



Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

April 2016

Hello Waiatarua!

The all new WRRRA Committee for 2016 had our first meeting on Wednesday 9 March. It is fantastic to have all the major portfolios filled. Let me introduce...

I'm very pleased to have Gary Ertel back as Vice-President. Gary has great enthusiasm for ensuring Waiatarua is represented adequately and effectively.

Sue Bowers remains as Treasurer and probably processing memberships as we speak.

Her careful management of our funds is appreciated.

Nicole O'Sullivan joins us this year as Secretary. We're looking forward to having her organise and document our meetings as well as caring for our bristling repository of documents.

Robyn O'Sullivan will continue to produce our monthly WRRRA Newsletter and continue to remind us what a deadline is. Thanks Robyn! Did I spull that correctly?

Brett Whyte remains on the committee and credit goes to Brett for encouraging participation in WRRRA activities. Brett grew up in these parts and has some outstanding local stories.

Lisa Phillips has dived in and is building us a new website, for which we are really grateful. Look out for a bit April event where we formally re-launch the website and celebrate this project.

Really excited to have Michael D'Costa on board. He's going to help us with our submissions and representations for Ultra Fast Broadband round 2 (Yes! Fibre!). If successful we might not get it until 2018, but if we get fibre in Waiatarua - Wow!

Rita Steel is a strong and passionate advocate for the environment. I'm looking forward to working with her on getting the most help possible for you in taking control of weeds, pests and helping the native flora and fauna as much as possible.

Lhara Waby could technically be called the First Lady of Waiatarua, although I'm not perfectly sure she likes that title. Lhara has been enormous support to me and her position on the Committee this year recognises her valued involvement in many WRRRA decisions and activities.

Andrea Garnham moved to Oratia a year or so ago and is keen to help keep Waiatarua on track. Great to have your help this year.

Tricia Andersen is new to the Committee and we welcome her and Andrea's interests and energy with respect to our more social activities.

To close I'll remind you of that you will always be informed if you have a paid up WRRRA membership since you will then receive the WRRRA email notices, our so-called WRRRA HOTMAIL. More info coming soon at www.Waiatarua.org.nz

Peter
president@waiatarua.org.nz

Letter To The Editor:

It's with some interest I read in the last newsletter (February) that the council wishes to put responsibility on land owners for protection of Kauri. I'm not per se against this and in fact have a QEII covenant on our land which has a very significant Kauri on it. However, I have just been informed that our neighbour who has cut a gigantic swathe through his mature native forest area without a permit AND cut down trees in the QEII covenant on our property has been given a \$300 fine and told to apply for a resource consent (to be able to use this track?).

This significant Kauri is now visible from the swathe he cut and there is no fence in between. Up to now I have maintained a footwear disinfectant station for visitors and welcomed all. We now have a situation where anyone using this roadway can access this tree easily and potentially kill it.

I've let the council know that I'm very disappointed with the "traffic fine" imposed for knocking down hundreds of trees including trees in the QEII covenant, and extremely unhappy with the possibility that anyone can now access this kauri without proper sanitation. So far the council has not imposed any requirement for this individual to fence his boundary or in any way restrict potential access.

Where is the consistency of policy when we recall huge sums previously demanded for cutting down a single Nikau? To the credit of our local elected representatives, they have taken this up and are fighting their own bureaucrats in trying to address the problem.

I'm appalled that there could be such an enormous discrepancy in policy that dictates our need to protect and then not only allows this sort of destruction, but totally fails to protect a very significant Kauri. What sort of thinking (if any) could be behind the city's bureaucrat's actions (or lack of same). *Name and address withheld.*

Ed: On checking with Auckland Council WRRRA have learned that abatement and restoration notices have been issued and periodic monitoring will occur as a result. The Council representative declined to comment further on a proceeding that is in progress.

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

Community Patrol Wins Inaugural WRRRA Grant

The WRRRA Committee are very pleased to announce that the first ever WRRRA Community Grant of \$1,000 was awarded to a group that have markedly improved the home burglary statistics for Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley. Les Duffield was away so some key members of his team collected the award on his behalf.

Susan Dell said "A huge thank you to the Waiatarua Ratepayer & Residents Association from the Waiatarua Community Patrol group for awarding us their inaugural Community Grant 2015 at the AGM in February.

"We were thrilled to be announced the winner and the money will be well spent – on further safety equipment including additional fluoro uniform jackets and vests for our patrollers and a new mobile phone for one of our vehicles." And "We greatly appreciate this acknowledgement. Thank you WRRRA for creating this awesome Community grant."

Sergeant Juls Conder of the Waitakere Police indicated appreciation of the help in creating a safer community. "It is a deserved recognition of the voluntary work that you all put in to make your local communities safer and prevent criminal offending," he said.

The CPG patrol group has been in operation since August 2013 and now has 28 volunteer patrollers. They have conducted over 448 patrols (volunteering over 2213 hours) in this time and have reported over 400 incidents to either Police or Council. CPG is 100% volunteer run and relies on the support of sponsors, grants and donors to keep operational.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about CPG or think they might like to join our patrol group and help to keep our community safe - please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Susan Dell accepts the award from WRRRA President, Peter Casey on behalf of Les Duffield, who began the CPG after his home was burgled.

From The Library

Jeanette Ziesler

"**Making It Up As I Go Along**" is a collection of whimsical but thoughtful musings from Marion Keyes. She reflects on the many events in her life, both major and slightly trivial – alcoholism, nail polish, fake tans, domestic violence and more.

