

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

June 2012



To Interested People In Waiatarua

John Isaachsen

was wonderful. There are good clear window panels above and beside you, very simple but robust little doors and a well-trained interesting safety trainer, a lady of knowledge, who is careful to point out clearly what would happen if a silly of any age put a head, arm or

Have you experienced the railway – the Rainforest Express – in the misty rain after substantial wet? My family did. It

foot the least bit out of line. They show us the glow-worms, know the history and stop to stretch legs over a busy steep noisy stream. I loved seeing my old completely harmless, no spines and no-bite friends, the cave wetas - like slender grasshoppers with legs the best part of a man's hand span long; short slim body and graceful feelers out front about the same length as the legs. (One living in our pump shed sprang gently onto me many years ago and stayed long enough so that we could both study each other.)

The Great Waiatarua Mid-Winter Debate 2012

Saturday 23rd June - 7.30pm

at the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road

Tickets \$23.00 each - B.Y.O Drinks (WRRRA non-Members \$28.00)

Prepaid tickets only - Purchase before June 14th

Phone Jan on 814 9194
or email pwmandjjj@xtra.co.nz

Delectable Canapes and Dessert menu created by

Thoughtful Food

Debate Chaired by:

Simon Prast

Producer, Director, Actor

2011 returning champions

Brett Whyte

Well-known local character.

Carmel Sepuloni.

Former labour MP and hard-working representative.

Norma

WRRRA committee member and celebrant.

2012 Challengers yet to be revealed

I shall never forget the whole spillway's width and height, white with busy sounding water on the Upper Nihotupu dam; the terminus.

Several mature kauri high on the opposite ridge were clear but when we stopped to look down the valley at the wide distant lower dam, we saw a fine display of mist and nearby trees only. The council runs morning, afternoon and evening trips which take about 2 ½ hours each starting at Jacobsen's depot below and south of the Arataki information Centre. (Your car is unseen behind a well-locked gate during the trip) A barbecue near the dam can be used in the evenings. Entry is conditional on taking every little bit of rubbish out again for disposal at home systems.

We learned that nikau palms are twenty years old before making trunks above ground and black tree ferns can reach fifteen metres high or more in an average lifetime. Happy mamukus have about nineteen enormous symmetrical leaves at once, renewed each spring. Aren't they beautiful?

Did I ever tell you that when the dam was being built, my Uncle Olaf (a surveyor's assistant around 1915-1920) rode to work between the rails, over many hundreds of spaced wooden exposed sleepers on an early Harley Davidson motor cycle which was so shaken that almost every bolt had to be drilled, for a split pin, to keep its nut on well.

That dam supplies 15% of Auckland's water. We can walk to it from Piha Rd (about ¾ of an hour). The train trips should be booked ahead at Arataki. Be on time to avoid being locked out!

ELEVATION RESTAURANT
FABULOUS WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL
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PH 814 1919

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

From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

Yet again, I have swapped the hills of home for those of Scotland. I have been spending a few weeks reacquainting myself with my Scottish granddaughter and her parents before my daughter returns to work in preparation for the big move back home sometime next year. (On that note: if anyone knows of any jobs in the oil industry available in Auckland, please get in touch...)

The weather here is similar to what it was like when I left home. They are celebrating spring and awaiting summer (which never quite comes in Scotland) while we are anticipating the coming winter... I think it's much cooler here!

However, there are a couple of events coming up this month to warm the cockles of your heart; the debate is on for the 23rd promising much laughter and a winter solstice celebration at Elevation on the 21st. So leave your fires and come out for a bit of social intercourse.

And don't forget to check out all our new advertisers. We have had quite a few lately, so lots of variety on offer! Please support our local people!

Have a good June!

Garden Group Eileen Powell

Have you noticed all the beautiful autumn colours around especially driving through Oratia on your way home? Quite spectacular!

Our June 6 visit is to West Lynn Gardens in New Lynn where Camellias and Azaleas will be featured. There are still a few Monarch Butterflies in the Butterfly House along with the caterpillars. Entry Fee \$3. For further information ring Eileen on 814 9298.

JULY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by **FRIDAY 15th JUNE 2012 - 5PM**
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

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)

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

Blow Moulders Ltd
8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden, Ph 818 7709
(cash and cheque sales only)

Elevation 473 Scenic Dr, Ph 814 1919

Fire Brigade Report

RFF Louisa Mullins

This month we congratulate Gareth Mullins on his promotion to Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the Waiaatarua Volunteer fire Brigade. Congratulations Gareth!

We are always learning and bettering ourselves; earlier this month RFF Sam Denny, RFF Jason Mann & RFF Jay Percival all attended a 2 day first aid training course in Papamoa. Well Done team!!

Fire Safety

It seems we are now heading in to winter, the last few nights I have put my electric Blanket on to warm up the bed before I get in.

Electric Blankets

Worn and old electric blankets can cause electric shock, fire and possibly even death.

- Have your electric blanket tested annually by a qualified electrician.
- Turn off the electric blanket power when you get into bed.
- Do not place heavy objects on the bed while the electric blanket is turned on.
- Ensure electric blanket controls are not twisted or caught between the mattress and base.
- Make sure the electric blanket is tightly secured and laid flat on the bed.
- When not in use, store your electric blanket rolled up, NOT folded.
- Electric blankets are not recommended for use by babies or young children as "bed-wetting" may occur.

