

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

Christmas 2006



Waitakere Takes 'World Gold' at Environmental Awards

Waitakere is the most "liveable" city in the world according to the United Nations. The LivCom Awards held in China is the world's only awards competition which focuses on Best Practice in managing the local environment. The objective of LivCom is to improve the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of 'liveable communities'.

Last month Waitakere City was declared the winner of the "Liveable Community" award and was also silver medallist in the Environmentally Sustainable Project Award – for its work on legislation to protect the Waitakere Ranges from further unsustainable development.

"There were five finalists from around the world in the Liveable Communities Award and it is a great honour to not only be the winner but to separately receive a gold medal for the quality of the presentation we made to the judging panel," says Councillor Penny Hulse who was in the City of Hangzhou to front Waitakere's entry.

"Around fifty countries subscribe to LivCom which is backed by the UN, and many of those countries are represented here. So believe me, this is a very big deal and we are being treated like celebrities. The media interest has just been incredible," she says.

Waitakere's entry was basically an overview of the policies and programmes that the City has to ensure all sectors of the community can participate in the democratic process while harnessing the community's energy and ideas to deliver results that make for more pleasant, more sustainable and more enjoyable neighbourhoods.

Waitakere believes that by encouraging the community to become involved in projects such as Project Twin Streams, it gets \$10-00 in value from every \$1-00 invested by the council.

The other aspect explored was the City's use of art and events as a form of communication that helps build a sense of community.

"Migrants in Waitakere come from about 150 different countries – many of them with English as a second language. We have found that one of the quickest ways to build bridges between all those people is to encourage them to share their arts and festivals," says Councillor Hulse.

In regard to the silver award won in the Environmentally Sustainable Project section she goes on to say, "In fact, that award is for work in the area of environmental rehabilitation but we successfully argued that we have such programmes going on in the Waitakere Ranges, but none of them will last without protection of the environment itself. We submitted that the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill now being considered by Parliament provides that protection."

Mayor Bob Harvey sees the awards as a ringing endorsement for the policies and programmes that Waitakere has delivered for over a decade.

"Environmental protection and sustainability is not about tree hugging and eating mung beans. It's about smart thinking and innovative ways of dealing with the effects of population, growth, crime, increasing waste volumes, stormwater, and traffic congestion and so on. It's about smart planning and involving communities in everything you do. What we've been doing for years is not becoming mainstream and this award is recognition of the fact that Waitakere is a world leader in sustainability."

Mayor Harvey recently attended an invitation-only presentation by ex-US Vice-President Al Gore. Gore is one of the world's leading environmentalists and recently released the hard-hitting documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

"That film is a real wake-up call for the planet," Mayor Harvey says. "Quite simply, unless we all change our behaviour this will be a very, very, grim place to live. But Waitakere has shown that by working together, cities and individuals can make a difference."

For more information go to: www.livcomawards.com

Debate Teams Wanted

A call goes out to anyone interested in becoming involved in a light-hearted debate for entertainment purposes at the Waiatarua Community Hall mid-year 2007. Four keen locals have stepped forward so far. Organisers are considering combining the event with a sit-down dinner. A competition will be promoted in the Waiatarua Community News in the New Year, to invite submissions for possible topics. Ideas submitted to date are: *Cats make better pets than dogs*, *Beauty is only skin deep* and *Home is where the heart is*.

Please call Robin or Korstiaan on 814 1850 for further information or e-mail robsx@free.net.nz

Oratia District School Turns 125

On November 11th 2007 Oratia School celebrates its 125th anniversary. A book of the last 25 years is being prepared and organisers are looking for items to put in it – stories of local activities, news of ex-pupils who have achieved well in any field, thoughts and reminiscences of the school since the 1982 centennial, articles about changes in the community, land use and events of interest etc.

All contributions for the book will be gratefully received. Please contact Pam Thomas at Oratia School on 818 6216, or Judy Harre phone: 818 6483.

Are you registered for the celebrations? Do you know of anyone who should be contacted regarding the celebrations? Anyone interested can get in touch with the school on 818 6216.

