

Waiatarua Community News

May 2007 900 copies

Hall Hire

re we all aware that the hall has had a great compliment from the *Waitakere City Council*? As reported in the last newsletter, Aour facilities are among the best – just what YOU need for a function.

Do you need somewhere tranquil, with bush views, a large kitchen, a stage, a large hall and tables and seating for 80?

Do you need to bring your workmates together for a training session – or a party? To celebrate a birthday or an anniversary? What's wrong with a boot fair, or your own garage sale?

CHARGES ARE:

1 - 2 hour sessions \$20 Half day hire

Half day and evening function (deposit required) \$150

The hall is currently used by the table tennis club and drama club. Come and look at the facility.

Contact Les on 814 1130 or 021 102 6670 or Dave on 814 9697.

Weedfree Waiatarua

t was wonderful to see how well the weed bin at Kauri Loop Road has been used. However, demand has been greater than the bin could cope with, so I am attempting to get a permanent weed bin at this site.

In the meantime, you can ring Waitakere City Council on 839 0400, and they will send out 12 free bags for ginger only. These are collected on rubbish days. You can also ask them for a Green Network Pack which describes the bad weeds and how to control them. The Nasty Nine are: ginger, jasmine, wandering jew, climbing asparagus, plectra, moth plant, blue morning glory, smilax and japanese honeysuckle. If you have a major problem with these weeds, you can apply to the Council for a free nine cubic metre bin which you have 2 weeks to fill.

You can also ring the Keep Waitakere Beautiful Weedfree Trust on 826 4276 and they will send you free bags - for the above weeds only - which they will collect when full. The Trust also does site visits and offers advice on weed management.

Please note, all these free services are for environmental weeds only.

Susanne Timms

Volunteer Value

Maitakere is well known throughout the country as the community-group capital of New Zealand, and Waiatarua is no slacker in the volunteer organisation department. We acknowledge and appreciate the volunteer efforts of the Ratepayers' Association committee, newsletter editors, printers and distributors, librarians, performing artists, Fire Brigade and many others that contribute their time.

However, I believe it would be a safe bet that most of us have never considered what that contribution means in dollar terms. Thanks to the work of Canadian Professor Dr. Ronald Colman, in 'The Economic Value of Civic and Voluntary Work in Nova Scotia' (July 1998), we can estimate the impact on our city's economy.

The population of Waitakere is around 180,000, of which approximately 75% (135,000) are over 15 years old. In Canada, which we think of as comparable to New Zealand in many ways, the average number of volunteer hours per person per year is 140 hours. That's 18.9 million volunteer hours per year!

Dr. Colman calculated in 1998 that, if the city had to hire someone to do the work, the average labour cost would be CAN\$15.66 per hour. Allowing for the exchange rate, and inflation since then (20.9%), the labour 'replacement cost' here would be NZ\$22.92 per hour.

At 18.9 million hours per year, the volunteer sector is contributing over \$433 million to the Waitakere City economy in labour alone. So volunteers, thank you; your value to our community is far more than we realised. And the great news is, you don't have to pay any tax on those wages you aren't receiving!

Kevin Healy - kevin@healy.co.nz

Les Duffield - Ph 814 1130

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Tuesday night, 7pm, Waiatarua Hall – 911 West Coast Road. \$2 per person. Everyone welcome, so bring along your family for this fun, weekly event. Contact Les on 814 1130 or Korstiaan on 814 1850, for further information.

EDITOR:

Jenny Bebbington - Ph 814 9665 E-Mail: bizart@xtra.co.nz

WRRA President:

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

Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Library hours:

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

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

I know that many of us in Waiatarua are now losing the last of the summer sun. I personally find myself dangling precariously off the deck railings, scrambling onto the barbecue table and making lightning speed dashes as the sun momentarily peeks through the kauris. The time is approaching where the risk of impaling myself on a nikau as I reach frighteningly scary heights is just too risky, so other body warming options are a must. Luckily we have many choices here in Waiatarua, including table tennis on Tuesday nights, quiz nights and the debate, to name just a few. So the war that has taken over our household, as we all battle to get the sunny spot (at times ending in tears), has been laid to rest, and our energies focused on making the most of winter in Waiatarua.

This month I warmly welcome two new contributors to our newsletter; Jan Haine (WRRA Treasurer), who has extensive experience in publishing and a strong community commitment and Kevin Healy who has vast community involvement in West Auckland. So keep an eye out for their articles, they are sure to be inspiring and informative.

Take care and until next time... Jenny Bebbington

WEST COAST GALLERY presents Iron Lion Zion Paintings by Jeff James 28 April – 20 May Old Fire Station, Piha.

