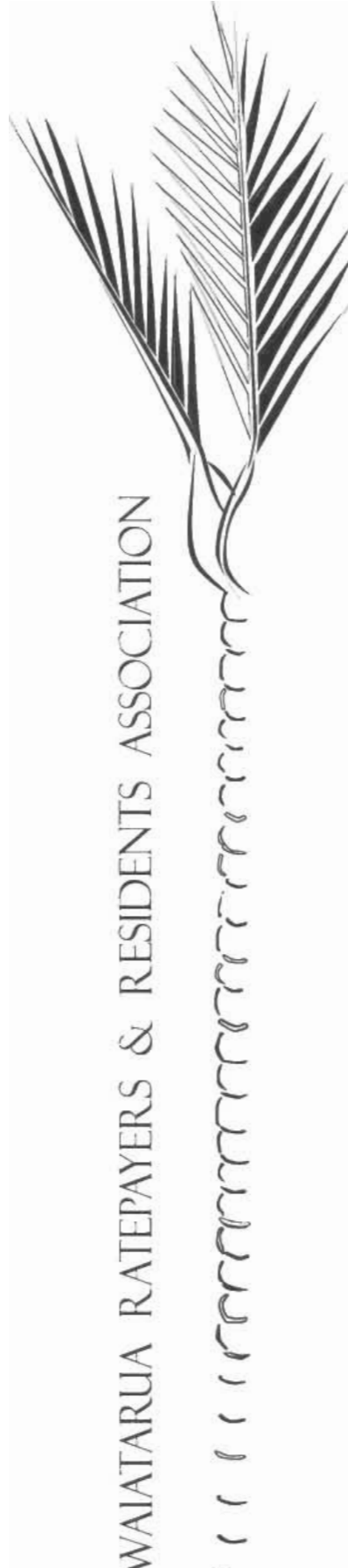


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

January - February 2005



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 2005

- Where** - Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua.
- When** - Sunday February 13th 2005 at 9.00am.
- What** - Extensive delicious full home-cooked breakfast, raffle, real live clown, colouring competition (*sponsored by Longley Printing Co. Ltd.*), music and more...
- Why** - Fun, relaxation, comradeship.
- How** - Pre-purchase your tickets by Wednesday February 9th.
Call Rod Maunder on 814 1831
- Cost** - Adults \$10 (WRRRA members discounted to \$7), children \$5.

KIDS! Grab a colouring competition from the special box posted outside your local community hall at the above address, or download it from our WEB site www.waiatarua.org.nz/newsletter.cfm

*The last breakfast held was a great success. Everyone had a wonderful time.
Come along and meet your neighbours / friends / family.*

Oh What an Asset!

How many of us have actually stepped inside the very handy Waiatarua Community Library? I would like to create a challenge for all local residents and ratepayers to start doing so this year. This is our facility. We pay for it.

Most passers-by would not believe what lies behind that modest façade. There are books galore, with full library systems; and a band of very dedicated volunteers at our service. Parking is never a problem

The reading available is surprisingly up-to-date, and if you have a request then there's every chance it will be met successfully.

Relevant information to the area in the form of pamphlets etc. is available on the front desk, and librarians are often happy to share interesting stories relating to historical events and the like.

So, forget about driving down into 'chaotic civilisation'. Stay close to home within this amazing environment - lose yourself in a local book!



WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

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

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association Annual General Meeting 2005

The annual General Meeting of your WRRRA
will be held in our very own local community hall on

Thursday February 24th at 7-30pm.

Come along to witness and/or take part in the elections of your 2005 committee.
A solemn promise of "absolutely no pressure" stands.
If nothing else, this is a great opportunity to see for yourself WHO represents you,
and those you love, in your community at grass-root level.

Wine and cheese from 7.00pm

Don't miss the guest speaker.

You will be privy to a very interesting presentation
by an 'Ark in the Park' project representative.
For further details please contact current President
Dave Pocock on 814 9697

EDITOR:

Robin Essex - Ph 814 1850
E-Mail: robsx@free.net.nz

WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
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WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

From the Editor

New Year good wishes to all. We sincerely hope your Christmas times were special. No doubt, tragic events in other parts of the world overshadowed every one of us - a reminder to live for the day and cherish those we love. Life is constantly changing, that's for sure.

In recent months my daughter and one boarder have flown our coop, and now we are merely four. There's a definite hole in the nest and it's very quiet on the home front. But hang on a minute, isn't this what we've been waiting for? There's less washing, not so much cooking and now even a spare room!

