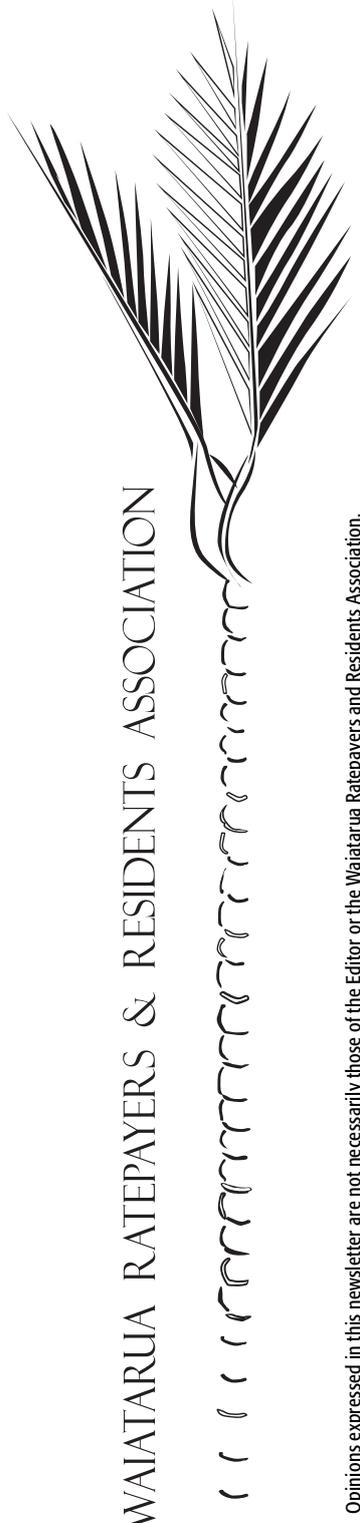


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

January - February 2007



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



WRRRA AGM:

Thursday February 22nd 2007 from 7.00pm



A very warm welcome to the community at large – not only WRRRA members, but all those who are just interested in coming along to listen and observe. A FREE night out, an opportunity to put 'names to faces' and a lot more pleasant than going to the dentist!

Wine and cheese from 7.00pm

the AGM at 7.30pm

- The new constitution will be presented for adoption.
- Election of 2007 committee.

(Please ensure your membership is up to date, as only financial members have the power to vote.)

*** Guest speaker: Ian Ford, Waiatarua Fire Chief**

Presenting - "Life in the Hot Seat, and the Role of Volunteer Fire Personnel"

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please fill in this nomination form and return it to 911 West Coast Road or hand it in on the night. Committee positions to be fulfilled as per our constitution are as follows and will be elected by financial members present:

I, nominate for:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor/s | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (6) |

Contact details: Phone: Email:

It is a new year and your WRRRA Membership is due once again. Many people tell us they are happy to pay the membership, but they keep forgetting to mail the cheque, so this year we have made it somewhat easier for those among us who like to use technology. We have set up a quick payment option on our website www.waiatarua.org.nz. Click on the logo to go to the main page and there you find a link to pay your membership fee via Paypal. You can use your creditcard. Don't forget to enter your address so we can post your Membership Card to you. Thank you for your support

EDITOR:

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

WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697
E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Les Duffield - Ph 814 1130

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



Waiatarua Quiz Night

Back by popular demand!

31st March 2007 at 7-30pm

in the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

Based on that favourite Pub Quiz format, and kindly facilitated by
Cathie Wells & Ian Ford

Create a team of 6 to 8 people,
or just drop in and become part of a friendly table team.
Use your imagination to create a catchy name for your dynamic crew.
Fantastic prizes to be won once again. Don't miss out!

Cover charge just \$5-00 per person.

Please BYO drinks and also BYO nibbles – this enables us to keep costs well down

NewsLetter Help Required

As readers are no doubt aware by now, the editorship of this publication is soon to be renewed. In previous editions, we suggested this does not necessarily need to be a position occupied by one person, but could conceivably be undertaken by a small team of people sharing the role.

Negotiations are under way to hand over to a keen new editor who has stepped forward to take the reigns after the WRRRA AGM in late February. The job is a voluntary one, and we are most grateful for the enthusiasm offered. Nevertheless, one area of responsibility has been identified as possibly requiring additional support – that being, the writing of 'community interest' copy. If this labour-of-love appeals, and you would like to contribute from time to time, please contact Robin Essex on 814 1850.

