

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

February 2011



EARLIER TIMES IN WAIATARUA

By John Isaachsen - part 2

In 1939 and '40, a father and son were cutting teatree (manuka and kanuka) for firewood, on the ridge almost opposite the top of the Kauri Loop Road (but lower and which falls to the north). They were said to have let their fire, lit for tea, get away. That dry weather fire burned their cut branches and continued almost to Bendall's Lane, and included a house on the next ridge west. Sorry, it was too far away for any fire fighters to show up and a nasty war was on taking men. Water, in a small pipe, wouldn't reach there either.

We had plenty of lovely fruit, home-grown, before the possums came from out west. They robbed the good fruit, unripe fruit, leaves and the bark, in that order, so the trees tended to die. Since the last blitz on possums, I saw one in daylight on our driveway in August 2010.

Young Mr Abbott, young lovely Miss Matthews and the respected Miss Louisa A Garvey taught about 8-14 of us in the hired Nihotupu church, about 400 metres east of the junction of West Coast and Forest Hill roads. Some of the vertical boarding on the church was pitsawn (by hand). Our playground was bare subsoil. Can you imagine the trouble small cars had, coming from Tui Crescent, over loose metal and a few large rocks to meet Forest Hill Road? Anything like a fully-laden Austin 7, which had four seats and a small motor, had great difficulty. Momentum was lost in the wiggles at both ends of that stretch.

From about 1910, Andy Lloyd ran coaches on largely mud roads in winter, from Glen Eden Rail to Karekare. It took most of a day, in-

cluding getting 'stuck in the mud' four times between the railway and Piha Road when in 1915 my mother (then a young lady) took the journey. From the early 1920s, "Lloyd" ran his taxi from the Red Sheds opposite no. 853 West Coast Road. That's now an old building but still red. Andy sold petrol too.

Can any reader tell me where the first private telephone line went? It was into a holiday home owned by Jock Parkinson - the original of Parkinson's Lookout- straight through the bush from where young I guess young Lyndsay Whittle may have been told about it. I was.

I have seen Potters Stream come to the top waterfall about 1.2 metres square, go through the road's 900mm pipes and travel 20 metres horizontally and uncontained whilst falling a measured 12 m, down the lower waterfall. Water went about 5 metres a second then. Very heavy and big hardrocks tended to thunder past, within the muddy waters. Pieces of old hard trees have come down and blocked the culvert's 400mm pipes twice during concentrated down-pours.

How many know that the old volcanoes (by the trig above old Forest Hill Rd) blew out big hard rocks which landed about half a kilometre away, well beyond Tui Crescent - in rear of 833.

There was a very light snowfall in the frost, on what is now Scenic Drive and 849 West Coast Roads in 1939.

Many thanks to John Isaachsen for this example of life in early Waiatarua. It is much appreciated.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Waiatarua 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.waiatarua.org.nz

From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

Welcome back everyone to another year in the hills....

Hasn't the weather been glorious so far? I have given up watching television weather forecasters who promised rain on more than one occasion but nothing ever eventuated. Today as I write this, it is looking a tad overcast but I know from experience it will pass and we'll have another great holiday weekend.

We have lost some advertisers this year and gained new ones so please check them out and give them your support. If your body lost the battle over Xmas, then get it whipped back into shape by Vanessa's yoga classes down at the hall and if you need to be made even more beautiful then we have a new beauty therapist, Tracey.

So, enjoy the rest of the summer and may your tanks never run dry!

Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

Welcome to Another Year Of Great Books.

"Dead Or Alive" – Tom Clancy. All the best characters from Clancy's previous books feature in a hunt for a Bin-Laden type terrorist who has been conducting horrific attacks on the USA.

"The Hut Builder" – Laurence Fearnley. This story follows the life of a boy through to manhood as the Mackenzie Country becomes central to his life and work. Just great!

"Minding Frankie" – Maeve Binchy. When Frankie's mother dies giving birth, her "loser" father has to change his ways to be allowed to keep the baby. People on the street where he lives work together to help him change and keep the baby.

"Hand Me Down World" – Lloyd Jones. Jones's latest tells of an African woman and the people she meets as she walks from Tunisia to Berlin searching for her abducted son.

