



## Musings from the Mountains

Well, I don't know if it's the lack of sleep from young William or the fact that the older I get, the more I'm turning into Victor Meldrew, but the lack of toler-

ance combined with disbelief in the intelligence of some people is definitely putting me in the grumpy old bugger category.

But it's not just me. As the first into work each morning, I have first choice on the radio station. Now I don't know about you but Leonie and I have long given up on the commercial diatribe, preferring National Radio. Six months ago the rest of my department would come in, moan loudly and I'd soon be listening to the said diatribe. Nowadays I'm getting to listen to at least half of Nine to Noon before it gets switched. That said, I'm now not the only one talking back at the radio moaning at this and that.

Meanwhile back to my gripes. Our wonderful new council. I know that they're trying to do their best under strenuous circumstances but one has to wonder.

For those of you that aren't familiar with our end of Waiatarua (The Henderson Valley bit according to the Post Office, but that's another gripe for another day) you might not know that last winter, a chunk of Mountain Road actually decided that it wanted to be in the valley and slipped down the hill. Now you would have thought that a major slip on a narrow but well used road would get some sort of priority, but no. You ring the council and complain about Mountain Road only to find there are now three Mountain Roads so that appears to confuse them. The fact that two of them go up hillocks and only one goes up a mountain doesn't seem to cut the mustard.

After many enquiries to the council and many half promises we thought we were on to a winner when a letter to Ask Phoebe in the Herald about fixing the road prompted a reply from the council of mid June at the latest. Even that prompted letters to the editor after one from "concerned" of the lower end of Mountain Road, who got the wrong end of the stick and thought we were implying that we wanted a four lane highway to replace the current road. Now I won't name names but he stood in the last election for the only party named after a colour. See even prospective politicians want to twist everything.

Anyway come late June, I myself e-mailed said person in the council to ask them if they had a calendar or did they mean Mid June 2020. I never got a reply but within 2 days there were signs at the top end of Mountain Road and somewhere obscure down in Henderson Valley telling us that there would be road closures between the 9<sup>th</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> of August while they fix the slip. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of July we received a note in our mailbox informing us that the work will start on the 16<sup>th</sup> July until late August. Wasted money on those signs then, didn't they?

So the lesson here is the next time we have a slip on Mountain Road, I'm going to turn my garage into a convention centre. That way the Government will come to the party and we'll have a six lane highway with a "London eye" equivalent for those who want to get above the choking exhaust fumes for the view.

Paul "Grumpy Old Bugger" Osborne signing off until the next time.

### Funding for arts and cultural projects

Creative Communities scheme



#### Auckland Council invites applications for funding under the Creative Communities Scheme.

Creative Communities can support projects that meet one of the following three criteria:

- **Diversity** - The project supports the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.
- **Young people** - The project enables and encourages young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.
- **Broad community involvement** - The project creates opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities

Applications close 5pm 24 August.

To find out where information sessions and application workshops are being held in your local area: phone 09 301 0101 or visit [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/funding](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/funding)



#### Oratia Church & Hall 140th Anniversary

Celebration Service & Lunch, 9.30am August 12. Everyone Welcome

**Historical Society-On the history of Oratia.** Oratia Church Fellowship, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm - Guest Speaker Trevor Pollard.

#### Games Evenings

Scrabble, Rummikub, Chess etc. Everyone welcome. Supper included. Gold coin for Waitakere Outreach Foodbank. Last Friday of the month (till Oct) at 7pm. Queries Ph Lynda 813 9869.

**Oratia Church Hall**  
Cnr of Parker & West Coast Rds  
Ph: 8188 344

*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

**WEB Site:** [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

There's a variety of reading in this month's issue: the annual writing competition, some hopefully helpful comments re Compass' broadband, all of our usual contributors and yet again another rant from that self-professed 'grumpy old bugger' up on Mountain Rd. Read him at your peril! But hey! At least he's writing. Many people have promised much in the way of articles but nothing has eventuated. So c'mon all you guilty parties out there; put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and tell us all your woes, your hopes and dreams or whatever rankles.