WRRRA Constitution Update

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association have approved in principal a new constitution. This can be viewed on our web-site www.waiatarua.org.nz/CommunityInfo.cfm or hard copies can be sent to you by contacting Dave Pocock on Ph: 814 9697. The new constitution will be presented at the AGM in February 2007 for adoption.

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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Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Michelle Stanborough
Ph 814 9707

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

From the Editor

Robin Essex

So, here I am conjuring up my last report for 2006. Back to back with New Year's resolutions, I think many of us go through a kind of evaluation process at the end of each year. Fragmented thoughts spring to my currently chaotic mind... some merely trivia, others borne from personal encounters and a few directly related to our community – local, national and international.

Firstly, it wouldn't be right if I didn't say "Warm wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy, safe, relaxing and peaceful holiday season".

Secondly, as our AGM in February draws near, I feel certain sadness connected with handing this publication over to a new team. It really has been such an enjoyable journey, about truly connecting to Waiatarua as a community. However, it's nice to know that others will soon have the opportunity to be able to bathe in the same delights.

The recent Quiz nights have broadened my general knowledge no end, particularly with the discovery that Avocado is the Aztec word for testicle. I am never going to forget that fact but just hope I can enjoy my next avo with a straight face!

Socially, our calendar has been ROCKING of late. Without a doubt, once again, Trash to Fashion at the Trusts Stadium ultimately 'floated our boat'. For goodness sake, please think twice before throwing anything away in future because you would not believe what some of those costumes were made of.

... random thought fragment coming from the left: I have been wondering all year, since my daughter and I each invested in a pair, whether scuff slippers actually wear carpet out faster than standard footwear. I mean, think about the foot action required in keeping them on. Surely there's a measurable deficit in cut pile, or a noticeable compression of loop, over time. Do we have an expert in our midst willing to throw light on this matter to put my mind at ease?

Now to wider community issues. One of my offspring volunteers at the Salvation Army, supporting the homeless and helping with the food bank etc. Spare a thought this Christmas for our fellow human beings caught in situations we would rather not envisage. Keep the Sallies in mind if ever you have extra stuff at home, because I can assure you all it will go to someone who really needs it.

Lastly, I'd like to share with you some of the valuable insights I received by recently attending ESOL training to improve my skills for the Literacy work I am employed to deliver. I'm so glad we live in a country willing to offer opportunities to people who have fled terrible horrors and have no future in their homelands. But can you imagine what a culture shock it must be for most that enter our land of plenty for the first time? The English language alone would be daunting, and remember that many of these folk already speak three or four other languages. So if you are privileged enough to receive new immigrants as neighbours, offer them a warm Kiwi welcome. Try not to shout 'cos they're really not deaf, just eager to learn. Gesticulate draw pictures, make sure they know the difference between affluent and effluent and above all repeat... repeat... repeat... (with a smile). Be open to learning about their culture too and I can guarantee you'll be far richer for it.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our December visit is to the garden of Judy Roberts at 816 West Coast Road. We have all noticed the topiary Dodo on the road frontage and wondered about the hidden gems in the garden, so this is our chance. We will meet Judy at 11am on the 6th of December, and then after our visit will wander along the road to enjoy our Christmas lunch. Bring a plate for lunch and a small gift for Santa to present. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 for further information.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Tony Bacon after the loss of his dear wife Jean on Tuesday 21st November. Jean passed away very peacefully. Many will know Tony and Jean for their dedicated work within our community.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi! Thanks to Kor for looking after the fort whilst Shirley and I were away.

Yes we have been away again, this time for a Mediterranean cruise and a visit to Borneo so Shirley could visit the Orangutans. The more we travel the more I am convinced that, overall, the best place in the world to live is little old New Zealand. We really have nothing to complain about compared with other countries, and that includes developed ones as well as third world.

When people hear we are from N.Z. they express how lucky we are and how much they would like to be here. So next time you feel like having a moan just remember we are the envy of the world.