This is actually a very interesting time for me - an opportunity to observe my only female chick building her nest for the first time. Did my years of nagging pay off and provide her with the ability to budget and keep a clean, tidy house? The latter is non-evident to date, but admittedly rather difficult with a full quota of student flatmates. However, what a great chance for young ones to experience real independence and build solid, life-long friendships.

I trust 2005 brings strength to many existing friendships, and that we're always open to the richness of new ones. In the words of Anais Nin... "Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."

-Robin

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have a concern. Often as I drive up Forest Hill Rd at night I see a golden labrador (seems quite elderly) wandering close to the road, and I marvel at the fact he/she hasn't been killed or injured by a speeding vehicle! Please could the owner take more care to avert a possible sad disaster?

- Animal Lover

Dear Editor

In regard to the 'Waitakere Ranges and Foothills Protection Plan Questionnaire' it occurred to me recently that a number of us live here in the ranges not only for the bush but also for the cityscapes, seascapes and bushscapes; and those vistas should be protected - it does affect land values.

My partner and I have commented to that effect on the form from the WCC, but I feel that others with a scenic view may want to protect it and might not have thought to contribute an opinion from this point of view.

- C.W.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

BOUQUET

To kick off the beginning of 2005 we would like to award Bev Lattimer a well-deserved bouquet of flowers for her ongoing years of dedication at the Waiatarua library. Thank you.

BRICKBAT

This undesirable award goes most definitely to the fool who laid three wood-and-nail tyre puncture devices along a winding stretch of Forest Hill Road prior to Christmas. Not only is this highly illegal, but it also posed a risk for the kind citizen who stopped and removed them to save others from danger and expense.

GARDEN GROUP

We are starting our New Year with a visit to the local garden of Kesson and Gaylene Sharp. This is a sloping garden, as most of ours are; currently being transformed into a subtropical, eye-catching garden featuring: palms, daylilies, cordylines and Kesson's passion... Bromeliads. Meet at 1.00 pm Wednesday the 2nd of February at 170A Glengarry Road. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information.

From the President

Greetings for 2005...

The holidays are over for most, and of course the sun now appears!

As usual the year starts with a hiss and roar. We all have the Waitakere Ranges and Foothills Protection Plan questionnaire to complete. If you need further information on this, contact council 839 0400 or visit www.waitakere.govt.nz.

Our Community Breakfast is on the 13th of February, so come along for a pre-Valentines brekkie (details within). Pre-bookings are required for entry.

On the 24th of February is our A.G.M. where we are fortunate to have a representative from the Ark in the Park project as guest speaker.

Regretfully, we are losing the services of well known Waiatarua identity Lindsay Whittle, due to business commitments. Thanks Lindsay for your input. We are going to miss your jokes at meetings.

If you have an interest or curiosity about being a committee member give us a call, or if you feel like joining us phone or write in with your nomination. Apart from that, come along for a good night with fellow locals. I am pleased to say most of the current committee are seeking re-election.

Well that's about it for now. This must be my shortest report ever. See you all on the 13th and/or 24th.

Thanks, Dave.

Waitakere Community Board

The WRRRA recently received a letter from Christine Shepherd stating her pleasure at returning as the 'Chair' of the Waitakere Community Board. Christine also takes the opportunity to inform us that Monique Davis will attend our meetings on a regular basis to be the liaison person for us with the Board and the Council.

Community Boards have certain powers of decision-making delegated to them by Council, and consultation with residents is an important part of the process.

If anyone is interested in attending Waitakere Community Board meetings, they take place at 7.00pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers.

Contacts: Christine Shepherd - Ph 836 3239, Monique Davis - Ph 818 5588.

Fire Brigade

Waiatarua Fire Brigade provided first-aid cover for the Waitakere Christmas Festival at Parrs Park before Christmas. Unfortunately bad weather meant that the event wasn't well attended.

The new vehicle is now in operation, thanks to the Waitakere Licensing Trust.

Cinnamon Edwards and Andy Holyer started their Basic Fire-fighting course at Mt Wellington Training Centre January 2005.

NZ Fire Service block courses have changed in the last twelve months. Previously a combination of training and assessment, there is now some theory with the rest being assessment - so more of the training is done on station.

The Brigade is compiling a "wish list" for an application to the Licensing Trust early next year - a winch for the new vehicle, portable radios and first aid gear are on the list so far.