It may be imagination but I think the temperature has picked up slightly this week. Three times, my roof temp has been eleven degrees by the time I get up instead of the usual 4-6 so hooray, it looks like the weather is on the turn. There is much rejoicing in my neck of the woods.

Enjoy your month!

## Garden Group Eileen Powell

Never fear! Although we are in the middle of a very cold winter the Camellias are brightening our days with the mass of flowers and with the promise of more to come. Daffodils are poking their heads above the soil and will flower next month along with Clivias. On the 1st August we are visiting the best place to see the biggest variety of Camellias and Vireyas in central Auckland which is Eden Gardens. Contact Eileen on 8149 298 for further information.

## Library Report Jeannette Ziesler

New books at the library:

"In One Person" – John Irving

"50 Shades of Grey" – E.L. James

"The Daughters Of Mars" – Tom Keneally

"Backlash" – Lynda La Plante

"An Absolute Deception" – Lesley Lokko

"Bridge of Scarlet Leaves" – Kristina McMorris

"Last Will" – Lisa Marklund

"Catching the Sun" – Tony Parsons

"I, Michael Bennett" – James Patterson

"The Woman Who Went To Bed For A Year" – Sue Townsend

"Food Truck" – Michael Van Elzen

"Noah's Child" – Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

Please remember that you can reserve books at our library.

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor  
by FRIDAY 17th AUGUST 2012 - 5PM  
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
munster@ihug.co.nz

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Seems hard to believe another month has passed, a busy one for me with a busy schedule of rehearsals for Hi-De-Hi, with the last rehearsal last night and opening night tomorrow, at time of writing this. Hope some of you saw the play and enjoyed it as much as we did performing it.

Of course one of the highlights of the past month was our annual Great Debate and once again it lived up to the right to have "Great" in its title, we had a comfortable sized attendance of 69 and taking into account that there was an All Black test on the same night, that was very pleasing.

The debate was a beauty with the negative team winning. Simon Prast was once again in top form setting the mood with his own brand of humour.

Congratulations to Denise, Jean and Boun and condolences to Brett, Norma and Jacob. I have to make special mention of Jacob who stood in for Carmel and at 18 years of age did an absolutely brilliant job.

"That the Purpose of Life is a Life of Purpose" was the moot and had the possibility of being the most serious yet and although there was some serious argument with some interesting facts being bandied about, humour won on the night

Here is an interesting observation and that is, as far as I can remember the affirmative team has never won The Great Debate.

This raises some interesting thoughts, do we like negativity better than positivity,

Is it easier to talk against instead of in favour of something, is the negative funnier, or, in the end does it really matter as long as we all have fun.

By the way, next year's debate is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June so mark your calendar now and you can be sure that Robin Essex will provide another interesting line up and challenging moot for our entertainment, I know she already has some ideas.

Well the year marches on and the next newsletter will be at the beginning of spring and hopefully some warmth although as I write this I have two men clambering around in the roof putting in insulation. Did you know that if your house is more than 20 years old and has none or old insulation the Government will subsidise the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation by 1/3 up to a max of \$1300. Just contact an installer and they do it all.

Well that's me for another month,

Dave

## Capturing the West - Essays in honour of J.T. Diamond 2012

The West Auckland Historical Society invites you to explore the local history of West Auckland by entering our 'Capturing the West' essay competition which honours the work of local historian J.T. (Jack) Diamond who spent a life-time recording information about the Western districts and who published its first regional history – *Once the Wilderness*. This competition is for student non-fiction writers, amateur adult writers and this year for the first time, semi and fully professional writers. Prizes are awarded for the winning essays with a selection published in the West Auckland Historical Society's journal *West of Eden*.

There are two essay categories: **Memories** – an essay based on your own experience or upon another person's recollections. **Research** – an essay based on research which includes the use of archival material such as oral histories, photographs, diaries and letters. Library assistance is available through the Learning Centres.