Before going away we went to see "Menopause the Musical" which was a thoroughly hilarious, enjoyable night's entertainment. Cost \$50 each plus parking fee. Upon our return we went to see "What's for Pudding" and "Last Tango in Waiatarua" - two one act plays from our local drama club in our local hall... a thoroughly hilarious, enjoyable night's entertainment. Cost \$17 each with free parking. I offer this comparison in light of the fact that less than 50% of the total audience came from Waiatarua, and when you reduce that for family members of the cast it doesn't leave many locals. I have to ask the question why? Is it because we have the attitude that it can't be any good if it's local? If anyone has the answers, let me know. Congratulations to all those involved with the plays on providing a very professional production enjoyed by all that attended.

It has been brought to my attention - a few cases of youths in cars playing skittles with wheelie bins, playing chicken with pedestrians and smashing signs on people's property. This is only on a minor scale at present but if you see anything suspicious take the registration number and contact the Police. We know the Police will act and pay a visit to the culprits' homes. Let's stamp it out!

If you are a financial member of our association, have an email, and have not been receiving the WRRRA hotmail it means I do not have your email address. Please send it to me davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Also send an amendment if your address has changed in the last six months.

Whilst I was away Michelle our minute taker resigned to concentrate on studies for a business degree she is doing. I want to offer my thanks to Michelle for her work on the committee and wish her every success with her studies. This means we are without a minute taker so if anyone feels inclined to fill that role or wishes to know more of what it involves, please give me a call on 814 9697.

Well the silly season is on us once again, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very MERRY XMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. So until next year... thanks from Dave

Help Others via Xmas Cards

UNICEF aims to give children the best start in life by providing health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation, psycho-social support, care and protection. Your support of our Christmas Card campaign helps our work in the world's poorest communities. You can choose from a wide selection of card designs by New Zealand and international artists. All cards come with envelopes, and a personalised greeting and/or logo can be overprinted inside your card/s. Visit www.unicef.org.nz to order on-line. If you would like to receive a print copy of our catalogue or have any queries please contact Cathy Maslin on (04) 496 9626 or e-mail corp_cards@unicef.org.nz

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Guy Fawkes:

The first fine bonfire night at the Fire Station in years was enjoyed by about a hundred people on Saturday 4th. And despite everything you've seen in the media, our solitary Guy Fawkes-related call was an investigation only and we left the revellers to it. It has been several years since we have actually had to put water on a fire in Waiatarua caused by fireworks or bonfires. So well done Waiataruans!

Recent Calls:

8:09 pm, Saturday 22nd Oct – Garage fire, Bethells Road.

8:20 pm, Thursday 2nd Nov – Car crash, West Coast Rd near Raroa Tce. Although one occupant needed to be extricated after two cars collided, she suffered only minor injuries.

7:38 pm, Sunday 5th Nov – Bonfire, no action required, Carter Road.

4:12 pm, Thursday 9th Nov – Trampoline out of control, Parker Rd.. True – that was the pager message! It was being blown up towards the power lines.

5:50 pm, Thursday 9th Nov – Water leaking through roof, Kaurilands.

8:12 pm, Saturday 11th Nov – False alarm, Piha.

2:02 pm, Sunday 12th Nov - Scrub fire, Beach Valley Road, Piha. Handled by Piha crew.

2:18 pm, Sunday 12th Nov - False alarm, Seaview Road, Piha.

Fire Permits:

Over the summer period we have a Restricted Fire Season, which means that for any outside fire between the 1st of December and the 30th of April you must first get a permit from the Council. They are free but you must give at least three working days notice, to allow time for a site inspection – phone 836 8000.

Contacts:

If you think a fire engine should attend any incident – even as a precaution – always phone 111. Otherwise please phone Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777)

Waiatarua Rainfall (October 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	19	1st (127 mm)	277mm	1729 mm
Brabant Road	24	1st (131 mm)	300mm	1684 mm
Quinns Road	21	2nd (107mm)	268 mm	1438 mm
Forest Hill Road	19	1st (94 mm)	249mm	1565 mm
Auckland City			156mm	953 mm

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

The Friends of Arataki Kids Day was held on November the 12th. The day was regarded as an outstanding success, due in part to a lucky break in the weather. Approximately 2000 people turned up to enjoy a variety of activities. This event, organised by The Friends of Arataki and supported by ARC staff, is a special day for young explorers of the park and it's heritage. Many groups made the day so popular including Ambury volunteers, Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade, Oratia Scouts and Brian Lawton with his bug display.

