



Traffic Survey Response

You will recall in our November edition we had a survey on traffic problems within Waiaatarua. A lot of you out there

had issues which fell into two areas, poor intersection design and poor driving behaviour. At the recent AGM I presented Denise Yates and Janet Clews with a letter outlining the main concerns that arose from the survey.

We have recently received a letter from the Transport section of Auckland Council which in general was positive. The main intersections that were causing concern are currently having the issues that were highlighted addressed. These intersections are:

- West Coast Road/Scenic Drive, where additional signage is going to be put up to try and prevent issues with traffic turning Right into West Coast Road

- Tui Crescent/West Coast Road where the stop lines are going to be moved forward and vegetation cut back to facilitate a clearer view when trying to get out of Tui Crescent

- The Junction that caused the most concern, Scenic Drive/Quinns Road/Piha Road is going to have a "programmed investigation project" in the 2011/2012 financial year as they recognise that there are serious issues with this intersection.

Many of you questioned the speed limits within the area, but unfortunately the Council's hands are tied by central Government as they have to follow the guidelines laid out in the rules in the "Setting of Speed Limits Act 2003". That said they have appointed someone to liaise with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to see if anything can be done.

As a rule the transport section doesn't get involved with the problem of vegetation obscuring signs or obstructing views, therefore should you have a particular issue with vegetation, contact the Auckland Council directly on 301 0101. They have however, taken it upon themselves to address the immediate concerns that were raised from the survey.

We will keep you informed in future editions of the newsletter if there are any other updates.

'Acting Up' in the Hills

half-day fun theatre workshop



Sunday 29 May 2011, 10.15
Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd
with tutor John Goudge

'Acting Up' in the Hills is a broad-based half-day workshop concentrating on having fun with a wide-range of ages (adults & children 12 yrs plus) also serves to introduce the Waiaatarua Performing Arts Trust to the community. Look out for upcoming editions.

Fee \$20 Ph 814 9744 to book your place or for more info —
be quick, limited places available.

John has been changing people's lives through the art of theatre for two decades. He teaches at his own studio in Waiaatarua, & visits schools, theatres & other institutions to run workshops, courses or to advise on special projects.

Come & experience the tools for unlocking freedom of expression, vocal confidence & being in the moment. Gain skills for theatre & film acting.

W A I A T A R U A
Performing Arts

Annual Plan Update

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board has been consulting local rate-payers' associations on the Annual Plan for Auckland Council for 2011 to 2012. A recent meeting at our hall raised various matters of concern to the local community including:

- Road safety - footpaths and intersections.
- Environmental - pigs and possums; weed control; bio security in particular Kauri die back and funding for this.
- Open space in Waiaatarua
- Visitor management - planning to manage visitors and growth of visitors in the Waitakeres
- Broadband & mobile - coverage in the ranges is an issue. If this is a problem for you please let us know.
- Will those who are out of range of public transport continue to be exempt from this levy?
- The old Waitakere city was green. There was discussion around everything in this board area being done with conservation values in mind.
- Heritage - built and natural. Concern about trees being chopped down in areas where people are on sewerage and water after 1 Jan - eg Titirangi. Not a concern for our area I think
- Neighbourhood watch funding - this is probably under a 3 year funding agreement from the old council so not a concern in the short term.

Your committee has made a submission to the Council concentrating on road safety, pests including weed control and open space.

John Stagg
jstaggandagarnham@gmail.com

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

In response to "Senior Waiataruan on Mobil-ity Scooter", and as a local motorist, I would like to encourage Mr Isaachsen to reconsider riding his vehicle on the areas of West Coast Road without footpaths.

I for one cannot bear the thought of collecting him as I round a corner, and I'm sure he would prefer not to meet me that way either.

Respectfully, and in the best interests of safety,

Robin Essex

The new young owners up at Elevation are keen to develop the restaurant and turn it into a vibrant community asset, where people can meet and chat over a meal or a few drinks, and they want to get it right! So, with their new menu almost ready to roll, they are keen to get community input into how the restaurant might develop.

What would work for you? What would tempt you out on a cold winter's night? What, for you, would constitute "a good night out?" If you have any thoughts or ideas that you think would help to get the place humming the guys would be really keen to hear from you.