"**The Day I Lost You**" is a novel what happens when a woman is killed in an avalanche leaving her mother to care for her 5 year old daughter. Fionnuala Kearney has written a moving story of a mother who then discovers her daughter had a secret life.

"**The High Mountains Of Portugal**" is 3 interconnected stories by Yann Martel of "Life Of Pi" fame. His imaginative storytelling comes to the fore again with this novel set over 3 different decades with 3 different characters but a linked theme.

"**Alive, Alive Oh**" is a delightful book from author and editor Diana Athill. Now in her late 90's she has written a series of recollections remembering and celebrating her life.

Good Reading.

Update On Otimai

The future of Otimai is still being decided, but meantime a group of volunteers have begun meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, between the hours of 9am-3pm to work on the grounds.

If you could spare an hour or so of your time to help, you would be welcome - BRING YOUR OWN TOOLS.

Many of us have had involvement with this wonderful place, where for the past eighty years, Pippins, Brownies and Guides have enjoyed fun and fellowship; but you do not need to have had a Guiding background to help with weeding! Please come! We enjoy a light lunch and afternoon tea together.

Alison is the co-ordinator Ph 021 138 3341 or you can phone me (Lynda) on 813 9869.

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From The Fire Brigade:

At a Brigade Dinner on 12 March, Waiatarua's volunteer firefighters received service honours from the United Fire Brigades Association and the NZ Fire Service. Warm congratulations to all recipients.

UFBA 3 Year Certificate – QFF Jason Mann, FF Jay Percival, FF Trent Howe, FF Sam Denny, FF Craig Dye

UFBA 40 Year Certificate – QFF Lyndsay Whittle

UFBA 5 Year Medal – Op Support Louisa Mullins

UFBA 2 Year bars to 5 Year Medal – Ex FF Andy Holyer (9 years service), QFF Derek Renata (13 years), DCFO Gareth Mullins (15 years), QFF Steve Smith (15 years) SO Kevin Healy (19 years) and Ex CFO Helen Longley (19 years)

UFBA 2 Year bars to 25 Year Gold Star – SO Ian Ford (31 years) and QFF Lyndsay Whittle (41 years) NZFS 14 year Long Service and Good Conduct Medal – Gareth Mullins and Steve Smith

The Brigade was pleased to present former Chief Fire Officer Helen Longley with the UFBA Brigade Life Honorary Member Medal.

Recent Calls:

2:45 am, Sun 14 Feb	Piha Rd	Car rolled – set up heli landing area
5:20 pm, Wed 17 Feb	Piha Rd	Car rolled – traffic management
9:49 pm, Sat 20 Feb	Christies Track	Injured tramper – helicopter evacuation
7:47 pm, Mon 22 Feb	Arataki	False alarm
10:24 pm, Fri 4 Mar	Scenic Drive	Person fallen down bank

The Fire Brigade didn't actually attend any fires in this period but was still kept busy with a variety of rescues, most of which were multi-agency. The Brigade was the first emergency service on the scene with the injured tramper after a half hour walk from the Upper Nihotupu Dam in the middle of the night. This eventually involved Police, Land Search and Rescue volunteers, Paramedics, Rescue Helicopter and a number of cranky wasps.

Fire Safety:

The end of daylight saving on Sunday 3 April is a reminder to us all – “change your clock, check your smoke alarm”. We recommend you install long-life photoelectric type smoke alarms in your home. They may cost a little more but the benefits are significant. Their 10 year life removes the frustration of the flat battery beep at 3 in the morning, and eliminating the cost of replacement batteries means the long-life alarms pay for themselves over time. At a minimum, you should install one standard long-life photoelectric type alarm in the hallway closest to the bedrooms.

Contacts: Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. Otherwise please contact Deputy Chief Fire Officer Gareth Mullins (814 9282), Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871).

From The Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Congratulations to all our new committee members! We are overflowing with talent and possibilities and looking forward to a good year.

Since my February editorial, when I outlined the new speed limits which should have been in place (and then Auckland Transport failed on their promises), my beloved has been pursuing them like a relentless wee terrier (on your behalf) and thus as you read, the signs should now be up and the speeds lowered (by April 1st) and we should be safer as a result. Someone had neglected to go the legal route but now all is well!

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents

Association 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ \$10 household.

Email: _____

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

MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY APRIL 15th @ 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

munster@ihug.co.nz

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.

Art Classes: Pathway Studio & Gallery, 786 West Coast Road Oratia. Starting February 2016

Ph Carol 814 9438/021 033 0055

Better Scrapbooking Ltd: Regular Scrapbooking workshops as well as other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes. Supplies available. 153 Solar Road, Glen Eden. Megan ph: 818-2045

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: otimai@girlguidingnz.org.nz and 09 814 9992, re venue to hire.

GirlGuiding NZ opportunities... www.girlguidingnz.org.nz or 0800 484 331 or 09 638 9076

Plants: Bromeliads \$5 - \$6; Taros, cannas and various shrubs \$4 - \$5. All sales to Nepalese Educ Trust. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

Table Tennis every Wednesday at the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week. Contact Tony 8149860 or email tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

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.

Tiler/Stone Layer: 21 years experience in the trade, available for indoor or outdoor projects, large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021 610 408.

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

Yoga/Chi Kung/Meditation, Waiatarua Hall. Monday Evenings 7pm - 8pm No experience necessary. Enq: Kath Ph. 814 1108

Zumba with Grace... Thursday 7pm-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall. Ditch the workout, come join the party! Cost \$10 per class Grace ph: 818-2046