

Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

December 2013



History of a Waiaatarua Hill

The hill above Old Forest Hill Rd, with the trigonometrical surveyors' exact position on its highest point, is an old centre of a volcano, which made and forcefully put out many andesite boulders of almost any size. Effie Trethewey the landowner paid my father, in the late 1930's, to periodically cut the vegetation below the summit. He told us that the top was largely one big rock with similar small bits around it. Those that landed on the backs of 801, 833 and 847 West Coast Rd were mainly rounded and their surfaces were covered with softer light brown,



unless washed by Potter's Stream, which starts south of Tui Crescent and goes under our private road, between two waterfalls, of which the lower is about 12 metres high and almost vertical. It's not very obvious when seen from cars. With the very heaviest of rains going through high strength concrete pipes (of 900mm internal concrete diameter) so fast that I have, several times, seen the rains (flooding) and travelling along over 20 metres horizontally before hitting the flatter rock below. It then travels about 4 metres per second, taking heavy rocks, soils and vegetation noisily with it and has dropped only about 11 metres in floods there. We have counted about 100 glow-worms in damp shady banks above and below our road. Our steeper land tends to move after heavy rains, now that the original mature bush has gone and vegetation is less. Careful drainage has helped to lessen landslips. Our small region used to grow kauri, including one fully two metres diameter at about two metres above the soil, on our section's top ridge. Sheltered by a little roofing, a little of that stump remains. I was one of 9-15 pupils who walked from Rimu Rd to the Nihotupu primary school, about 370 metres down Forest Hill Rd. (1939-1944) Once I jumped into a strong bracken fern after a ball. But in doing so, I wrenched my ankle (at lunch time) and when walking home, it was so sore that I tried to hop. I now often wonder what you would have thought if you saw me travelling so very slowly on one leg and two hands past Tui Crescent. Before I got to the end of that flat, my kind strong father had me on his back (around 4pm) because my younger brother had got home and told my parents. Cars were rare then. We walked! Some people told us that Nihotupu meant seven teeth in Maori, which you can count on Waiaatarua's hills. The biggest rock found scattered on our lands weighs several tonnes. I've lived here all my life and love the bush. There used to be a varied prolific bird life. I'd like to greet all the discerning people who choose to keep Waiaatarua so special. Thank you - John Isaachsen

From The Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

You will all know by now that I am not shy when it comes to admitting my mistakes. Last month's mistake was in sending the previous month's back page advertising out again. I'm sure that threw a lot of you into a spin when I was still advertising members to be elected in the local elections... 'didn't we do that already?' I hear you asking... so well done to Brett Whyte for spotting yet another deliberate mistake and so quickly. It enabled me to make hasty apologies all round before too many of you got the newsletter.

And we did have a new advertiser last month - Bloom Hearing - out in Henderson. They cater to the good health of your ears and are lovely people so check them out if you find you and your other half not responding to each others calls. I hope not too many of you lost your letterboxes this year around Nov 5th. I did hear of at least one poor chap who did and I expect to hear a lot more explosions between now and New Year, at least in our neck of the woods where someone regularly lets off loud noises enough for little old ladies to think the Russians are coming!

Many thanks to all our advertisers (both new and old) this year and thanks to the residents who regularly give me enough copy to make this a full and interesting newsletter each month. Have a wonderful Xmas and a long hot summer!



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 & HIRE: 911 WEST COAST ROAD HALL HIRE (BOOKINGS) JOHN GOUDGE - PH 814 9744

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In "The Wharf At Waterfall Bay" Lisa Harper shares the story of her return to the family farm in remote Mahou Sound after working overseas as a scientist. She comes from a family of strong motivated women and continues this trend by becoming an award winning cheese maker and Nuffield Scholarship winner. Her cheeses sound amazing.

As a 5 year old Saroo got on a train in his Indian village and ended up as a lost child in Calcutta. He was adopted by Australians and had a happy childhood in Hobart but retained his vague memories of home. "A Long Way Home" tells of his search using Google Earth to not only find his village, but also to return home to find his family.