Visitors to Cornwallis would have thought they had wandered into a real life drama this week. A large inter agency search and rescue exercise involving over one dozen agencies was in full swing. Led by the Police, this training opportunity saw park staff putting their local knowledge to good effect. The involvement of the Westpac rescue helicopter and the Auckland airport hovercraft were no doubt an incentive to a good turn out!

Field staff have been busy on the tracks in the area with the exceptional gales we have been receiving. As soon as the tracks are cleared a new windstorm brings down fresh debris!

That's it for another month. Bye for now.

Ka kite, The Arataki Rangers.

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

Just a reminder to all our "Waiataruans"...

Your own community library is open as follows:

Thursday 10am – 12pm, Friday 7pm – 8pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am – 12pm.

Come along and check out the shelves. We have already added 24 new books this month, including new titles from Bill Bryson, Lloyd Jones, Ian Rankin, Clive Cussler, Peta Matthias, Martina Cole, C.K. Stead, Robert Ludlum and Kiran Desai.

Alessandra Zecchini, our local cook and author, has very kindly donated a copy of her new book "Savour" to the library.

Come and browse the shelves, borrow as many books as you like and meet the nice locals who volunteer their time at the library.

The Joy of Streams

Each year Waitakere City Council gets together with Rutherford Community Education and Wai Care to run a series of events to help Waitakere residents with a stream on their property. The course, which involves an introduction to streams and their life as well as a look at stream banks and how to manage them, provides those who attend with advice and helps them to develop plans for their properties. This is a win-win situation because Waitakere streams are really important to the survival of freshwater native fish and the vegetation on the banks is an important home for birds and other animals. By working together to develop carefully managed stream banks, everyone wins, because an attractive stream bank is a great feature of any property and the stream restoration happens more quickly. Ian Hutchinson of Swanson says:

"Having a stream run through your property is a privilege, a joy and a perpetual pain in the bottom. If, like us, you drive over a small bridge across your stream to go to work each day you will have a twice-daily reminder of just how impossible a task awaits you each (and every) weekend. In the time it takes to come to terms with the reality of your problem the weed canopy may be 7 feet high and you will be transferring those weed seeds to your downstream neighbours. Either this scenario is familiar to you or it will soon become so. In May 2005, we were excited to read about Council-supported sessions where we could learn about how to look after and improve our stream banks. Here was access to experts with knowledge about plants and furthermore, the right plants and the answer to one thing that had eluded us - a starting point. Having advice on weed control made the problem simple. All we had to do was take their advice - and follow it. We had a plan. One year on, we have weeded our streamside banks, replanted with lots of grasses, flaxes, cabbage trees and other native shrubs and trees, and totally transformed our wasteland into an attractive area for birds. It is far from completed, but with the information we gained from this session, we have the confidence to know what to plant, where, and when. For further information re dates for 2007, call WCC on Ph: 839 0400

Keep Us Alive

EDITOR: one who prepares the work of others for publication, broadcasting etc.; one who conducts a newspaper or periodical.

Hopefully, the word is out that we are seeking a new editor for the Waiatarua Community News, to begin after the February 2007 AGM. Some might think this would be a formidable task. But wait! It does not necessarily need to be a job for just one person. There could be a small team working together e.g advertising, layout, editor, journalism, proof-reading etc.

As the Concise Oxford Dictionary states (above), an editor is merely a conductor - the leader of a synchronised orchestra, if you like.

We already have two keen expressions of interest... so if others out there are prepared to play a small part in keeping this popular publication alive, please call Robin on Ph: 814 1850

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

A report came in of a local driver being 'air-horned' from behind one night by a dark coloured station wagon, to increase speed or else. When the safety-conscious driver continued to adhere to the speed limit for that particular area, the idiot up his rear proceeded to overtake in the face of a series of blind corners. It seems stupidity reigns!

Please remember that anyone can report incidents like this to the authorities via an on-line form at www.police.govt.nz/service/road/roadwatch.html

If you complete one of these, the culprits will definitely get a warning and you will receive confirmation of this. Hard copies of these forms are available from NZ Police, if you do not have access to a computer.

