



## Obituary for Margaret Blumhardt

Margaret came to Waiatarua when she married Terry Blumhardt in December 1967. They settled on a few acres on West Coast Rd, opposite

Raroa Tce. It was here that they grew Tingitana Irises (blue). Margaret was always busy with wrapping and packing them each winter. They then grew kiwi fruit and Margaret helped with the picking. These went to the pack house.

When Eric had started school and Roger was at kindergarten, Margaret was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's Disease. Her future was uncertain as it involved much pain and a lot of treatment here and in Christchurch. Although she had a lot of uncomfortable ill health over the years she led a busy life, getting involved with school life and the community. She put up with numerous loads of coal and chicken poo on her front yard when the scouts at Sunnysvale were fund raising for a new den - providing drinks and food for the helpers.

Margaret attended the Oratia Combined Church and 30 years ago with another lady set up a "craft and coffee drop in" session at the

Church Hall. It started with a spinning circle and has since expanded to a spinning and craft group with about 35 - 40 attending each Monday morning. She also worked at the Glen Eden Citizens' Advice Bureau. Margaret was always willing to help others.

In the 1990s Terry and Margaret retired to Katikati. Three and a half years ago they moved to Johnsonville, Wellington, to be near Eric and Christine and their 2 grandchildren, Annaliese (6) and Nathan (4).

On 30 December 2012, in the early hours of the morning she suffered a heart attack and passed away immediately. Her comment all those years ago "I won't make old bones because of my condition" never eventuated as she was almost 76 when she passed away.

With many thanks to Paddy and Margaret Marshall for sharing their thoughts.

## Attention Dog Owners:

There have been concerns late year re stray dogs coming onto the fire station property and the phone exchange. One neighbour whose property backs onto the fire station has had 1/2 dozen incidents over the last five years where dogs have come roaming through onto her property. Her chickens were attacked a few months ago and as her two young children play out the back, she is concerned that they too will be harmed. She believes the dogs are likely to come back now that they have had some success.

I realise it is hard living in a area where fences are non-existent but it is a shame that not all dog owners are responsible for their animals.

## Inspired to Act?

Join acting training classes in 2013 at Rimu Glade Studio with tutor John Goudge.

Classes for adults, youth & children.

**Children** (10—12 yrs) Term I starts Wed 13 Feb 2013, 4.30—6 pm.

**Youth** (12—16 yrs) Term I starts Wed 13 Feb 2013, 6.30—8.30 pm.

Fees: Whole year (3 terms) \$270 (pay by Jan 31); term-by-term \$100 (pay by Jan 31); standard fee \$110 per term (pay by course start). Sibling discount (for year pupils only) \$250 per child.

**Adults** (any age) Term I starts Mon 11 Feb 2013, 7.30—10 pm.

Fees: Whole year (3 terms) \$560 (pay by Jan 31); term-by-term \$200 (pay by Jan 31); standard fee \$240 per term (pay by course start).

**Experienced adult class:** Six Friday night sessions once a month, starting Friday 15 Feb at 7.30pm. dates: (15/2, 15/3, 19/4, 19/7, 16/8, 13/9) (for past pupils or adults with some acting experience)

Fees: \$150 (pay now)

For course info or to enrol ph. John (09) 814 9744 You can get more info at [www.johngoudge.com/acting/upcomingcourses](http://www.johngoudge.com/acting/upcomingcourses)

Workshops, special projects & 1 on 1 tuition available. Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Waiatarua.

## Waiatarua Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

Welcome to 2013.

A SMALL SELECTION OF NON-FICTION NEW TO THE LIBRARY.

"A Fabled Land" – Bruce Ansley provides the text and Peter Bush the photos. A brilliant combination to tell the story of Mesopotamia, a high country sheep station. Bush has been visiting this station for many years and his anecdotes add a personal touch to his photos. Reading this book gives a great insight to the hardships our early high country settlers faced.

