

# Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

May 2010



## Passionate people wanted as Park Rangers

Are you passionate about your local park? Then join Waitakere City Council's Community Park Ranger programme.

Rangers are the eyes and ears of the community, reporting to the council's parks team on anything from vandalism, graffiti and litter to educating the public on park use. They are also encouraged to build relationships with local people and groups to promote safer parks.

"We have almost 600 parks in Waitakere and it's impossible for our staff to be everywhere at once, so we want the community to let us know what's happening in their parks," says Councillor Brenda Brady.

"This could be a great way for families to do something together, a way for people to build stronger connections with their community and to meet new neighbours."

"If you love your parks and want to help, we want to hear from you."

The scheme encourages residents living near parks and people interested in taking on a more active role in their management.

The numbers of volunteer park rangers has declined recently as people move house or take on other commitments, so the council is looking to recruit fresh talent.

For more information please contact Sarah Natac in the parks team via the council's 24-hour call centre on 839 0400 or email [parks@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:parks@waitakere.govt.nz).



**THE ARRIVAL OF AUTUMN** is a good time to prepare the body for winter and what better way to do that than relaxing in Annie Prince's newly-installed wonderful bush bath. Aromatic baths have been around since civilisation began and Annie can personally vouch for their therapeutic value.

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

**EDITOR:** All enquiries to Robyn O'Sullivan - Ph 814 1143, E-Mail: [munster@ihug.co.nz](mailto:munster@ihug.co.nz) • **WRRRA President:** Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697, E-Mail: [davepocock@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davepocock@xtra.co.nz)

**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)

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### Waiaatarua Debate

Saturday 19th June. Book this date in your diary - more details in June newsletter.

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### New Dance Classes

Starting 21<sup>st</sup> April. Contemporary, hip hop, jazz, modern, movement. Ages 6-8. Oratia primary school hall, Wednesday 4-5pm. Contact: Charleen Oliver on 021 808 822 or 835 2271. Casual \$5 / per term \$40.

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### Obituary

A white, fluffy, nice-looking cat with no collar was found deceased on the driveway of the Waiaatarua Fire Station.

We have laid kitty to rest, but if you believe it may be yours please contact Station Officer Gareth Mullins on 027 585 4020.

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi All,

Here we are again, another month has gone and the sun is still shining (well when I wrote this anyway) but the temperatures are falling (yippee).

The last weekend of March we had an enjoyable time visiting a large number of the open artist studios, for the first time, the result being a new statue in our garden. It really is amazing at the large variety of talent available right on our doorstep and I would recommend you to visit at least some next year. We had lunch at the Piha Cafe on the Sunday and what a busy place that is, with some great dishes and fantastic coffee.

While we are talking food, if like me, you love Indian food a new Indian restaurant has opened in Glen Eden called Ghazal in the new part of Glenmall right opposite the T.A.B.

The food is great with some different dishes available so for an enjoyable night out in nice surroundings I recommend it, just don't be in a hurry as I am sure the dishes are cooked to order which takes a little longer. The only reason I am giving them a plug is because I believe they deserve to succeed.

Unfortunately our local drama club has had to cancel the first production for this year due to the unavailability of enough male actors to fill the parts but I am sure they will be back better than ever later in the year.

On the other hand the Table Tennis has started up for another year and although sympathetic to the Drama Club they are quietly quite happy as they will be able to have a relatively uninterrupted season and what a great first night they had with 11 attendees of all ages.

Neighbourhood Support held a very successful Book Fair at the hall with people coming from all over Auckland and beyond, which added a nice sum to the coffers.

We had some water problems earlier on with the water discoloured and tainted but thankfully the council quickly rectified the problem.

The plumber drained the tank, washed it out, re-filled with fresh water and changed the filters etc, end result nice clean and drinkable water.

You may have noticed in the last newsletter a new advertiser Awakenings Massage Therapy but you may not have noticed that they also appear in the Advantages of being a WRRRA member offering a 10% discount. I often wonder why some people do not become members when you can recoup your \$10 investment back with just one or two visits to the business offering a discount :Glen Eden Landscape Supplies, Elevation Licensed Cafe and Restaurant, Colourplus Paint and Wallpaper, Auckland's Waitakere Estate and Awakenings Massage. Now come on you must use at least one of these services.

