website www.waiatarua.org.nz and reservations can be emailed to jawz@clear.net.nz. Otherwise call into the library to reserve. Happy reading!

Fire Brigade

Another four Brigade members completed a one-day course at Whangarei Fire Station's Realistic Fire Training facility. Even with all the protective gear on, it doesn't take too long to toil up a sweat when you're working in 250° C.

We have received introductory training material for Urban Search and Rescue, and will be starting on this in the next few weeks.

Recent Calls

7:43 pm, Mon 19 April – False alarm, Kauri Loop Rd

6:24 pm, Tue 20 April – Assist with lighting after a bus fell off Forest Hill Rd. No injuries.

We're told the driver, who was alone on the bus, stopped the vehicle and got out to check it. While she was doing so, it gracefully rolled off the road and down a bank. It took several hours and two large cranes to retrieve it.

12:03 am, Sun 2 May – Large person trapped in a car by flooding, West Coast Rd. Kelly's Stream rose suddenly and covered the road during the flash flood, and the driver thought he'd be ok crossing what he thought was surface water. The surface water wasn't a problem. It was the metre or so beneath it that picked up his car and caused it to start floating. Luckily it didn't get swept into the stream, and he was quickly rescued by Henderson's crew who arrived shortly before us.

1:50 am, Sun 2 May – Tree across road, Scenic Drive. This was winched off the road by our four-wheel drive Ute.

3:51 pm, Sun 9 May – False alarm, Shaw Rd

5:14 am, Tue 11th May – Car fire, Piha Rd

7:29 pm, Fri 14 May – False alarm, Kauri Loop Rd

Contacts

Phone 111 for any fire or other emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777)



Playcentre Report

The wet weather over the last few weeks has kept us inside at Playcentre. However, there are still a lot of activities to keep little hands and minds busy. There is never a dull moment - from play dough to puzzles, collage to carpentry; or just snuggling up in the library area with a pile of books.

The cooler weather has given the children a chance to make soup, and try their hand at scone & pikelet making. At Playcentre we know that, with children, it is very often more about the process of creating rather than the end result. However when the end result is seen as both something you can make and eat, children find the motivation and enthusiasm to see a task through to the end.

We have welcomed a number of new families into Playcentre, and as this newsletter goes to print eleven mums are enjoying a women's weekend away in a bach at Leigh. Playcentre is about the whole family and we try to hold regular and varied social events to also include partners and older siblings. Every second Friday we run an after school session, where older siblings (many who once went to Playcentre) and families whose children are all school age can come back to Playcentre, catch up with old friends and play. This is a casual, fun session enjoyed by all who attend.

Waiatarua Playcentre is open Mon, Wed, and Fri from 9.15am to 12.15pm. All visitors are warmly welcomed. For further information, call the centre during the hours of operation or phone Jenny on 814 9954.

Road Safety

This is one of the concerns of the WRRRA Committee. On behalf of the WRRRA Les Duffield has written to the Waitakere City Council and the Land Transport Safety Authority regarding improved road safety signs for the roads in Waiatarua.



In regular features we will keep you up-to-date with Road Safety issues and highlight some of the more difficult places to drive and walk around Waiatarua. This month we feature a picture of the intersection at West Coast Road and Bush Road. The Council is currently working at this intersection, creating a new foot path and re-shaping the corner. When you travel down West Coast Road from Forest Hill Road, the intersection with Bush Road is just after a tight corner. Have a thought for drivers trying to turn right out of Bush Road and slow down when you approach the intersection. These drivers cannot see you coming down the hill and are forced to make a decision when they think it is safe to proceed. Your co-operation will surely be appreciated by residents and visitors to Bush Road.

If you would like us to feature a particular 'Road Safety Hot Spot' please make contact either by phone 814 1850 or email korprins@xtra.co.nz

Play and Win - Where am I ?

We are planning to make this competition a regular feature. We will show you a picture and if you can guess or know where it is located within the Waiatarua area you can win a prize. This month's picture, on the right, can be classed as a dramatic entrance to both the competition and the building it is in. Not many buildings have a door upstairs. Romeo may have sung below it. All that's needed is a balcony.

This month's prize is a gift basket from **Elke's Wine and Food Market**. You will find Elke's Market at 113 Sturges Road, Henderson. Open every Saturday morning 10am - 2pm for fresh Pandoro and German Rye Breads, organic cheeses, german meats, Q-garden pickles and chutneys, chocolates and more. Also a great selection of Siebel wines, Port and Mead at cellar door prices. Tastings available.