"Shackleton's Whisky" – This is more than just the story of the 3 cases of whisky found embedded in the ice at the Cape Royds hut in 2007. Neville Peat has combined the story of the making of the whisky with Shackleton's 1907 excursion to the Antarctic. Not much of a drinker himself, Ernest nevertheless travelled with 25 cases of whisky (amongst other supplies!). At the time of writing this I am halfway through the book and totally enjoying it.

"Brazil" – This book is the written accompaniment to the BBC series by Michael Palin. He criss-crosses this huge country travelling by boat, train and car and tells of the burgeoning economy and the amazing mixes of races, cultures and religions.

"The Old Ways" – Robert McFarlane embarked on a journey that would take to many places in the world as he explored the old paths, tracks and seaways. He tells about the natural history, geology, archaeology and literature of the paths he follows, and shares the stories of fellow trekkers he meets on their own personal journeys.

"Valerie" – Valerie Adams needs no introduction to us but her story, penned by Phil Gifford, is well worth reading. This young woman has an inspiring story to tell. She has faced so much in her short life and shown an amazing strength of character to rightly take her place as a world athlete.

Good Reading.

*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)

## WRRRA AGM

Wed 6th March, 7.30pm  
Waiatarua Hall

### From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

Welcome back! Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back! (I hope you all have the tune from Welcome Back Kotter ringing in your brains as I did whilst writing this)...ah, back to the days when I fell in love with the gorgeous young John Travolta in his first major tv role, when he had all his hair and a decent six-pack etc...but I digress!

The weather is brilliant and the year well under way. Surprisingly quite a few who walk among us, didn't see this coming. Cafes were booked out the week before 21<sup>st</sup> Dec with many 'end of the world' lunches and parties and like Y2K...nothing happened! Now the gyms are filled with people trying to whittle away their excesses gained by thinking they had to eat their way out of this world, but I'm sure this doesn't apply to any of my readers. You're all too sensible.

Having said that, I know you will take the time to read Dave's missive. Not two days after hearing his medical dramas, I received my summons from the health board to partake in the bowel cancer tests which I shall certainly be taking up. I'm all for prevention!

If you haven't already done so, please pay your membership money for this year. We welcome your pittance with open arms and what a lot you get for such a small allowance! Go mad on all the discounts!

Enjoy the month!

### Garden Group Eileen Powell

We wish all you keen gardeners out there a very happy and productive 2013. The weather has been perfect for gardens- some sun and some rain. Next month our visit will be to Signature Plants to see their range of plants growing in a commercial environment. Please 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

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

## From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi,

Happy new year to all. Committee member Norma moved to Thames before Xmas and is loving it.

Now I am going to share with you some of the events in my life since we last spoke and I must make it clear I am not looking to make you feel sorry for me or looking for sympathy, I am doing a good job of that all by myself.

Late November I took part in the Bowel Cancer screening program that came through the mail, I nearly didn't as you can set your clock to how regular I am and everything is perfectly normal and normally perfect.

The test is very simple to do from home and in due course I was contacted to have a colonoscopy on 14<sup>th</sup> December and a biopsy was taken for pathologist report, I have to say that the word colonoscopy is far more daunting than the procedure.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, last day at work for year, fall off a ladder and break upper left arm in 3 places and dislodge shoulder ball joint.

December 20<sup>th</sup> just leaving for appointment with orthopaedic surgeon when get a phone call to say biopsy positive I have bowel cancer.

I spent 2 days in hospital while they decided not to operate on my arm and at the time of writing this (14/01/2013) I am starting the fourth of six weeks of having left arm immobilised waiting to get a date for what is major surgery sometime February.

As you can imagine our usual Xmas camping trip went down the gurgler but Shirley got heaps done in her beloved garden and I sat in a chair doing countless crosswords. Only having one wing curtains lost of activities believe me.

There are two points I want to make here the first being ACC: They have been absolutely amazing to the point that they made contact with me on day one and everything was done over the phone with my first Loss Of Income payment within 10 days, and that was over Xmas/new year weeks.

Now the main point, if you have had a letter about this process and turned it down, contact Waitemata Health and do one, same applies if you get the letter in the mail DO IT.

