



A timely reminder re the conditions on our roads. You could end up parked in a manner you didn't foresee. Fortunately, the young couple in this car survived without injury and no other vehicles were involved.



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual General Meeting

Waiatarua Community Hall
Wednesday 2nd March 2011
7.30p.m. A.G.M. commences

Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2010 AGM
- Matters Arising from the minutes
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- General Business
- **Denise Yates : Chairperson Waitakere Ranges Board**

Traffic Survey Update

Thanks to those who took the time to complete the traffic survey. It would appear the two main areas of concern are the junctions of West Coast Road/Scenic Drive and Piha Road/Scenic Drive. I'm about to compose a letter to the local board so if anyone else wants to send through their feedback on our worst intersections, roads and road behaviour, please free to e-mail me on paul@attwood.co.nz. To view the questions again go to <http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/pdfs/Dec2010.pdf> to download the newsletter.

On a secondary note those of you that followed the trials and tribulations of building a vege garden in the bush (November's issue) might be pleased to know that we can knock six 1kg plus cabbages off the list to pay back and as for beans we're now looking at bigger freezers!!

Once again, thanks to all who have completed the survey and remember, it's not too late to have your say.

- Paul Osborne.

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

This morning, I have attended an hour's dance class, shopped for nibbles for my nephew's eighteenth birthday soirée, almost figured out how to change a docx. document into something my pc can read and de-nuded my tomato plants of a few fat caterpillars. And all before 10.05am. I am on a roll. Let's hope it continues!

Please remember we have the AGM this month with Denise Yates coming to impart pearls of wisdom. (See notice elsewhere) I hope to see you all there!

Long may the fine weather continue!

Wheelie Bins

Over the past month or two I have received observations and complaints about our recycle bins as follows:

They are left out, often tipped on their sides for days after collection day creating an unsightly impression to motorists travelling through. Those that are put out too late to be emptied are left out until next collection date two weeks later.

To be collected they need to be out by 7a.m or if that is too early for you... the night before. The collection dates are on the side of your rubbish bags.

Know that we have the other side of the equation when the bins go missing. Usually, this is no big drama as you just phone council and they send a replacement, but do you know what happens to the missing bin?

One of our residents, who lives on a bend with a steep concrete drive going downhill from the road, does!

It is a new sport whereby the left front passenger grabs the bin out the window and they tow it down the road and let it go by this driveway, the result being a pile of smashed glass to clean up and then there are the full and empty ones that end up over the banks.

This, by the way, costs all of us money so perhaps we make an effort to take the bins in and perhaps help your neighbour and put theirs in their driveway if still out the next day.

- Dave Pocock

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi all,

I hope you have enjoyed reading the contributions from our committee members over the last months, I know I have.

We have a great bunch of hard working, enthusiastic, people on the committee.

And they all intend to seek re-election at our forthcoming election with the only maybes being Frank and Lynda who are trying to sell their house so as to move into a retirement village down the road in Glen Eden. This creates mixed feelings with one half of me saying I hope they sell and the other half saying we don't want to lose two fabulous members. We would welcome new members on the committee so if you are interested come along to the AGM and join us; details contained elsewhere.

Denise Yates our guest speaker, I am sure you will find informative and entertaining .

It has been a good 2010 for the committee with thanks to John Stagg keeping a reasonable tight rein on the purse, and Robyn achieving good advertising sales, and John Goudge doing a good sell on the hall hiring, and like everyone, us taking cuts on spending.

Just a friendly reminder that your 2011 membership is now due

Don't forget to keep receiving Hotmail and enjoying up to 10% discount (conditions may apply) at the following businesses, you do need to be financial.

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies

Colourplus Paint and Wallpaper (Glen Eden)

Auckland's Waitakere Estate

Awakenings Massage Therapy

To renew just put \$10 in an envelope with your name, address, telephone number and email address. Address the envelope to The Treasurer WRRRA, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua. Either post or hand deliver, or if easier put in my letterbox at 792 West Coast Road.

Yes you can direct credit your membership renewal to our bank account – ASB Bank 12-3051-0278313-00 including name and 'mem' for membership. Please send an email when you have done it.

That's all for now,

Dave

At the Library

Jeannette Ziesler

Mark Logue wrote the story of his grandfather helping King George VI to overcome a stammer. "The King's Speech" is now a high profile film. Read the book and learn so much more about these two men and their work and friendship.

Our New Zealander of the Year 2010 is Ray Avery. His biography, "Rebel With A Cause", is now in the library and tells of Ray's journey from an orphanage in England to being a successful businessman and entrepreneur in NZ. Ray has done so much to improve the lives of so many disadvantaged people.

All our Robert Goddard fans will enjoy his new novel "Blood Count". Goddard writes about a surgeon who saves the life of a Serbian, only to get caught in the aftermath of war when the Serbian is charged with plotting the killing of thousands of civilians. Borrow the book and see what happens.

Do you know much about a Japanese Revolution in the 1860s? Lian Hearn did an amazing amount of research before writing the story "Blossoms and Shadows", which tells of a woman doctor who refused to follow the dictates of the day and worked in the battlefields during this revolution.

Many of you enjoyed "The Memory Keeper's Daughter". Now Kim Edwards has written "the Lake of Dreams". Lucy Jarrett returns home to live and finds a box of family treasures. This lead to her investigating the family history. What follows is a discovery of the truth and a change of family folklore.

As well as the above, we have new books by – Josephine Cox; Tami Hoag; Stephen Hunter; Linda La Plante; Sheila O'Flanagan and Jennifer Weiner.

Good Reading.