Steve Braunias in "Civilisation" writes of his journey to 20 different parts of NZ. He meets many different, weird and wonderful people and shares their stories with the reader.

America in the summer of 1927 is the subject of Bill Bryson's new book "One Summer". He recounts the many events of that time - Lindbergh, gangsters, a booming stock market, Mt Rushmore sculptures etc.

The book "1st Crossings" is more than just a book of the TV series. Kevin Biggar & Jamie Fitzgerald have included a lot of background and history of the crossings that was not part of the series.

Looking forward to a summer with a pile of good books to read.

- Jeanette Ziesler

Well last month I left you as I got the call to make our Halong Bay cruise only to get on the boat, have a 5 course lunch and then be told it was off again, so no cruise. Still we had a great time and if anyone feels like being bored for an hour or two I'll tell you all about it

Lots happened here whilst away and big congratulations to Penny Hulse on her continued, and well deserved, successes. We have another great line up for the Waitakere Ranges Board with Denise Yates becoming Deputy Chairperson after a very successful first term as Chair.

Things are changing in little old Waitatarua with secretary Jan and husband Paul moving into Glenview village to join Lynda and Frank Hogsden thereby creating a WRRRA sub branch. Paul has agreed to carry on doing the cleaning until a replacement is found so expressions of interest to me

please.davepocock@xtra.co.nz 8149697 This does not consume a lot of time and does carry some remuneration for your efforts, ideally suited to a retiree with a bit of community spirit who would like a bit of extra pocket money. Both Paul and Jan have been involved with WRRRA for some years now and they will be greatly missed but their going and Frank and Lynda prior, does raise the thought that we are all getting older and new, younger committee members are a bit thin on the ground.

At the AGM we are also losing Paul Osborne with John Stagg moving to Oratia so although John has indicated carrying on as treasurer, he will not be a full committee member which leaves 4 of existing committee eligible for re election and we need 5 for a quorum so we need you and you and you at least. So this is the reason why 2014 Debate is on hold until we have the personnel to handle these matters.

I hear that another successful pub Quiz was held with the Easybeats winning again. The target next quiz is to make them the Uneasybeats with a new team winning, I don't know how but you never can tell.

Just realised this is the Xmas edition so a very happy year to all especially our ever reliable newsletter printers (Longleys) Distributor (Tony Bacon) all the deliverers and library volunteers. A special merry Xmas and thank you to WRRRA committee especially Susanne Timms as with one thing and another I have been away more than there this past year.

MERRY XMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our December garden visit is to a Titirangi Garden which is full of interesting plants and will be at its best at this time of the year. We are holding our Christmas Lunch at the middle of the month and all of a sudden the year is almost over. We have visited some beautiful gardens, met lovely gardeners, enjoyed a weekend away and now that summer is almost here will be feasting on our home grown vegetables and relaxing in our flower filled gardens.

It's a romantic full moon, when Pedro said, "Hey, mamacita, let's do Weeweechu."

Oh no, not now, let's look at the moon!" said Rosita.

Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I do Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Pedro begged.

"But I wanna just hold your hand and watch the moon." replied Rosita.

Please, corazoncito, just once, do Weeweechu with me."

Rosita looked at Pedro and said, "OK, one time, we'll do Weeweechu."

Pedro grabbed his guitar and they both sang.....

"Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year."



Zumba with Grace

Monday and Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am Tuesday 6:30pm - 7:30pm (small hall) Thursday 7pm-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall Cost \$10 per class Phone Megan or Grace on 818-2046

Better Scrapbooking Ltd

Scrapbooking workshops on the last Saturday night of each month. Cost \$15 Other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes as well as supplies available 153 Solar Road, Glen Eden Phone Megan 818-2045

Please accept my Membership to the WRRRA 2013

Name: _____ Address: _____ I ENCLOSE:

Phone No: _____ \$10.00 Household

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

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

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Guy Fawkes kept Waiatarua Fire Brigade busy this year with a steady flow of calls. We had our annual Guy Fawkes Bonfire at the Fire Station on Fri 8th Nov. It was a great night with members of Waiatarua community coming along to share fireworks and a fun time with the brigade. The next day the majority of the brigade participated in our fall arrest revalidation training. We must revalidate all our skills regularly to make sure all the volunteers are ready and up to date on skills.

