

## Kauri Dieback: ARC update

Kauri dieback disease, also known as *Phytophthora taxon agathis* (or PTA) was identified as a new disease to science and major threat to kauri in May 2008.

PTA is a fungus-like disease that is spread in soil and water via two different forms of spores. The soil-borne spores have a hard outer shell that allows survival in soil and transportation within soil on equipment (for example footwear, earthmoving machinery), while the water-borne spores have a small tail which allows movement through water (catchments or water films in soil) to other areas of kauri.

Since that time, the ARC has worked to assess the extent of the disease and minimise further spread on regional parkland and private land within the Auckland region.

What causes kauri dieback?

PTA is believed to be an introduced disease which infects kauri of all ages through the root system.

Infected kauri can show a range of symptoms including yellowing leaves, thinning canopy, dead branches, bleeding lesions forming collars around the lower trunks and sudden death.

What else can cause kauri to decline?

Other factors that can cause a decline in the health of kauri include living 'on the edge' (unprotected by other trees), lack of water or 'wet feet', strong winds, soil compaction, disease and root disturbance. If no gum can be seen on the lower trunk of a sickly kauri, it may be suffering from one of these stressors.

### What you can do to help

- Make sure shoes, tyres and equipment are clean of dirt before and after visiting kauri forest.
- Clean shoes and any other equipment that comes into contact with soil after every visit, especially if moving between bush areas.
- Keep to defined park tracks at all times. Any movement of soil around the roots of a tree has the potential to spread the disease.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Dogs can inadvertently spread the disease if they disturb the soil around the trees.

PTA spores cannot be eradicated once they are introduced into an area of kauri and may survive for many years in the soil. Research is currently under way into boosting the immune response of kauri to fight off infection.

### What we are doing on ARC parks

Although a few low traffic/low kauri density tracks in the Waitakere Ranges are yet to be surveyed, a comprehensive picture of the extent of kauri dieback in this park has been developed.

3854 kauri along tracks throughout the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park were surveyed. Of these, 772 trees exhibited symptoms of PTA. Some disease-free areas were also found within the Waitakere Ranges track network.

In order to contain the disease, phytosanitary measures have been developed to minimise the movement of spores into, away from and within parkland.

\* Continued on page 2.



*Rima Ciale Productions in association with Waiaatarua Performing Arts presents:*

## Live Music Dance



**Sat 6th March, 2010**

**Waiaatarua Community Hall**

**911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua, Waitakere City, at 8 pm.**

Waiaatarua musician John Goudge has got his funky kick-ass band together to entertain the neighbourhood with a dance. Don't miss this chance to see John Goudge Band. It's a real treat. Y'all welcome ...

Refreshments available with proceeds to Waiaatarua Performing Arts.

Tickets \$10 from Go West Music, 15 Catherine St, Henderson, (from 1 Feb) or \$15 on the door.

Doors open 7.30 pm. (no eftpos)

Check out: [myspace.com/johngoudgeband](http://myspace.com/johngoudgeband) for more details.



The Fool  
is Coming ...



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

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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](http://www.waiaatarua.org.nz)

## Kauri Dieback: ARC update

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Approximately 80 crates with spray bottles and hand-held scrub brushes are being placed at track ends and on each side of healthy zones of kauri in the Waitakere Ranges.

These cleaning stations are used to clean soil from footwear before and after entering the track network.

The ARC is currently working to re-route some tracks away from kauri root zones and upgrade current tracks to minimise contact with kauri roots.

The ARC and the University of Auckland are collaborating on research into PTA detection within streams and the role of feral pigs in vectoring the disease.

The ARC has trebled its feral pig culling programme in the Waitakere Ranges, based on the high likelihood that pigs are involved in the spread of this disease. To date, more than 500 pigs have been culled in two years. A further round of pig control is currently under way.

### What we are doing on private land

Site visits were made in response to all public/landowner reports of sick or dead kauri trees.

A total of 240 sites have been inspected within the Auckland Region.

Sites with kauri dieback have been found throughout the Auckland region; however the greatest concentration of these sites to date is in West Auckland, particularly the Titirangi area.

Public awareness and footwear and equipment hygiene is essential to minimise further spread of the disease on private land.

ARC can provide Trigen disinfectant, kauri dieback fact sheets and signs on request. Further information can be found on the website [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz).