Calls since the last newsletter:

- 6:55 pm, Tue 23 Nov - Car rolled, Scenic Drive
- 5:51 pm, Fri 3 Dec - House fire, Scenic Drive. This was the "third alarm" fire in a building at Gordon's Nurseries. A total of twelve fire appliances and about sixty fire-fighters were dispatched to this incident. A second crew from Waiatarua took over from the first at 10 pm, and returned to the station at 1:30 am.
- 7:18 pm, Mon 6 Dec - Medical assistance, Scenic Drive
- 7:09 pm, Sun 12 Dec - House fire at Amreins Rd, Taupaki. Called as backup to supply additional water.
- 11:50 pm, Mon 13 Dec - Car crash, Piha Rd. Minor injuries - walking wounded only.
- 3:00 pm, Sat 18 Dec - Power lines down, North Piha. Sorted by Piha brigade.
- 9:27 pm, Sat 18 Dec - Medical assistance, North Way.
- 5:50 pm, Sun 26 Dec - Rubbish fire, West Coast Rd.
- 3:03 pm, Sun 2 Jan - False alarm, West Coast Rd.
- 10:59 pm, Fri 14th Jan - Car accident at North Piha. Three people injured, with one going to hospital via helicopter.

Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade attended 71 calls in 2004, a slightly higher figure than usual.

Contacts - Phone 111 for any fire emergency. For other information please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttal (814 8777).

Local Brigade Closes up a Ruby

Research into old WRRRA minute books has placed the birth date of the Waiatarua Fire Party as the 12th of December 1965, at a Special General Meeting held in the Dutch Kiwi Restaurant "for the purpose of forming an emergency fire squad". At that meeting, twenty-three residents volunteered to undertake training (including a Mr Whittle). So December this year will be the Brigade's 40th anniversary. Planning of suitable festivities is under way. Watch this space!



Play and Win - Who am I ?

A new year and a new competition. This year we would like to introduce you to some local identities and other not so well known people.

We will show a picture of the person where they are not easily identified. We ask you the question "Who am I" and if you think you know the person email the answer to korprins@xtra.co.nz and you could win a small but interesting prize. In the next issue we will profile the person as well as announce the winner. So have a go and identify this month's picture. If you think you have a picture of someone you feel deserves to be in this spot email it and a small profile on the person to korprins@xtra.co.nz.



THE ARATAKI RANGERS ROUNDUP

Our Friends of Arataki Kids Day was held in the Visitors Centre grounds on the 5th of December. The weather was fairly atrocious but keen staff and volunteers soldiered on through hail and rain! The day was a great success and plans are already in the pipeline for a bigger and better one next year.

The Arataki Visitors centre was re-opened on December 2nd and is operating for business as usual. The venue looks great and feedback on the re-vamped displays has been wonderful. Come and have a look when you get a chance.

The construction of an underground tunnel for access to the Nature Trail from Arataki is continuing. This much safer route will lead under Scenic Drive from the Education Centre to the top of the Nature Trail.

The Arataki Nursery is very busy at present. Brendan would love any volunteer help he can get. Please call him on 817-0094 if interested. There is a wide variety of tasks to be done - from pricking out to bagging on, seed collecting and general maintenance.

There has been a great deal of improvement carried out on the Nature Trail track surface and drainage, as well as vegetation. We've had a team of Rangers down there working hard to get it up to standard again.

It has proven to be a really busy summer so far and a lot of our time has been spent on whale strandings, lost persons and events.

We are constantly striving to make the Waitakeres a special place for present and future generations. Come and help us by volunteering for any of the various projects in the park (eg weed and animal pest control, gardening, track work). Contact us on the Rangers Station phone if you'd like to offer your services - 817 0099. *Ka Kite, Arataki Rangers.*



Roadwatch Report.

SPEED and inadequate driving skills are yet again to blame for two pre-Xmas incidents on West Coast Road. On Sunday the 21st of November, a driver lost control of his car on the series of sharp bends adjacent to the 700's on West Coast Road. The speed was obviously high, the conditions were wet and (yet again) involved an area where we need the "ripples" repaired on the road surface.

On Monday the 29th of November at exactly the same place, speed was the main contributing factor for this driver losing control and smashing into a parked vehicle which was completely off the road. The driver stated he 'hit a kerb type bump and lost control'.