You could pop in for a drink at the weekend and talk to Noy or their manager, V.J., or if you can't get up there to talk to them personally, email your thoughts to me, as their unofficial, self-appointed promotions person, and I'll pass your ideas on! normanorma888@gmail.com

The Great Waiatarua Mid-Winter Debate

The annual Waiatarua Debate will take place on Saturday June 18th. Kubi Witten-Hannah, Molly Whittington and Lyndsay Whittle – 2010 champions – are keen to return to defend their hard-earned title and maintain possession of the coveted trophy. The debate working party is currently seeking members for the challenging team and a new debate chairperson. A fun night is on the cards, especially with this year's moot "Ignorance is Bliss". Catering once again will be in the capable hands of Elke Key. Ticket sales in previous years have been swift, so it is recommended to secure seats early. Further details will follow in the next edition of the Waiatarua News, meantime enquiries can be made by phoning Robin on 814 1850.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by FRIDAY 13th MAY 2011 - 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

New Books at the Library

Jeannette Ziesler

NZ's own 6 times speedway champion and 3 times winner of the world title has written his autobiography. "THE WILL TO WIN" by IVAN MAUGER

Continuing the well known Cave Bear series of Ayla and Jondalar. "LAND OF THE PAINTED CAVE" by JEAN M. AUJEL. This is the planned to be the last Cave Bear book.

Bolitar is back!. This time he stumbles on a sighting of his sister-in law and begins a desperate search to find his long estranged brother. All the lies from the past are revealed in 'LIVE WIRE' by HARLEN COBEN.

Lily's life disintegrates when she discovers her husband has a second life and family in Tuscany. She leaves Manhattan to hunt the man down. Ends up in the village where the old women conspire to mend her heart and use her expertise to aid their ailing pasticceria. 'DOLCE DI LOVE' by SARAH-KATE LYNCH.

Ernest Hemingway's early life is portrayed in this novelisation of his first marriage to Hedley Richardson. A behind-the-scenes look at the Paris in the '20s and the influences that changed his circumstances. 'THE PARIS WIFE' by PAULA McCLAIN.

This book is set in Hokitika in gold rush times. Halfie, a young part Maori boy gets by by doing odd jobs earning coins. He observes the hard life and rough society to form his own understanding of this new world. 'HOKITIKA TOWN' by CHARLOTTE RANDALL is a good read.

Beginning in Mississippi in the '70s the story is told of two young men from totally different backgrounds who become friends. All changes when one takes a girl out and she is never seen again. One leaves and one stays, but 20 years later they are back in town together and another young woman disappears. "CROOKED LETTER, CROOKED LETTER" by TOM FRANKLIN is a compelling story.

Introducing Norma

My daughter and I fell in love with Waiatarua, and bought our house in West Coast Road eight-and-a-half years ago. We have lived there with various family members over the years, and currently I share my life with my daughter, Maxine, my son, Ben and my son-in-law, Mike (Ben's partner of more than nine years, nearly six of them in Civil Union). I was born in England, but am a New Zealand Citizen, and yes, Norma is my only name, legally!

I have been involved in the Waiatarua community in various capacities. Some seven or eight years ago, I was the first director of the re-vamped drama club, when we presented "Murder At The Music Hall." I served a term as secretary for the Residents and Ratepayers Association, support the Fire Brigade, of which Maxine is a long-serving member, with Mike about to become one, and support community events of all kinds. Recently, I agreed to take part in the coming annual debate!

Professionally, I am a teacher. I have been HOD Performing arts, Assistant HOD English and a Dean. I even did a short relieving stint as a school guidance counsellor. Now I just teach English to five classes at Glenfield College. Don't believe all the negative stuff you hear about teenagers! Given half a chance and a balanced mix of discipline and love, most of them are great. I love teaching now, when I'm close to retirement, as much as I did when I started, 35 years ago – perhaps more so, because I no longer have anything to prove, and at my age I don't have to back off when kids tell me they love me!

I have long been keen to become a registered Marriage Celebrant, because without wishing to appear immodest, I think I'd be really good at it. I have a lively and creative mind, and I love people and ceremony. More than that, though, I believe that a local Marriage Celebrant, appreciative of and committed to the Waiatarua ethos, would enhance our unique local identity in the changing world of the Super City. I would envisage the role as encompassing naming ceremonies and funerals, and other ceremonies involving points of change in people's lives.

I have made application to the Department of Internal Affairs. There seems to be no issue over my personal suitability, but the Registrar General requires evidence that there is a need/want in the community, and that I would have support for my services. Members of the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association have been generous in their support for the proposal, and I thank Dave Pocock for his kind and willing help in putting the idea to them.

The problem is that the Marriage Act nor anyone in Internal Affairs is at all specific about the kind of "evidence" that is required. Nor will they be drawn to comment or advise. So I think the more obvious the support, the better my chances of success. Hence this appeal, and the accompanying survey.

