



Report on the WRRRA AGM

The Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Assn held its AGM on Wednesday 2 March. The following people were all re-elected to the committee:

Dave Pocock (president), Susanne Timms (vice-president), John Stagg (treasurer), Jan James (secretary), Robyn O'Sullivan (newsletter editor), Paul Osborne, Louise Holzke, Frank & Lynda Hogsden.

After the meeting Denise Yates, Chairperson of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on her experience to

date with the new Auckland Council. A summary of her report is as follows:

Four months down the track of the Super City Local Board members have attended a string of workshops, seminars and a two-day symposium, and held four business meetings which were attended by numerous members of the community, but we are still working out what we should and can do, and who we need to talk to, to make things happen

We are still grappling with what "co-governance" really means, as are the officers, so the processes for the Governing Body and the processes for the Local Board seem to be quite different.

Getting information, even seeing the Agendas for Governing Body meetings is often a matter of looking on the Council website, as does the public, though hard copy of agendas are slowly beginning to turn up a day or so before the meetings.

Board members have each taken on a "portfolio" so they need attend only the meetings and forums in

their area of responsibility, but report back to the full Board so we keep up with issues that way.

Each member has adopted an R&R group or two and will attend their meetings and be the point of contact for their groups.

We have indicated that some facilities that are designated as "regional" are of high interest to us on a local level – for example the Waikumete Cemetery – and that we wish to be involved in decisions around them.

Similarly we have said that some facilities that fall within the Henderson-Massey and Whau Board areas are of interest to us, and that we want to have a say in decisions about them.

We have no choice but to make this new system work. We'll look to find a balance between urban and non-urban issues, and we will continue to protect the Ranges as we have always done.

- Susanne Timms

Karekare Race Day



Saturday 30th April - 11 am



Come along and enjoy a great day of entertainment at one of Auckland's famous beaches. The entertainment includes: horse racing, Kidz Kartz, sweepstake betting, children's running races, novelty races, food stalls, pony rides and quickfire raffles in a west coast beach carnival atmosphere! Enter one of the three Mad Hatter's wild west hat competitions. Three categories: 1. Preschool kids – under 5. 2. Kidz crazy lids – under 12. 3. Head west, go wild – Mad Hatter's open section. Official open time: 11 am, followed by hat competition, races start 12 noon. Do you want to compete? Racing for thoroughbreds, hacks and ponies. Cash prizes for all races. Telephone: Caroline Grove (09) 8128760. Email: cgrove@ihug.co.nz or visit: www.karekare.org.nz



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 • **WRRRA President:** Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697, E-Mail: 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

Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

New books at the library:

Clive Cussler – The Jungle. Juan Cabrillo and his well known team have been dumped by the US Govt. Now they have to find their own work and are hired to find a young woman missing somewhere in Thailand. They are captured and become aware of a terrible new weapon possessed by their captors. Is this the going to help them back into the government's good books?

Deborah Cadbury – Chocolate Wars. Deborah writes of her family history and the journey from being the world's largest confectionery company to battling the tactics of corporate giants. In the end the giant won.

Elisabeth Tova Bailey – The Sound Of A Wild Snail Eating. This small book has been widely acclaimed and is a mix of memoir and the observation of nature. Elisabeth was bedridden with a long term illness, when a visitor gave her a plant with a snail in it. She became fascinated with the life of the snail and started to research snails.

James Patterson – Toys. Hays Baker is a human in disguise as an Elite in a future world where people are divided into the 2 categories. Elites want to eliminate the humans. Hays is "outed" and has to fight his own battle to survive and save the humans.

Lisa Genova – Left Neglected. Sarah Nickerson is a busy woman with work and family commitments. A phone call while driving means a moment's inattention and in the resulting accident she is left with injuries to the left side of her brain. In the course of her recovery she focuses on the often neglected parts of life.

Rhoda Janzen – Mennonite In A Little Black Dress. Rhoda takes time out from her job as an academic to return home as she recovers from a broken marriage and a car accident. This memoir shows how she rediscovered the values of the Mennonite people and how her upbringing gives her the strength to recover.

Siri Hustvedt – The Summer Without Men. Mia's husband wants a "pause" in their marriage to pursue a relationship with a colleague. Her response is to have a summer without any men. She spends it in the company of a group of women.

Garden Group Eileen Powell

Our April 6 visit is to the Living Earth company, who are producers of Compost and related products. It will be an interesting visit for those of us who make our own compost, as we will be shown the huge commercial quantities produced by this company. Further information from Eileen on 8149 298.

MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by **FRIDAY 15th APRIL 2011 - 5PM**
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

President's Report 2011

Dave Pocock

Well, it seems like only a couple of weeks ago that I welcomed you to the last A.G.M. as part of Waitakere City and now of course, we are Auckland City. Anyone seen any changes? On the face of it, the transition was quite trouble free although, behind the scenes, there has been some hair pulling and will be for some time, but this all falls into the insignificant file when we look at Christchurch.

We fall under the Waitakere Ranges Local Board. I am sure Denise Yates our guest speaker will detail the function of said board, but I feel confident we have a dedicated team of people looking after our affairs, our councillors being Penny Hulse (Deputy Mayor) and Sandra Cooney (long standing member of the ARC) so we are not lacking in top level experience.

One of our main concerns at the start of this term, was the activation of our 'right of renewal' for the lease of this hall, which I am happy to say was achieved satisfactorily for a further five year term.

It is always a pleasant feeling to be able to report on another successful year and once again I am able to do this, thanks not only to being part of a top team (our committee) but also the small army of people that works away quietly to keep Waitatarua humming...

...the library gents/ ladies, who do such a great job we have people come from far and wide to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and the great selection of books.

...the newsletter (one of our main sources of income) which starts at Robyn O'Sullivan's desk, then on to Nicki Warner's and subsequently, Longley Printing, who continue to print this free of charge and then off to Tony Bacon and his army of deliverers.

Looking down the list of names for each department, it is amazing how some names appear on two or more lists.

We have Ian Ford and Cathie Wells who continue to formulate and conduct our Quiz nights which are always well supported.

And talking of well supported, last year we had a reserve list of names for the Great Debate; people who had missed out, as the 80 places available sold out in a week. Thanks to Robin Essex for organising the contestants and to Kor Prins, the master of sound and light.

Elke Keys once again did the catering, albeit as a commercial venture, but I know we get a great deal from her.

Our hall is being quite well used. We have a yoga group using it extensively, table tennis, the drama club (just one play this year) and various functions, such as weddings, 21sts and other birthday celebrations. We have virtually no trouble from these functions which is thanks to the great job John Goudge does in pre-qualifying the hirers.

Cleaning of hall and library once again carried out by Paul Mortensen who does not hesitate doing that bit extra, even climbing onto the roof to cut back foliage.

Of course not everything we try is successful, like the games night we tried and ended up with committee members and their partners only, although they did have a good time. We feel that maybe people didn't quite understand the concept so may try again this year.

Last year's committee was the same as previous year with the addition of Louise Holske and as always, it is good to have some new blood joining in, especially a lady who loves washing and ironing table cloths after the Great debate.

Susanne Timms has continued in the role of vice-president and it has been a pleasure and relief for me having her as right hand lady. This past year there have been a few occasions when I have been unable to attend a meeting (like tonight) and only have to phone Susanne and know all is under control. She also continues to do a great job with the weed bin as well as keeping tabs on the wild pig situation.

John Stagg does a wonderful job controlling finances and it is pleasing to be on the right side of the ledger.

Jan James, secretary once again with countless other jobs, one of which is keeping me in line. Robyn O'Sullivan ... what can one say, just read your newsletter each month and you will see what a great job she does.

Paul Osborne is our watch dog who keeps an eye on plan changes. He recently carried out the road safety survey which he is still working on. We can rely on Paul to bring local body issues of note, to our attention.

Louise Holske, as mentioned before with her love of table cloths, also has good input to our meetings.

On the 26th February 2004, I was elected President of WRRRA after four months on committee. At the same meeting, a new committee member was elected by the name of Frank Hogsden. Although Lynda didn't become a committee member until 2009, the package always included her and her legendary baking, both of them being a very important part of WRRRA. Frank and Lynda are in the process of selling to move to Glen Eden's Glenview Park Retirement Village but at this point they are ratepayers and residents of Waitatarua. I hope they will seek re-election and in return, we accept that re-election on the grounds that it will be effective for the full term.

Finally, I would finish by saying it has been a pleasure to be part of this team for the past year and as I believe we are all seeking re-election, look forward to the next twelve months. Hopefully we will have the pleasure of getting to know some new committee members!

