



Musings from the Mountains

by Paul "Grumpy old bugger" Osborne

As many of you will be aware Leonie and I have been joined by little William who arrived 13th February and instantly

changed our lives. Sleep deprivation being the main one. So as I'm sitting there trying to wind him at 3 o'clock in the morning I tend to ponder on things like what sort of world he's come into compared with when I was a child.

Now I can hear some of you now saying can I remember being a child? But we'll leave those in the cheap seats to ponder trying to remember their childhood.

We've all seen the e-mails that do the rounds saying that children born today will never know about vinyl records or even CD's but they never actually ponder on the more serious side of things. Little William will grow up never knowing what a butter conditioner is.

We'll return to the situation of the butter later, but there are serious problems with the world that young William has entered. Television is not what it used to be, we have the "Entertainment Channel" which seems to contain no entertainment what so ever, a "Comedy Channel" that rumour has it occasionally contains comedy, then there's "Reality TV". What on earth is that? In my day it was a David Attenborough documentary, but now it appears that people who have had some sort of lobotomy who want to make a complete *** of themselves, how educational is that? UKTV does have an occasional show called "Grumpy Old Men" Which Leonie seems to think I'm ideal for, I don't know what she means, it's not me it's the other buggers!!

Now some of you might know that although William is Leonie's first, I have been there done that but it would appear that someone has

re-written the book in the meantime. For instance when did they do away with safety pins to hold a nappy on? I have discovered one thing however, while wandering around the shops with William, women flock to me, somehow though I suspect that I'm not the reason for this, but please allow a middle age man his dreams.

So now the question that's been giving you sleepless nights (I like to share), the condition of our butter. Well it would appear that to counter the alleged threat of global warming the makers of fridges have scrapped the butter conditioner in order to make their devices slightly more efficient. But now that we are apparently cooling what are we going to do to make our butter usable? I'll leave this problem for William to work out which hopefully he'll have done before we have to replace our 10 year old fridge (with butter conditioner).

Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust presents:

"Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling, directed by Kathy Lowe.

At the Waiatarua Community Hall, from May 16th to May 26th 2012
Tickets will go on sale on the 30th April.

Adults - \$20.00

Children 15 and under - \$15.00

Seniors 65 and over - \$15.00

Groups of 10 and more - \$15.00 per ticket (Tickets need to be paid when ordered)

Additional specials may be announced closer to opening night.

To book, phone 814 1850 or at www.wpat.org.nz/boxoffice

Waitakere Track Closures

The following tracks (or sections of these tracks) will be closed from July 1st 2012:

Cascade Kauri: Robinsons Ridge Track

Anawhata: Chateau Mosquito, RGB Track.

Waiatarua: Walker Kauri Track, Dreamlands Track, Taumata Track.

Piha: Lucy Cranwell Track

Karekare: La Trobe Track

Huia: Nuggets Track, Bob Gordon Track (Mt Donald McLean)

Parau: Crusher Pipeline Track, Nihotupu Ridge Track, Summit Track (between Nihotupu Ridge and Hamiltons Farley Track), Farley Track, Manchester Unity Block (between Victory Road and Big Muddy Creek).

Please use the trigene stations whenever you walk past one. For some walks that may mean 4 plus stations, if that is the case please use each one.



The talented cast of Steel Magnolias from left: Elizabeth, Francene, Val, Linda, Andrea and Rochelle.

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

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From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

I've been thinking about speed this week; not the dubious narcotic type but the regular four rubber tyres on a road type! My stretch of the Scenic Drive has speed signs galore and if you follow them to the letter, it makes for a very inconsistent (speed-wise) drive home. Then we also have the very slow drivers (living on a very fast road) creeping out of their driveways in a cautious manner with a top speed on maybe 4 k's an hour, which leaves them practically motionless on the wrong side of the road. All of which brings me to my story....

When I returned to my car this morning with my umpteen bags of groceries, I remembered too late that I still had a fold up single bed in the boot, which didn't leave much room for said groceries. I was able to wedge most of them safely around the bed but the two remaining ones had to perch on top. I did think at the time that this was not the safest or most sensible way to travel but deluded myself with the memory of never having had an accident.

So here I was, driving along at the optimum allowable speed when I came across a car driving at a dead snail pace onto the road. Thank goodness for my panther-like reflexes. I was able to stop, albeit quickly, but was then assaulted from behind by a flying peanut butter jar and felt something dry and powdery on my feet. Yes, a bag of flour had been too heavy to continue its journey and had cooked out mid-flight and rolled beneath my seat to cover me in a fine white dust. That would have been something to explain had a man in blue popped up at that point!

So I want you to think about speed this month. Are the roads of Waiatarua safe to travel on? Are the signposted speeds too high? Is it time to change? Ponder on that this month...you never know what you might be quizzed on at a later date!

