



Broadband in Waiatarua – the good news and the bad

Many of you will have realised that ADSL2+ has finally arrived in Waiatarua. If you have compatible equipment, you should be seeing significantly faster download and upload speeds. That's great news, but it is only the beginning of the journey towards the sort of speeds that many other parts of the world experience. I'm referring of course to the Government's high-speed internet project, known as ultra-fast broadband (UFB), fibre to the home (FTTH), or just "crikey, that's fast!" The bad news is that it appears that at the moment there is no plan for Waiatarua to be part of that brave new world. It looks like Oratia School is the currently planned boundary.

I'm sure many of you are thinking "I don't really need any more speed – what I have is fine for me". That may be true, but there are also others, especially people who run businesses from home, who would benefit hugely from the sort of speeds that UFB will provide. The WRRRA thinks it is important that we are not left out, so we are starting the process of getting those who make the decisions to include Waiatarua in the project. The Waitakere Local Board is supportive, and has offered to set up a meeting with the providers so we can find out the official line.

We want to keep you all informed, but realise that not everybody has a huge interest in the topic. So we are asking that if you are

interested in being involved in this, please send your name, phone number and email address to tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz and we will set up a separate mailing list to keep you up to date. We will of course keep the wider community informed as well, but not in so much detail. If you have any particular skills/ideas/information that might help us, please include those details in your email.

If you've read all the above and thought "boring, not interested, doesn't affect me!" then consider this. 10 years ago, it would be very rare to see a website address in a print or TV ad. Now, there are often times when the **only** source of information is the internet. These days, you can download movies to watch on your computer or TV, and that trend is going to grow. At the moment it takes a significant amount of time to download a movie, even with the latest speeds. UFB will be hugely faster. And in addition, there are likely to be applications that haven't even been thought of that will become feasible once a really high speed connection becomes the norm. What about a real-time video consultation with a professional adviser, whether it is a doctor, lawyer or accountant? It can be done now, but it is awkward and unreliable – UFB will make that a run-of-the mill activity.

So do consider joining the group that wants to make sure Waiatarua isn't left behind.
- Tony Bacon

Neighbourhood Support Waitakere Update

Hi residents, well it has been three years since we have been back and running. I called for a public meeting in 2008 with reference to the crime rate in Waiatarua at the time, over 60 individuals attended with more than 40 stating they would be Street Contacts, (somebody who would forward emails and reports). Apart from those who have moved away most of those individuals are still operating. Unfortunately we lost Cascade when the street contact was no longer able to continue and now I have lost Kauri Loop Road, this road has almost 90% membership but I have not found a replacement S/C. I should explain that the residents will still receive the Intel Reports direct from the office, however if NS Waitakere folds due to lack of funding or such then those individuals would be lost, whereas if there is a S/C, then we will continue to operate.

When we were formed we were getting between 10-15 suspicious/criminal activities being reported, this include a 'home invasion' during the night, several burglaries and other criminal activities, in the last 12 months we have received only five such reports. Something tells me that Neighbourhood Support works and is successful.

We are not just there for the 'Crime scene' but also support 'good neighbours', this involves checking on sole occupants in times of Civil Emergencies and even when there are serious illnesses going round.

We ask you to let your neighbours know when you are away, so they may check over your property, letter box etc, be able to contact you if a situation occurs.

More than any other group we have had successes, with neighbours reporting criminal activities; this has led to over six group arrests and prosecutions, more recently in Bush Road and also on WCR, Forest Hill and Scenic Drive.

We even have Dave P passing on information to his Hotmail Group, Dave passes on local reports and news but is unable to pass on the Police Intel report.

So what am I asking, all the residents of Waiatarua have benefited from the work of a few, I AM ASKING FOR MORE INDIVIDUALS TO PUT THEIR HAND UP AND VOLUNTEER TO BE A STREET CONTACT.

The Role, yes a one hour introduction brief, receiving emails and forwarding on to the signed up residents, getting residents to sign up and to act as a liaison person in the times of a Civil Emergency. NS was probably more involved with action being taken following the Earthquakes in Christchurch than any other organisation.

