



Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

February 2015

Elevation Cafe and Restaurant ...

...What Lurks Beneath?

Wayne Edwards

About ten years ago, I embarked on a major overhaul of my restaurant property at 473 Scenic Drive which currently trades as Elevation Restaurant. Part of this included the removal of stones, weeds and various waste material that had accumulated out front of the building and the creation of the existing planter boxes. In the course of this, we unexpectedly broke into the remnants of tunnels running under the car park.

Previously (in about 2000) I had enquired in the community newsletter, if anyone in the area knew anything about the rumoured tunnels. At that time, the only response I received was from John Isaacsen, a long- time resident of Waiaatarua of the Bamboo Farm notoriety. His information about the site was interesting but wasn't specific or sufficient for me to locate any tunnels. (We did find remnants of some very deep long drops but deferred exploration of these for a future generation.)

A few years later, encouraged by the accidental find of part of the tunnels, I again sought relevant information via newsletters readers. This time Mick Chester responded. He had been the proprietor during the period the building had operated as the local store. Although he was also full of extremely interesting historical information, as with John, Mike wasn't able to throw any light on the origin or the exact location of the main tunnels.

The tunnel remnants I located were about one and half meters under the car park surface and ran a short distance from the fence line with the adjacent 475 Scenic Drive property into the car park. A branch tunnel from this runs back towards the building. This branch is short and shows evidence of being filled when the underground petrol tanks were removed several decades ago. Apart from a couple of early tin cans the tunnel was empty.

I remain very interested in hearing from anyone who has any relevant information about the origin and purpose of the tunnels as well as the actual layout.
(Email : edwards100@ihug.co.nz)

I anticipate the other part of the tunnels will continue past where the petrol tanks had been towards the gateway for 471 Scenic Drive. Incidentally, there are also remnants of the original teahouse under and besides the building. This quite spectacular building stood for only a few years before burning down in the 1930s.

This site has quite a long history through various incarnations and is once again about to rejuvenate under the new proprietorship of Brett and Vanny Kenyon. The name will remain the same but in all other ways they promise to elevate Elevation.



Local News...

...for Local People

Change of date for the AGM
25th February 2015
7.30pm
Waiaatarua Community Hall

December was a very busy month for CPNZ - 21 patrols, 1055 K and 91 hours patrolling-reporting 25 incidents.

Membership is still growing (now past 30) and most have come to us from the Waiaatarua Newsletter so anyone interested please contact Iles Duffield on 8141130 or 021720100.
We need to get to 40

Also, December saw us help with the Santa parade in Glen Eden plus the musical festival in Henderson and at the request of police, we have also been helping in patrolling the Glen Eden shopping area...Stuart Hampton.

From The Garden Group...

...Hope you all have had a good holiday and are enjoying the fruits and blooms of your labours in the garden.

Our day out in February, will be in the South Auckland area to what looks to be a very interesting garden. Please phone Eileen on 814 9298 for full directions and times... Eileen Powell.

From The Library.

Jeanette Ziesler.

We have just put in our first order of new books for 2015 and some of these will be reviewed in the next newsletter.

Please call into our library and browse the shelves. We have a great variety of genres – both fiction and non-fiction.

Many thanks to all the local volunteers who turn up regularly to both prepare the books for borrowing on Thursdays and open the library on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Your help is always appreciated.

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

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

Happy New Year Waiatarua!

After a break we're back! Sorry to any of you who were looking in your letterbox anxiously waiting for the newsletter last month; probably not many. I trust you've had some sort of break too and are enjoying the great weather. I do see a few water trucks crawling up the hill though so there may be a few of you praying for rain.

Last year we finished by getting our submission on the proposed removal of the bus service from Waiatarua and Oratia. We look forward to engaging with AT further on this in 2015. Last year we also approved funding for new signs which include a roadside sign letting you know when the library is open; their last sign was stolen some time ago! The hall will also be having it's floor polished this year.

A brief preview of what we have coming up in 2015. The WRRRA has its AGM in February so if you are interested in becoming involved please get in touch with me before then. Other activities I'd like to see happen this year are a rejuvenation of our website, an online archive of our Newsletters and a section presenting the hall to promote hireage.

