



# Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

February 2022

**BRING YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS  
to the**

**Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents  
Association**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday 22 February 2022 at the Waiaatarua Hall, 911  
West Coast Road**

**6.30pm for a 7.00pm start**

Residents and ratepayers are invited to attend. Bring your thoughts and ideas that you would like to see the Committee address during the coming year.

To vote you are required to be a financial member for a minimum of 21 days prior to the meeting – there is one vote per household. A membership form is included in this newsletter and is also available on the WRRRA website.

Nominations for the Committee are open. Positions are – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Secretary and General Committee.

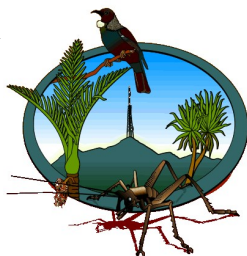
The nomination form is on the website or is available via the Secretary at [secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz). Completed nomination forms need to be with the Secretary 48 hours prior to the meeting.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the Committee for 2022.

Guest speakers are arranged – our local MP Deborah Russell, Rita Steel (Environmental) and Shane Henderson (Councillor).

Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Please Note: The vaccination pass is required to enter the hall; other Covid protocols in place at the time of the meeting will be followed, e.g. masks and social distancing. A Virtual Presentation will be set up for those unable to attend in person.**



## WRRRA Executive Committee Nomination Form

**AGM February 2022**

You must be nominated by a paid Member of the Association and seconded by a current member of the Executive Committee; the form must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than 48 hours prior to the AGM. A copy of the form will be distributed with the meeting notice and will also be available from the President, the Secretary and from the website.

Positions available for election are The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and 3 Executive Committee positions. The position of Librarian and Environment Portfolio are co-opted positions and therefore not up for election. Should there be no nominations for the elected positions then the number of Executive Committee roles may be extended.

### Nominee

Name:

Nominated:

Signed:

### Nominated By

Name:

Position:

Signed:

### Seconded By

Name:

Position:

Signed:

Form Dated:

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

**Contact Us**  
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**Hall hire bookings:** Matt Smith Phone: 021 059 3467 Email: [hallhire@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto: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](http://www.waiaatarua.org.nz)

### 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  
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**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  
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All members of the WRRRA who present a WRRRA card at the time of purchase at Elevation Brasserie are entitled to a 15% discount for the table across all meals. Usual terms and conditions will apply.

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

## Waitakere Forest and Bird

### 2022 Lecture series

**Talk by Adam Weller - How can you use carbon footprinting to combat climate emergency?**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm**

Adam Weller is the sustainability manager of a large company. As a board member of SBN (Sustainable Business Network) he will talk about his experience of how this relatively new role of 'the sustainability professional' is working with businesses to address climate change. He'll discuss carbon footprinting and how they use it. As it is a tool we can all use ourselves as well as individuals, he will explain how this can help us make the best choices for the climate in our daily lives.

He will also go through the new Climate Change Commission advice to the Government and cover the question; *is New Zealand ready for a low carbon economy supported by the circular economy?*

*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*

### MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Copy needs to be with the Editor**

**by 5pm on FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY**

**Please accept my Membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2022**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

## Library News

Happy New Year to all our readers, we hope it will be a better one with no lockdowns!

A grey jacket has been left at the library. Please come and pick it up, you probably forgot where you left it.

Here are a few of the books we have purchased:-

John Grisham	<i>The Judges List</i>
David Baldacci	<i>A Gambling Man</i>
John Le Carre	<i>Silverview</i>
James Patterson	<i>2 Sisters Detective Agency</i>
Diana Gabaldon	<i>Go tell the Bees that I am Gone</i>
Janet Evanovich	<i>Dangerous Minds</i>

Please return any of the Auckland Library books that you have borrowed from our library as we will be getting a new set in February.

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Barbara Field*

## Quote of the Month

*"Love is much bigger than relationships. Love is the way you heal yourself, the kindness you give to others, the gentleness you give yourself during turbulent times, the space you hold for close friends, the intention you use to live in the present, and the energy that changes the world. It's every moment that elevates the human experience and all the small things that make life shine."*

*- Yung Pueblo*

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## Environmental Corner

### Trap Library Update

This is ticking along brilliantly! We have now caught 311 pests, so a big shout out to our members for being part of the solution! 205 rats, 64 possums and 29 hedgehogs have made up the key species caught.

If you haven't been using your trap PLEASE reach out—there are now new members needing traps! I will be following up with you shortly.

### Wasp Weekend Blitz

Coming up at the end of summer a group of volunteers will be placing wasp bait stations on properties to help keep the German (or yellow jacket) wasp population under control. If you would like to volunteer your property there are some spaces available for free. You are eligible if you are in the Oratia or Waiatarua area and if you have noticed wasps at the end of last summer.

### Birds

We have had some great sightings of native birds in the area recently - I am on the look out for a Kaka, a few of which have been spotted. The birds are thirsty so please leave out water for them but please DO NOT feed birds unless you know what you are doing. Human food such as bread, fruit and even bird seed, encourages non native species like spotted doves, mynahs and sparrows, all of which drive out local species as well as encouraging rats. If you would like to see more native birds the best way to do this is utilizing native planting such as flax, kowhai and karo.