We are also very excited to announce that a second person has 'put their hand up' to proof read this publication, for which we are most appreciative. What a cool community!

From the Editor

Robin Essex

Have you ever said something, and before your sentence is even finished you'd desperately like to take it back? More often than not though, the mouth is faster than the brain! I had a moment just like this while on holiday in Perth over Xmas. We were visiting a fantastic reptile park on a very hot day, and had heard about the resident boa constrictor. Some members of our party were very keen to drape the thing around their necks and partake in a photo session (not me). Unfortunately, shortly before we hit the scene, it had been determined that this wonderful beast had reached the magical weight of 20kgs – considered to be 'unsafe' for common folk to handle. So, we had to make do with the park keeper displaying B.C. on the open grass at the back of the complex. What a truly surreal experience! Silence fell, and all spectators stood in wonder... some further away than others. People were quietly whispering, as if in the local library. Slowly, with official encouragement, a few brave-hearts shuffled forward and lowered themselves down with single arms outstretched for a touch. Interestingly, all human legs were positioned for an emergency getaway if necessary. I myself was still in two minds and seriously concentrating on the snake end with the head, which was making its way towards my adult first-born. I asked the expert how he would know when a person might be in danger of becoming prey. The assurance came easy but was received with considerable difficulty: "The upper portion begins to form an S shape." Hmmmm, I pondered on how long it would take such a reptile to transform into the 19th letter of the alphabet. Back to reality... warming to the idea of touching this foreigner, but obviously nervous, I was suddenly mesmerised by its sheer beauty – the colours, the intricate patterns and the rippling glory truly representing all that is nature. And then that terrible moment was upon me. The thought came from nowhere sensible, mixed in with distant memories of my dear old Aunt's fashionable accessories. My mouth flew into action and the words tumbled out like a train wreck: "That really would make such a lovely handbag." Good grief, was that me? Obviously yes, since all eyes were daggered in my precise direction. A quick exit seemed like a very good idea, at the time. However, not before I crouched to have a wee brave touch. So soft...

Three guesses what my number one New Year's resolution is!

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

A **bouquet** will be delivered to Frank and Lynda Hogsden this month, not only in recognition of all they do in the community, but also to congratulate them both on their successful transition through Frank's recent heart surgery. As always, Lynda's love and support (together with Frank's determination) has carried them both beyond this challenge with confidence.

The **brickbat** has got to go to the idiot or idiots who decided to burn down a bus stop in West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Sorry, but it's difficult to comprehend what the 'buzz' is when it comes to vandalism like this. Don't underestimate the vigilance of this community. And if this fails, remember karma!

McCahon House

...where Colin McCahon and his family lived in the 1950s, has been restored and is now open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00am to 2.00pm. \$5-00 charge



for adults, Wednesdays free. The House is at 67 Otitori Bay Rd, French Bay, Titirangi. For tour bookings outside these hours please ring 817 8087 x 203.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi! Happy New Year and all that jazz. Hope you had a good Xmas period as we did - camping once again at Orua Bay, with only three really wet days in three weeks.

Someone who had a Xmas to forget is committee member Frank Hogsden. Frank was admitted to hospital the week prior to Xmas and finally returned home around the 16th of January, having undergone a Quadruple bypass. Now in recovery mode, we wish Frank a speedy and complete recovery.

We are still receiving correspondence from concerned residents regarding the driving habits of some motorists. Les is covering that in his RoadWatch report, but I would like to say... "If you enjoy taking your noisy and possibly high powered machine for a blast - please ensure you do it with safety, peace of the environment and the rules of the road uppermost in your mind."

We had another successful community breakfast late last year and although smaller numbers attended than previously, everyone had a good time. A lesson learnt is 'always check the All Blacks calendar', as they were playing France the same day.

It is hard to believe that another committee year has nearly gone with the AGM coming up in February. Once again we will include Wine and Cheese, and our guest speaker this year is local Fire Chief Ian Ford. I am happy to report that most of the present committee is available for re-election. Royston Steer will not be available as a result of other commitments, and we thank Royston for his involvement over the past three years.

There are already a number of activities planned for this year with the return of another Quiz night in March, closely followed by a second season of Table Tennis. Watch this publication for details. Grab a pen, walk over to the calendar now and put a ring around Saturday 23rd June. Mid-winter Christmas Dinner is about to hit Waiatarua, complete with entertainment. More later!