If you like the idea of a local person being available to celebrate marriages and to fulfil the other roles that I have mentioned, and if from these brief bio notes you feel able to support me, please will you be so kind as to email me? normanorma888@gmail.com I promise that apart from thanking you, I will not subsequently pester you with requests for further involvement.

Sincerely,

Norma

From the President

Dave Pocock

Well it has been a busy few weeks recently with a number of meetings set up by the Waitakere Ranges Local Board; a hard working group of people working in rather difficult circumstances, in as much as their guidelines and responsibilities have not been clearly defined by the powers that be. Anyway they are doing a great job in spite of this.

John Stagg attended the Annual Plan meeting and further to that, on information received after the event, we made a submission for the continuation of our weed bin.

Paul Osborne has been working hard on the traffic survey he conducted with some positive results. Reports from both of these gentlemen contained herein.

Susanne Timms and myself attended **Be a Part of Our Plan** which was the name given to a public meeting held in our hall regarding our future and was only sparsely attended with local board officers almost out numbering public.

As it turned out this was virtually a repeat of the Local Area Plan (LAP) meetings we attended last year but as was pointed out only Oratia and Waiatarua had LAP's completed under Waitakere City although since then we have received notification that the Henderson Valley/Opanuku final version has been printed.

Unfortunately under Auckland City there is no compulsion for districts to undergo the LAP process which we believe nullifies the process. Still change does not always suit us all!

On that note I say farewell for another month, hope you are enjoying this unbelievable weather.

Fire Brigade Report

Louisa Ferguson

With winter on the way the days are distinctly truncated and the welcoming smell of fires drifts through the hills, valleys and dells of Waiatarua. I know we've said it before and we will definitely be saying it again (repeatedly), but please ensure that you have your chimneys swept before using your fire.

There is nothing like sitting in front of the fireplace on a cold winter's night, but here is a list of things to be mindful of –

- Clean chimneys and flues before your first fire
- Always use a fire guard or spark guard with open fires
- Never throw things like batteries or aerosol cans into your fireplace
- Ashes can take up to five days to cool. Always empty into a metal bin and pour water over them.

Fire Calls

29 Mar 2011, 18:00 - Shed Fire, Anawhata Rd, Anawhata

1 Apr 2011, 21:20 - MVA, West Coast Rd, Waiatarua

2 Apr 2011, 16:00 - Car Fire, Scenic Dr Nth, Swanson

2 Apr 2011, 17:25 - Rubbish Fire, Forest Hill Rd, Waiatarua

9 Apr 2011, 16:30 - MVA, Scenic Dr, Waiatarua

10 Apr 2011, 10:10 - Rubbish Fire, Tui Cres, Waiatarua

Auckland City has moved onto an open fire season as of 31 March 2011. This means permits are not required for fires in the open air. City Bylaws apply 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.

Waiatarua 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)

WAIATARUA QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm

Waiatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road...

Pub Quiz format - teams of around 6-8 (but we're not that strict). You can organise your own team or just turn up and we'll fit you in.

Entry is just \$5 per person. Please BYO drinks, and nibbles to share with your team (AND the quizmasters!)

For more info please call Ian or Cathie on 814 8871.

From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

On my way home from the gym on Friday evening, I popped into the hall to find some of Waiatarua's finest females sashaying around the floor and shakin' their things to the zumba beat. They looked like they were having great fun and what a good start to a weekend...all primed and ready to go! So if you're at a loose end on a Friday, get your groove on and go wiggle your bits with the neighbours. It should keep you warmed and fit over winter.

And then of course, you wouldn't feel so guilty if you stopped in at Elevation on the way home for dinner or just drinks in front of the fire. (They will hopefully have their new menu up and running by now.) I had a very pleasant dinner there last open mic night and was serenaded by the sultry tones of the gorgeous Tommy and her excellent guitarist! So come on people, let's get out there and support the local happenings...on the 14th is the quiz night and next month...The Great Debate!

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

After our very interesting visit to compost makers Living Earth, next month we are visiting a synergistic and eco-sensitive garden in Titirangi. The date is Wednesday 4 May at 1 pm. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information.

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount

(does not apply to already discounted or sale items)

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

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

Auckland's Waitakere Estate
573 Scenic Dr. (Thursday-Sunday)
Ph: 814 9622 (applies to max 2 adults per visit)

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834 West Coast Rd. Ph: 814 1199

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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.

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Iyoga 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.

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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