Fire Calls

28 April 2012, 1830: MVA, Scenic Dr. (A lucky escape for the driver of a 4WD after he lost control on a bend and ended upside on the other side of the road)

28 April 2012, 1846: MVA, Piha Rd. No Action By Brigade.

14 May 2012, 2022: Tree Down, West Coast Rd.

Need A Smoke Alarm!!!

Standard Smoke Alarms are available Free from the brigade; If you would like some smoke alarms or advice on where to put them or help installing them, Please contact Louisa Mullins on 8149282.

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 Gareth Mullins (814 9282), Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505).

Winter Solstice Celebration

As we basked in the golden weather of a wonderful autumn, it was hard to believe that the days were deepening and darkening, and sliding inevitably towards winter. Now it's only a few weeks, to the Winter Solstice; to the shortest day and the longest night of the year. In New Zealand, the Winter Solstice coincides with Matariki, the Maori New Year. So the Winter Solstice in this country also celebrates the unique place in which we live, and the land we are fortunate enough to live on. Since ancient times, the Winter Solstice has been celebrated with festivals all over the world: festivals that are full of hope and promise, as people throw off the grip of winter, and welcome the return of the coming spring, and the new life that it represents.

This year, Waiaatarua is getting in on the act! On 21 June, the Thursday before The Great Waiaatarua Debate, Elevation Restaurant is hosting a joyful, multi-cultural celebration of the Winter Solstice, with fabulous specially prepared food, music, dancing, story-telling and song. You are warmly invited to be there, to chase away the winter blues and to welcome the return of the coming spring.

Of course, there is the usual 10% discount for members of The Waiaatarua Resident and Ratepayers Association – a good reason to join if you haven't already! Pre-booking is essential; phone the restaurant: 814 1919 to reserve your place.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

I ENCLOSE:

\$10 household

2012

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

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi y'all,

Some of you that receive Hotmail may have noticed that it has been coming at crazy times such as 3 a.m, 1 a.m. etc. No I do not suffer from insomnia but Shirley and I have spent the last month in the USA visiting Houston, Miami, San Juan and Humacao in Puerto Rico, seven night Caribbean cruise and five nights in New Orleans on the way home.

Fantastic trip, enjoyed it all but there is nowhere in the world like New Orleans, especially Bourbon and Frenchman Streets. The French District was untouched by Hurricane Katrina and about 90% of damage to other areas is fixed, although some roads are a bit of a challenge.

If you like music, be it Jazz, Blues, Reggae or Rock you need to visit here, but classical was very obvious by its absence, thank goodness.

We found people in the south and the Caribbean to be very friendly and somewhat more laid back than some of the bigger cities.

Like all Americans generally, they are very positive and proud, although you do not mention Obama as he would appear to be the most unpopular man in America.

We had a hire car in Puerto Rico and I found driving on the right not that difficult but would recommend a GPS as we visited lots of streets we didn't need or want to.

We left two days after the April committee meeting and returned two days after the May one, right in the middle of debate organising but of course the team under the leadership of Susanne had things well under control.

The Auckland Council is currently reassessing leasing conditions and funding, both of which are very important to our finances, and Treasurer John has been studying this very carefully and has made submissions on our behalf.

The council's objective is to bring the whole of Auckland under one system and although fine in principle is not necessarily practical in all cases, but be assured we will be pushing for the best for us and to maintain funding at its present level or above.

The hardest part about coming home is adjusting from temperatures in the mid to high 30s down to our 10-17 and RAIN.

Well that's me for another month; see you at the Debate,

Dave

New Books at Waiaatarua Library

Jeannette Ziesler

Here's the sequel to Wolf Hall. "Bring Up The Bodies" – Hilary Mantel. Life with Henry the 8th as seen through the eyes of Cromwell. Catherine has gone, Anne Boleyn is married to the King, but Jane is already on the horizon. This, plus all the other political machinations of the time.

Life in war time France. "The Lavender Keeper" – Fiona McIntosh. When his Jewish family's lavender business is seized in 1942, Luc joins the French Resistance. Meanwhile, Lisette is recruited by the British to infiltrate the German High Command in Paris. They meet but can they trust each other?

Terrorism in Europe. "A Sentimental Traitor" – Michael Dobbs. A missile takes out an airliner flying over the skies of London, killing all onboard. Investigations show that there appears to be a plot to take over all of Europe. But who is involved and why and how can it be stopped?

A deep love of conservation and a man. "An African Love Story" – Daphne Sheldrick. Forty years of fighting for the survival of many of Kenya's wild animals in the Tsavo National Park. Daphne and her husband protected these animals from poachers, drought and a corrupt Game Department.

Life on an isolated island. "The Light Between Oceans" - M.L. Stedman. A veteran of WWI and his young wife start life together as lighthouse keepers on an island off the Australian coast. While mourning the loss of a stillborn baby she finds a boat washed ashore with a dead man, but also a live baby. The dilemma facing her is whether to keep the baby and stay quiet. If she does this, is it possible that the baby has a family out there and what will the future hold for them all?

The cost of renewing a city. "The House I Loved" – Tatiana de Rosnay. On the orders of Emperor Napoleon III, Baron Haussmann has organised the razing of much of Paris to transform it into a modern city. One woman is determined to stay in her family home. To overcome the loneliness she delves into her memories and reveals many secrets.

Good reading for the cold winter nights.

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 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

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.

Lawn mowing and section clean ups. Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 8149493 mob 02102475610

Looking For Work: House Cleaner available; Ring Natasha Vaitupu on 814 9660 or mob. 027 859 4027

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.

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