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by **FRIDAY 18th MARCH 2010 - 5PM**

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor - There's Something in the Water

City water just doesn't taste the same we say, but maybe we have just grown accustomed to our particular brew. Some say I just don't look in the tank I just don't want to know, all that bird poop and vegetation gives it a certain natural manly taste, only woozy city folk drink that chlorinated stuff.

Council takes a different view and says tank water should not be used for drinking. In my case, I was required to install tanks to hold 31,000 litres of water but could only use this water for toilets and washing clothes, not even in the showers (we might get a mouthful). All very well, but after paying \$550.00 for a connection to the main, found that it takes about 1/4 hour to fill a jug. So back to tank water.

I think that we should know what is or could be in our drinking water and what is missing from it, so we individually can make informed choices. Council, in my view, has a very real responsibility in the health and wellbeing of its residents and to this end I would like to see them either arrange to test the water or perhaps negotiate on our behalf for a good price where we can choose to take a sample to a local Lab for testing. Simply looking for the proverbial possum does not cut it ie:- A recent discovery, admittedly in salt water, is living entities around six microns in diameter, one two hundreds of the width of a human hair which absorb carbon dioxide and extract from the water a tiny amount of oxygen, which then escapes into the atmosphere. Because they are probably the most common creature in all the world, they produce immense quantities of oxygen. To dramatise this creature's importance, it can reasonably be claimed that one in every five breaths any human being takes contains oxygen created at sea and quite specifically by Prochlorococcus.

It is very clear that what we cannot visually see, can contain good or bad guys.

After drinking tank water for over half a century, I can say that the only obvious effect is that it has turned my hair grey, but to be sure to be sure.

- Frank

I agree with most of Brett's comments regarding tank water in the February newsletter, particularly that decaying leaf matter does soften and sweeten the water. Quite apart from what's in your water tank, you only need to drink from an uncontaminated bush stream (if you can still find one) for proof - far softer than water from, say, a mountain spring.

I can, however, refute Brett's claim that a possum in the water tank is an urban myth, having experienced this at first hand. It was some years ago at my grandparents' bach, which had two old-fashioned iron tanks on top of a stand, and the possum had apparently fallen into one of the tanks through an uncovered inspection hatch, presumably while looking for a drink. Nobody became ill from drinking the water; even supposing that it might have made us sick (which I would question due to the dilution), the smell of the water coming from the taps was too obvious.

With modern tanks being much more secure this is unlikely to happen these days. Don't listen to the scare-mongers, just enjoy the taste of non-chlorinated water. I can confirm that I have never become ill from drinking tank water in 15 years of doing it (mostly in the Far North where the majority of households have no council water supply). The tap water in the USA was another story!

- Nicki

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 and you are supporting your local community.

Environmental Report

Susanne Timms

The weed bin at the Waitatarua Fire Station continues to be very well used and I am having it emptied about once a week at the moment which is very encouraging. During the whole month of March, the War on Weeds campaign will again be operating. Last year there was an enormous bin situated at the top end of Kauri Loop Road on West Coast Road and hopefully, one will be sited there again this year. Please remember that these bins are for environmental weeds only - NOT tree prunings, general garden waste or household rubbish.

For those of you with ginger and agapanthus, it is a really good idea to remove the flower heads before they set seeds to cut down the spread of these two environmental weeds.

For those of you who have had pig damage in the past, one good thing about the new Auckland Council is they have a policy of total eradication of pigs from the Waitakere Ranges. This may be because it has been suggested that pigs may be spreading the kauri dieback disease but this has yet to be proved.

WAR ON WEEDS

From 1st March - 31st March

DO NOT put the following in these bins: Household waste; Inorganics e.g. concrete, steel; Flaxes; Cabbage Tree; Palm Trees; Bamboo; Garden Waste.

Use this bin for disposal of these main plant pests: Ginger; Jasmine; Tradescantia (Wandering Jew); Climbing Asparagus; Plectranthus; Moth Plant; Blue Morning Glory; Woolly Nightshade; Japanese Honeysuckle.

Bin locations for War on Weeds 2011: Otitori Bay Rd, Carpark at French Bay, Titirangi. Tangiwai Reserve, Opposite 192 Huia Rd Titirangi. Palmers Garden Centre Carpark, 4155 Great North Rd Glen Eden. Central Landscape Supplies, 598 Swanson Rd Swanson. Olympic Pl New Lynn. Massey Library Carpark, Corner Westgate Dr, Don Buck Rd Massey. West Wave Aquatic Centre, 20 Alderman Dr Henderson. Corner of Boylan Rd and York Rd, Waima. Landing Reserve, Corner of George Ave and the Terrace Herald Island. Harbour View Reserve, Opposite Gloria Rd, near old cottage site, Te Atatu. Laingholm Hall car park opposite Laingholm Primary School. 695 Huia Road Parau. Kauri Loop Road (next to 734 West Coast Rd) Oratia.

Please note that some locations may change before March. Please check our website two weeks prior to the start of War on Weeds - www.ecomatters.org.nz or call us on (09) 826 4276.

Permanent Weed Bin Sites: Laingholm - alternating between Victory Road and 12a Western Rd. Huia Domain, 1139 Huia Road, Huia. Piha Domain, 24 Seaview Road, Piha. Waitatarua - Fire Station, Scenic Dr.

2011

Please accept my Membership to the Waitatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

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\$10 household

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

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

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

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.

Dog...Free To A Good Home. Beautiful 7yr old speyed female Border Collie cross. Loves people of all ages and exercise. Generally obedient, though a lead helps. Usually barks at visitors but doesn't fight or bite. Please phone 814 9270.

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Iyoga formerly Yoga Aravinda at Waiaatarua hall: For Iyengar Yoga call Vanessa Greenwood on 816 9522 or 027 541 4810 or visit www.iyoga.co.nz for timetable information.

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.

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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