And finally, thanks to all those people who sent e-mails prior to Xmas thanking the committee for their efforts over the year.

Well that's all from me for now. Look forward to saying Hi at the AGM.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

This month we say farewell (for a while at least) to Ryan Groves and Renée Mihaljevich-Groves as they transfer to Wellington for a year. But we're happy to welcome Robert Forrest, whose application to join is being processed by the Fire Service at the moment.

New Equipment

The generosity of the Waitakere Licensing Trust has seen both of our vehicles equipped with retractable light poles to allow for much better scene lighting at incidents. These will make our night-time incidents MUCH safer for both ourselves and the public. Also on order - thanks to the Trust - are improved beacons and lights for our auxiliary vehicle, and a new chainsaw and training course to go with it.

Recent Calls

1:06am, Thu 30 Nov - Rubbish fire, Piha Rd.

2:47am, Sat 2 Dec - Bus shelter on fire, West Coast Rd.

10:01pm, Wed 20 Dec - Car fire, Arataki.

12:34pm, Sat 23 Dec - Motorbike on fire, Piha Rd. It was reported stolen.

2:48am, Sun 24 Dec - Rubbish fire, Piha Rd. Virtually identical to 30 Nov.

12:55pm, Wed 28 Dec - Car crash, corner West Coast Rd and Scenic Drive. Road rage comes to Waiatarua! We're told one of the drivers got a bit agitated and the Police had to insist that he stop waving his machete around. The Fire Brigade's role was traffic control until it was all sorted.

2:14am, Fri 5 Jan - False alarm, Piha.

7:11pm, Fri 5 Jan - Scrub fire, Karekare (minor).

1:46 pm, Sat 20 Jan - Car crash and fuel spill, Scenic Drive

Unfortunately, we've become accustomed to a fair proportion of our calls being deliberately lit fires – most Brigades on or just outside the fringe of the urban area are regularly called to stolen and "torched" cars in the middle of the night. But we're concerned about this being extended to other arsons. The bus shelter at the top of Kauri Loop Rd has been a target twice in the last 6 months, and the two small rubbish fires in the middle of nowhere on the side of Piha Rd could have easily become something much bigger. If you do see any suspicious activity please try to record any descriptions or registration numbers if you can do so without putting yourself in danger, and report it immediately.

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 Playcentre

Happy New Year and also Happy Birthday to Macauley, Violet and Emily who are celebrating their birthdays this month whilst we are on holiday.

We ended Playcentre with a party on the last day of 2006 and would like to thank our very friendly Santa for helping us celebrate. We will start this year on Wednesday the 7th of February at 9.30am.

Our outdoor area is still under construction, but is well on its way to being mostly completed for our first session of 2007. Our new bigger covered outdoor deck was a hit at the end of last year, especially on those rainy days. Of course, our indoor area is as wonderful and child-friendly as it always has been - with everything focused on fun learning through play.

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

Our annual Playcentre camp will be at Shakespeare Regional Park, Whangaparaoa in early March. Current and ex-members are all invited.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday season... from Waiatarua Playcentre.

WPAT

A word about the One-Act Play Season from Gary Ertel, producer...

It started as a whisper amongst the crew. 'When is the next production? What's it going to be?' Obviously the time had come when the craving for the creak of the stage floor, the smell of the grease paint, the glare of the bright lights and the sound of thunderous applause was almost overwhelming. As a small community-minded group we want to support local talent, so the word was out in the newspapers that we were looking for three one-act plays written by local playwrights for us to perform. Unfortunately none were forthcoming, apart from John Goudge. However, his play required a cast significantly larger than we could provide. With the help of the team two plays were selected from an alternative source, two directors found and auditions called.

The cast consisted of a range of actors, some with experience and some with a little less, but this allowed skills to be passed between the levels and thus permitted all to grow into the roles and enjoy the experience.

Rehearsals commenced and slowly the plays began to take shape. Behind the scenes, advertising and promotion were unfolding in association with the Waitemata Theatre group. A joint ticketing promotion was entered into as Waitemata were also producing a one-act play season in Henderson at the time. As Waitemata's opening night came closer the set was built and painted, then painted some more and then re-painted (who knew there was so much to know about colours and how they reflect the light back to the audience, or don't?).

