

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

August - September 2006

Road Sign Upgrades in the Waitakere Ranges

Reasons why arterial routes in the Waitakere Ranges receive road sign upgrades are directly linked to triennial crash reduction studies, which are a key element of delivering the safety component of Waitakere City Council's strategic vision; and contribute to Council exercising its duty of care as a road controlling authority.

Crash reduction studies involve analysis of crash patterns based on information collated by Land Transport NZ from Police crash reports.

Through the crash reduction study and via expressions of concern from emergency services and the general public, a number of rural routes in the Waitakere Ranges were identified as having crash rates high enough to warrant detailed investigation. The following table shows the reported crashes on four arterial routes in the Ranges where treatments have been carried out as an outcome of the crash reduction study. The data is for the period January 2001 to December 2005 and is sorted by injury severity. The crashes recorded on these routes account for one third of all rural crashes recorded in Waitakere City during that time.

Road	Serious	Minor	Non-Injury
Piha Road	8	24	67
Huia Road	3	25	52
Scenic Drive	7	22	69
West Coast Road	1	11	24
TOTAL =	19	82	212

The predominant types of crashes occurring on these routes involve loss of control on bends. Although night-time traffic makes up only a small proportion of the traffic volumes on these roads, a disproportionately high number of the 'loss of control' crashes occur at night.

Another crash issue identified by the study involved side road and access related crashes with collisions involving both vehicles pulling out of side roads and

park entrances, and vehicles being hit from behind when slowing to turn into side roads and park entrances.

On some of the routes driver impatience, due to inability to pass slow vehicles, was identified as contributing to crashes related to careless over-taking.

-This information was provided by a report prepared for the Waitakere Community Board by Adam Moller, Principal Transport Engineer: Design.

Next month we will continue this report with information on treatment selection, delineation design and the setting of speed recommendations on bends.

Waiatarua Quiz Night

9th September 2006 7.30pm at the Waiatarua Community Hall at 911 West Coast Road.

Based on the popular Pub Quiz format, facilitated by Cathie Wells and Ian Ford.

Create a team of 6-8 people or just drop in and become part of a table team. Great Prizes to be won.

For more details check on our **WEBSITE** www.waiatarua.org.nz or phone Robin and Korstiaan on 814 1850.

Tickets \$5.00 per person. B.Y.O Drinks and snacks

Helipad at Piha to be Re-developed

Waiatarua City Council is proposing to upgrade the helipad at Piha, for emergency helicopters - including the police Eagle helicopter and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. The City Development Committee accepted a recommendation to go ahead with plans to re-develop the pad developed between the community, the council and the rescue helicopter trust.

The existing pad will be enlarged to accommodate the larger rotors on a new, larger rescue machine. The pad will also have its own lights with the ability to be activated by pilots, for night landings.

In addition, there will be a blue light atop the mid-beach toilets, near the pad, which will flash to help guide the pilot at night. This will also provide a warning to people on the ground that a helicopter is approaching.

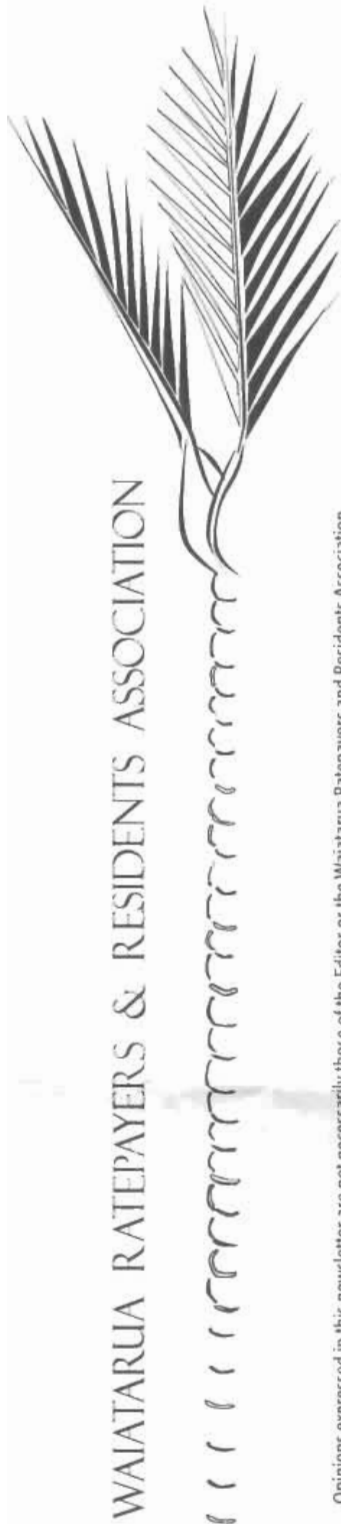
"This is an excellent compromise," says Christine Shepherd, chair of the Waitakere Community Board. "Originally the rescue helicopter trust wanted a concrete pad but the local community was very opposed to this idea. The final outcome has been arrived at through consultation between the council, immediately affected residents, the residents and ratepayers association and the helicopter trust."