This may sound funny but instead of a vehicle being there, it could have been our children waiting for the school bus - they would undoubtedly have been killed!

I would like to call these accidents, but they are not. Both incidents (or crashes) are due to lack of motoring skills and we need to push home the importance of driving carefully in our Waitakeres.

If you witness an incident that you are not happy about anywhere in Waitatarua, please report direct to me and I in turn will pass the information on to the WCC Roadwatch.

My phone number is 814 1130. - *Les Duffield*

Waitatarua Rainfall (December 2004)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	December Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	19	4th (25 mm)	180 mm	1892 mm
Brabant Road	22	22th (36 mm)	165 mm	1933 mm
Quinns Road	--	--	--	--
Forest Hill Road	19	4th (30 mm)	207 mm	--
Auckland City			118 mm	1210 mm

Playcentre Report

Happy new year everyone! Waitatarua Playcentre re-opens in 2005 for the Wednesday session February 2nd at 9.30am. Our contact phone number is 814 8835.

If your New Year's resolution was anything like mine - you may want to spend more quality time with your children whilst they are developing at such a fast pace.

My son has been so disappointed that the centre was closed over the holidays. He cried when we drove past for a few weeks in December! Explaining the routine closure was quite heart-wrenching - I will look forward to seeing you all on the first session of this year! Let's hope summer is finally on its way now, as we are all looking forward to our Playcentre's annual camp at Shakespear Regional Park in March.

-*Julia Moore (for Waitatarua Playcentre)*

Wesley Spragg

Summarised from R.F.Spragg's paper, 1991

At the top of Mountain Road up a steep hill from Henderson Valley lies Spragg Bush. The area on the north side was once owned by Wesley Spragg, and comprises Allotments 112 plus parts of 185, 110 and 7A in the Parish of Waipareira. Wesley was born in Madeley, Shropshire to Charles Spragg (butcher) and his wife Mary. The family of six arrived in Auckland January 1864 on the 'Ulcoats', a White Star iron barque of 671 tons. She made the trip from London in 115 days.

In 1883 Wesley's occupation was given as 'grocer'. In 1886 he established the NZ Dairy Association in partnership with Lovell & Christmas (London merchants). This successful business was sold in 1901 to the dairy farmers as a cooperative concern, Spragg being appointed manager. He retired in 1915.

Wesley Spragg was a wealthy man with a large home and ten acres of land in Mt. Albert when he purchased the Waitakere property in 1901 as a holiday home. He called it "Whare-o-te-Rangi, usually shortened to "Worry-o".

Opposite Wesley's house was (and still is) the two-storey house with a tower, once holiday home to George Fowlds - minister of education in Ward's government before the First World War.

By 1920 Spragg was into his 70's and concerned that after his time the bush at Whare-o-te-Rangi might be destroyed, so decided it should be given to the City of Auckland.

By 1924 the boundary of the park had been cleared and surveyed; then on the 9th of April that year Spragg's Bush was formerly handed over to the Mayor, councillors and citizens of Auckland.

The 1930's brought the Great Depression, and the 40's World War II. Wesley's children and grand-children continued to use the old house for holiday weekends etc..

In 1958 the two front rooms and a portion of the roof were destroyed by fire. In 1977 a new building was erected, but this in turn was burnt down in 1986. The third house on the site was built in 1990.

Nowadays many of the surrounding property landowners are continuing to preserve the native growth on their own land, and the nearby bush is as Wesley Spragg and those before him left it. He would no doubt be pleased with the state of the area, although might be surprised by the morning and evening traffic up that way.

Lightning strike

Local resident John King and his wife Nicky received a bit of a shock recently, during one of those awful summer thunderstorms in the Waitakeres.

Their home, a renovated older model, was struck by fork lightning which lit up their stainless steel kitchen bench like a beacon. A second target was their treasured banana palm in the front garden.

John explained that they quickly acquired what was needed to prevent a repeat episode, and \$300 later feel much safer.

Perhaps other residents may want to check with their electricians that their abodes have what is necessary.

Advertising and Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Korstiaan Prins via Email korprins@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 1850. Community Notices are free to financial members 2005, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the treasurer - Rod Maunder on 814 1831

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

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

DRAMA CLASSES: with local tutor John Goudge, at his studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Waiatarua. Nine week courses for adults, & for children aged 10 - 15 years. 1st term starts Feb 7. Have fun, learn & improve your acting craft, develop confidence. Ph John on 814 9744 for info.