Flesh and steel in paradise. Artwork inspired by Piha and West Coast culture. Jeff James is an artist based in Piha. Influenced by comics and underground art, surfing, hot rods and Pacifica.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

ur 2 May get together is to visit Twin Palms Garden, at 356 Shelly Beach Rd, near Helensville. This garden has all year colour and features a waterfall, semi-tropical areas, proteas and climbers. The entry fee is \$3 and Diane will have plants for sale at very low prices for those among us who can't go home empty handed. Meet at 11:00am and we will lunch at the MacNuts Cafe after checking out the French Orchards Estate at Shelly Beach. After discussion this last Wednesday at Glendowie, I have now booked for us to visit Nestlebrae in the afternoon - entry fee \$5. We will be learning all about Floral Art on 6 June when we have Betty Stoneham to give us a demonstration. We will meet at 1:00pm and there will be a small charge. Ring for details of location.

All Waiataruans are invited to join us. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 or Margaret on 814 9859 for further information or to arrange car pooling.

American Field Service Exchanges

AFS grew from the WWI and WWII volunteer ambulance workers who, when war ended, decided to develop an exchange programme that would make it possible for young people from many countries to spend a year at school in another country, getting to understand the culture of that place and thus broadening their own world view. Host an AFS Intercultural Exchange Student. Volunteer Host

Families are wanted for students 15-18 years old arriving at the end of June from Austria, Canada, Switzerland, Bolivia, Italy, France and Egypt. Add a new member to your family and make links that last a lifetime.

For information, call Brenda on 818 5520

Hi All, well I guess summer is fast disappearing with a bit of rain starting to occur, but don't be fooled - the fire ban is still in effect until 31st April.

As a result of a certain member of our household getting three tickets for doing 56km/hr near New Lynn school, I contacted Theresa McCabe (Glen Eden Community Constable) to clarify the law, which she kindly has done as follows:

- The regulations relate to the existing speed limits for the area, so that if a driver passes a school at more than 5 km/h over the speed limit they are likely to receive an infringement notice.
- The regulations apply from 250 metres either side of the school and between 0730 and 1800 hrs or AT ANY OTHER TIME when there is any school activity, including sports.
- Oratia and Waitakere; and soon Henderson Valley Primary; have 40km/hr signs that light up for about half an hour before school starts. These means that a ticket will be issued for speeds in excess of 45km/hr, BUT ONLY WHEN THE SIGNS ARE LIT. If an officer started earlier than that he would have to abide by the existing speed limit for the area and use the appropriate tolerance.

My question is: how do we know when we are 250 metres from the school (when in a strange area), or when a special event is on? I have done my own survey and find that not all schools have signs at 250 metres to warn us. The simple answer is treat the speed tolerance as 5km/hr not 10km/hr at all times. When I tried to explain to my grandson that the speed limit is 50 but you can do 60, he responded "How does that make sense?".

While we are on the subject of road safety, some people have expressed regret at the demise of the Roadwatch Report. If you see anything that you feel needs bringing to our attention please 'phone or email me and I will include it in my report and send it out via hotmail.

We have had the first quiz night and what a roaring success it was, with another planned for June.

I hope you managed to get to see 'The Odd Couple' because if you didn't you missed a great play.

Hey, we have 59 families that are financial members and, as a consequence, save money at Glen Eden Landscape Supplies, Elevations Licensed Café and Restaurant, Glen Eden Colourplus Paint and Wallpaper and Elke's Wine and Food Market. As well as that they are kept up to date with the latest happenings via The W.R.R.A Hotmail, an email information service. Do you want to be part of this? Just send \$10 per family to the Treasurer at 911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua or drop the envelope in the box on the way past. Don't forget to include your name, address, 'phone number and email.

Till next month - Dave

From the President

Fire Brigade

lan Ford

We hosted the Piha & Karekare Brigades for a combined hazardous materials / car crash exercise last month. Waiatarua led the Hazmat part of the exercise and Piha showed us their expertise with their newly-acquired cutting equipment, purchased courtesy of a grant from the Licensing Trust. Many thanks to Lynne at Otimai for allowing us to use their carpark as a venue - much appreciated.

Recent Calls:

2:47pm, Saturday 24 March - Rubbish fire, West Coast Road

9:11pm, Saturday 24 March - Car fire, Scenic Drive

3:52pm Wednesday 28 March - Diesel spill, Piha Road

6:09am, Thursday 29 March - Tree across road, Scenic Drive

8:25pm, Thurday 29 March - Trees across power lines, Seaview Road, Piha

5:27pm, Saturday 31 March – Car rolled, West Coast Road

1:03am, Sunday 1 April – Car in ditch, West Coast Road

10:41am, Good Friday - False alarm, Waiatarua Community Centre

11:29 am, Easter Monday – Rubbish fire, Cochran Road

Outside Fires:

Between May 1 and the end of November you don't need a permit from the Council to light a fire in the open. But your fire must still meet WCC's Bylaw conditions - these include being supervised and under control at all times, not a nuisance to your neighbours and out by sunset. For full conditions go to www. waitakere.govt.nz and type 'rural fire' in the search box.