The council and Piha residents also agreed that any helicopters, other than emergency helicopters, would require specific resource consent before they could use the pad. Operators using the pad without resource consent, will be open to prosecution by the council.

"This is a win-win for safety and the local community. I think everybody recognises that there must be an emergency helipad at Piha, and nobody wanted to see unrestricted helicopter activities. This will give us the best of both worlds," says Mrs Shepherd.

For more information please contact:

Public Affairs Manager, Dai Bindoff on 021 278 6858 or Christine Shepherd on 021 253 8116



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

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911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

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Library hours:

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

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.: _____
Email: _____

2006

To Treasurer, Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or **leave at the library**

From the Editor

Robin Essex

Something caught my eye while I was waiting at the traffic lights not so long ago. Passing by on foot were two young men, one wearing a Walkman with just a single earpiece plugged into his head. The other audio wire led to his mate's ear - thus the pair could obviously enjoy the same music together. Of course, they had to be careful to stick close to each other and keep well in step on the footpath.

So, let's think about this sharing lark... 'to share' means: to divide out, or to give away a part of what you have. Imagine what sort of a world we would live in if everybody was happy to share. The mind boggles!

On this note, I invite anyone interested to share in the joys of the Waiatarua Community News' editorship. I shall be retiring from this role in early 2007, after three years at the helm. A part of me is reluctant to let go of these reigns, but more time is required in another area of my life soon. I think it's also important to give someone else an opportunity to supply fresh input to the WRRRA's monthly publication. It sure has been a great experience for Korstiaan and I to work on this project together. We have learnt so much about our community, and met some neat people along the way. So, come grab my spare earpiece, and I'll happily share the music with you. There's plenty of time and lots of support available for a very smooth and successful hand-over.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

Bouquets

Hey, still no bouquet nominations! We know there are many people in our community performing random acts of kindness. Please get in touch with us if you'd like to help acknowledge these special members of our society.

Brickbats

A silver grey Toyota Celica was seen with its nose sticking into the down side of the road. It would appear that it had spun on the wet road, hit a tree with the right front side and spun with the back in the bush edge and the front on the road in the area of the 700's West Coast Road. There was no sign of the driver, nor any blood in the car. The air bags had been inflated. *555 was called and someone remained at the site until the tow truck arrived, complete with the owner of the car who apparently hitched a ride from the local service station. He was in perfect health. He probably deserves two brickbats: one for obviously driving too fast for the conditions and another for abandoning his car in a dangerous position. Incidentally the tow truck driver mentioned that the police were on their way.

Save Petrol and Catch the Bus

With rising petrol prices, have a think about hopping on a bus next time you need to get to the shops or the train station. Route 167, known as the 'feeder route', is still up and running for Waiataruans - passing through Waiatarua three times a day at 9.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm. If more people make good use of this bus, their actions will confirm a really valuable service. There is no use complaining if ever 'the powers that be' decide to give it the chop due to low patronage.

Garden Group

On Wednesday the 6th of September we plan to meet at the newly re-furbished Winter Gardens at 1-00 pm. We'll check out all the lovely things in the winter garden, wander through the fernery and back to the warmth of the summerhouse. Our afternoon tea venue has yet to be decided upon - the kiosk? Eden Gardens? If you have any other ideas, let us know.

Please call Margaret on 814 9859 to confirm and/or if you need, or can supply, transport. Enjoy!

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi! "DANCING WITH THE LOCALS"... this only works if the locals want to dance, and very obviously Waiatarua locals DO NOT. As of the 1st of August (being cut off day) we had 26 candidates, 14 of which came from outside Waiatarua. This of course resulted in the cancellation of the dance - very disappointing. I have heard all sorts of excuses and reasons why it did not happen, but I believe you just do not want to dance. One disturbing aspect was the people who were voicing their opinion that we were mad to expect sixty people to fit into our hall for the event. You may think it is too small but I know it is not, as myself and five other committee members attended a private function there with the same entertainment and sixty people - no problem.