Write your answer on the back of an envelope and put it in the letterbox at the Waiatarua Hall at 911 West Coast Road or E-mail your answer to korprins@xtra.co.nz. Don't forget your name, and contact details.

Calling All Shy Or Wanna-Be Actors / Actresses...



Last month in Lyndsay Whittle's 'Local Waiatarua History' article you would have read about the possibility of reviving a local theatre group. The hall is available, some old funds, plus lots of existing props and costumes. All we need are the people.

If you have even just a smidgen of interest please come forward. Remember a group like this is made up of many cogs, experienced and first timers. A great way to have fun and meet new people.

Please start the ball rolling by contacting Lyndsay himself on 814 9872



From the Editor

Hello again everyone. Can you believe it's already the month of May? Time sure flies when we're having fun!

I really enjoy autumn, especially the breathtaking tree colours which we can all appreciate, heading up the hill towards home. This daily sight confirms for me the main reason we chose to settle in Waiatarua. Our vision was to finish work with a feeling of 'escape' from the hustle & bustle, and have the opportunity to shed any tension or stress during the final journey of the day. I can now confirm this is exactly what happens. One can definitely sense the pace slowing down as the Waitakeres beckon.

Of course, the other side of the coin is... each morning when I have to force myself back down that old hill. I work at Waitakere Hospital and Lincoln Road's traffic is enough to send anyone's blood pressure soaring. There are reminders everywhere that this is The Big Smoke and 'rushing around' is the name of the game. I sat at the traffic lights near a well-known petrol station recently and that all too familiar sign 'On The Run' smacked me in the face. I guess that just about sums it up!

If you would like to share with us why you sought a life in Waiatarua, we'd really love to hear from you.

Fourteen people were present at May's WRRRA meeting, and all were pleased to see the hall with nice fresh paint.

Apart from the regular reports, a discussion took place on the goals / values of this new committee. It seems that efforts thus far have been focussed on the upgrading and promotion of the community hall & library, local road safety, Waiatarua's identity, keep Waitakere beautiful and community mindfulness.

It is hoped that residents with an interest in any local issues would feel welcome to attend meetings and share ideas.

Next meeting Wednesday June 9th 7.30pm, this time at Waiatarua fire station.

- Robin

ARC Pest Liasion

Jack Crow from the ARC recently gave an update on the "pig situation" in the Waitakeres.

Pigs pose a threat to the kauri snail, hostchstetter frog and mawhai. In addition they damage tracks and uproot ferns.

Two hunters have been contracted to cull pigs in the area, subject to the following conditions:

- They must carry a warrant at all times
- The warrant must also be displayed in their vehicles
- Maximum of six dogs for two hunters
- Dogs must wear radio tracking collars
- Hunting only allowed during weekdays and in hours of daylight
- GPS record to be kept of all pigs killed
- All areas hunted are to be mapped

The contract has been let for more than a year.

NO OTHER HUNTING has been sanctioned in the Waitakeres. The ARC asks that the public report other hunters or Utes with dog cages parked by tracks, with the intention of prosecuting unwarranted hunters.

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road, under the Community Centre. Phone 814-9353

Hours of Opening



Thursday	10.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday	11.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday	11.00am - 12.00pm

BRICKBATS AND BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy FlowerShop, 423 Titirangi Rd Titirangi Phone 817 3780



We have had so many nominations for various people in our community who happily donate their time and effort to improving the landscape of Waiatarua, over and above the responsibility of their own properties. So, hats off to these 'garden angels'. Your labours of love are greatly appreciated!

This month's **BOUQUET** goes to Pete Dakin and his dog Rufus. They saved a pregnant woman from a pit-bull at Parkinson's Lookout. A great neighbourly gesture! Pete suffered a nasty leg bite for his brave efforts. Lady and baby are fine.

The **BRICKBAT** for May can be aimed at the childish motorist in a 'beat up bomb' who made a calculated bee-line for a huge curb puddle, absolutely drenching an innocent pedestrian. Unbelievably, he raised an arm of victory out his window after the incident. For this we bestow a double brickbat, and encourage him to be thankful no-one was hurt.



Notice Board

Notices are free to financial members 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 - Rod Maunder on 814 1831

Repeat commercial advertisements of members will only be printed as space allows.

BABYSITTER: mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$10 per hour. Phone Juliette on 0274-875-805.