For more info check out:

[https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/native-plants-attract-birds?gclid=Cj0KCQiAraSPBhDuARIsAM3Js4oiNqgtZtDcpNTUsrbpJ263m30aLZP94YXEOGLjvCo4t494A4h-csaAqVIEALw\\_wcB](https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/native-plants-attract-birds?gclid=Cj0KCQiAraSPBhDuARIsAM3Js4oiNqgtZtDcpNTUsrbpJ263m30aLZP94YXEOGLjvCo4t494A4h-csaAqVIEALw_wcB)

Rita Steel

## Are there caves or tunnels in Waiatarua?

Way back in December 2020 I wrote a small article asking the community if anyone knew of any caves or tunnels in our area, having heard a rumour that this may indeed be the case. One year later, local resident John Allpress very kindly emailed me with the following information, published with his permission.

*Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, Editor*

"Hi Erin

Thanks for your very good work with the Waiatarua Community News!

We have one of the tunnels mentioned in your December 2020 issue. The tunnel is located at the rear of our property, 931 West Coast Rd, and I believe that the other two are in the vicinity of Elevation Brasserie.

Our tunnel's dimensions are approximately

1.2m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 3.0m(L). Unfortunately, roots have caused a partial collapse of the tunnel's ceiling and it wouldn't be safe to crawl in.

I was told that three tunnels were dug to store munitions in response to a perceived threat of invasion from the Russians in the late 1800s. This was as a consequence of the Anglo-Russian war in Afghanistan. The fear of invasion led to the NZ Government to construct defences at strategic locations along the coasts of both islands.

Fear of Japanese invasion during WW2 led to further defence structures being built along the NZ coastline. So, whatever the reason for the construction of these tunnels in our area it could certainly make for an interesting investigation".



## Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz), ph 021 355 009. Community Notices are free to current financial members.

**Doers Networks:** local, fast internet providers [info@doers.net.nz](mailto: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 Cecilia: 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](mailto: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.

**Waiatarua Playcentre:** Come and have 3 free visits at our bush-nestled Playcentre. We are child led, parent run and full of fun! Open 9:15am - 1.15pm Mon and Weds. Contact [waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz) or [www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre](http://www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre)

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**Work To Do:** Sort out that 'To Do' list for your House, Garden or Property. Clean Ups, Maintenance, Simple Repairs, Tree Trims, Window Cleans, Painting etc. Local and Reliable. Call Chris 027 600 3977.

**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](mailto:yovistopstitch12@gmail.com)





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## War on Weeds returns with free weed bin for Waiatarua

Invasive weeds can be a source of grief, but from 22 February to 31 March, Waiatarua residents will be able to dispose of them for free. Funded weed bins are coming back for the annual War on Weeds, thanks to support from the Waitākere Ranges and Henderson-Massey local boards and Auckland Council.

“We’re very excited. This is a golden opportunity for everyone in Waiatarua to scan their backyard for pest plants, save money on disposal, and help keep them out of our shared forest, parks and reserves,” says Mel Ward from EcoMatters Environment Trust, who manages the bins.

Invasive weeds accepted include wild ginger, moth plant, tradescantia, Japanese honeysuckle, jasmine, climbing asparagus, woolly nightshade and more. These are all species that are known to smother and disrupt native ecosystems.

“Climbing asparagus and wild ginger are particular ones for Waiatarua residents to look out for, because we know that they are particularly problematic in the neighbourhood. With wild ginger, ideally we want to take this opportunity to dispose of their roots, rhizomes and seed heads in the bins, as these are the parts that regrow and spread further. Green stems and leaves are best left onsite to decompose in the bush,” Mel says.

This year’s War on Weeds will be accompanied by a community conversation called the Pest Plant Roadshow, which will be held next to the weed bin at the Waiatarua Community Hall carpark, 911 West Coast Rd, Saturday 27 March, 10am - 1pm.



Above: Mel Ward at a weed bin

“If you want to find out which weeds you should bin, bag, or put in a barrel, come along for a chat with the EcoMatters team. We’ll be sharing tips on weed identification and control, and other free resources for weeders,” says Mel.

The Pest Plant Roadshow is supported by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Auckland Council.

More information at [ecomatters.org.nz/war-on-weeds](http://ecomatters.org.nz/war-on-weeds)

Mel Ward, EcoMatters Nature Team



Right: Green stems and leaves from wild ginger can be left in the bush

## Plant of the Month—White Rata



My garden is buzzing with bees and bumble bees. They are all over the white rata vines that climb up the whēkī trunks at the edge of my garden. *Metrosideros perforata*, to give it its latin name, is part of the pohutukawa/rata family and is one of 12 species native to Aotearoa/New Zealand. Its leaves

are small, typical of many plants native to the under-storey of the New Zealand bush. It germinates on the ground before climbing trees with its distinctive ‘mosaic’ pattern, the clasping roots cling to trees as it climbs to reach the forest canopy. Once reaching the canopy it branches out and becomes bushy. The white fluffy flow-

ers are attractive to bees, butterflies, birds, geckos and at night time the white flowers attract many moth species.

According to Gardening with New Zealand Plants, Shrubs & Trees (Fisher et al, 1988) it can apparently form a small shrub if it’s not allowed to climb and could even be possibly used as an alternative to box hedging!

It is, unfortunately, susceptible the Australian fungal disease, myrtle rust, which can be treated with a fungicide in the domestic environment but it is impossible to eradicate in the wild.

White Rata has uses historically and in the present. Maori use the young vines for lashing weapons and palisades. The thin young stems were tied while green and pliable, they then dried and become very hard and rigid. It was known to be an antiseptic, to stop bleeding and recently it has been discovered that leaves and bark have anti bacterial properties effective against super bugs.

White rata (akatea) is found throughout the North Island in the west of the South Island and as far south as Banks Peninsula in the east.

Cathie Wells



## From the Editor

Happy New Year everyone

Well here we are at the beginning of another year. I hope that most of you had a good Christmas and have had the opportunity to get away for a break even if only for a few days. We spent Christmas Day with family which was lovely, albeit in the sweltering heat (I can't remember a Christmas day being as hot as that!).

The family and I have just returned from a very relaxing week away up at Leigh. We spent most days boogie boarding and lounging on the beach at Tawharanui. Such a beautiful and peaceful spot up there and not too far from Auckland, although I must say I was pretty glad to get away from Auckland to rest and recuperate after a stressful, challenging and difficult year—I think we can all agree that 2021 was definitely one of those. We've been going to the same place for the past 17 years and it's like walking into a time capsule of a typical 70's NZ Keith Hay home complete with original carpet, Shacklock stove, lino floor, paper thin walls, very few power points and mismatched crockery (some Crown Lynn). Staying there reminds me of my own childhood and how free and simple life was back then. How I yearn for that in this age of greed, fear-mongering mainstream media, consumerism and social media!

On the night of the recent full moon (18 January) we took a drive out to the open sanctuary at Tawharanui in the hope of spotting kiwi as there is a population of them there. Unfortunately we didn't see any, but we did see plenty of rabbits hopping about. It was a truly beautiful night with the full moon and no light pollution meaning the stars in the night sky were very visible.

Our poor garden is looking very dry in this heat and the birds are very grateful to have two bird baths in which to cool off. Our cat has not stopped meowing at us since our return—I think she is telling us off for having gone away and left her (although I hasten to add she was taken very good care of while we were away).

The WRRRA AGM is fast approaching and it would be good to see as many as possible of you there. Details are on the front page of the newsletter. I am planning on standing again as your newsletter Editor.

You will see from this issue that we have lost some of our large display advertisers and so for the time being I will be taking the newsletter back to its original 4 page format. This issue is an exception however as I had enough content to fill 6 pages. As always, I hope you enjoy reading it.

*Cheers, Erin*

## How to Marry Harry

Oratia resident, Kirsty Roby and her sister Nikki Perry have written a book about Harry Styles in the hope that he will play himself in the subsequent movie. Read their hilarious book and see how it turned out!

Could Harry Styles be the perfect man for Jo's daughter Bayley? Surely, he would be, if Jo could only wrangle a meeting. When Jo coerces her sister Bobbi into a trip to the UK to follow musician Harry Styles, along with a cardboard cutout of her daughter in a red bikini, she wasn't planning on everything turning to custard. Even though when it comes to Jo and Bobbi, that's usually exactly what happens. Divorced and lonely, has Jo become so invested in her daughter's future that she hasn't considered there could still be love out there for herself? And will she ever learn that you can never just have one cocktail? Bobbi thinks they're going to one concert and then to Scotland to scatter their beloved late uncle's ashes. She's just along for the ride but will her efforts help or hinder Jo's plans? When Jo and Bobbi meet Adam, a teenager bunking off school and also following Harry, helping him reconnect with his father could lead Jo in an altogether unexpected direction.

### About the authors

Sisters Kirsty and Nikki are approaching middle age gracefully. They are best friends, avid readers, writers, foodies and cocktail enthusiasts. Old enough to write from experience but young enough to still believe in love, they write quirky, light-hearted stories that they feel are a welcome escape in this current world climate. Kirsty is based in Auckland and trained as an early childhood teacher, but now volunteers at Radio Lollipop. Nikki divides her time between their hometown of Tauranga and Wellington. They each have three teen / twenties children and two cats. Kirsty also has three dogs she likes more than all of them. They recently completed courses through the New Zealand Writers College and with The Creative Hub and are members of the NZSA and RWNZ.

Neither of them can do a cartwheel.

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Nikki and Kirsty are available for interview. For media queries, review and giveaway copies, extracts and interviews, please contact publicist Karen McKenzie, 027 693 9044, [karen@lighthousepr.co.nz](mailto:karen@lighthousepr.co.nz), [www.lighthousepr.co.nz](http://www.lighthousepr.co.nz)