Well that's me for another month

Dave

## From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Well, my favourite time of year has finally arrived...cooler mornings and evenings, yet the days are still warm. All my gym injuries seem to come to the surface when the weather starts to deteriorate. The more I exercise, the more aches my body produces and yet I know I can't give up the exercise and it becomes a vicious little circle to worry about.

And then to add to that, we still have builders here fixing up their mistakes. Yes, we have been in the house fourteen months! Yes, you'd certainly think the builders would have been long gone. Alas no, no, no... and if anybody is thinking of building a new home, I can certainly recommend who not to approach.

So with all the stresses of body and mind, I set off for a massage from our other local masseuse Annie Prince (see pic) and what a lovely afternoon I spent with her. Ladies, we are so blessed to have two very different masseuses on offer...one of them is bound to be the right one for you so have fun trying them both out. I wafted home, aromatic oils clinging to my body and feeling suitably warm and toasty. It would be a sin to come home from Annie's and have to do housework! Thank goodness for plump cushions on a comfy couch, leftover chocolates and a good read.

Enjoy the Autumn!

## Letter to the Editor

Re article in the Aucklander which refers to the residents' of Waiaatarua reasoning for spending a heap of money on a park.

To say a park is needed within a few minutes' walk is not logical given that the council has decreed that Waiaatarua extends from Kelly Road to Mountain Road.

A distance of 8km, without counting side roads. Therefore, we will require: road distance divided by a few minutes should give us no parks.

Dogs without leads and picnics?

A place to chill out?

A place to kick a ball. Flat land up here must be getting hard to find.

They point out that the roads are not safe for walking which seems to delete the bit about a place to walk to. A place where people can go to when they feel like it. Wow, always wanted to pay for one of those.

The community board supports the park. Reason being that residents have already been actively organising events. Presumably, the park is required for non-organised events.

Let's have some rationality and some figures. I wonder how many people were at the meeting that decided this. How many hundred thousand will it cost for things like purchase price, fencing, landscaping, crossings, mowing and general maintenance.

Can we afford to go on spending and then complain about the cost of rates?

Emotion is all very well but I think it is time we were given some sound reasoning,

remember we are committing our future generations to these costs in forms such as loans and maintenance.

Think what you like, but think.

Cheers

Frank W

(For those readers who are not Herald subscribers, you can read the original article at [www.theaucklander.co.nz](http://www.theaucklander.co.nz) - type 'Waiaatarua' in the search box - Ed)

## Mother's Day Special\*

Buy Mum a Gift Certificate for full value (\$75)

and get a second one at a discounted rate (\$50)

Call Kim at Awakenings Massage Therapy (See ad back page.)

\*offer not valid with any other offers.

## Fire Brigade

Louisa Ferguson

The brigade members have been busy this month. Well done to QFF Derek Ranata, QFF Shane Moore, FF Robert Forrest & FF Thomas Hopkins who attended a fire service Realistic Fire Training course in Whangarei. This was a full day course in which the fire fighters were exposed to real life fire in a training environment.

A big reminder of the importance of carrying a portable fire extinguisher in your car. On Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, brigade members SO Gareth Mullins and QFF Derek Renata and FP Louisa Ferguson were called upon by neighbours and children waiting for the school bus on Forest Hill road, to a car on fire at the bus stop. They firstly confirmed that fire brigade was called and on the way. The fire in the car's engine compartment was extinguished using portable fire extinguishers and they cordoned off the area and directed traffic safely around the incident. A big thanks to these fire-fighters who used skills learned in the brigade to help contain the spread of fire and keep members of the public safe. Also many thanks to the members of the public who stopped to offer their assistance.

### Winter Fires

Please ensure you have your chimneys swept before you start using your fire places.

With the abundance of wildlife in the hills, who knows what may have nested in your chimney over the summer months.

Every year far too many people face the tragedy of a fire in their home caused by hot ashes. The ash you clear from your fire place or wood burner can take up to five days to cool. Place these in a metal container well clear of your home.

Please remember the heater-metre rule – keep furniture, clothes and curtains at least one metre away from heaters and fire places. You should also turn off all heaters and your electric blanket before you get into bed.

### Fire Calls

18/03/2010 1:51am - Truck Fire Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. Local Water Supply truck parked at the side of the road was destroyed by a fire in the cab that appeared to be deliberately lit.

20/03/2010 5:36pm - Car Fire Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. At the Spragg Bush Reserve a car appears to have been driven through the chain onto the grass area and deliberately set on fire.

04/04/2010 4:56pm - Scrub on Fire, Piha Road, Waiatarua. Waiatarua, Karekare and Piha Brigades were called to a report of scrub on fire on Piha Road.

05/04/2010 11:22am - Smoke Causing Concern Forest Hill Road. Again another Non Permitted rubbish fire was creating excessive smoke and causing hazard and nuisance to neighbours.

14/4/2010 0607 - Tree Down, West Coast Rd Oratia. A fallen tree over power lines had the brigade close the road until the power was switched off and council contractor arrived.

### Contacts

Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency. Otherwise please call Helen Longley (814 9855), Karl Nuttall (814 8777), Ian Ford (814 8871), Kevin Healy (814 9505), Gareth Mullins (814 9402).

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## Obituary

It is with sadness that I report the death of Brian Clark on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Brian had a long association with Waiatarua going back to the days of the fire brigade plays in which I seem to remember he played a minister of the church in one, which ironically was the role he was down to play in the latest production of Waiatarua Drama Club. He was unable to do so because of family commitments and I ended up doing it instead. Brian also appeared in Ladies who Lunch and most recently Ghost Writer. Brian's daughter Francene was in Stepping Out.

Brian's funeral was held Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> in the main chapel at Morrison's Funeral Home Universal Drive. - Dave Pocock.

## Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

We have a wonderful range of books this month. Here are just a few...

"Parrot & Olivier in America" – Peter Carey. French master & English servant travel to the USA in the 1830s. Humour and adventure.

"61 Hours" – Lee Child. Another Jack Reacher full of action and adventure. Child's best yet.

"Blood Men" – Paul Cleave. Eddie's father is a killer. Eddie has so much in life but the past returns. A psychological thriller.

"Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" – Helen Simonson. Timeless values and good manners, versus racism and materialism in rural England. I enjoyed it.

"The Reluctant Hero" – Michael Dobbs. Harry Jones, a former soldier gets lured into a web of international conspiracy. Hard choices to be made.

"The Long Song" – July tells her story of a life as a slave in Jamaica. A moving novel.

"Inheritance" – Jenny Patrick. Set in Samoa in the '60s and Invercargill in the '90s. Family secrets. From the author of Denniston Rose.

"Trespass" – Rose Tremain. An Englishman moves to France and his dream idyll. Village troubles intervene. A Tremain beauty.

## Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our May 5 garden visit is to Willows Reach in Kumeu. This tranquil garden of 5 acres features a lake, dry stone walls, rustic outbuildings, a fernery and beautiful plantings. Entry fee \$7.50. On 2 June we will be spending the day in the Waimauku area visiting a sculpture garden and a native plant nursery. Further details from Eileen on 814 9298.

## JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor  
by FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010 - 5PM  
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
munster@ihug.co.nz

### Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies 293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

Elevation Licensed Cafe & Restaurant 471 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper Glenmall, Glen Eden. Ph: 818 8263

Auckland's Waitakere Estate 573 Scenic Dr. Ph: 814 9622

Awakenings Massage Therapy 834 West Coast Rd. Ph: 814 1199

2010

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I ENCLOSE:

\$10 household

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

## 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.

**Household Items For Sale:** Bunks/mattresses, chairs x 7, new shower 3 door slider, a moped and a holiday timeshare. Also a large refrigerator. Ring Nadine Fletcher on 814 9228 or work 827 7608.

**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.

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

**Wanted to Rent:** Couple looking for a house to rent in Waiatarua. Please contact Gareth 027 585 4020.

**Wanted to Rent:** Professional couple looking for 2-3 bedroom home in Waiatarua. Close proximity to the fire station is desired. Can provide references. Lock up garage also preferred. Please contact Kerry 027 272 9312.

~ New to Waiatarua ~

## Awakenings Massage Therapy

Treatment for injuries, aches and pains of all kinds, healing or moving through grief, or just simply need to relax and de-stress.

Call Kim on 814 1199 or 022 643 4181  
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