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

BEDS - 2 Single, one metal tubular / one wooden. Offers phone 814 1850

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

CLOTHING - good condition pre-loved mainly womens, various sizes. phone 814 1850

COACH - Lucy Reade, Life Coach: for individuals, families and groups. Teens, wondering what to do when you leave school? Parents, what now that the kids are off to school? Small Business owner, where are you heading? - Phone 818-2727, email lucy@lucyreade.co.nz

CREAM FOR JOINTS, MUSCLES, BRUISES: essential oils and all natural ingredients. Phone 814-1868.

DRAMA - Open performance night Friday 28th May from 7.30pm at Rimu Glade Studio. A venue for actors, musicians, poets, and dancers to perform in a relaxed setting. 4 Rimu Road, Waiatarua. Contact John 814 9744

FIREWOOD: Shed stored. Can deliver. \$70 per cubic metre Phone Eric 814 8833.

JP - MARY KELLY: for all personalised weddings, re-affirmation of wedding vows, ceremonies of commitment, naming ceremonies, MC, Chair for public meetings etc. Phone/Fax 814-9857.

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

LAWN MOWING: Local reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.

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

LODGE - AUCKLAND'S WAITAKERE PARK LODGE: open Thursday to Sunday 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. Phone 814-9622.

MAKE UP ARTIST: Professional International makeup/hair artist available for weddings, special occasions in your own home. Phone Juliette on 0274 875805

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

MINUTE TAKER REQUIRED: Duties - take minutes of monthly meetings, type minutes and email to committee members. No other committee involvement required. Interested? Contact Lyndsay Whittle on 814-9872

NATUROPATH - your local Naturopathic Clinic at Waiatarua Phone 814-8881. For menstrual, digestive problems, low energy, frequent colds and flu etc.

OTIMAI: Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Cherie and Graham to view 814 9992 or 638 9060 for bookings.

PLANTS: taros, bulbs, cannas and various perennials for sale. \$1 - \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814-9859.

PROPERTY SALES: looking to buy or sell? For best results and free advice please phone John on 0274-122-853. Bayleys Titirangi.

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

SECURITY: 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

THE NIKAU CLUB: Bar, Café, Restaurant. New winter hours. Open weekdays 12 noon until after dinner for lunches and dinner. (except closed Mondays at 4.00pm). Open weekends 10.00am until late, for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Phone 814-1919.

THERAPIST/COUNSELLOR: Marguerite Laing BSP. Reducing the effect of conflict, stress, eating disorders, communication difficulties; and liberating energy to bring serenity and clarity. Phone 814-9889.

TOYS - 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

TREWORK: fully insured and qualified arborists. Phone Joe Krazz 021 244-8733.

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

WATER SERVICES LTD.: pump sales and service. Tank repairs, cleaning and new tanks installed. Filtration and water treatment. Phone Phillip on 812-8537 or 027-279-6036.

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

WINE AND FOOD MARKET - ELKE'S: open every Saturday morning for fresh Pandoro and German Rye Breads, organic cheeses, german meats, Q-garden pickles and chutneys, chocolates and more. Also a great selection of Siebel wines, Port and Mead at cellar door prices. Tastings available. Open Saturday 10am - 2pm at 113 Sturges Road, Henderson.

YOGA - FAY'S CLASS: for true fitness and relaxation Ph837-7794

FOUND - a set of keys on the road outside the fire station. Phone Ian on 814 8871

FOUND - Ginger male kitten - Phone 814 9964

Neighbourhood Support

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 Raroa Terrace	814-9859	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

2004

- I enclose: \$10.00 household, \$5.00 Single Occupant
 I would like a copy of the book "Song of Two Waters" @ \$20.00 (delivered)

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

To Treasurer

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or **leave at the library**
WEB Site www.waiatarua.org.nz

GARDEN GROUP

We have organised something different for next month. We're very fortunate to have John Sumich taking time from his busy schedule to come and bring us up to date with Ark in the Park. As most of you will know, this is the Waitakere Ranges project to eliminate pests and bring back native birds.

We will be meeting locally **at 1 pm sharp, on Wednesday 2nd June.** Bring along an unusual native plant - this will enable you to take part in the popular 'native plant swap'.

Phone Pam on 814 9984 or Margaret on 814 9859 for further information.

Waiatarua Community Hall Hire

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

(including tables and chairs)

Friday and Saturday evenings = **\$100.00**

Sunday to Thursday evenings = **\$65.00**

Other times by arrangement • Discounts for regular users
Community Barbecue hire **\$20.00** • Crockery hire **\$25.00**

Phone Lyndsay Whittle on 814 9872

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 9th JUNE, 2004**

Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua. Phone 814 1850

E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz

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

Our thanks to Longley Printing for their continuing support in printing this newsletter