If you think you fit the bill please contact me on 814 1130, 021 720 100 and les.duffield@xtra.co.nz

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community "On the Ball" Service

Come and celebrate sporting success, everyone welcome

Sunday 9th October 9.30am

Oratia Church - 622-624 West Coast Rd Oratia

Ph: 8188 344

Quiz Night

Saturday 19th November - details in next month's newsletter.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our October 5 visit is to Westridge in Titirangi. This garden has a reputation as Titirangi's most renowned garden with an emphasis on Rhododendrons, Vireyas, Clivias and Bromeliads. Afternoon tea will be in Titirangi. Please contact Eileen on 8149 298 for further information. Our November get together will be a full day of visiting gardens.

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4:30pm Blockhouse Bay, 7pm Henderson

Wednesdays: 6pm Kumeu

Thursdays: 9am Titirangi, 4:30pm

Blockhouse Bay, 7pm New Lynn

Fridays: 8:30am Henderson, 10am

Massey, 11:30am Ranui

Saturdays: 9am Oratia

Private and semi-private Pilates classes available on request.

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2-for-1: Pay for one class and get another for free OR bring a friend and pay half price each for first class!

For more enquiries/bookings email Jo at physio.jo@hotmail.co.nz or call 021 0269 5019.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi Dave

It is Kay Macgregor here and I would humbly like to say I wish to resign from the job of delivering the news letters. I can't remember how long myself and my family have been doing this service but it is at least 15 years. The children have always helped me because some part of it we walk and the rest we drive so one child has to put the letters in the box from the passenger window. We have enjoyed doing this every month, instilling in the children the attributes of responsibility and contribution to the community. However the nobility has worn off and I now have to listen to them arguing who is going to do it and have to resort to bribery. It takes me much longer by my self and I am ready to pass it on to the next volunteer. I am happy to continue until a new recruit comes forward. Our delivery numbers are 284 Forest Hill Rd to Kellys Rd. Can you please pass this on to who ever it may concern.

Thanks Dave

kind regards

Kay Macgregor

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Hi Kay,

All one can say is a huge thanks for your families help over the years, I have passed this on to Tony Bacon who organises the deliveries.

Once again our sincere thanks

Dave.

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Hi all,

Above is the email I received on the 11th September and this made me stop and think of all the people and families like Kay's that quietly work away for us and 15 even 20 plus years service is not unusual.

I had a little chuckle picturing these little children that used to hang out the passenger window delivering to mailboxes, are now probably teens and it is no longer cool to help deliver newsletters with mum.

Now is a good time to stop and think about all those people involved with the newsletter Robyn O'Sullivan and Nicki Warner, Longley Printing, Tony Bacon and the army of deliverers, and you thought it just appeared in your letterbox each month wet or fine.

The library where we have a group on weekly roster to not only man the library but organise the great selection of books we have available, once again some of these people have given 20 plus years service.

Fire Brigade who fortunately are not kept too busy but it is reassuring to know they are there and ready to respond to whatever is required at anytime day or night.

On your behalf I thank each and every one of them for their commitment to our comfort and well being.

Our local drama group recently presented a season of "The Diary Of Anne Frank" and I believe it was a production second to none which also had me thinking, do we appreciate the talents we have available to us locally?

The talent of the actors of course is there for us all to see, but have a look at the set, the props, the costumes and be aware of lighting and sound effects. With a couple of exceptions this is all created by locals as are a lot of the actors so next time give yourself a treat to a great night out.

I have had the comment regarding limited parking and yet we have 80 turn up for the Great Debate each year and seating for the plays is 65 max.

Broadband! Sick of it? Well we have formed a sub-committee (or working party), headed by Tony Bacon making sure that we are not left behind in the update department and they will be reporting back as appropriate without the need for too much technical jargon for those that don't need it.

Don't forget next quiz night 19th November.

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

by FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER 2011 - 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

munster@ihug.co.nz

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

NEW BOOKS AT YOUR WAIATARUA LIBRARY THIS MONTH.

“Sarah Thornhill” – Kate Grenville. Family secrets about involvement in an earlier Aboriginal massacre threaten Sarah’s love for a part Aboriginal man. However, this is not just a love story. This sequel to Grenville’s earlier novel “A Secret River” comes with all the history, secrets and loss that the Thornhills have shared in establishing a life in early Australia and follows Sarah life as a young woman in the young colony.