Enjoy the month!

Garden Group Eileen Powell

Our next garden visit is to a sub-tropical garden in Whenuapai and the date is Wednesday 2 May. The garden has a large plant collection of Bromeliads, Cycads, Aloes and Agaves etc. Please ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information.

Waiatarua Book Group

Our second lively meeting was held on April 2nd and we are now positively buzzing with new books to explore due to the great contributions of members.

We have changed our meeting day to the first Monday in the month at 7.00pm. The next meeting will be on Monday May 7th.

Interested in joining us? Ring Nicky 413 6399.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by **FRIDAY 18th MAY 2012 - 5PM**
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi All,

Another month has sped by and winter is catching up fast although we have enjoyed a late summer spell. And I have been told this winter will be dry but cold, although as I write this it is raining.

Below is a letter received in response to last month's newsletter and if this sounds like you the answer is below the letter.

Hi Dave

Thanks for the newsletter received in our letterbox this morning. You pose the question of why so many residents don't join the association.

John and I have no excuse but a very weak one. We are always saying we must join, but thoughts don't quite turn into action. We never seem to get the cheque book out, or make the walk up the hill to your letter box with a \$10 note.

We do, however, do most of our banking on-line. I wonder if it would help to get more people to join if you printed a bank account number for deposits in the newsletter, and request that the person uses their name and address as references, and then send an email to the Treasurer informing him of the deposit.

In the meantime, my task for today is to get that cheque book out, and send our membership this year? Then store the firewood we've had delivered ready for another winter which is approaching fast.

Thanks for all the work you and the committee do for Waiatarua.

How you can apply for your membership:

Post or place at 911 West Coast Rd, deliver to library or internet banking account: 12-3051-0278313-00. If doing by internet don't forget name and drop us a line to say it has been done to Treasurer John Stagg jstaggandagarnham@gmail.com, we would like your postal address, email and phone number. Membership is \$10 per household and is open to anyone residing in Waiatarua, either owning or renting their home.

Coming up over the next two months are The Debate and Steel Magnolias both of which will be detailed in our newsletter but I would like to mention two people who are extremely busy being heavily involved in both and that is Kor Prins and Robin Essex. Kor is the president of the drama club and does the sound and lighting as well as organising set building. He also organises sound and stage set up, as well as MC for the great debate. Robin also gets involved in the plays whilst organising the contestants for the debate which in itself necessitates finding three new people each year as well as communicating with previous years winners. Thanks guys we do appreciate your efforts.

Well that is me for another month,

Dave

Fire Brigade Report

Louisa Mullins

This month saw Karl Nuttall step down from the position of Deputy Chief Fire Officer and take on the role of Senior Fire-Fighter. We appreciate the time Karl has put into the job over the last two years. Applications for a new DCFO have been advertised and a replacement will be appointed by the Fire Service in the near future, so hopefully next month we will have news of a new DCFO for Waiatarua Fire Brigade.

Fire Calls

11/03/2012, 10:05am: Car Fire, Piha Road, Piha. By the time the brigade was called the car was completely burnt out, although some dampening down of the surrounding area was needed.

18/03/2012, 10:37am: Medical, Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. Waiatarua crew members assisted Ambulance with a patient at Arataki Visitors Centre.

20/03/2012, 09:09pm: MVA, West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Quite a few of us heard this before and as it happened. The screech of tyres followed by the bang and for some the reduced power supply sort of gave it away. The lucky driver was not hurt, couldn't say the same for the transformer or the car. You may have noticed the new transformer on the left just above Cascade Ave.

24/03/2012, 6:59am: MVA, Piha Road, Waiatarua.

25/03/2012, 12:02pm: Medical, Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. Assist Ambulance and Police.

30/03/2012, 11:50pm: MVA, Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. Police were in attendance and the fire brigade was stood down on arrival.

Waiatarua Fire Brigade Contacts

Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency.

Otherwise please call Chief Fire Officer Helen Longley (814 9855), Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505), Station Officer Gareth Mullins (814 9282).

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

While some may lament the closure of some of the tracks in the Waitakeries due to Kauri Die-Back, there are some of us who have been frustrated by the council's lack of action. I work in forestry research and was part of a group called in by the (then) ARC to discuss this virulent infection that was taking hold in a number of Kauri remnant stands around the country. That was in 2009 (as I recall). At that time I called for the tracks in infected areas to be closed. The ARC's answer was: "Oh no, we can't do that, the public would be outraged". Also at that time two other suggestions were made:

1. There are fungicides that can kill/control the disease on the ground so that the infection is not as easily spread. The ARC said that they would not do this as it would kill native fungi as well. This is about as stupid an answer as I have ever heard as all one needs to do is throw some leaf litter back into the area (from outside the infected area) and you will re-inoculate with the native fungi. The Kauri, on the other hand, have no defence and have extremely long lifetimes that can be cut short.

