



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Christmas issue—December 2020



From the President

Kia ora

During this last month we have had some interesting discussions on the topic of water supply and in particular the potential challenges ahead for those living in rural areas of Auckland who use their own tank water systems

Water, as we know, is referred to as **the elixir of life** due to its importance in all aspects of life. The water sources in Auckland are under severe pressure again this year and so there is a need for us all to be conscious of how we use our water supply. Our dams are at a lower level than required which is putting extra pressures on the system resulting in water use restrictions across the region.

Those of us who live in the “**rural**” areas of Auckland and use our own water tank collection systems need to be aware how this affects us so we should be making plans around our water usage now. You will find a section in the newsletter where we have given some tips and contacts for a couple of water suppliers that will deliver to this area.

If you know the contact details of a supplier then please email me and we will set up a section on the website where anyone can access these contacts. If you are a supplier then please contact me on 027 585 1486 and we can discuss putting your details on the website or your potential advertisement in our newsletter.

I am still focused on the Executive Committee positions for 2021. We still need to replace the Treasurer and the Secretary and really need to find some enthusiastic people to assist the Environment Portfolio. To reiterate the more people we get to help the better we can spread the workload. The complete role descriptions are now on the website and included again in this issue. **If you are interested in helping please call me on 027 585 1486 to discuss.**

On Sunday 13 December we are holding two functions. The volunteers sit down for an invitation only buffet BBQ lunch

which will begin about 12 noon. All locals are then invited to join us from 2.00pm where you can mix and mingle with all of our local volunteers and your Committee. Your local MP for New Lynn, Dr Deborah Russell will be attending at some stage during the day as will Greg Presland, the Local Board Chair. This will be an informal afternoon tea so please just turn up and join us. I am really looking forward to meeting you all and having a chat.

Christmas is nearly upon us, so as this is the final newsletter of the year, I just want to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas. 2020 will be certainly be remembered as one of change. Those of us who are fortunate to be raising our glasses at midnight on 31 December will of course remember all of those many thousands around the world who have been taken from us as a result of Covid19. My wish is that we will also remember the lessons we have learned whilst fighting this epidemic and that 2021 will be remembered as a new beginning and for a new way of life free of this disease.

I will finish on a lighter note and refer you back to the second paragraph above where I called water “**the elixir of life**”. In my country of birth we also believe that water gives life, which is why we make such good “Uisce Beatha” (which is Gaelic for whiskey). The direct translation is uisce = Water and Beatha = Life. So keep in mind that should you be unfortunate enough to run low on water you will be fine as long as you have a nice bottle of whiskey handy.

A Merry Christmas to all.

Tom Hoey

president@waiatarua.org.nz



Event: Christmas at Waiatarua

Sunday, 13 December 2020

Time: 2pm—4pm

Where: Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua

All locals are invited to attend where you are encouraged to mix

and mingle with all of our local volunteers and your WRRRA Committee. Refreshments will be provided. Your local MP for New Lynn, Deborah Russell and Greg Presland the Local Board Chair will be attending at some stage during the day. We have also invited a member of the Council to attend.

Please come and join us!



Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

Contact
Us

Editor: Erin Kingsleigh-Smith Phone: 814 8856 Email: editor@waiatarua.org.nz

WRRRA President: Thomas Hoey Phone: 027 585 1486 Email: president@waiatarua.org.nz

Community Hall and Library: 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353

Hall hire bookings: Matt Smith Phone: 021 059 3467 Email: hallhire@waiatarua.org.nz

Library hours: Thursday 10.00am—12.00pm

Friday 7.00pm—8.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am—12.00pm

website: www.waiatarua.org.nz

From the Editor

Hello everyone

It's good to be back and to write something for our Christmas issue. There wasn't enough room in the last two issues for me to write anything as we had many other more important things about which to tell you.

Here we are again at the end of another year, with Christmas and the holidays virtually upon us. 2020 has been a very strange year for us all and, to be honest, one which I'd quite like to forget, particularly as we have had two deaths in our family. Not to mention the very challenging lockdowns and restrictions which I personally have found very difficult. Living in such a beautiful area is a constant reminder to be grateful for what I have, and being outdoors and taking exercise has helped my mental health enormously over the past months. Focusing on creating a world full of love, light, abundance, empathy, compassion, and understanding is so important now—something which I think we all need to do. Let's say enough of the fear, manipulation, anger, greed, name calling, bullying and divide.

The newsletter takes its annual break in January, with the first one for 2021 being the February issue. With this being the last one for the year it is timely for me to thank all those wonderful people who help to get this publication out. These include the WRRRA President, Tom Hoey, the WRRRA Committee, Tony Bacon, Carol Hinton and the dedicated team of volunteers who distribute and deliver the newsletter. I am also grateful to all the regular newsletter contributors who provide copy for me and of course to all our advertisers. Thanks must also go to our printer, Ben Deakin at Promotion Matters, for his support of our publication.