Front-of-house was organised, and all of a sudden opening night was upon us. A few nervous laughs, the odd tense twitch, a number of awkward shakes (and that was the guy who knew his lines!) and then the season began.

First night blues? There were none. It was great. The audience laughed, they sighed, they were swept into the moment and they laughed again.

So on it went until the final night... all shows receiving thunderous applause and 'well dones' from members of all the audiences.

Sssshhhhhh, what's that whisper you can hear?

Waiatarua Performing Arts Officially Incorporated

The shows will definitely go on in Waiatarua. Audiences can expect more quality comedies, dramas and other live theatre in 2007 and beyond – thanks to a new Trust, created to foster the performing arts in Waiatarua.

After a successful one-act season in September last year, a bunch of keen and talented locals took the step of forming the Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust at the close of 2006. This formalised a structure for the future from the remnants of the former Waiatarua Drama Club.

A performance committee has now finished reading scripts, and plans to do two shows at the Waiatarua Community Hall in 2007.

One of the committee's first goals is to gather names and contacts of people in the local and wider community who wish to take part – either as a committee member, an actor, director, back-stage crew or as audience.

"Whether wanting to be involved from start to finish, or just happy to contribute a few hours here and there, we would love to have your help," says Christine Healy, membership coordinator.

"There is room for everybody, regardless of age or experience," adds performance committee chairperson, John Goudge.

The proposed season for The Odd Couple (female version) by Neil Simon is from Thursday April 12th through to Saturday April 21st 2007.

A tentative audition date has been made for Sunday February 11th 2007.

Please contact John on 814 9744 or Christine on 814 9505.

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

The student-Rangers have finished their orientation and have settled into their roles around the Park. They will once again provide field staff with welcome support during the busy holiday period.

The Arataki nursery has been a hive of activity with thousands of seedlings moved from trays within the nursery to outside in bags.

Saturday December the 9th saw the unveiling of a new pou at Karamatura. A joint project with the ARC, Friends of Arataki and Te Kawerau a Maki, this pou is the third in a series that has been funded by the Friends of Arataki. Carved by Sunnah Thompson, the pou portrays the story behind the traditional name of the area, Kaingamaturi. Without spoiling the pleasure of discovering the beauty and meaning of the pou for yourself, this is an excellent reason to revisit Karamatura and reflect on the value and respect this special area deserves.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Ka kite, from The Arataki Rangers.

Take a Tour of Waitakere Central

- Ratepayers want to know how their rates have been spent.

- Business people want to know how to create a great working environment.

- Environmentally astute people want to see how sustainability can work in a corporate environment. And the rest of Waitakere wants to know what it is in regard to these buildings that people are talking about!

Come and find out for yourself...

Each third Tuesday of the month up until 22nd May, tours are operating at Waitakere Central - to show its unique environmentally sustainable features. Times are: 6.00pm til 7.00pm. Tea, coffee & juice are available at the end of the tour. To book a space please contact Frances Harrison on 836 8000 ext. 8461, or email: frances.harrison@waitakere.govt.nz

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

The following is a response from our RoadWatch man to a letter received recently from a concerned resident regarding a recurring problem on our local roads.

Thank you for your e-mail with reference to the misuse of our roadways. You may not be aware that this is how I got involved with the WRRRA, and in particular the 'RoadWatch' article. I was shocked at the bad driving skills of some drivers... residents and visitors alike.

My column is to bring to the attention of those who read the newsletter, our concerns regarding these issues. For example, it would be plain stupid to allow our children to walk alone and ride bicycles on these minor roadways - it is far too dangerous.

I have witnessed extreme cases of bad driving (creating road crashes), most of the time not involving other vehicles. Only this past month, a red Golf ran off the road in a built-up area at the lower end of Forest Hill Road. There were six youths standing near the vehicle. How many were in the car when it crashed? How did the driver lose control in a 50km limit? Did anyone report this to the police? They need registration numbers of these vehicles.

At the lower end of West Coast Road before you leave Waiatarua, how does a vehicle smash into a concrete lamp post on a straight part of the road?

The editor has previously advised readers of the web-site where you can download a reporting form for activities including dangerous driving, driving with contempt for other road users and physical or verbal abuse that may occur. These forms are also available from your local police station. We are all responsible for the task of reporting these events for the protection of our residents, and in particular our children.