Please contact the ARC kauri dieback Liaison Officer Stacey Hill on [stacey.hill@arc.govt.nz](mailto:stacey.hill@arc.govt.nz), or 0275674402 with any further reports or enquires about kauri dieback in the Auckland region.

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi all!

First off, let me wish everyone a Happy New Year and if we can believe the experts that the recession is over it should be happier than '09' for some.

Shirley and I spent a relaxing couple of weeks camping at Orua Bay once again enjoying lots of sun with a sprinkling of wind and rain, typical Auckland Xmas.

Congratulations are in order for our new fire chief Helen Longley and a well deserved promotion, well done Helen. And of course an enormous vote of thanks to outgoing chief Ian Ford, who is still an active member of the Waitarua Fire Brigade, just reducing his work load after many years as chief.

Those of you that travel West Coast Road will have seen the new footpath being built from Bendalls Lane to meet the existing footpath, this hopefully is the first of many more we have been lobbying for over the past few years, but at least it is a start.

My wife, who made cries of horror at the thought of kerbing and channelling in our rural paradise, did the other night admit that it was nice to walk around the corner from Bendalls and feel safe.

As this is the beginning of a new year there are a couple of things that happen, one is that your membership to W.R.R.A. is due for renewal or it is time to join for those new members. Don't forget discounts at Glen Eden Landscape Supplies, Auckland's Waitakere Estate, Colourplus Glen Eden and Elevations (some conditions may apply at one or more).

Two is the A.G.M. in March and whilst I am pleased to say that the existing committee are offering themselves for re-election, we also need more committee members for two reasons: 1/ To share the work load around more, 2/ it is always good to have fresh blood with new ideas or different points of view.

We are a happy bunch and generally enjoy what we are doing, so give it some thought and phone any past or present member to find out more of what is involved.

2010 is shaping up to be quite a year with the LAP plans starting to take shape, don't forget Mark Tollemache will be bringing us up to date on our one at the A.G.M.

The other biggie is the Supercity which comes into reality at this year's local body elections, all very interesting and still a lot of sorting out to do.

In the meantime enjoy this sunshine and I look forward to seeing you at the A.G.M and/or the community Breakfast.

Dave

## From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Greetings one and all and a very happy new year to you!

This has been my first summer in my new home and it has been thoroughly pleasant. The sun has shone in places I never expected it to. I even have a vegetable garden of sorts although my tomatoes have been a little sad. From three plants, I have harvested ten tomatoes and we've needed a magnifying glass to be able to see what we're picking, but they were red and juicy and I didn't have to buy them! So I call that success!

I am nominating February as Be Kind To Scotsmen month. There will be a few of the kilt-wearing variety a-roaming through the hills this month, probably getting lost in the bush and into trouble at Piha so if you come across any unexpectedly, please be nice. We are trying to lure them out here for a long stay.

Looking forward to a good turnout for the AGM and for the Community Breakfast. (See ads elsewhere in this newsletter.) It might be a wise idea to step up the gym visits in order to cope with the delicious food that seems to be on offer in this neck of the woods. Please don't miss out on reserving your tickets for the breakfast as soon as possible.

Let's hope that 2010 is a good year for everyone!

### Advantages of being a WRRRA 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 Licensed Cafe & Restaurant

12.00pm 'til late - 471 Scenic Drive

Ph: 814 1919 (applies to max 2 adults per visit)

#### Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper

Glenmall, Glen Eden. Ph: 818 8263

#### Auckland's Waitakere Estate

573 Scenic Dr. (Thursday-Sunday)

Ph: 814 9622 (applies to max 2 adults per visit)

### Please accept my Membership to the Waitarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

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2010

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waitarua, Waitakere City, or leave at the library

## Community Breakfast.

Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>

At the Waiaatarua Community Hall

9.30am

Sit down with a cuppa and salivate over this menu:

Fresh fruit salad, yoghurt and homemade muesli

Croissants served with a selection of preserves

Hash browns, poached eggs, bacon and sausages

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lemon syrup and cinnamon sugar

Tea, Coffee and fresh orange juice

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The cost for a buffet style full breakfast

\$24.75 per adult,

\$18.00 for those aged 5-13

Under fives are free.

All tickets to be pre-purchased from Jan James.