We have an open door as far as communication is concerned: telephone, e-mail, a letter in the hall mailbox and open forum 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at committee meetings. So if you think we are mad or something is not going to work, maybe just unsure about it or merely want a chat... please use these facilities. Communication is a two-way street and we are not mind readers. Right, now I have that off my chest, let's move to the future! Coming up on August the 22nd we have Table Tennis about to start for those wanting a bit of a workout. In September we have a Quiz night to exercise the grey matter. On November the 19th our annual Community Breakfast will fill the tummy and provide a chance to natter with the locals. Details for all these events will be in this and future newsletters so keep an eye out and mark the calendar.

At our committee meeting last night (9th August) we received some sad news in the form of our beloved Editor, Robin Essex, voicing her intention to resign as Editor - effective at the AGM next February. There was a moment of stunned silence as this news sunk in! Robin and her partner Korstiaan have over the past 2½ years taken our newsletter to new heights in content, presentation and professionalism; and have provided an excellent platform for a new Editor to launch from and add his/her own touch. We have a newsletter to be proud of. "Thanks Guys". I am pleased to say that Robin did indicate she would be available for re-election to the committee. Of course, this means we will need a new Editor for our newsletter, and by Robin giving us heaps of notice it allows a good lead in time for the new person. If you are interested in learning more please call Robin directly on 814 1850.

To finish on a bright note, have you noticed a bit more sun between the rain? And night temperatures have gone from freezing to just plain "flipping cold".

PS - If you require a replacement recycle collection calendar phone the Council 24hr call centre on 839 0400 and they will post one out. They are not doing a general mail out.

Henderson on Parade

Planning for the biggest and most spectacular parade in the history of Waitakere is well under way and Mayor Bob Harvey wants you to be a part of this very special event. On Saturday the 2nd of September (starting at 10am from Corban's Estate) the streets of Henderson will reverberate to the sensational sound of local community and ethnic groups celebrating their history, their present and their future - the Grand People's Parade is held to mark the official opening of Waitakere Central.

"The parade will have everything from vintage cars to the latest Italian super cars, bands, television actors, historic figure Don Buck on his horse, police dog teams and special delegations from Waitakere sister cities Japan and China," says Mayor Harvey.

Prime Minister Helen Clark has been asked to attend the celebrations and may view the parade from Henderson Railway Station after arriving at the new centre and transport hub - appropriately by train.

Following the parade, participants will join other members of the public at the complex's official opening ceremony in the Civic Square on the Henderson Valley Rd side of Waitakere Central.

Any group that has not yet signed up for the parade should contact John Newick immediately on 832 3190 or via email - john@uniformbrokers.co.nz

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Recent Calls:

None! Thirty-six days and counting since the siren last went in anger. Congratulations to you all for your fire-safe behaviour and your exemplary driving skills (touch wood). Or maybe it's the Council and all the new chevrons we should thank??

1125J

Thankyou to Dave and the other willing Thespians from the 'Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust' for their skills and assistance in the show we put on for the Auckland Volunteer Fire Police dinner recently. Cast, crew and audience all had a great evening!

Winter's Bite

We may still have some cold spells to come. Ice on the roads has caught a few people by surprise this year - a number of drivers on Scenic Drive and Piha Road have "parked" their cars in unusual places and at strange angles, but the panel-beaters have been smiling. Any night when Auckland's overnight temperature drops to 5-6° or below should sound warning bells for the next morning.

Contacts:

Always phone 111 for fires or any emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Waiatarua Rainfall (July 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	19	18th (55 mm)	201mm	1203 mm
Brabant Road	20	19th (53 mm)	179mm	1140 mm
Quinns Road	19	20th (76mm)	139mm	927 mm
Forest Hill Road	15	19th (40 mm)	154mm	1071 mm
Auckland City			-	-

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Having lived nearly sixty years in the area, I would like to add my two bobs worth to the talk of area boundaries.

Growing up on the West Coast, in the Rimu Road area, we were considered to be living in Nihotipu. Oratia was considered the valley area, and stretched from the valley up West Coast Road past the black stump to the crest of the first ridge at Potters Hill (Bendalls Lane). Potters was considered the start of Nihotipu which included the properties on the North side to the rear of their boundaries. At Devils Elbow (corner Forest Hill & West Coast Roads) West Coast Road became Waiatarua on the right side and Nihotipu on the left.