"The Confession" – John Grisham. The frailties of the legal system are exposed when the death penalty comes under the microscope.

"The Free Range Cook" – Annabel Langbein. Did you watch the TV programme and madly write down recipes? Now come and borrow the book!

Acting training classes

for children & adults at Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Waiatarua – 9 week courses with tutor John Goudge. Enrolling now. Classes begin 14 Feb. For info. ph 814 9744 or go to www.johngoudge.com.

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by FRIDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2011 - 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

Hi from Louise Holzke

It's a privilege to say "hello" to such a lovely community in one of the most beautiful places on the planet!

First impression: Just back from one of my two daily walks, never tiring of taking in those sights and sounds of Waiatarua.... not after 16 years anyway, since we made the move from Germany. We = Husband Burkhard and our three girls (two of those have flown the nest) and our dog. Burkhard looks after heartsick people in Waitakere Hospital, that is physically heartsick!! And I work part-time at Radio Rhema. So we can still spend a fair amount of time "in the Hills" playing cards on the porch or "roaming the streets" with Mocca the collie.

I joined the committee a year ago, and found it a good link to you folks, with stuff to do that needs looking after, and stuff that's even fun, like planning Quiz-Nights and Debates, or meeting the newly elected Council!

I really do love my job at Rhema. I think Christian broadcasting is a brilliant place to work at and I am so fortunate to have this part-time arrangement!

Since Burkhard works 12-hour shifts which equals more time off, we have plenty of opportunities to play games (board-card-puzzles... German/English). Our biggest hobby (and any visitor is most welcome to get the treatment) is Dinner + Games... get the idea?

Reading, tramping, art galleries/cafes, home group (from our church), having visitors, these are some of our favourite pastimes. Feel free to pop in when we are home; there is always another chair/plate!

On this note, having missed out on a "proper" New Year issue, I shall wish you a very **Happy New Year**, one where Happiness lets you be content on your journey!

To Drink Or Not To Drink!

The Question:

I had a plumber to fix the waterworks (the pipe had broken from the tank and burnt out the pump) but he said although the water looks clean that my tank is very dirty and should be cleaned as he would not drink from it. Can you help... such as, do we know how our locals fare with this and do you know of any reputable and good priced tank cleaners? I guess I will have to have it refilled... Nadine.

The Answer:

I have lived on Waiatarua tank water almost all my life and neither my family nor I have ever had a stomach complaint as a result. So I have become a believer in building tolerances to bacteria etc over time rather than removing them suddenly from our lives so that we have no natural resistance when we do encounter them elsewhere. My tanks have often contained a large build-up of decayed leaf matter, but it is not harmful to humans and I can assure you that when we removed the nine inches of kowhai leaf skeletons from my father's tanks the water did not taste as sweet and beautiful for years until it had built back up.

Remember that our rain predominantly comes in from the west, bearing no smog or city air, so the worst we Waiataruans have to fear is bird poop which hasn't managed to kill off anyone I know to date. City people love to scaremonger us with tales of floating possums but I've yet to find a dead possum capable of crawling through the necessary downpipes. It's an urban myth at best.

Here's what I would do in Nadine's position if she is worried. Get an under bench filter fitted in the kitchen for city guests. Do nothing about the tank until next winter. In July, drain it, don a wetsuit, climb inside and bucket out the leaf buildup until she can hose down the dregs. To drain the tank completely the easiest way is to fill a garden hose, plug both ends and drop one down to the floor, run the remainder down the section until it is well below the tank, open the outside end first then the tank end. Natural siphon effect will drain it to the floor without having to get a mouthful of water. If you don't want to do this yourself, pay a student to or a local DIY person.

Then wait two days for the tank to refill - it is in a rain forest after all.

If paranoia has set in, buy some tank water treatment from the hardware store and use on the first fill. Then fit a first flush system to your gutters or repeat this exercise some time after the kids have grown up and left home. Cheers - Brett.

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Fire Brigade

Waiatarua Fire Brigade finished off 2010 just as we started it, at a scrub fire in Piha that was started by fireworks. Called out just before midnight, our volunteers saw in the new year battling a hillside full of fire at the side of the Piha road above the Piha lookout .