Fire Brigade Report

Louisa Ferguson

In addition to our regular Monday night training, last month the brigade completed a First Aid refresher course On Sunday 27th February keeping the brigade up to date on our skills when attending medical calls/assisting Ambulance and Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Fire Calls

5 th	Feb 2011	10:06am	MVA Scenic Dr, Waiaatarua
5 th	Feb 2011	19:37pm	MVA West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua
26 th	Feb 2011	15:12pm	Scrub Fire Te Henga Rd, Waitakere
27 th	Feb 2011	12:04am	MVA Te Henga Rd, Waitakere
13	Mar 2011	18:22pm	Assist Ambulance Scenic Dr Waiaatarua

With autumn upon us comes the end of daylight saving - on Sunday the 3rd of April Clocks will be wound back an hour and please change the battery in your smoke alarms. No smoke alarm? Standard Smoke Alarms are available **Free** from the brigade, Contact one of the officers below.

Waiaatarua Fire Brigade Contacts: Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency. Otherwise please call Chief Fire Officer Helen Longley (814 9855), Deputy Chief Fire Officer Karl Nuttall (814 8777), Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505), Station Officer Gareth Mullins (814 9282)

Warning! Warning! New Hazard on Road

Senior Waiaataruan on Mobility Scooter.

John Isaachsen, one of the senior members of our community is being exceedingly thoughtful and is giving notice of his recent acquisition of a mobility scooter. At the time of his writing, he has been in possession of said scooter for two days. He seeks understanding with his neighbours west of Kelly's bridge and especially outside 817 West Coast Rd, where it will be safer to cross the road on foot. You may also come across him on Kauri Loop Rd or West Coast Rd east of Rimu Rd.

He has looked hard for a lawful economical alternative and aims to be visible to the public, generally in light traffic. Please watch out for his yellow seat back and reflectorised visibility jacket. The scooter is quite legal, runs on batteries, has no number plate and is extremely economical to run. It is silent apart from gear changes and a little horn, but has indicators and hazard warning lights. Such scooters can't go over 12km an hour, because they would tip over. As it weighs 107 kilos, it is very hard to get out of a ditch or set up if tipped. It has four wheels, is a bit narrow and is liable to tip over on the ground, tilting sideways. A computer avoids most problems, unless one gets the wires wet!

He thanks everyone greatly for their care and consideration and He says "I am delighted that strong brakes come on as soon as the 'GO' is released". I can safely assume that the rest of the motoring public will be as well.

He thanks everybody for their care and consideration. So, let's be careful out there, especially in the wet!

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.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: _____

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Debate

"Ignorance is Bliss", Saturday 18th June.
More details in the next newsletter.

Quiz Night

Coming soon - watch this space for details.

Meetings Meetings Meetings!

Greetings from your Local Board Chairperson.

Progress on the preparation of the Draft Annual Plan and the Auckland Spatial Plan means there has been and will continue to be a multitude of meetings for Board members and several coming up with the community, i.e. YOU!

Combined Residents & Ratepayers

A combined meeting with all groups in our area is on Thursday 24 March, 7pm at Waiaatarua Hall to discuss the draft Annual Plan.

The Auckland (Spatial) Plan

The Auckland Plan will be launched on 23 March. Thereafter two evening community engagement meetings will be held. The first is on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at the Waiaatarua Hall and the second on Monday 11 April 2011 at the Waitakere Ranges Local Board office, 39 Glenmall Place, Glen Eden. Both meetings will start at 6.30pm.

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

Meet Mayor Len Brown and share your thoughts with him, Ceramco Community Centre, 120 Glendale Road, Glen Eden on Tuesday 29 March at 6.30pm.

Contact our office on 813 9150 if you need further information. We look forward to seeing you at these meetings!

Denise Yates

Chairperson, Waitakere Ranges Local Board

From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

We've just had another glorious month weather-wise but eventually winter will be upon us and what does winter bring to us up here in the hills? Yes, the Great Waiaatarua Debate! I'd thought I'd give you early warning as it promises to be a cracker and tickets sold fairly quickly last time. So be ready with your credit card on hand and fingers on buttons when the call goes out for a good time, excellent food, loads of laughs and general *bonhomie*.

And speaking of the debate, the tickets will be soooo much cheaper if your membership is up to date. Just putting it out there...I'll say no more!

And as I am writing this on my cultural day (St Patrick's), I thought I'd finish with an Irish prayer...

...May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the rains fall soft upon your fields, may God hold you in the palm of his hand and may you arrive in heaven five minutes before the devil knows you're dead!

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.

Babysitter Jade Casey Waby, 15 yrs, reliable and has experience with babies and little kids. Price negotiable. Ring 814 9386 or text 021 153 8582 if you want a babysitter.

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.

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.

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

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.

Waia-tarua Playcentre: 911 West Coast Road, Waia-tarua. 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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