The local country roadman (George Smith), who incidentally was hit by a car and killed while working on Potters Hill, would joke while cleaning drains that the Nihotipuians were more friendly than the Waiataruians or vice versa – depending on who he was talking with. This often resulted in a batch of scones for smoko but the rule was you had to be careful to sit on the correct side of the road.

I see by the last newsletter that the boundaries now change already from Oratia to Waiatarua at Bush Road. So be it. But in the light of this conclusion I feel I must call on Dave to nail his overalls to the community centre's door as a symbol of his resignation, as he no longer lives in Waiatarua. Can't have Townies coming into the hills a-taking all the plum jobs. By the way, Roy, your cheese-cutter should be alongside said overalls. Just kidding Guys. - F.W.

Waiatarua Playcentre News

What a busy time we have been having at Playcentre! The carpentry table is always in full swing, there is lots of nurturing of the baby dolls, 'cooking' continues in the family play area and the collage table is producing some great masterpieces of late. We have recently welcomed some brand new babies and still have a few incubating really well. A number of new families have also joined us. Playcentre encourages parents to take an active role in their children's early development, adopting the role of 'first educator'. Playcentre supports parents in this journey via specially designed courses, workshops and discussions, which are available free to all Playcentre parents. Parents are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible and quickly develop learning-through-play techniques from other Playcentre parents.

Playcentre is a licensed early childhood provider and receives funding through the Ministry of Education. This funding, in conjunction with the organisation's own fundraising and the voluntary resources supplied by parents, helps to keep Playcentre's fees amongst the lowest in New Zealand without sacrificing the quality of education and the care children receive.

Playcentre's other point of difference lies in its philosophy of free play, or as it is more commonly referred to today, child-initiated play. Free play allows children to choose any one of a number of different activities. The child decides how they wish to play, where, with whom and for how long. Parents and other adult supervisors support the child and offer suggestions, helping to extend their play and their learning.

About half our families make the drive over the ranges from Piha and Karekare, with the rest coming from nearby Waiatarua, Oratia and further afield.

We are open three mornings per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays), and all the sessions are vibrant and full of enthusiastic children & parents. If you'd like to drop in for a look and a cuppa, we'd love to see you.

Our AGM will be held on Monday the 18th of September 7.30 p.m. at Waiatarua Playcentre, 911 West Coast Road - just down below the Waiatarua community hall & library. We extend a warm invitation to all community members as our AGM, like all our meetings, is relaxed - with everyone free to contribute. For more information, phone the centre during session times (9.30-12.30) or ring Julia on 812 8636.

Council to Intensively Study Three Rating Options

Waitakere City Council has outlined its intention to study three different rating systems over the next year before deciding on which is best for the city. The Finance and Operational Performance Committee (FOP) has endorsed a recommendation that the council should study the relative merits and likely impacts of the three different systems available to councils under New Zealand law.

"As we go into this process the council has absolutely no preference for which system is used," says Councillor Janet Clews, chair of the FOP committee.

One is the **land value system** – the current system that uses the value of a property's land, only, as a basis for calculating rates. The second is **capital value**, which uses the full value of a property (land and improvements such as buildings, drives etc). The third is **annual value**, which uses the property's annual rentable value as the basis for calculation.

"We will do detailed economic modelling of all three systems to assess their impacts on large businesses, small businesses and residential properties of different values. Within the three systems, there is also opportunity for variations. For example, we could make more or less use of uniform annual charges and other user pays options, so there is a lot to understand. The most important thing, however, is getting an end result that is most fair to most people. The council cannot raise any more money than it needs for each year's work, no matter what system it adopts. However, the system does affect how much each property pays towards that total amount. In some cases businesses pay more, in others higher value properties pay more," continues Councillor Clews.

The council expects to receive the report of the study towards the end of the year and will then make a decision on the timing for public consultation.

"Year's end is a target, not a fixed date. If it takes longer to do the work thoroughly, so be it. We want to be certain we have the best information to evaluate what is the fairest system before making final decisions," Councillor Clews comments. With the current widespread interest in rates we hope people will be really keen to support the work being done and then to help us make a decision based on sound information rather than preconceived ideas."

For more information please contact Public Affairs Manager, Dai Bindoff on phone: 021 278 6858.

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

Pest Control has been a focus at Arataki over the last month. Rangers and volunteers have collected and cleaned numerous fenn and timms traps from the trap lines managed around the Arataki Centre, Nature Trail and Arataki Depot. This is a job that is done annually to ensure traps are well maintained and kept as easy to use as possible.