You can speak to Jan on 814 9194 or leave a message with your details

Alternatively email her at [pwmandjii@clear.net.nz](mailto:pwmandjii@clear.net.nz)

## Annual General Meeting

Waiaatarua Residents and  
Ratepayers Association

Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm

Waiaatarua Community Hall

The guest speaker is going to be Mark  
Tollemache and he will be giving us the  
latest on the Waiaatarua LAP.

Hope to see you all there!

## Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

By the time you read this newsletter we will have the first new books of 2010 out on the shelves. I know we are ordering 2 of the recently published books about West Auckland and the Waitakeres.

Do drop in and browse the shelves. I had an interesting time looking for holiday reading. I chose a couple of stories written by, or about, early New Zealanders. Then I trolled through the treasures of travel books and grabbed 3 of those, plus an interesting book about roses. None of these were new, but I hadn't read them and thoroughly enjoyed my quiet time with these books. Our library really does have a wide range of books and you are welcome to suggest any thing to us. Obviously, we look for books which will appeal to a number of readers but any suggestion is considered.

We are looking forward to buying several hundred new books this year for you to enjoy, so come on in, borrow, and enjoy.

## Garden Group Eileen Powell

We are starting the new year with a visit to a wonderfully creative garden in Waimauku on Wednesday 3 February at 1.30 pm. Then on Wednesday 3 March we have a full day visiting some of the diverse Coatesville Gardens. Further information from Eileen on 814 9298.



## The Improv Bandits Improvisation Comedy Evening

Friday, 26th February 2010

8.00pm

Otimai Lodge

1 Kauri Loop Road, Oratia

Tickets only \$30

Doors Open 6:30pm

Free Nibbles 7:30pm

For tickets phone 814 9992

## The Arataki Rangers roundup

A busy and sunny summer holiday period has seen high visitor numbers through the Arataki Visitor Centre and especially out to the west coast beaches. This seasonal increase has seen many people renewing their connection to these wild places whilst others are 'cutting their teeth' with some blistering black sand experiences! Unfortunately Parks staff were involved with two events that were needless. The first was a bush fire at North Piha that had staff scrambling for several days in steep terrain, ignited by a rescue flare fired in New Year celebrations. The second was the loss of a rock fisherman, again at Piha. Despite an active education campaign on rock fishing safety in the area, this unlucky fisher climbed down the rocks to retrieve a stuck line and was swept out to sea. He was not wearing a life jacket.

On a considerably brighter note, staff had the satisfaction of the official launch of the Hillary Trail. This 70km, four day walk from Arataki to Swanson or Muriwai has been years in the planning and development. Opened on the second anniversary of the loss of Sir Ed, this track celebrates both the man and the rugged and varied terrain that he loved to visit. Fittingly, the track is challenging in nature and requires a mix of experience and self sufficiency. Please call the Arataki visitor centre for more details, or swing by and collect the brochure specific to this trail. Bookings are required for campsites. One positive spin-off is that all you tramping diehards who fondly remember the Slip Track (an aptly named park asset that accessed Pipeline Track and Pipeline Road), which started 200m West of the Visitor Centre, can now enjoy the re-routed Slip Track. This 'make-over' represents the current start of the Hillary Trail. It now begins behind the Visitor Centre itself, 50m up the Lookout Track. Just follow the distinctive Hillary trail markers - and enjoy!

The Arataki nursery is filling rapidly with seedlings that will be gradually 'toughened up' before the busy winter planting season. Volunteers, training groups and our student Rangers have put in many hours to see that we have the plant numbers and diversity to continue our park-wide planning.

That's all for this time around.

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## Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Contact Robyn O'Sullivan, munster@ihug.co.nz, ph 814 1143.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2009, January to December.

**Handyman Out West.** Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation and decoration eg gutter cleaning, water blasting, deck building, tree felling, painting etc. Reliable and no GST charge. Phone Mike 814 9708

**Otimai:** Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Phone Lisa and Aaron 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.

**Room for rent** in 4 bedroom house in Waiaatarua. Please phone Maxine on 814 1868 or 021 1365 691.

**The Oratia Community Church:** On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursday of each month.

### MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor by **FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2010 - 5PM**  
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
munster@ihug.co.nz

## HALL HIRE

### 911 WEST COAST ROAD WAIATARUA

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**For info ph. 814 9744**

www.myspace.com/johngoudgebnd (acting training 2010 blog)

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