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.

LA LECHE LEAGUE: Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

MARVELLOUS MOSAICS: This excellent course embraces an ancient art that is regaining popularity. Beginners & experienced mosaicers welcome. Running on two Sundays: 20th February, & 13th March. 9.30 - 5.00 pm. Please call Dianne or Lorraine @ Titiangi Community House [venue] on 817 7448 to book in, or Helen [tutor] for a materials list and any queries on: 814 9963

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

THE U3A WAIATARUA ART HISTORY GROUP: at our last meeting we ventured into the highly inventive pictorial language of Paul Klee, and the dream fantasies & imaginary landscapes of Joan Miro. We are a small group of people who enjoy reading about and discussing various aspects of art. Would you like to join us in 2005? If so, phone Shirley on 814 8938 so that she can arrange suitable meeting times.

WAIEMATA TECORIAN SPEAKERS: Gain confidence, communicate more effectively, extend knowledge, stimulate imagination and have fun at the same time. We meet at the Titiangi community centre every second and fourth Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Men and women are welcome. Contact Margaret on 817 0520 or Gill on 838 1983 for further information.

TOASTMASTER: meetings held on every other Tuesday morning from 7.00 till 8.20 AM - more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728

Would you like to attend the WRRRA monthly meetings or have your say at the public forum before each meeting? If so come along at 7.30pm every second Wednesday of each month to the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

I enclose: \$10.00 household, \$5.00 Single Occupant

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

To Treasurer

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waikare City

or leave at the library - WEB Site www.waiatarua.org.nz



The Waiatarua Community Hall

Hire this excellent facility for training sessions, meetings, parties, dances, birthdays etc. Fantastic bush setting for a relaxed and pleasant environment.

For booking enquiries phone the WRRRA enquiry line on 814 9353

Restoring Hope



Do you need to talk?

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ELKE'S WINE AND FOOD MARKET

Open every Saturday 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 10.00am-6.00pm
at 113 Sturges Road, Henderson.

New Hours

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.
573 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua, Auckland

FATHER AND SON WEEKEND: Fathers (or male caregivers) & sons of all ages and mobility. 12-13 February, Huia Lodge, Waitakere Rangers. Come and explore the Wild West, fishing, kayaking and other adventures! The Lodge is wheelchair friendly. Equipment, food and FUN provided by Adventure Specialities Trust.
Contact Melanie or Suzanne by Phone 636 0351 or email: recreate.auckland@xtra.co.nz

This issue of the **Waiatarua Community News** is the start of a new era. In the last year we made subtle changes to the layout and encouraged the community to be more involved. We already see a sturdy increase in responses and contributions from residents and we are getting very positive encouragement from readers.

In addition to this our committee is looking at ways to increase the use of the Waiatarua Community Hall. We believe that this venue has enormous potential to play a role in the community as a training and/or conference centre for small to medium organisations in and around Waiatarua and beyond. To assist the committee with this goal we, at the Community News, believe that with the improved interests from our readers there is an opportunity to raise funds for the committee to assist with some important projects.

What we are offering is an opportunity to promote your business to the Waiatarua Community in a more flexible way than ever before. From this issue we are making available 62x25 mm boxed advertisement including one graphic, and different fonts if desirable on the back page of the newsletter for a very affordable price of \$10.00 per issue. There is the possibility for some of you to even double the size of the advertisement. We still keep space available for residents to place their "non-business" advertisements when they want to. For more information contact Korstiaan on 814 1850 or email korprins@xtra.co.nz

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.

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 jenny.mcgee@xtra.co.nz
Margaret/Paddy Marshall 19 Raroa Terrace	814-9859
Sandy McConnell 550 Scenic Drive	814 9962

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (does not apply to already discounted or sale items).

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies

293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

The Nikau Club Café

Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper

Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

Elkes Wine and Food Market

113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10am-2pm)



Handyman Services

- Many years experience
- Any work considered
- No Job too small

Contact Les Duffield on 814 1130

FEBRUARY - MARCH NEWSLETTER

From time to time snippets of news come to our attention via the 'bush telegraph'. We would prefer to access information on any interesting news articles directly from the original source. If you would like to share stories with our community we welcome your contributions wholeheartedly. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by **WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY, 2005**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz

The WRRRA Committee would like to thank

Longley Printing Co. Ltd.

29 Bruce McLaren Rd Henderson - Ph. 837 0729

for their support in printing this publication.