For further information and entry forms contact the West Auckland Historical Society Inc, PO Box 21-416, Henderson, Auckland 0650, email [essay@westaucklandhistory.org.nz](mailto:essay@westaucklandhistory.org.nz), phone (09) 836 5917, or visit the Society at Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Drive, Henderson between 10 am-3pm Mondays and 11 am-3pm Saturdays (except public holidays).

Many thanks go to our local businesses who donated these wonderful prizes to the Great Debate:

Annie Prince, Rosie Brown, Zoran Dakic, Brian Riley, Corazon Wines, Kim Nagam, Darren Anderson, Norma, Boun Khamwanthoung and Reg Nevill-Jackson

We thank these businesses for their generosity; some have donated to every Debate so if you are looking for a service or product, look local first as most things are covered amongst our advertisers.

## Fire Brigade Report

RFF Louisa Mullins

This month the qualifying members of the Waiatarua Fire brigade were presented with the 2011 issue of the International Year of the Volunteer medals and bars.

**2011 Medal** – Ex FF Tom Hopkins, Ex QFF Maxine Arden, RFF Louisa Mullins, FF Robert Forrest, FF Darren Gee, FF Joseph Hardie, FF Andy Holyer.

**10 Year Bar** (for people who got the medal back in 2001 and are still volunteering) – QFF Derek Renata, QFF Steve Smith, QFF Lyndsay Whittle, SFF Karl Nuttall, SO Kevin Healy, SO Ian Ford, DCFO Gareth Mullins, CFO Helen Longley.

UFBA honours were also presented at the same time

3 Year Certificate – RFF Louisa Mullins

5 Year Medal – FF Robert Forrest

2 Year Bar for 11 years service – SFF Karl Nuttall

2 Year Bar for 15 years service – SO Kevin Healy

Congratulations to all who received honours. They are well-deserved recognitions.

### Fire Safety - Gas Cylinders

- Always ensure there is adequate ventilation
- Store and install the cylinder in an upright position
- When changing cylinders make sure the valve on the empty cylinder is turned off before disconnecting and do not turn the valve on the new cylinder on until you are sure it is securely connected.
- When storing ensure that cylinders are somewhere where any escaping gas can disperse safely.

### Fire Calls

18/06/2012, 11:46pm - MVA, Forest Hill Road, Waiatarua. A car had left the road & hit a tree. The occupant/s had left the scene. Police were able to locate the driver who was of interest to them.

**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 814 9282.

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

## Need faster broadband?

### Compass Wireless opens new Waiatarua site

Compass Wireless has opened up a new wireless broadband site in West Auckland; offering up to 5Mbps download speeds and up to 1Mbps upload, Compass are able to provide both broadband internet and telephone lines as an alternative to the standard copper network.

The new wireless site is next to the TV transmission tower on Scenic Drive in the Waitakere Ranges and can connect customers through a small wireless dish on their roof up to 30 km away.

Compass Wireless covers all of Auckland as well as the major provincial centres across New Zealand. They are 100% New Zealand owned and operated and have been successfully offering fast, cost effective wireless broadband for over 9 years.

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If you are interested in hearing more about the Compass Wireless service, please email Zach at [letsgetwireless@compass.net.nz](mailto:letsgetwireless@compass.net.nz) or call him on 09 965 2782. Alternatively you can also visit our website at [www.compass.net.nz/wireless](http://www.compass.net.nz/wireless)

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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](mailto: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 Waiatarua** - 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](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz)

**Electrician & Alarm Installer** - Small local business providing a professional, reliable, quality service. From new installations to additions and small maintenance jobs. Including: power, lighting, alarms, data, TV, phones and home ventilation. Ben Fitness 833 1052 or 021 184 5276 FIT Electrical & Alarms.

**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. 3/4 size Acoustic guitar: Sonic Jag 7300-BB-S (blue with steel strings); as new and comes with nylon carry case: \$110. Ph Molly 814 9034 or email [mollymat@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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.

**Tiler / Stone layer,** 20 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021610408.

**Waiatarua Playcentre:** 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Phone 09 814 8835. Sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

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

## HALL HIRE

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