CONTACTS: Always phone 111 if you want the Fire Service to attend an incident. For non-urgent queries call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Waiatarua Rainfall (March 2007)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	14	29th (138 mm)	138 mm	254 mm
Brabant Road	17	29th (139 mm)	139 mm	268 mm
Quinns Road	15	30th (95 mm)	95 mm	204 mm
Forest Hill Road	11	29th (157 mm)	157 mm	277 mm
Auckland City	_	_	-	230 mm

A SPOTLIGHT ON WAITAKERE ESTATE

It is probably safe to say that most of those who venture down the kilometre-long driveway to attend functions, seminars, weddings and weekend escapes, are not aware of the wonderful history of this iconic landmark.

In 1939 Captain Neville Jackson, an airline pilot working in Victoria with Reg Ansett (later to become Sir Reg Ansett, the founder of *Ansett Airlines*) came to New Zealand to assist with the training of kiwi pilots for *Tasman Empire Airlines – TEAL*, now known as *Air New Zealand*. As Auckland's only airport was at Whenuapai, Captain Neville Jackson often flew over the Waitakere Ranges. His fascination with the rugged terrain prompted him to make many visits to the area. Whilst considering land on Scenic Drive where the tower now stands, he noticed an interesting area to the left and discovered 70 acres running from Scenic Drive to Opanuku Road – or Track, as it was in those days. In conjunction with another devotee, the Captain managed to purchase this considerable part of the ranges and commenced a labour of love.

In between flying around New Zealand and the Pacific; in Sunderland Flying Boats during the war years and then in DC3s, Viscounts and finally Electras; the Captain devoted his spare time to developing the property. His first task in 1940 was to cut a driveway to his chosen site. Using only people-power it was back breaking work, but fortunately salvation arrived in the form of Tom Clark of Crown Lynn Pottery fame, who happened to have a bulldozer handy. After three days access was achieved. The captain then set about building his home which was made out of a wooden aeroplane packing case – in those days aeroplanes were transported by ship to New Zealand.

The story of the founding years of the *Estate* or *Park Lodge* was related to the writer by Reg Neville Jackson who currently runs the estate. One of the Captain's three children, Reg recalls spending his early days living in splendid isolation. In fact, it was so isolated that Reg's primary education was via correspondence. Even if a school had been handy it would have been pot luck as to whether he could get there each day as it seems the road out was often impassable owing to slips which could take months to clear. Fortunately, owing to the Captain's airline duties, his car was always on the other side of the slip. This ensured the regular supply of provisions, with Reg, his brother and sister meeting the Captain at the slip.

As the property grew the entire family was involved in various aspects of construction. During down time the kids used to climb up through the bush to Scenic Drive to visit with Rose Hellaby and enjoy afternoon tea with this local identity. Reg recalls Rose with great affection; her generous spirit and personality plus her tendency to roar down Scenic Drive and Forest Hill Road like a rally car driver. After correspondence school, Reg attended boarding school and later University, graduating as an accountant. He worked with Robert Muldoon's firm in Auckland for a while, but overseas beckoned and a two year trip turned into 20 years away. During Reg's long OE the property continued to evolve, including a major effort in the 1970s, when the kilometre long driveway from Scenic Drive was formed and the Lodge began catering for conferences. Upon his return in 1996 Reg recalls that the staff consisted of one chef, one assistant, Reg, and any family members available.

Today, the *Estate* employs up to twenty staff catering for social functions, seminars, weddings, accommodation and weekend brunches and dinners. Unlike the old days, there are now two methods of entering the property; drive in or use the onsite helipad. However, in true Neville Jackson tradition nothing stands still, and plans are underway to refurbish the suites, restaurant and lounge.

Victor Maxwell - Cascade Avenue

The Arataki Rangers' Roundup

This is a busy time of year for the nurseries around the Park, with so many trees in berry. The Arataki Nursery has been involved in an eco-sourcing programme with several local schools. Seeds are collected from the wild and propagated, then half of the successful seedlings are returned to their area of origin, and the other half are planted at the school or put towards a school project. This results in an increase in germination success and a higher degree of survivability for the young plants.

Sports Enterprise New Zealand (SENZ) has helped with bagging seedlings during this busy period. During their visits over the year they will have a variety of experiences at Arataki and around the Park. Friends of Whatipu also collected seed from the Arataki area representing ten different species. These were planted at the nursery. Please keep in mind that it is unlawful to remove seeds from the Park without the appropriate permit. If you would like to be involved, contact the Arataki Visitor Centre on 817 0077 for volunteer information.

There was some excitement on April 2; when we received warning from civil defence of a tsunami originating from the Solomon Islands. Park staff were deployed to popular beaches and car parks to warn the public. As it turned out, the tsunami had a negligible impact here.

Once again, that is all for this month. Ka kite - The Arataki Rangers

: T	Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association			
2007	NameAddressPhone NoEmail	I ENCLOSE: \$10 household \$5 single occupant		
: 1	To: Treasurer, WRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library			

Focus on Business

Waiatarua is home to a huge number of businesses and organisations; some of which directly provide products and services to local residents, while others have chosen Waiatarua as the base for their operations in a wider market. Focus on Business starts this month as a regular column dedicated to celebrating and showcasing the businesses (and the entrepreneurial and often inspiring people who run them) that are an integral and valued part of our community.

In addition to those with a highly visible presence in Waiatarua, there are many (partly or fully) home-based businesses tucked away in our bush-clad hills. A Waitakere City Council survey¹ highlights this, publishing findings that (throughout Waitakere City) "about half of businesses conduct at least some of their business from home". Other parts of the survey point fairly heavily towards Waiatarua, with Titirangi, Glen Eden and Henderson Valley also featuring prominently among the areas where small businesses (more likely to be home-based) predominate.

It's been exciting to begin to uncover the sheer diversity of our local businesses, from a sewing machine dealer, a rug importer and a freight company, to artists, web designers, advertising and media specialists and a wide range of consultants, as well as educators, corporate entertainers, child care providers, all our wonderful trades people, and so many more, that make up the business community of Waiatarua.

In the next few months, we'll bring you the people behind some of these businesses, finding out how they operate and how their organisations fit into our community.

Jan Haine

(Endnotes) Business Opinion in Waitakere City, May 2005, Waitakere City Council Strategy and Development Market Research

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy Flower Shop, 423 Titirangi Road, Titirangi. Phone 817 3780

The **bouquet** goes to all Waiataruans who keep an eye out for their neighbours. House alarms are heard from time to time, and it is nice to know that your neighbours are responding to these.

There have been no nominations for **brickbat** this month.

Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc Committee as from February 2007

President / Community Board

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Vice President

Korstiaan Prins Ph 814 1850 korprins@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

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Newsletter Editor

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Hall Manager

Les Duffield Ph 814 1130 lesjudyj@xtra.co.nz

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Frank Hogsden Ph 814 9869

Robin Essex Ph 814 1850 robsx@free.net.nz
Brian Riley Ph 814 9957 brian.riley@xtra.co.nz
Susanne Timms Ph 814 9346 shtimms@xtra.co.nz
Simon Prast Ph 308 5520 simon@twa.co.nz
Oliver Driver driver@easytoremember.co.nz

Representative:

lan Ford Ph 814 8871 ian.ford@xtra.co.nz (Fire Brigade)

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Jenny Bebbington via Email bizart@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 9665.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2007, January to December.

FOUND — TABBY TOMCAT: Wearing a orange flea collar with a bell. Found near Kellys Road. If this is your cat please contact Jenny on 814 9665 for information.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: I have a quantity of office filing/organising materials – card & plastic folders, filing boxes, OHP slide holders, 2, 3 & 4-ring binders etc. If you (or your kids) can make use of any of this, phone Tony on 814 9860.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. SPECIAL gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708

LAWN MowING: - Local, reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.

ORATIA SCHOOL 125TH CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER 2007 We have started work on a book covering the events of the last 25 years, and would like to know about past pupils who have done things that might be of interest to other people. Can you help us? Any stories, events, occurrences, successes, will be gratefully accepted at the school office.

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

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

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB: - Waiatarua Hall 911 West Coast Road. NEW TABLES. Everyone welcome. \$2 entry. Contact Les 814 1130 or Korstiaan 814 1850.

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.

Advantages of being a WRRA 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

Elevation Licenced Café & Restaurant

12.00pm till late - 471 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 10.00am-5.00pm)

NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION...

Nights are getting a bit cooler – come along and sit in front of the fire with a nice red!

Sunday Roast — Out of the oven at 6pm. Just the thing for a winter evening only \$16.50 per person!

New Menu – come along and try it out.

20th April / 4th May /18th May – Live entertainment Rod Redgrave and Dave Alley are playing these nights.

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

> Come along for casual relaxed dining. Check the website for the new menus

VATION

Ph 8141919 + 473 Scenic Drive Waiatarua www.elevationcafe.co.nz

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Class Schedule 9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall 6.00-7.30pm General Oratia School Hall 7.30-8.30pm Restorative Oratia School Hall 6.00-7.15pm Beginners Oratia School Hall 9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall Friday ay 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 Consession (10 classes) Phone Megan 817 5999

for brochure / more info

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY, 2007 Jenny Bebbington Ph 814 9665 bizart@xtra.co.nz