2. There are stem injectable treatments used for a very similar disease in avocados, why not try them? The answer again was "oh no, we can't do that as we don't know the right dosage." Once again an incredibly stupid answer as mortality in infected Kauri is 100%. What have you got to lose? In situations like this you are fighting time as the disease spreads (which it certainly has).

The ARC, in its infinite wisdom, decided that they would do nothing and ask the government for lots of money to study the problem. Well, it's fairly common knowledge that in any outbreak the first line of defence is quarantine. The ARC failed to recognise this for three years, which could have made the difference between controlling the disease and a wipe out. Six months after the initial hui on this disease the ARC gave a presentation to the New Zealand Institute of Forestry on the disease. They had done a survey to see what the level of infection was in the ARC area. I asked if the persons doing the survey had disinfected their shoes between trees/areas of infection. There was a pregnant silence. We know the answer.

Most recently I received a letter from the Auckland council wishing to come and inspect our native bush remnant. They did not request to set up a date/time, but just asked for permission to roll up at their convenience and go inspect our bush. I contacted them to ask if their inspectors carry disinfectant to clean their shoes. They did not.

In my opinion the ARC and Auckland council have, through their stupidity and arrogance, done everything possible to worsen what could have been a controllable problem. I hold no hope of this disease being controlled when we are dealing with such ineptness.

An unfortunate bit of mirth to do with this was that the ARC was trying to blame the spread on the wild pigs (which they would like to have the excuse to spend lots of money to wipe out). The truth is that the disease spread initially from Great Barrier Island and wound up in Northland, the Waitakeries, and other disconnected areas. Pigs spread it? When pigs fly! Then again swine flu....

Wade Cornell

New Books at Waiaatarua Library

Jeannette Ziesler

"Capital" – John Lanchester. This focuses on the lives of people in a London street leading up to and during the financial crisis. There are those on an average income and those who have more. Life can change so quickly when the economics of the world change and affect all.

"The World We Found" – ThrityUmrigar. An Indian woman, who has lived in the USA for 20 years is dying and wants her three best friends to visit from India. These friends have stayed in India but their lives have changed and not always for the best.

"Lone Wolf" – Jodi Picoult. A famous wolf researcher is left comatose after an accident. His children face the dilemma of what to do. A miracle may occur and he comes around or do they agree to terminate his life and donate the organs. Agreement between siblings is not a foregone conclusion.

"The Land Of Decoration" – Grace McCleen. A 10year old girl creates her own world of miniatures in her bedroom as an escape from the real world that does not treat her and her father kindly because of their deeply held religious beliefs. Is Armageddon coming or does she have special powers that can change things.

"Home Front" – Kristin Hannah. He's an attorney and she's a housewife and a helicopter pilot with the National Guard. Their life and marriage is slowly drifting apart until she is deployed to Iraq. He learns about organising a family and his commitment to them and she faces fear and death.

Good reading.

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Community Notices are free to current financial members.

Babysitter Jade Casey Waby, 16 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.

Broadband in Waiaatarua - To be kept informed about developments (or lack of them), send your name, phone number and email address to Tony Bacon at tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

GirlGuiding NZ is looking for a Brownie Leader to help girls between the aged of 7 and 9½ in Laingholm. The Guiding programme is packed with activities and challenges giving you the chance to experience them along with the girls. So take up the challenge and do something 'extraordinary' by becoming part of our organisation today. www.girlguidingnz.org.nz or phone 638 9076

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Musical instruments for sale: Baldwin piano + stool, approx 20 years old but in excellent condition, beautiful tone and holds tuning well, has anti-humidity heater, \$1,800. **Acoustic Guitars** both 3/4 size and in as-new condition with nylon carry cases - Ashton CXG-34NT, \$60; Sonic Jag-7300-BB-S (blue with steel strings) \$110. Ph Molly 814 9034 or email mollymat@xtra.co.nz

NORMA is available to take bookings for weddings and other ceremonies. Phone 814 1868.

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.

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.

Wanted for Feb. 2012 - Reliable person to take child to and from Rangeview school, pick up and drop off from Turanga Road, Henderson Valley. Payment to be arranged. Ph 09 838 2093 asap.

Work Wanted: Drainage - 40 years experience, call Ray on 814 9242.

DEBATE

Saturday 23rd June

Chair Simon Praast

Moot to be decided

Mothers Day Community Service

Come and celebrate all Mothers
Everyone Welcome
Sunday May 13th 9.30am
Oratia Church
Cnr of Parker & West Coast Rds
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