My doctor told me that the government finally agreed to a trial of bowel screening and they chose Waitemata Health board only to do it, and they have started with those living in even numbers

Up until now I have had 1 broken bone, broke my nose at primary school, 2 operations, 1 tonsillectomy at 4 yrs before leaving England and a repeat at 15yrs.

So am I scared about the forthcoming operation, which the surgeon described as bigger than open heart, you better believe I'm scared.

Am I glad I did the test, YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE THAT as I intend to annoy all of you for many more years.

Which brings me nicely to the AGM in March, so please give serious consideration of becoming part of this great group of people who most have been together for a number of years. As we never know what is around the corner, and losing a member or two each AGM, new blood is important. On the same theme 2013 membership is now due.

I am taking a couple of months leave of absence, apart from doing Hotmail, so please for gods, peters, goodness, yours, your families or all of the preceding, do the test as

"Every day above ground is a good day"

Dave

## Subscription Reminder

WRRRA subscriptions for 2013 are now due. Subscriptions are \$10 per family and run through to December. Join now and get free membership for the remainder of 2012! There are many savings to be had and you are supporting your local community.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I ENCLOSE:

\$10 household

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City, or leave at the library  
bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

## Fire Brigade Report

RFF Louisa Mullins

The Waiatarua Fire Brigade had a busy afternoon in early December, assisting with the tornado that hit the Hobsonville area. DCFO Gareth Mullins rounded up those who were available and went to assist other Fire Service crews, USAR, Police and Civil Defence with the many calls that came pouring in. They responded to 9 calls over the afternoon and rendered assistance to many in need. It is not often that something like a tornado happens in west Auckland. Well done guys!

Apart from that the brigade has had a rather quiet holiday period. We resumed training on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2013 and look forward to an eventful year.

### Fire Calls

06 DEC 2012	TOTARA RD, WHENUAPAI	Roof Lifted
06 Dec 2012	KOWHAI RD, WHENUAPAI	Roof Lifted
06 Dec 2012	UPPER HARBOUR MWY, HOBSONVILLE	Power pole on road
06 Dec 2012	CLARK RD, HOBSONVILLE	House Damaged
06 Dec 2012	WAIMARIE RD, WHENUAPAI	Assist Home owner
06 DEC 2012	WAIMARIE RD, WHENUAPAI	Multiple Power Poles on Road
06 Dec 2012	ROYAL RD, MASSEY	Flooding
06 Dec 2012	CEDAR HEIGHTS AV	MASSEY Roof leaking
06 Dec 2012	WALLINGFORD WAY, HOBSONVILLE	Roof Leaking
09 Dec 2012	WAIATARUA	Assist Ambulance
15 Dec 2012	TUI CR, WAIATARUA	Rubbish Fire
23 Dec 2012	BUSH RD, WAIATARUA	Guy Fawkes
08 Jan 2013	PIHA RD, PIHA	MVA

### Fire Safety

#### BBQ safety

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the gas tank and the fuel line.
- Do not overfill the gas tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid.
- Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas – carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Don't light fires in a fire ban area – you could be liable for whatever damage is caused.

And finally, make sure your barbecue is completely extinguished when finished.

### Smoke Alarms

Need A Smoke Alarm!!!

New Photoelectric long life 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.

### 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).

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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 current financial members.

**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

**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 friendly. Phone Mike 814 9708.

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

**Oratia School Country Fair.** March 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 10am-2pm. Cool rides, quickfire raffles and awesome auctions.

**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.

**Outdoor Property Services** - Lawn mowing, rubbish removal, garden maintenance or a full section clean up you name it! We'll have your section looking immaculate for summer. Lowest prices guaranteed! Ph Ryan at West Coast Property Services 021 042 6920

**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.

**West Auckland Yoga at Oratia Settlers Hall:** All levels - Tues 9.15am and 6.30pm, Fri 9.15am (cost \$15). Beginners class - Thurs 7pm (cost \$12) Ph Tasha 812 8942 or Steph 0272 841 178. www.westaucklandyoga.kiwi.nz

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

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor  
by FRIDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2013 - 5PM  
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143  
munster@ihug.co.nz

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