Lastly I must thank you, the readers. I really do love being your newsletter Editor and I hope that you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoy putting it together once a month. The newsletter is something of which I am very proud.

With that, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. If you are going away for the Christmas break, please drive carefully, and I hope that you all have a peaceful and relaxing holiday. See you all again in February!

Cheers, Erin



Are there tunnels in Waiatarua?

Rumour has it that there are three caves or tunnels located somewhere in Waiatarua which may have been used in the past to store military ordnance during World War II, in preparation for a possible invasion by the Japanese. Can anyone confirm or deny their existence? Any information greatly appreciated. Please contact the Editor on editor@waiatarua.org.nz



Executive Committee Roles

Your Association needs to have a committed team elected at the AGM in February 2021. Here is an outline of the roles.

President

Purpose: For the President to manage and lead the Executive Committee so that they achieve the Association's goals and fulfil the Association's mission. Current president is Tom Hoey who was seconded to the position in August 2020 and is standing for election again in 2021.

Vice-President

Purpose: For the Vice-President to provide advice and direction to the President and the Executive Committee so they can achieve the Association's goals and fulfil the Association's mission. Facilitate effective communication between the Executive Committee and any Sub Committees of the Association. Current vice-president is Marq Holibar who is standing for election again in 2021.

Secretary

Purpose: To ensure a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association is created and kept. Ensure that the agenda and all papers to be discussed and agreed at each meeting are distributed to the Executive Committee. Ensure that the correspondence of the Association and any committees under its direction is conducted as required. Current Secretary is Peter Casey who has decided not to stand for election again in 2021.

Treasurer

Purpose: To account for the money received, spent and invested by the organisation. Submit every year to the AGM a statement of audited accounts and balance sheet at the close of the financial year. Have custody of all funds and keep account of them in such a manner as will at any time clearly show the true financial position of the Association. Current Treasurer is Sue Smith who has decided not to stand for election again in 2021.

Newsletter Editor

Purpose: For the President to ensure that the newsletter is a publication for the exchange of news and opinion for the benefit of the members of the Waiatarua Residents and ratepayers Association (WRRRA). Ensure that the activities of the WRRRA are properly communicated. Current Newsletter Editor is Erin Kingsleigh-Smith who is standing for election again in 2021.

General Executive Committee Member

These members have an important role on the Executive Committee and work to support the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRRA). Current Committee members are Sue Bowers, Brett Whyte and Ryan Robertson. Ryan is currently looking after our Technology portfolio. All at this stage are standing for election for 2021.

Co-opted Positions

There are currently two positions, being the Environmental Portfolio held by Rita Steel and the Librarian held by Grant Longley. These positions will be confirmed by the new committee after the AGM. **We need more involvement so should you have any interest please email or call the President on 027 585 1486 to discuss.**

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Doers Networks: local, fast internet providers info@doers.net.nz

Good Roots Garden Projects Ltd: Weed Control, Waste Removal, Garden Builds and Restoration Planting. Committed to sustainability. Free Consult. Ph 022 431 3700

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. Ph Mike 814 9708

Indoor Bowls: every Thursday at the Hall 7pm for 7.15 start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided. \$3 donation to CPNZ. Ph Celia: 814 9660 or Liz: 814 9688

Lawn mowing, ride on work only: Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 814 9493 mob 021 024 75610

Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

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 in the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week Contact Tony 814 9860, email tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

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Waiaatarua Playcentre: Come and have 3 free visits at our bush-nestled Playcentre. We are child led, parent run and full of fun! Open 9:30am - 12:30pm Mon and Weds. Contact Ronni O'Brien 09 814 8835 or waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz or www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre

Yovi's Topstitch: Alterations or sewing projects I can do at your budget, from cushions, squabs etc. Contact Yovi 021 084 36450 or yovistopstitch12@gmail.com

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be with the Editor

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Contact the Editor on editor@waiatarua.org.nz for more
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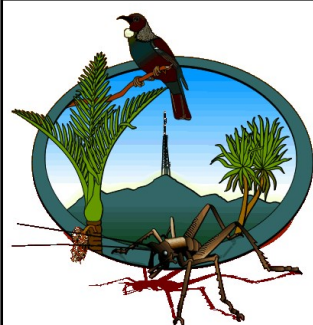
Waiaatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

Waiaatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua

6.30pm for a 7.00pm start



All residents and ratepayers are invited to attend. Refreshments provided. You can join and pay your membership fee (\$20 per household) on the night. To vote you need to be a member for more than 21 days prior to the meeting. Members have one vote per household.