Before I go, and I don't really feel like talking about this, but RATS RATS RATS!!!! We had a mast-head year of beech 2013/2014 and this has resulted in a huge influx in rats. A few ideas to help you with them. For those who prefer humane controls, live traps can be used with apple or carrot covered in peanut butter as bait and then just drop the whole thing in a bucket of water. Other than that, poison blocks with holes in them are best. Loose bait is no good as they take it back to nests to stockpile and don't eat it. Make sure it's tied down. Traps are not much good at all as rats are smart once they figure them out. For those of you like me who collect your rain water and don't like the idea of poison put it at spots around the boundary of your property rather than near the house. Let us know if you have any other 'killer' ideas.

Good luck!
Peter
President, WRRRA

Relay For Life 2015

Cancer Society Auckland is hosting Relay For Life 2015 at the Kumeu Showgrounds over the weekend of February 14/15.

"Every day 60 families face the huge challenge of a cancer diagnosis, and Relay For Life is a time when we come together as a community, acknowledge the impact cancer has and fundraise to make the work of the Cancer Society possible," says Cancer Society Auckland CEO, John Loof.

"Teams sign up for many reasons, some to remember their loved ones, others to celebrate and acknowledge a friend's cancer journey and some to fight back against cancer, a disease that takes so much".

Everyone is welcome to take part - families, friends and colleagues, to run, walk and join the fun and make a difference at Relay For Life on 14 & 15th February 2015. Registration is open now!

There are also Relay for Life events planned for the A & P Showgrounds, Pukekohe on 21/22

March and the AUT Millennium Institute of Sport and Health, Mairangi Bay on 28/29 March, so if you can't make Kumeu, you still have other chances to participate.

We are looking for Team Captains to rally their friends and family and join us at Relay For Life 2015. Visit www.relay.org.nz for more information and to register your team. Or call Lorien on: (09) 308 0494.



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY @ 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
(conditions may apply)

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies 293 West Coast Rd Ph:818 6129

Auckland's Waitakere Estate 573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622

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

Elevation 473 Scenic Drive Ph 814 1919

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As I write, the rain has started to fall for the first time in a very long time. It is a welcome relief, as there have been times this summer when I've had to retire inside because it has been too hot on my deck. I kid you not! With such fine weather, it's been great to get out into the cool of the bush and take advantage of all the good walks around here.

My vegetables in my very small garden are still thriving. I will point out that this is the second lot I've had to plant, because the possums got the first lot but now, with the help of numerous strong sticks and screeds of string, I have built a Colditz garden which they have not been able to break into so off they've wandered into their traps instead. Yay, Robyn 1 - possums 0.

If you haven't already, please remember your membership fees to the WRRRA. A mere ten dollars per year and you can be first up with the local news and great discounts that are available.

I hope you're all well and rested and ready to start another year. Apparently, 2015 is going to be a really good one. I know this because everywhere I've been I've been surrounded by happy positive people who tell me so and if everyone is thinking like that, then it possibly will be.

Enjoy the month.



' I'm on top of the world ' - From the Arataki Lookout

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.

Better Scrapbooking Ltd: Paper crafting and scrapbooking supplies. Great children's classes. Mondays 3:45pm - 4:45pm 7yrs - 13yrs \$15 each Phone Megan 818-2045

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

Otimai: Girl Guiding. Would you like your daughter to have new adventures and develop life and leadership skills through new, fun and exciting programmes? We have places for girls aged 5 to 12 years in Pippins, Brownie and Guide Units. For more info contact Angela Westerman at aratakidistrict@gmail.com or ph 021 511 575

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 meets on second Thursday of the month at 1pm in the Church Hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

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

Zumba with Grace... Party yourself into Shape. The Latin-inspired easy-to-follow, calorie-burning, dance-fitness party. Feel the music and let loose. Oratia Settlers Hall, Tuesdays 6:30pm - 7:30pm (toning) Thursdays 7pm - 8pm Adults \$10 Students \$5 (with ID) For more information phone Grace 021 081 12610



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