So once again, irresponsible use of fireworks has caused damage to bush. The fire was not to the extent of the previous new year's fire, but was closer to houses and as it was right on the side of the road, it caused unsafe road conditions for the firefighters who had to block the road so they could fight the fire.

You may have seen the fire truck and crew out on Thursday nights recently. A few of our members have taken on the task of doing the much-needed hydrant tests in the Waiatarua area. It is the responsibility of the local brigades to make sure all hydrants are properly functioning in their area. A big thank you to QFF Lyndsay Whittle and SO Gareth Mullins for organising this exercise and thank you to the members who have found the time to come out and help Lyndsay and Gareth with this large task.

It has made for an exciting start for our two new recruits. We welcome Darren Gee and Joseph Hardie to the brigade.

Fire Calls

16th November 2010, 17:13 - Scenic Drive Swanson, Dumped Rubbish on fire.

1st December 2010, 01:04 - Piha Rd, Car Fire.

31st December 2010, 23:46 - Piha Rd Piha, Scrub/Bush Fire .

Fire Safety - Family BBQ Safety Tips

With daylight saving giving us more evening sun, many of us will be using the extra hours to fire up the barbecue and get family and friends together.

- Supervise children around grills. If using a public grill, close the barbecue fence if there is one.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children. Teach children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Before using a grill, check the connection between the gas tank and the fuel line. Test for leaks using soapy water. Do not overfill the gas tank.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers – they can take up to five days to cool.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas – carbon monoxide could be produced and can be fatal.
- Make sure your barbecue is completely extinguished when finished.
- Alcohol and fire don't mix – Know your limits and drink responsibly.

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).

Subscription Reminder

There's still time to subscribe for 2011. WRRRA subscriptions are \$10 per family and run through to December. Don't miss out! There are many savings to be had.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

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\$10 household

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

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

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

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

WRRRA AGM

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents AGM is to be held at the Waiatarua Hall on Wednesday 2 March 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Denise Yates, the Chair of our new Waitakere Ranges Board, will be the guest speaker. Think about joining the committee as two of our members are leaving.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

We are starting our gardening year with a visit to Cornerlea Garden in Whenuapai on Wednesday 2 February. The owners have years of experience as horticulturists, which has helped them to plan a garden that is hardy and water efficient, yet full of interest and variety all year round. Entry fee is \$10 which includes afternoon tea. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 for further information.



Iyengar yoga

Iyengar yoga is a safe enjoyable yoga practice which improves the quality of life for people from all walks of life. The Iyengar style is very precise and uses equipment to ensure people from all levels are able to achieve amazing results in a safe and challenging environment.

Through yoga practice, you will feel more balance and harmony within your body which will have an ongoing positive effect to your energy levels and general mood. Incredible health benefits are felt immediately and these only increase with regularity.

Yoga Aravinda is in its 5th year and has recently relocated to Waiatarua Hall.

Vanessa Greenwood is a certified Iyengar yoga teacher with 12 years teaching experience. She has been practising Yoga for over 18 years and trained under highly qualified and respected teachers so has a clear understanding of and commitment to her craft. Her style of teaching is safe, challenging yet attainable for all levels. Iyengar yoga is rewarding emotionally, physically and spiritually. You will have immediate and lasting positive effects.

Classes start on the 2nd of February so please contact Vanessa to enrol. (See ad in community notices for details.)

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.

Local couple looking to move on from their 8-year-old executive home in a prime position, now that all chicks have flown the coop. Wanting to downsize, as retirement approaches. Perhaps there is another family seeking a larger home for a growing family? A calculated swap would be perfect! Phone 814 1850 for further discussion.

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

Waiaatarua Playcentre: 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua. Phone 09 814 8835. Sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Yoga Aravinda at Waiaatarua Hall: For Iyengar Yoga call Vanessa Greenwood on 835 4922 or 027 541 4810 or visit www.yogaaravinda.com for timetable information.

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

If emailing photographs, please do not include in text documents, but send as a separate file, preferably JPG, at high resolution

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