Fire Safety

With summer on the way we will all soon be pulling out the BBQ. BBQs are potentially dangerous when used carelessly or when consuming excessive amounts of alcohol.

- Ensure you regularly check and maintain BBQ fittings and connection.
- Ensure there is adequate clearing around the BBQ.
- Supervise children at all times when using the BBQ.
- Remove all excess fat from BBQ after each use.
- Garages and sheds often contain fire safety hazards.
- Have flammable liquids and other products stored in appropriate containers.
- Keep the shed secure and locked.
- Ensure your shed has adequate ventilation.
- Gas and air form an explosive mixture
- Ensure you are aware of where gas isolation valves are located in your home.
- Have all gas appliances serviced according to manufacturer instructions

Fire Calls

27/10/2013 006:37 MVA West Coast Road, Oratia
A single car motor vehicle accident where the car had rolled. Thankfully no-one was injured. The brigade did traffic management.

02/11/2013 05:26pm Car Fire Scenic Drive, Waiatarua
The car was well involved. We got to squirt some of the wet stuff onto the hot stuff.

04/11/2013 05:32pm Scrub Fire
Marine parade South, Piha
An area of scrub was on fire, possibly due to fireworks. This only required Piha, Waiatarua, Glen Eden and Karekare to get this fire out. Some real live fire fighting training for a Monday night.

04/11/2013 06:47pm Smoke Showing Forest Hill Road, Waiatarua
This was an investigation call. On arrival the occupants were burning green garden trimmings and agreed to extinguish the fire.

06/11/2013 12:15am Flooding Forest Hill Road, Waiatarua
We helped to identify the cause and rectify this issue for the occupants.

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 (8149282), Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505)

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

- Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)
- Glen Eden Landscape Supplies 293 West Coast Rd Ph:818 6129
- Auckland's Waitakere Estate 573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622
- Awakenings Massage Therapy 36B Clayburn Rd Glen Eden Ph 813 1166
- Blow Moulders Ltd 8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden Ph 818 7709 (cash and cheque sales only)
- Elevation 473 Scenic Drive Ph 814 1919

PLEASE REMEMBER FEES ARE DUE NOW FOR 2014

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.

Bokwa Fitness: group sessions now available; improve your fitness, strength and flexibility. Suitable for any age and fitness level. All welcome. Held in a private Oratia setting. Phone Rosie for more info 814 1141 or 021 293 5702.

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.

Hard Fill: About 1xM square. Free to a good home. Recipient collects ph Eric 8141922

House For Rent: Will you be renovating or between homes for four months of this year, then ring Charlene on 021 808 822.

Housemate/flatmate wanted: \$160/single or \$250/double per week. Rent includes reasonable power and internet. Food costs can be discussed and bedroom furniture able to be provided for two rooms if necessary. Ring Jan on 814 9938 or 027 475 8799

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

Local Justice of the Peace: Adrian Delaat JP, 26 Rimu Rd, phone 09 814 9038.

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.

WANTED: Person to take child to Rangeview school, from Turanga Road, off Scenic Drive. PAYMENT to be arranged. Please contact Belinda on 838 2093, or email liley@slingshot.co.nz

West Auckland Yoga at Oratia Settlers Hall: Tues 9.30am and 6.30pm, Fri 9.15am (cost \$15). Ph Tasha 021 0274 9136 or Steph 0272 841 178 www.westaucklandyoga.kiwi.nz

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

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Copy needs to be in the hands of the
Editor

By FRIDAY 17TH
January - 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

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