Nomination forms for election are available now from the President (contact as below).

Completed nomination forms need to be with the President **no later than 7.00pm on 21 February 2021.**

For further information please email the President, Tom Hoey on president@waiatarua.org.nz





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Plyman/Timberman Ph: 021 738420 70 The Concourse, Henderson www.plyman.co.nz

Water Tips from the WRRRA

For those on tank water in our area.

- Know the size of your current tank – in the old days these were 3,000 or 5,000 gallon tanks. Now you can get them from 1,000 litres upwards with the biggest for a residential being around the 30,000 litre mark.
- Know your water levels – this will tell you at what level your tank water is at any given time and direct you as to when you may need to order water.
- Know the water suppliers that will deliver to your area and have their contact numbers handy – they will tell you the size of their tank, how much water they carry and at what price.
- Know when to order water - if very dry then be aware that you may be put on a waiting list so do not leave it too late.
- Ensure that your gutters are clear.
- Check that there are no leaks anywhere in your collection process – this should include gutters, downpipes and the tank itself.
- Watch for dripping taps.
- If getting low then take short showers, big washes to the laundromat, use excess water for garden.
- Maybe a smaller 1000 litre tank for use in the garden and in an emergency, to flush toilets etc.

It is important to start planning now!

If you have any questions then discuss with your local plumber. You can also ask the question on our Facebook page (Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association). I am sure someone will be able to assist.

Dam Fine Water 027 571 7187

Western Water 0800 814 800



WRRRA Membership fees increase

As agreed at the 2020 AGM of the WRRRA, membership fees will increase in 2021 **from \$10 to \$20 per household**. Invoices will be sent out in January to members.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:

\$10 household.

Email: _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Auckland, or leave at the library, or email these details to:

treasurer@waiatarua.org.nz

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

Library News

Can you believe that it's nearly December and Christmas is just around the corner? I don't think anybody is ready for it yet!

We have now received our last lot of books for the year. Here is a selection of a few of them.

Lee Child—The Sentinel

Graham Norton—Home Stretch

Dawn French—Because of You

Ken Follett—The Evening and the Morning

John Grisham—A Time for Mercy

Jodi Picoult—The Book of Two Ways

Nicholas Sparks—The Return

Happy Holiday Reading!



Come and choose a few books for over the holiday period, we have a great selection of fiction and non-fiction for you.

We look forward to seeing you all next year, hopefully a better one than which we have just been through.

Happy Christmas and New Year 2021.

Barbara Field



Plant Me Instead

Get rid of a weed, plant me instead! Following on from the article in our October newsletter, here's another excerpt from the Plant Me Instead booklet. Free copies of the booklet are available at the Arataki Visitor Centre or by downloading a PDF version ([link here](https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/resources/plant-me-instead-booklets/)). <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/resources/plant-me-instead-booklets/>



Garden escapee: Bear's Breeches (*Acanthus mollis*, left) Perennial with glossy, angular, dark green leaves and prickly erect spikes of purple and white flowers. Spreads by seeds dropped and moved by water and animals, and by root fragments. Forms dense infestations under bush canopy and in dry, sandy conditions, suppressing native seedlings.

Plant me instead: Piu Piu (*Blechnum discolor*, right) Also consider: Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*) *Arthropodium bifurcatum*

Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla Mollis*, below right) Also consider: *Ligularia reniformis* Pelargonium



Garden escapee: Mexican Devil (*Ageratina* spp., far left) & Mistflower (above, centre left) Erect, sprawling perennials to 1 metre tall with narrow, dull green leaves with serrated edges. Small white, fluffy flowers are followed by wind-spread seeds. Can completely smother native plant communities and cause sediment build-up, flooding and instability in steep gullies and streams.



Plant me instead: Parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*, right) Also consider: Kakaha (*Astelia banksii*) *Jovellana sinclarii* / *J. repens*

Flannel flower (*Phyllica plumosa*, left) Also consider: Victorian Christmas bush (*Prostrantha lasianthos*) *Jovellana violacea*



A Bit of Festive Fun

Christmas is one of the jolliest times of the year and goodness knows we need a bit of jollification after the year we've all had. So what better time to roll out some amusing jokes? Here's a selection to get you in the festive mood.

What happens to elves when they're naughty? Santa gives them the sack.

What kind of music do elves listen to? Wrap.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no-body to go with.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy!

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? Rude-olph!

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!

What do you get if you combine Santa and a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

What never eats at Christmas dinner? The turkey – it's stuffed.

What is a librarian's favourite Christmas song? Silent Night.

What do you call an old snowman? Water.



Quote of the Month

*Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds;
You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds.*

