

# Waiatarua Community News

June 2010 900 copies

# Volunteer drivers needed

Cancer Society needs more volunteer drivers to help take people living in Auckland to cancer-related treatment and appointments. Volunteer drivers can choose to drive as lit-

tle or as often as they like on days that suit them. The Cancer Society provides full training and support and offers a contribution towards costs.

For some people cancer treatment can be on a daily basis for many weeks, even months. Many people are too unwell to drive themselves to appointments or find it difficult to rely on family and friends for such a long period of time.

The Volunteer Driving Service helps take some of the stress off people and their

families during what is already a difficult time, and ensures they are able to attend all of their appointments. The volunteers have a variety of backgrounds and ages and while some are retired, many fit their volunteer driving around their work or study. One thing they do have in common is the real sense of personal satisfaction they feel knowing they have helped make things a little easier for someone with can-

To become a Volunteer driver you need a friendly manner, your own car, a current full driver's licence, WOF, registration and car insurance. To find out more please call 09 308 0496 or email volunteers@akcansoc.org.nz



## The Great Waiatarua Mid-Winter Debate 2010

## Saturday 19th June - 7.30pm

at the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road

Tickets \$20.00 each - B.Y.O. Drinks (WRRA non-Members \$25.00)

Prepaid tickets only - Purchase before June 14th www.ezseats.co.nz or phone: Jan on 814 9194

Delectable Canapes and Dessert menu created by **Thoughtful Food** 

## 2009 returning champion:

Paula Bennett

National MP for Waitakere, Minister for Social Development & Employment and Youth Affairs

with new debaters

Paul Mitchell Waitakere City Councillor

Les Duffield

Chair Neighbourhood Support Waitakere

Molly Whittington
Former WRRA Vice President Chaired by Tony Bacon

Lyndsay Whittle Volunteer Fire Fighter

2010 challengers: -

Kubi Witten-Hannah Chair of Waitakere Community Board

that 'The best things in life are free' Debate Moot:

WEB Site: www.waiatarua.org.nz

## From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

Just a short note this month to tell of our next big event... the Great Mid-Winter Debate! It is shaping up to be a good one and I would ask you to book your tickets early as space is limited and the debate always proves quite popular.

A good time was had by all who attended the quiz night and my team, who came first at the wrong end last year, outdid themselves this time and came somewhere in the middle.

No more humiliation for us. Bring it on next year.

Hasn't the weather been brilliant lately? So different from last Autumn and long may it continue although just a little more rain would be nice to keep the tanks filled.

Stay safe and warm.

## Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Next month we are visiting the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens and after lunch we will visit the Awa Garden Centre in Waimauku for some retail therapy. The date is Wednesday 2 June. The following month will be a DVD afternoon. Further details from Eileen on 8149 298.

## Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

Here is a selection of our latest additions to the library.

"Lunch in Paris". Elizabeth Bard's life changed after a lunch date in Paris. She shares this story and her recipes with the reader.

"Caught". This suspense story from Harlan Coben portrays life spiralling out of control with crimes being committed and the innocent and guilty all caught up in the web.

"The Silent Sea". A classic Clive Cussler novel with drama, action, technology and history. This one takes place from the Antarctic to Argentina.

"Recipe For Life". Italian atmosphere, food and the intertwining lives of two young English women and an older Italian one. Nicky Pellegrino's newest is a must read.

"Blue Eyed Boy". This tale, by Joanne Harris, is about a dysfunctional family and a serial murderer. The creepy psychological thriller is quite different fare from the author of Chocolat.

"House Rules". Jodi Picoult has this time chosen Asperger's syndrome as her focus. Jacob, 18 years old, is obsessed with forensic science and is often at crime scenes, but when a murder occurs, he is the prime suspect.

#### JULY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor by FRIDAY 18th JUNE 2010 - 5PM Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143 munster@ihug.co.nz

## Letter to the Editor

As one of the people mentioned in the *Aucklander* piece about a possible park for Waiatarua, I feel I need to respond to the letter in the last Community News. I would hate for this possible project (and that is all it is - possible) to become a hugely divisive issue in Waiatarua. Frank asks "how many people were at the meeting that decided this?" The answer is none, basically. The suggestion was made via a letter to the WRRA that it might be a good idea to look at the idea of acquiring some flat open space for a community park in Waiatarua. The WRRA passed this suggestion on to the Community Board, who agreed that it was worth investigating. That is all that has happened. There is no commitment and no funds allocated. My understanding is that one council officer is spending some time evaluating the suggestion, and will eventually come up with a report (that may well say the idea is not feasible/financially viable/wanted in the community).

Frank makes some good points in his letter, and all those things will need to be considered. Let's have a look at some of them:

- "Flat land up here must be getting hard to find". Well, yes, I would suggest it is, and it is not going to get any easier.
- "Can we afford to go on spending and then complain about the cost of rates?" and "Remember we are committing our future generations to these costs in forms such as loans and maintenance." Of course any spending has to be justified, but we also have to recognize that sometimes opportunities arise that need to be taken or they will be gone forever. I think a good comparison can be made with the New Lynn rail trench (although on a somewhat different financial scale I hope!) It would have been very easy to have gone for a cheap and quick solution to upgrading the station, but fortunately those with the purse strings were able to be persuaded that the huge long-term benefits justified the immediate financial outlay. This has always struck me as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that could so easily have been botched, but in fact will completely transform New Lynn. Any Waiatarua park project needs to be looked at in the same light. Sometimes it is worth making an immediate financial outlay that will bring very long term benefits.
- Frank talks about the distances involved to get to such a place. Even by his own numbers, I think almost anywhere in Waiatarua is going to be closer to somewhere in the district than it is to the alternative which I would guess is Parrs Park.

Frank – and anyone else who read the original article – can be absolutely reassured that nothing is going to happen without a lot more community involvement and discussion. The article in the *Aucklander* was a typical piece of local journalism. A mention in the Community Board minutes prompted two phone calls by a reporter and a photograph and an article that made the whole issue seem much more advanced and committed than it actually is.

What do people think? Would it be good to have a local outdoor recreation area? Make your views known?

Tony Bacon

# Ark in the Park CONCERT FOR THE BIRDS

The Waitakere Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society invites you to a musical variety concert at Glen Eden's Playhouse Theatre to raise funds for returning threatened native birds including Kokako to the Waitakere Ranges.

Special Guest Artists include:

Patricia Wright (soprano) with accompanist Judy King

Jubate (classical, gypsy, American and Irish fiddle music)

Show West Singers (musical director Judy King)

Yuko Takahashi (mezzo soprano)

Greg Patel (tenor)

Together with supporting artists

Date: Friday, 18 June 2010

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: \$25 Adult, \$20 Unwaged, \$10 Child

Information & Bookings: www.iticket.co.nz or phone 09 361 1000

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(Fire Brigade Louisa Ferguson)

This month we held our Brigade Open Day. Numbers were a bit disappointing, however for those that did turn up, the day was successful. The children had a great time learning in the fire safety Wendy House and burning energy on the bouncy castle. A big thanks to all who took the time to turn up and have a sausage and a chat with us.

Waiatarua held a brigade exercise with Karekare Rural Fire Brigade, at the Karekare Surf Club. A big thanks to Phil Parks and SO Gareth Mullins for organising the event. It's important for brigades to get together with neighbouring brigades from time to time to practice working together and exchange ideas and procedures.

Waitakere City has moved onto an open fire season as of 30 April 2010. This means permits are not required for fires in the open air.

City Bylaw No. 6 applies which, broken down into its basic form, is as follows:

- Only natural materials (no plastics, treated wood, polystyrene etc) are to be burnt.
- The fire is to be attended at all times.
- Means to extinguish the fire are to be available at all times.
- There must be no burning closer than 3 metres from your neighbour's boundary.
- There must be no burning closer than 10 metres from any structure or public boundary.
- There must be no burning after dark.
- There must not be a smoke nuisance.

Please remember to be considerate to your neighbours and road users when having an outside fire, fires must not cause a smoke nuisance to others' health or traffic. If you have any question please contact one of the officers below.

#### Fire Calls

18 April 2010 12:17 - MVA, Piha Rd. A Motorcyclist Lost Control on Piha Rd. Waiatarua, KareKare & Piha Brigades assisted ambulance with first aid and traffic management.

18 April 2010 15:51 - Person fallen off Horse, Grassmere Rd. Waiatarua Crew called to assist Henderson Fire Brigade with manpower, handled by Henderson Crew.

21 April 2010 21:25 - MVA, Piha Rd. Waiatarua, KareKare & Piha Crews were called to a report of car on fire after crashing. Crews assisted with traffic management until the vehicle was removed by towing firm.

25 April 2010 14:35 - PFA, Waiatarua Community Centre.

03 May 2010 19:40 - Training Exercise, Piha Rd.

09 May 2010 11:35 - Rubbish Fire, Tui Crescent.

09 May 2010 12:17 - Rubbish Fire, Forest Hill Rd.

#### Contacts

Phone III 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).

## **Creative Communities Scheme**

#### **FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Funding is available for Community-based arts activity in your area.

Note: Due to pending governance changes regarding the new Auckland Council, Creative Communities will deliver the entire year's funding in ONE ROUND ONLY. There will be no further funding round until after July 2011.

Applications under the Creative Communities Scheme are now being called for.

The aim of the Scheme is to increase participation in the arts at a local level and increase the range of diversity of arts available to communities.

#### Eligible projects must:

- Have an arts or cultural focus Take place within Waitakere City
- Benefit the local community Not have started before September 2010
  - Not have been funded by Creative New Zealand

A funding workshop will be held on Thursday 17 June.



Application forms and further information are available by telephoning PH 839 0400 www.waitakere.govt.nz/cnlser/fn/creativecom.asp



## Applications close 5 pm, Friday 16 July 2010

## From the Vice-President

li All

I am sure that this summer has been the driest in the 25 years I have been living in Waiatarua. I have been keeping rainfall totals for many years and for February and March combined, I recorded 59mm. In 2009 for the same period, I recorded 346mm. However this year we were a lot better off than Auckland City which only received 13mm during this period. The drought seriously affected my big patch of parataniwha which went totally flat for many weeks. However it amazingly sprang back to life after a good shower of rain. My mamaku pongas were also severely affected. A lot of their lower fronds bent in half through lack of water and then went brown and died. Another species which may have been affected by the dry weather is the kaihikatea. Normally during April many of these trees are covered in red berries which are a favourite food for the tuis. This year there were no berries at all on any of the big trees around where I live. I recorded 91mm for April so hopefully the trees will be happier now.

At the beginning of April, I went to an evening at the Arataki Visitors Centre where the ARC was launching 4 new brochures on walks in the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. These covered the areas of: Piha, Karekare and Anawhata; Te Henga (Bethells) and Cascade Kauri; Scenic Drive; Cornwallis, Huia and Whatipu. Each of the brochures gives a detailed map of the area with things to see and do plus descriptions of the walks in each area with the distance, timing and degree of difficulty. These brochures are available at the Arataki Visitors Centre. There is also one for the new Hillary Trail. I was particularly impressed by the young man with pohutukawa red hair who was providing the background music for this function. He had a computer, a keyboard and a small box of knobs which he twiddled to make the most amazing mystical electronic music which he had composed himself. This was very appropriate for the beautiful setting of the Arataki Centre as evening was coming on and the Manukau Harbour gradually faded into darkness.

On Saturday 24 April we had another very successful Quiz Night which was well attended with 7 teams competing. Many thanks to lan and Cathy for once again running this very entertaining evening and also to Kor for setting up the sound system.

- Susanne Timms

## HALL HIRE

911 WEST COAST RD WAIATARUA

1-2 hour sessions \$20. Half day hire \$60 Half day & evening function (deposit required) \$150

Contact John Goudge on 814 9744

## 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: Folding table tennis set, size 7 ladies intermediate ski boots and poles, car bike rack, new shower 3 door slider, a moped and a holiday timeshare. Ring Nadine Fletcher on 0272 942 344 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.

Contributions and suggestions for the newsletter are welcome; however publication will depend on available space

Contact Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143, munster@ihug.co.nz

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