Joke - My cousin is a vet who specialises in horses. Recently she married a horse trainer. One weekend I rang to help out in her surgery. It was the first time I had encountered the answer machine. Her message went: "Sorry we are unavailable at the moment. John is out breaking horses, and I am in fixing them!"

Letters to the Editor

Hi Robin

Final say in the post code debacle... I've just gone to the wises maps on-line, typed in Waiatarua and guess where the centre of Waiatarua is? Near the junction of Candia Road and Henderson Valley Road. Maybe you need to recruit some new members from the bottom of the hill! - *Paul*

Dear Editor

I'd like to hear what others in our area have to say about fireworks, and also trick or treating. I realise that the kids find it fun, but what about the rest of us?

My poor animals find fireworks very stressful, and it's blatantly obvious these cackers etc. are a danger to some children out there - not to mention a nuisance for others. I often wonder how many families are feeling pressured to spend the grocery money on things that go up in smoke. Surely a total ban, except for public displays, would be a sensible move.

Hopefully, adults are monitoring children as they go door to door on Halloween night. And let's trust someone is supervising the eating of all that junk food when they get home! I tried to promote healthy options at my own front door with offerings of raisins, celery sticks, boiled eggs etc. But the response was not very positive. - *Yoke!*

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

We have received one **brickbat** from a local resident... aimed at Kenlock Motors, our nearest petrol station, for always being at least one full day behind every other gas station in West Auckland to put their petrol prices down. Taking into consideration "freedom of speech", we feel obliged to print this. However, this goes hand in hand with lots of positive feedback from others about the great service they provide. We invite Kenlock's to respond. There may be a perfectly good explanation!

Amendment

Apologies to the Auckland Sun Club for a misprint in our last publication with their case-sensitive web address. The correct address is www.gonatural.co.nz/ASC

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

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

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



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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT-MAKING: - A FREE event for children to come and make gifts for their families. West Wave Recreation Centre, Alderman Drive, Henderson. Saturday, December 9th: Morning 10am - 12.30, Afternoon 1.30 - 3.45pm. To register phone 839 0400. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To volunteer or donate items phone Julie Nash on 836 8000 extn 8934 or e-mail Julie.Nash@waitakere.govt.nz

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Special - gutters cleaned \$45 to \$95 Phone Mike 814 9708

LAWN MOWING: - Local, Reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.
HOUSE CLEANER REQUIRED: Several hours work per week, cleaning a house for a busy family. Days / hours negotiable. Please contact Grace on 814 8758 or 021 768 385.

HOUSE(S) REQUIRED: - for a few weeks from mid - late February for family here on a visit from Ireland. If you have a place available for short term rent or house-sitting, please phone Catherine on 837 1992 or email cdcodd@ihug.co.nz.

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

THURSDAY CHURCH SERVICE: For the elderly or infirm: 1st Thursday of each month. 10am cup of tea, followed by an informal half-hour church service. Drivers available for those requiring transport. For more information call Frank or Lynda on Ph: 814 9869.

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Bible Study and Prayer Group: Tuesdays 1.00pm. - Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

OTIMAI: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Lynne and Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

SIGNAL GALLERY: - 717 Swanson Road. Phone: 833 3479. November 12th to December 24th: DAWN - Kimiko Kanai & Brett Yearbury. EARTHWORKS - Mandy Patmore.

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB: - After a successful first return season we will have a rest over summer and look forward to see you joining us in March 2007. Watch this space for details

WAITING TO BE CLAIMED: one complete herbal tea set consisting of a clear glass infusion-type teapot with stand, tea-light candles and small china cups. Left in the pantry at the hall for quite some time now. Please call Dave Pocock on 814 9697 if you wish to claim it back.

WEST COAST GALLERY: - the old fire station, PIHA. Phone: 812-8029. ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL - group mixed media show. 11th November to 3rd December 2006.

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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.
Coffee Club - We keep the card for you!!!
10% Discount for Residents & Ratepayers Assn members - please remember to bring your card along to qualify for this discount.
We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Class Schedule

Wednesday	9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall	6.00-7.30pm General Oratia School Hall
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: deeply relaxing and rejuvenating
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JANUARY - FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY, 2007**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz