



Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

July 2021

Forest Hill Rd Slip Repairs - Update on Progress

The latest update on the repairs to the slip on Forest Hill Rd is that it is on track to be opened in the first week of July, scheduled for 2 July. The steel beams are in place and the on site crew are currently completing the retaining wall, and back filling, including installing drainage.

Progress has been steady, although the crew say they have been a

little hampered by hard stand-stone substrate (making drilling difficult) and some poor weather. They said the decision to close the road completely for the project, while inconvenient for locals, has avoided a much longer project, and they appreciate the public's forbearance.

For those on social media, local Judy Beech has been taking regular photos of the works and has been posting these in the Waiaatarua Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Waiaatarua/> for anyone interested.

Some of these most recent photos seen here were taken by some of the works crew as they were able to access areas on the site where Judy was not. It will be great when this work is finally complete and the road open again.



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

Contact
Us

Editor: Erin Kingsleigh-Smith Phone: 021 355 009 Email: editor@waiaatarua.org.nz

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

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

Library hours: Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm

Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm

website: www.waiaatarua.org.nz

Every Litter Bit Helps

Waiatarua residents Alex (aged 9) and Torres (aged 8), pictured right, went for a walk down Bush Rd recently and were shocked by how much rubbish there was. They subsequently went and collected all the rubbish they could find. These young boys are taking their roles of protecting and looking after the environment in our neighbourhood very seriously and are to be commended for their efforts. Well done!

Oratia Creatives Local Histories Movie

Some of the senior students at Oratia District School have produced a very interesting and well put together 40 minute documentary, entitled "Stories from the Valley", with some history and interviews with people of both Oratia and Waiatarua. It also features two young Waiataruans, Darcie Reddington and Sabine Harvey.

It is available to view on YouTube by following the link below. Check it out, as it's well worth the watch.

<https://youtu.be/C5pOoM5kli4>

Library News

Great news! We have now got the final book in Lucinda Riley's Seven Sisters series - 'The Missing Sister' which we have all been waiting for. I for one can't wait to read it.

We have also got the Ockham Book Awards winner Airini Beau-trais' book 'Bug Week'. They are all short stories, which is unusual.

Here's a selection of some more great titles.

Lynda La Plante	<i>Judas Horse</i>
Stuart Macbride	<i>The Coffin Maker's Garden</i>
Patricia Grace	<i>From the Centre a Writer's Life - Biography</i>

Come and have a look around and see our great selection of books that we have acquired over the years.

Barbara Field



Locals Night at Elevation Brasserie

473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua
Second Friday of each
month at approximately
6.15pm

What better way to get together and get to know your neighbours than over dinner and a few drinks? Everyone pays for themselves, but the good folk at Elevation can offer great prices. The next dinner will be held on **Friday 9 July**.

To RSVP, and for more information, please phone Carol Longley on either 814 9855 or 0274 814 500.

Hope to see you there!



Pictures from the deck

Wayne Edwards of Quinns Rd contributed this beautiful photo for our "Pictures from the Deck" section, of the sun rising over Coromandel and Rangitoto.

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Waitakere Forest and Bird 2021 Lecture series

Ewen Cameron: Plants and some seabirds along the exposed Waitakere coast — Thursday 15 July 7.30pm

Ewen Cameron is Curator of Botany at the Auckland Museum, a position he has held for nearly 30 years. His main research interest is collecting and documenting the wild flora (naturalised and indigenous) of northern New Zealand, including the offshore islands. He has also been fortunate to occasionally assist his brother-in-law, Graeme Taylor, monitoring grey-faced petrels at Te Henga.

The plants of the exposed rocky Waitakere coast, including the few islands, are constrained by the salt-laden winds and stormy seas. He will talk about some of these special hardy species, along with some of the seabirds and the influence of mammalian predators. *Venue: Kelston Community Centre, cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd. Non members welcome, join us for supper afterwards. Koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information ph Liz 0274 762732, lizanstey@hotmail.com*

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at these friendly local businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

Waitakere Resort & Spa Ph: 814 9622 573 Scenic Drive www.waitakereresort.co.nz

Blow Moulders Ltd (cash & online banking) with 10% discount off retail Ph: 818 7709
8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden www.bml.co.nz

The Landscape Yard (bulk product sales only) Ph: 818 6129 293 West Coast Rd, Glen Eden www.thelandscapeyard.co.nz

Henderson Hire Ph: 838 8879 Cnr Railside Ave & View Rd, Henderson www.hendersonhire.co.nz

Other special rates for WRRRA members at:

Elevation Brasserie Ph: 814 8727 473 Scenic Drive www.elevationbrasserie.co.nz

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

Please accept my Membership to the Waitarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

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\$20 household.

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To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waitarua, Auckland, or leave at the library, or email these details to: treasurer@waitarua.org.nz

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, editor@waitarua.org.nz, ph 814 8856. Community Notices are free to current financial members.

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

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 7.15pm start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided. \$3 donation to CPNZ. Ph Celia: 814 9660

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 Rds. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

Plants, crafts etc: Various plants, shrubs and bromeliads. Assorted crafts, scarves, net fruit bags \$2, occasional cards, knitting, sewing, second hand books. All proceeds to Nepalese Educ Trust for Tertiary Scholarships. 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

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

Waitarua 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

We are Loud: modern music lessons — vocals, piano, guitar, bass, drums & songwriting. Group & private lessons for all ages and levels. Visit www.weareloud.co.nz or contact jo@weareloud.co.nz 0274 707 042.

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

Quote of the Month

JUST BREATHE.

You are strong enough to cope with your challenges,

Wise enough to find a solution to your problems,

And capable enough to do whatever needs to be done.

Lori Deschene

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the

Editor

by 5pm on FRIDAY 16 JULY



Friday Night is Locals Night (after 5pm)

25% discount on our handmade pizzas,
and a reduced price on beers and wines

Bring your WRRR card for our
WRRR Menu & additional discounts

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Waiatarua Community Patrol – News

Well, winter is well and truly here – along with dark nights and potentially dangerous road conditions. So just another timely reminder to please take extra care, be patient and keep those speeds down when driving.

Our team are still out on patrol several times a week – helping to keep our community safe.

Also remember that all incidents of theft, damage or anti-social behaviour should be reported directly to the Police – no matter how big or small. This information helps the Police (and us) recognise patterns and trends in the area and assists with the effective allocation of resources.

This month we would like to say a huge thank you to the team and members at **F45 Training Glen Eden** for their support of our patrol. These great folks ran a fundraising effort onsite over April to help keep us on the road and their contribution is much appreciated.

We also now have our own Givealittle page - to make donating to our organisation a breeze. www.givealittle.co.nz/org/waiatarua-community-patrol-charitable-trust

We Need You!

We are always looking for new recruits. The more patrolers we have, the more we can get our patrol vehicle out there actively being a deterrent of crime. We cover the areas of Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley and have a mixture of ages and backgrounds, retired and working, couples and singles.

Your commitment:

Only 4 hours a month – one two hour patrol a fortnight. Daytime or evening, weekdays or weekends.

Passing a Police Security Clearance check on joining

Current Drivers Licence

We provide:

Uniform and training

Patrol vehicle and safety equipment

The fun of getting to know your local area and community.

Patrolling not your thing? Perhaps you can help us in other ways... contact us to chat.

Our Recent Activities

18 patrols during April and May

Reported incidents: In May patrolers assisted with required traffic control when a pile of illegally dumped dirt on West Coast Road became a traffic obstacle – managing the scene until Auckland Transport representatives arrived.

Attended the Henderson Heroes Community Event in April.

Enjoyed an amazing day with other Waitemata Patrol groups at a special training event organised by NZ Police.

And we bid a sad farewell to a couple of long-term members while welcoming one new patroler to the group.

Police Contacts to Remember

111 – Emergency

105 - non-emergency (incident already happened & don't need urgent assistance). Or online 105.police.govt.nz

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 – Report crime anonymously, or online crimestoppers-nz.org/report

*555 (from mobile phone) – urgent but not life-threatening driving incidents

Stay safe.. and warm

Sue Dell – Patrol Co-ordinator /
Chairman (waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz / 021 681 207)



Working together throughout New Zealand to reduce crime and build safer communities

Waiatarua Community Patrol needs you!

Contact us now: waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz or **021 681 207**

WE NEED YOU

What are CPNZ (Community Patrols NZ)?

A community based volunteer organisation helping the Police make communities a safer environment in which to live – by providing extra “eyes and ears”, patrolling local streets in a sign written vehicle, undertaking surveillance and observation.

Our aim - to be a deterrent, to stop the crimes before they happen.



How can I help? Become a volunteer patroler for the Waiatarua CPNZ group

(covering Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley)
Volunteers needed for both daytime and evening patrols (weekdays and weekends).

A flexible commitment of around 4 hours per month. Full training and uniform supplied. Police Security Clearance check required.

If you want to make a difference in our local community, get in touch and find out how you can help.

For more, see the CPNZ website:

www.cpnz.org.nz or find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/waiataruacommunitypatrol



SCAN ME

Stories from the Past

The Nihotupu timber mill

Timber milling started in the Waitakeres on the Manukau Harbour edge, but it was only a matter of time before investment and technology enabled access to previously unreachable stands of kauri in the Waitakere Ranges. In the 1890s, the timber millers had their eye on an area of kauri on blocks of land owned by John Hueston and William Wasley and his son, Oliver, at Nihotupu, just west of Waiaatarua. Wasley's Bush, as it was known, was considered to be one of the most outstanding areas of kauri forest in New Zealand, and it contained a particular tree, the Glasgow Tree, that because of its spectacular size had been put aside and named after the then Governor of New Zealand, Lord Glasgow.

The millers were Francis "Frank" Mander and Samuel Bradley, principals of the company Mander & Bradley. Mander was Onehunga-born and started his working life at 10 years of age. He was also the father of novelist Jane Mander and later an MP and newspaper proprietor. Mander's partner, Samuel Bradley, was also Onehunga-born and a successful businessman.

The reason the Nihotupu trees had survived into the 1890s was that they couldn't be extracted with the usual transport method of driving dams because the areas with trees were below the Scenic Drive ridge. Mander & Bradley had the know-how and capital to tackle this difficult extraction and they hired as mill manager Nicholas Gibbons (of Whatipu) who had managed their Albertland operation. Nicholas's eldest son, Robert Henry "Bob" Gibbons, 32 years of age, was the bush contractor. The Nihotupu mill was located in the long shallow basin just west of Waiaatarua which is now regional parkland (reach the site from the Ian Wells Track, near the decommissioned Nihotupu Auxiliary Dam). It employed 58 men in the

summer season and 30 in the winter when the weather and ground conditions affected the output of the mill.

It would have been the Gibbons, father and son, who worked out how to get the trees from Nihotupu down to Henderson Valley 300 metres below. Loads of sawn timber were winched from the mill up to the ridge which is today the Scenic Drive using a horse-powered capstan, then lowered on a precipitous tramway which ran on steep inclines and over sixteen bridges to the valley below. All the output of the mill went to the newly established Melbourne syndicate, the Kauri Timber Company, which had headquarters in Customs Street.

The life of this mill was estimated to be only three years. In January 1899 a fire started by Oliver Wasley burning his boundary, destroyed the mill, damaged the tramlines and burned some of the bush. The fire was

"...fed by the dry heads of the kauri left after milling and by the chips and waste left by firewood and shingle cutters. It set up a heavy pall of smoke which drifted over Auckland."

The fire badly singed the famous Glasgow tree, which after the fire gradually died.

Mander & Bradley's Nihotupu mill was valued at £3000 when it burned down. The company said it had no insurance but would rebuild to cut the remaining timber which it said was six months' supply. By late 1899 Mander & Bradley had wound up operations and taken the equipment to a new site at Puhipuhi, north of Whangarei. Bob Gibbons was bush contractor at Puhipuhi and some of the Nihotupu bushmen followed him north. When he came to work at Piha in 1910, many of the workforce came with him.

Sandra Coney



From the Editor

Hello everyone

My family and I attended the monthly Locals Night at Elevation Brasserie on Friday 11 June. It was the first one we had been to and it was a really good night, with an excellent turnout. A good way to meet others in the community. See the ad on page 2 for details of the next dinner.

I was recently contacted by a parent at Oratia District School who sent me a link to a wonderful documentary that some of the senior schoolchildren have put together about local history in both Oratia and Waiaatarua (as seen on page 2 of this issue). I really enjoyed it and was a nice way to spend 40 or so minutes on a Saturday afternoon. I highly recommend you watch it.

Don't forget we now have a pull out page in the newsletter for advertising on both sides of that page. Unfortunately at present one side is being filled with content—and no advertising. If you, or anyone you know has a business to promote, please get in touch with me at editor@waiatarua.org.nz. We offer various ad sizes at very reasonable rates—from as little as \$30 per insertion, to reach 750 households in the Waiaatarua area. I think that's got to be a bargain!

Cheers, Erin

Top photo: Bushmen beside the tramway to Henderson. Frank Mander, the co-owner of the mill, is the man sitting on the right. The other men were all local bushmen. Heritage Collections, Auckland Libraries

Bottom photo: Wasley's house at Nihotupu showing the size of the kauri that attracted the millers. Heritage Collections, Auckland Libraries