“The Beauty of Humanity Movement” – Camilla Gibb. A Vietnamese woman returns to her own country after growing up in the USA. She wants to learn about her father, who was a member of a dissident group critical of the communist regime. She finds an old man who was also a member of the group, but it seems the past is best forgotten and so much history has been erased in modern Vietnam.

“On Canaan’s Side” – Sebastian Barry. Following the suicide of her grandson, a Gulf War veteran, an elderly woman reflects on her life. A life that has seen a childhood in Dublin, two World Wars, a depression, life in a new country, bringing up a child alone and then bringing up her grandson. She reflects on the many people and places that have been part of her long life.

“Blood, Bones and Butter” – Gabrielle Hamilton. Now the owner of a New York restaurant, Hamilton never intended to be a chef. Her path was unusual as she worked in a range of kitchens in Greece, Turkey and France. This book is brutal and honest as she tells the story of her progression to embracing family life, owning a restaurant and learning from an Italian mother-in-law. Both Nigella and Anthony Bourdain say “read it!!”

“The Borrower” – Rebecca Makkai. A young boy escapes from his controlling parents by reading in the library. One day the librarian finds him in the library, after hours, packed and planning to run away. She helps him by taking him to his grandmothers, but knowing he never intended going there and his directions are way off. A crazy road trip follows which celebrates many well-loved children’s books and journeys of the imagination.

“All That I Am” – Anna Funder. A woman living in Sydney is sent a notebook containing the recollections of a colleague from many years ago. This story is based on real people in a group of anti- Hitler people in Germany prior to WW2. They actively opposed Hitler’s regime, but ended up fleeing to London. They returned to Germany to carry out resistance activities. The telling of the real risks, courage, heroism and betrayal all contribute to this historical and political thriller.

GOOD READING

Fire Brigade Report

Louis Ferguson

We have had a fairly quiet month call wise, but have kept up a busy training schedule, including doing some extra training with our neighboring brigade at Karekare.

Fire Calls

20th Aug 2011, 03:13 - Car Fire, Piha Rd, Upper Nihotupu Dam Car Park

28th Aug 2011, 15:44 - MVA car vs. car, Karekare Rd, Karekare

Guy Fawkes

The Waiatarua Fire Brigade will be holding the Guy Fawkes Bonfire as usual. So come along on Saturday the 5th of November (or the rain day Sunday the 6th) for a fun family night. If you have any doubt about the weather just phone the fire station on 814 9213 on the night.

We will light the bon fire once it gets dark. Fireworks are welcome, but children must be supervised at all times.

Where: Waiatarua Fire station – 464a Scenic Drive

When: Saturday 5th of November from 6pm onwards

Need A Smoke Alarm!!!

Standard Smoke Alarms are available Free from the brigade; Please Contact DCFO Karl Nuttall Details Below.

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).

From the Editor Robyn O’Sullivan

I made it back to the country two days after the start of the World Cup and I apologise for bringing torrential rain with me; it hasn’t let up since I arrived! But the country is in a good mood and that’s what matters and I can sit back and watch Sonny Bill Williams whilst I get over my jetlag. What a tough life!

You received a timely warning last month about the cyclists that would no doubt be using our roads to practice for the Round Taupo Cycle Race in a couple of months. At seven thirty this morning when I left for my hula class, I espied cones on one side of the road and the warning sprung immediately to mind, so I drove rather more sedately than usual.

An hour later on my journey home, I was driving through screeds of runners in all states of disrepair completing a marathon, so be warned... there might be more athletic activity up here than we are normally used to. Please don’t kill any tourists!

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.

Community Pet Service - Oratia Church. Bring your pets and celebrate the animal kingdom. All pets and owners are welcome to attend on Sunday 11th Sept 9.30am -622-624 West Coast Rd Oratia.

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.

Iyoga formerly Yoga Aravinda at Waiatarua 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: Bromeliads \$5 - \$6; Taros, cannas and various shrubs \$4 - \$5. All sales to Nepalese Educ Trust. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

Social card player wanted to make up foursome to play Canasta/Samba for occasional Saturday nights. Please ph Lynn on 8149468 or 0274918294 or email lbainbridge@xtra.co.nz

Thanks to the support of a wonderful community, WAIATARUA now has its very own Marriage Celebrant. NORMA is available to take bookings for weddings and other ceremonies. Phone 814 1868.

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursday of each month.

Waiatarua Playcentre: 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. 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

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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