For your specific problem it may mean that you and other residents will have to collect registration details and pass these onto the police, unless we can hope to get a National Road Safety Campaign via Waitakere City Council.

I am also told that you can dial on your mobile phone *555 and report incidents instantly as they happen, so long as you are still on the scene of the incident.

Les Duffield

- phone: 814 1130 (or mobile 0211026670).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I want to say a deep and heartfelt thank you to everyone in Waiatarua who gave us so much love and support during the period of Jean's final illness and passing away. Your cards and flowers certainly cheered Jean up while she was in hospital, the flowers in the church were just magnificent, and the spread at the community hall after the service was enough to feed an army!

You hear a lot of talk these days about the decline of "community spirit". Well, it is certainly alive and well in Waiatarua. Jean was very happy during the 22 years she lived here, made some lovely friends and felt very much part of our community.

A final message to all the women reading this - keep having those mammograms. Not only that, but you should consider ultrasound as well. Not all breast cancers are detected by mammogram, and it is a sad irony that those that aren't are usually the more aggressive types. Jean was proof of this. My love and thanks to you all, *Tony Bacon*

Dear Editor,

I do enjoy your Newsletter and have lived up here for some two years.

I am also a keen cyclist and would like to report on an incident on the 28th of November while cycling to work. I managed to hit one of the strategically positioned cat's-eyes on the side of Forest Hill Road - ending in a mangled heap with a broken bike, a broken collar bone, mild concussion and severely bruised dignity. As I was not entirely 'compos mentis' at the time I would like to extend my thanks to the anonymous Good Samaritan who picked me up and brought me home. - R.P.

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 2007, January to December.

ACTING CLASSES FOR ADULTS: - with tutor John Goudge - 8 week courses on Monday or Wednesday evenings at Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Waiatarua.

Monday night class: Introduction to Acting. 7.30pm Feb 12th til April 2nd - opening up the incredible potential for acting in all.

Wednesday night class: Theatre Tools. 7.30pm Feb 14th til April 4th - for actors wanting to continue developing skills for theatre. Term fees: \$160.

John has been drama tutoring for over a decade, incl. six years at the Titirangi Theatre. For more information contact John on (ph) 814 9744.

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.

OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND: 10am to 4pm, Sat. 3rd and Sun. 4th of March 2007. Artists are invited to open their home studios or gather groups for the public to view their work, purchase art pieces direct from the artist and see artists in action. For further information contact Julie Nash, community arts coordinator, on: 836 8000 ext. 8934 or email: Julie.Nash@waitakere.govt.nz

SIGNAL GALLERY: - 717 Swanson Road. Phone: 833 3479. 'Coastal Perspectives' by Nan Dingle - landscapes of Waitakere & Hauraki beaches, cliffs, islands & rivers. Feb. 4th to March 3rd.

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

WEST COAST GALLERY: - at Piha presents "In the Raw" - a celebration of the body 3rd Feb. - 25th Feb. Calling all Waitakere artists for "In the Raw" mixed media group exhibition. Opening festival Feb 3rd 1.00 - 4.00pm: body painting, taa moko, drumming, stalls, workshops and parade. Paint yourself and each other, and celebrate! For more information phone: 812 8029.

NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION... ELEVATION NEWS

New Chef - Brian Young. Brian has a passion for food and attention to detail. Come along for casual relaxed dining.

Friday & Saturday nights - Live entertainment
Rod Redgrave and Dave Alley are particularly popular so make sure you book.

14th February Valentines Day - Wine & Roses
Join us for Valentines night. Featuring seafood platters and other goodies.

Sunday 25th February - Summer Deck Picnic
Special Summer Menu featuring Wine matches. Relaxed atmosphere. Music

17th March St Patricks Day - We are planning a special event for St Patricks Day. Come along and "Kiss the Blarney Stone" in Waiatarua!

10% Discount for Residents & Ratepayers Assn members - Remember to bring your card along to qualify for your discount.

Check the website for more details

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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
Beginners: suitable for people with no prior yoga experience

Bring a mat and blanket. Wear comfortable and loose clothing.
Do not eat for approx 1.5 hours before the class

Cost: \$12.00 Casual
\$90.00 Concession (10 classes)

Phone Megan 817 5999
for brochure / more info

FEBRUARY - MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 2007**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz