



WAIAATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Cycling Adventures in the 1950s

In the last episode, we left our hero Frank Hogsden sitting down to pie and pud at Hunterville. Now read on...

At the settlement of Rata I enjoy my staple pick me up, an ice cream, and I look forward to some liquid refreshment at Bulls. During World War 2 my brother was stationed at RNZAF Ohakea. Bulls was their watering hole and he remarked that there were two brands of beer at Bulls. The best was Red Band but he could not tell me which pub sold it. The alternative 'Burtons' was quite undrinkable by comparison, so of course I savoured the opportunity to try both.

So, sustained by ice cream I press on past Mt.View school, and left at the Marton crossroads. We have dropped 350ft in the last 11 miles and cyclists love downhill runs, particularly through rugged but pleasant landscape. The road to Bulls is straight and so I can see the signs of settlement ahead. Yes, Bulls it is named after an early pioneer James Bull, and yes, I see two hotels, and walk around this pleasant town till I see a sign 'Red Band'. I am not really a pub regular but I enter dressed in my "bedcord" shorts, corded jacket, not quite the garb that is normally seen in this hostelry. There were a sizable number of locals, mostly 'cockies', I should say, and it was just on 6p.m., but there was no anxious rush to head for the door. Licensing laws in country districts were usually flexible and at the discretion of the local constable. Leaving Bulls at 6.15p.m. after a refreshing pint of Red Band beer, I sail along on very good roads, tyres singing on the smooth tarmac-like surface, over the Rangitikei again, Pukenui junction also, and now in sight to my left is Ohakea RNZAF station where John learned much of his aircraft rigging skills before heading to Espirito Santo and Bougainville. Sanson ahead again named after local settler, Sandon. The good roads and level going makes for good times. I estimate my speed to be 16 m.p.h. The gradient being slightly downhill my speed increases, and I could even reach my goal of Otaki by 10p.m.

A small puzzle in the area south of Sanson, the map shows Penny's Line, Taylor's Line, Milner's Line etc. Perhaps these indicate the original "lines" on the Land company plan being the boundary of the various allocations. Anyway all the roads here are as straight as they can be, quite Canterbury-like. My pedalling cadence is so regular now, a popular song of the day ran through my mind in time to my pedalling — "Never Smile At A Crocodile". This became my theme song for the next twenty odd miles to Foxton, yes, named after Sir William Fox, Premier, who lived here. I keep on through Foxton, passing over the trestle bridge at Whirokino, crossing the Manawatu river. The country is low lying and I can smell the swampy land, ideal for the flax industry the area is noted for. Sundown now, but as there is plenty of daylight as I pass through Levin and continue for the 10 miles to Otaki My battery has bounced back so I have lights now that darkness has descended, the roads are great and I continue quite confidently as night vision kicks in with only the odd dazzle from oncoming traffic. There is not much traffic in 1954. I reach Otaki at 10.15p.m. find the Railway Hotel, sign in, and sleep well. Breakfast early and out to the bike to find another puncture, delaying my start to 9.15 am, and then on to face more hills but at least the roads are good. Fine weather and Waikanae soon appears. Near the coast winds build up and I am heading into them, slowing me now, but a bonus is the nice sea views, no wonder these commuter towns are popular, Paekakariki, Pukerua Bay, lovely in the December morning sun, but press on remembering the deadline on Wellington wharf. Plimmerton is ice cream time, and just as well as there is a stiff climb to Johnsonville. At Tawa Flats I almost inadvertently enter the motorway but a traffic patrol waves me over to the old Wellington road. At least there was little traffic but the 400foot climb makes me a little anxious about my chances of meeting my friends on Queens wharf at mid-day. Having passed through Johnsonville's centre there is the sweeping 400foot drop to the wide highway to Wellington. A welcome sight enhanced by the fine day, blue waters of the harbour, and the realisation that this journey, planned over the last three months was nearing its end. The entry into Wellington was the busiest I had encountered to date but found the wharf at which the Monowai was berthed and while there were many passengers yet to board there was no sign of Colin and Ben. The ship was high above the wharf but at the rail I see two familiar faces. We managed to shout a conversation to each other, I apologising for being an hour late, they expressing considerable surprise that I had made it solo. Being twins they always tramped as a pair, offering each other support. After farewells, a belated lunch, and some cycling around Wellington's narrow and busy streets, I find the inter island ferry. Having ascertained from the purser that I need not do anything to my machine, I find my cabin, relax and await the start of the always pleasant sailing to hometown Christchurch. Was the adventure worthwhile? ABSOLUTELY. I well remember the ferry's berthing at Lyttleton 7am on the dot, on a warm morning, a smiling brother greeting me and giving me the option of cycling over the hill or being driven.



Relaxing in the surf at Lyttleton, Frank shows off his buffed and simmed down torso after his epic journey.

No prizes for guessing my reply!

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Community Hall & Library:

911 West Coast Road

Hall hire (bookings)

John Goudge - Ph 814 9744

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.waiaatarua.org.nz

From the President

Dave Pocock

Happy New Year and welcome back to all the holiday makers, hope you enjoyed all the sunshine. We went camping again and it did go through my mind, sitting in our 7 metre x 4 metre tent on our 9 metre x 9 metre piece of very expensive grass, surrounded by the sounds of many other human beings doing the same thing, that we are a strange breed. We live in a nice house on 1 acre of mostly peaceful land, and we call camping getting away from it all, definitely mad, but we will do it again next year. There is not a lot to report this month as a result of the silly season with the most important upcoming event being our A.G.M. which by way of a change is on Sunday this time, with two guest speakers. Bev Latimer who has been a leading light in our library since 1980 will, I am sure, have some interesting experiences to share with us. Also we will have a representative from Waitakere City Council to bring us up to date with the Oratia Local Area Plan and how that involves Waiatarua. I know that I for one am very keen to see a definite decision on where Waiatarua starts and finishes as there appears to be about 6 different versions.

We have a need for new committee members as we are losing some existing ones but apart from that fresh blood and fresh ideas are always good for the area so please give this serious consideration. There are two things I would like to make very clear:

1. No pressure will be put on anyone at the A.G.M. Coming on the committee is fully your choice.
2. Nobody on the committee is expected to do more than they feel comfortable with.

We do have a prospective new treasurer, John Stagg, who we hope will be duly elected at the A.G.M. In the mean time he is working with Jan Haine so that we have a smooth transition from one to the other. I am sure you will join me in welcoming John to this important position.

Memberships are due for renewal and remember, to vote at the A.G.M. you need to be financial, as does any prospective committee member. Fill in the form contained in this newsletter and if you wish to continue receiving Hotmail please include your email address. I know we have it but I make a complete new list every year plus we make sure only those that want to receive Hotmail get it. Post or place your form with \$10 in the letter box at 911 West Coast Rd. (*Why can't I email a cheque?* — ed.)

2009 looks like being an interesting year, with the Local Area Plans gathering momentum, plus the prospect of Auckland's possible change to a super city.

In spite of all this plus the recession I am sure that life will go on as usual and there will be some interesting stories to tell in the years ahead.

Until next time

Dave

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor

by **WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2009 – 5PM**

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697

davepocock@xtra.co.nz

All Those Who Like The Newsletter Please Raise Their Hands

The Waiatarua newsletter has appeared in more or less its present form almost every month since March 1988. The original editor was Tony Bacon, with the job being carried on by a series of willing and enthusiastic people ever since. Our most recent editor has been Jenny Bebbington, who has done a great job, but had to give up the task a few months ago due to illness. Since then the production has been handled on a fairly hand-to-mouth basis by Dave Pocock and Tony Bacon. We have been trying to find a new editor for some time, but despite some promising leads, this has come to nothing. Neither Dave nor Tony feel able to carry on on this basis, so unless we can find a new editorial team, there is a real danger that the newsletter will have to go into recess – **this could be the last issue.**

In recent times, the newsletter production has effectively been split into 3 jobs (4 if you include the Longley's ongoing and very welcome sponsorship of the actual printing.) The jobs are:

- News Gatherer (Chief Reporter?) – responsible for assembling all the stuff that goes into the newsletter, dealing with advertisers etc.
- Production Manager – responsible for actually laying out the newsletter and getting it ready for printing.
- Proofreader – responsible for picking up all those irritating spelling mistakes, bad grammar etc.

Originally these jobs were all carried out by one person — “The Editor”, and there is no reason why that shouldn't happen again, but we are happy to arrange things in whatever way makes sure the newsletter keeps going.

What skills do these people need? The Chief Reporter position requires someone who is willing to receive all the regular articles, but also to have ideas about new topics, seek out contributors, etc. The Production Manager is the most “technical” job. It requires some skill in document layout, and the ability to produce PDF files for transmission to the printers. The tool of choice is Adobe InDesign, but Microsoft Publisher or even MS Word could be used — or any other layout program that is capable of producing high-quality PDF files. The Proofreader (and we do have someone interested in this job) needs a keen eye for detail, and a willingness to nitpick for Waiatarua!

If you are interested but think you may lack the skills or tools, we can give whatever help or training is required to bring new people up to speed – and we mean “new”. We think that it is time new blood is injected into the newsletter, rather than calling on people who have already done their bit.

So if you have enjoyed the newsletter in the past, and want to see it continue, and think you could help, contact Dave Pocock on 8149 697, davepocock@xtra.co.nz, or Tony Bacon on 8149 860, tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz.

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual General Meeting
Waiatarua Community Hall
Sunday 22nd February 2009
A.G.M. commences 11am

Guest speakers

Bev Latimer

Bev has been involved with the Waiatarua Library since 1980

Waitakere City Council representative

Will discuss Waiatarua's involvement in Oratia's Local Area Plan with boundaries being of special interest.

Waiatarua Rainfall December 2008

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	15	23rd – 52 mm	187 mm	2006 mm
Brabant Road	21	23rd – 69 mm	206 mm	1971 mm
Quinns Road	15	23rd – 86 mm	181 mm	1600 mm
Forest Hill Road	15	23rd – 59 mm	168 mm	1843 mm
Auckland City	–	23rd – 58 mm	102 mm	1126 mm

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

The Brigade's "new" (1994) ex-Matamata Mitsubishi fire appliance is now in action, having replaced a 1983 International. Although it has the advantages of carrying more water (2000 litres as opposed to 1300) and a foam system, it's fair to say we faced a few challenges with reduced locker space and pumping capacity on a smaller truck. Some equipment was transferred to our ancillary vehicle, and some little-used gear was dispensed with altogether. The Fire Service's fleet plan has a new truck – with more locker space – scheduled for Waiaatarua station in 2012.

Recent Calls

- 2:29pm, Sat 15 Nov – Investigate smoke, Forest Hill Rd.
- 9:08 pm, Tue 25 Nov – Tree on road, West Coast Rd.
- 6:34 pm, Sun 30 Nov – Investigate smoke, Scenic Drive.
- 7:43 pm, Tue 2 Dec – Investigate smoke, Scenic Drive.
- 5:04 am, Sat 8 Dec – Rubbish fire, Rayner Rd, Piha.
- 9:05 pm, Sat 20 Dec – Stand-by at Glen Eden Fire Station. Nearly every permanently crewed appliance in Auckland was called to the big blaze at Southdown, along with specialised volunteer support units. Other volunteer crews from around the Region were called in to provide cover throughout the metropolitan area.
- 9:28 pm, Sat 20 Dec – Rubbish fire, Kaurilands Rd.
- 9:07 am, Sun 21 Dec – Car vs car, intersection West Coast Rd / Scenic Drive. The passenger of one car received minor injuries.
- 9:00 pm, Tues 6 Jan – Rubbish fire, Scenic Drive.

The Brigade attended 64 calls in total during 2008 – identical to the previous year.

Contacts

Always dial 111 if you want the fire Brigade to attend an incident, no matter how minor. Otherwise please contact Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Library Report

Jeanette Ziesler

Happy New Year to all and we are looking forward to a heap of great reading in 2009.

Here are the titles of some of our newest books:

The Lace Reader	Brunonia Barry
What To Do When Someone Dies	Nicci French
Keeping The Dead	Tessa Gerritsen
Bones	Jonathan Kellerman
The Most Wanted Man	John Le Carre
On Top Of Everything	Sarah Kate Lynch
A Darker Woman	Val McDermid
Brute Force	Andy McNab
Cara Gayle	Geraldine O'Neill
Cross Country	James Patterson
Testimony	Anita Shreeve
The Comfort of Saturday	Alexander McCall Smith

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Please accept my Membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name _____ I ENCLOSE:
Address _____ \$10 household
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To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Happy 2009 to all the gardeners out there. Our group is starting the year with a visit to the garden of Lynda Hallinan who is the editor of NZ Gardener. Lynda has a suburban garden which she has been turning into a fully sustainable patch and we are visiting on Wednesday 4 February at 1 pm.

Our March 4 get together is a full day in South Auckland including a special garden in Carlton Rd, Pukekohe.

Further details from Eileen on 8149 298 or if you wish to be on our email list please contact me on etpowe@clear.net.nz

Waiaatarua PlayCentre

A late happy new year to everyone, we do hope everyone has enjoyed some great relaxing family time together. We had a lovely celebration at the end of last year at Bella Rakha (previously known as Knock na Gree). Thanks to Yvette for hosting our Playcentre Christmas party. Lots of bike riding and trampolining helped the festive food go down and a visit from Santa made it very special. We also had a movie night for parents at the end of last term, watching Mamma Mia, which was very funny - especially listening to Pierce Brosnan sing!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in February, we start 2009 on Monday 2 February - until then enjoy the sunshine. New children & parents always welcome to visit at our very well-resourced Playcentre.



BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

BOUQUET: To the man and his wife who live on West Coast Road somewhere around Tui Crescent - a HUGE thank you for coming to the assistance of our friend whose son had run through our sliding door whilst on cat feeding duty on Boxing Day. Your help was greatly appreciated and no one had a chance to thank you amid all the panic. It's wonderful to know that we have neighbours who took the time to investigate and help out in an emergency.

BRICKBAT: To whoever it is who has created a dirt-bike track at the back of their property at the end of Tui Crescent. The noise is driving people who live at the top end of Forest Hill Road crazy! Maybe you thought that it would be away from everywhere and so would not be a nuisance — well, you were wrong.

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Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Dave Pocock via email davepocock@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 9697.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2008, January to December.

CELL PHONE SAFETY: Protect yourself and your family from harmful EMF. Attach a Biopro Cell Phone Chip, \$60. Phone Emily 835 3777.

GARDENER: Trained and experienced. For regular garden maintenance. Phone Hugh 838 3594.

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.

OTIMA: Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. 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.

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH : On the corner of Parker & West Coast Rds. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

TOASTMASTERS: - meetings held on every other Thursday morning from 7-8:20am - for more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728.

UPSTAIRS GALLERY AT LOPDELL HOUSE:

Waitara's Michael Rowland : Blues Night. Opens Thursday 15th January 2009 6-8pm until Sunday 8th February 2009. Acrylic paintings of figures with musical and romantic undertones.

Belinda Cinotti - La Romantica. Opens Thursday 12th February 2009 6 - 8pm until Sunday 1st March 2009. A selection of her portraits and landscapes using a mixture of pastels, acrylics, charcoal, pencil and textiles.

Open 7 Days, 10am - 4:30, Free Entry.

WAIEMATA 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.

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

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