A group of Rangers from the Waitakere Ranges attended the annual NZ Biosecurity Conference in Russell at the end of last month. The conference covered current issues and research relating to both plant and animal pests from all over the country. Included in the programme were talks about Hedgehog behaviour (based on research from Whatipu) and Rabbit Control at Bethells beach. Feedback from the conference has been positive, as it has given staff the opportunity to discuss issues with experts and gather new ideas and initiatives.

Brendon the Nurseryman at Arataki has taken his nursery 'on the road' over the last four weeks. He has been running workshops in primary schools around West Auckland. These practical workshops covered information relating to native trees, seed propagation and tree planting.

Finally, the Education Team at Arataki has been in full flight since the season launch of their winter programme 'Save our Forests'. Meeting aliens, broken space rockets and an urgent earth mission are all key elements to this highly interactive educational programme. Children are introduced to the programme by reading a story entitled 'What's wrong in Hypertron', prior to arriving at Arataki. During the day they get drawn back into the story, spending time learning about what is special about forests and what they can do to conserve them.

That's it for another month. Catch up with you in the spring! *Ka kite, The Arataki Rangers.*

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

More dumped tyres at the top of Kauri Loop Road... give it a rest please!

It seems the new chevrons near the top of West Coast Road have been hit and now face the wrong way. Hopefully nobody was hurt in the process?

A few dangerous corners remain unmarked. Local fire chief, Ian Ford, is kindly following up on this with the Council. He also has concerns over some of the new reflective posts being rather inconsistent in regard to their positioning, making it difficult to gauge the road's edge in the dark – especially for drivers new to the area. This will be discussed as well.

GET YOUR ENTRIES IN

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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 2006, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the president Dave Pocock on 814 9697

BABYSITTING: Reliable and mature girls are looking for babysitting work. References are available. Please phone Jessica or Angelique on 814 9577.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Phone Mike 814 9708

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

LAWN MOWING: - Local, Reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.

HOUSEKEEPING REQUIRED: - for Busy Lady on Scenic Drive. Hours by arrangement. Please call Jacqueline on 836 3929 or 376 0222

MATHS TUTOR: - Preparing for tests and exams at all levels up to and including year 13. Phone: 814 9269

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.

ORATIA SPINNING AND CRAFT GROUP: - Country Fair Saturday 23rd September 10 am - 2.00 pm. Church Hall, Corner Parker and West Coast Roads. Cakes, Jams, Preserves, Plants, Wonderful Craft Items. Refreshments. Fun for All.

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

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

UPCOMING EXHIBITION: - "DIVAS" paper funk by Niki Price, 19th August - 10th September. Paintings by Monique Endt, 16th September - 8th October. Group mixed media exhibition - open to all Waitakere residents. Animal, vegetable, mineral: 11th November - 3rd December. West Coast Gallery, the old fire station, PIHA. Ph: 812 8029. Hours: Thurs - Sun 11.00 am - 5.00 pm Labour Weekend: Monday Market - Barnett Hall. Stall enquiries, Claire on ph: 812 8192.

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB: - Ping Pong is coming to Waiatarua! Start date is Tuesday August 22nd at 7.00pm, and this will be a weekly event at the Waiatarua Hall 911 West Coast Road. Cost is just \$2-00 per person.

WAITEMATA TECORIAN SPEAKERS: - Gain confidence, communicate more effectively, extend knowledge, stimulate imagination and have fun at the same time. We meet at the Titirangi 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.

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NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION... ELEVATION NEWS

New Managers - Chad and Ruth, promote a friendly relaxed ambience.

New Menu 16th August - Scott has prepared a new menu. Come and check it out - the first ten bookings mentioning this advert will receive two complimentary glasses of Forrest Estate Sauvignon Blanc!

Kawiti plays great guitar every Saturday night 7 - 10pm. Dine & dance! We roll back the carpet and sprinkle the talcum powder!

Charlotte Johansen - Sundays 2 - 5pm. She really is worth the visit - relax, enjoy a coffee or a wine and listen to Charlotte sing.

Takeaway - Feeling lazy? Ring through your order, we will prepare it to takeaway.

Kids Nite Out - Wednesdays kids eat free from the kids menu.

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Thursday	6.00-7.15pm Beginners Oratia School Hall	7.30-8.30pm Restorative Oratia School Hall
Friday	9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall	
Saturday	10.00-11.30 General Oratia School Hall	

General: mixed level class - Restorative: gentle stretching and repositioning
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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER, 2006**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz