



# Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

Easter issue—April 2022



## Waiaatarua Residents & Ratepayers Association needs YOU!

Do you know a few people locally? Here's your opportunity to give back to the community while also getting your and the community's voices / opinions heard at local Government.

### Volunteer roles available for WRRRA Committee

No you don't get paid. Expenses are reimbursed.

**President – we are looking for a leader with good people and communication skills**

#### **Tasks:**

To liaise with the Committee on issues relating to Waiaatarua and the wider Waitakere Region.

Monitor emails from Auckland Council. Liaise with the Council Local Board on matters that are likely to affect the Waitakere Region, forwarding to appropriate committee members.

Conduct a monthly or bi-monthly committee meeting – they don't take long.

Submit a President's report for the monthly newsletter.

If you have a few hours a month and would like to contribute to your community and are interested in joining our Committee then please email the Secretary on [secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz). The Vice President will show you what happens and support you as you come up to speed.

### **Treasurer – basic bookkeeping, must be able to count.**

Our current Treasurer, Matt Smith has resigned from the Treasurer's role but is staying on the Committee, so we are seeking a replacement Treasurer. Full training provided and Matt will assist with the handover; the organization uses MYOB software, so everything is set up, it just needs to be run.

#### **Tasks:**

Preparation of monthly accounts report (all templated)

Payments as required – not many

Manage membership renewals and membership list

For more information regarding this role please email Matt on [treasurer@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waiaatarua.org.nz)

### **Committee – has an opinion, knows some locals, team player**

We have at least two vacancies on the general Committee. If you have a few hours a month to spare, have got some good ideas to bring along and wish to help and contribute to your Community, then come join us. We would greatly appreciate your assistance and input, so please email the Secretary on [secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waiaatarua.org.nz)

**Don't delay—do it now !**



*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](mailto:editor@waiaatarua.org.nz)

**WRRRA President:** TO BE ELECTED

**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](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)

## From the WRRRA Committee

The Committee submitted a response to Auckland Council on their Draft Regional Parks Management Plan which would have a significant impact on the Waitakere region if implemented.

This draft was distributed on 10 December to various Associations and groups throughout Auckland when residents were coping with Covid restrictions, school children and the fast approaching holiday season. Many of the Ratepayers Associations had already held their

final meeting for 2021 with another not scheduled for early to mid February. This then left only 2-3 weeks to digest a 500 page document and submit a response, a time frame that was totally unacceptable for such an important issue.

There will be more to come on this and we will keep you up to date. If you wish to view this draft then please go to the Waiaatarua Residents & Ratepayers website [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz), where a link has been set up. Our submission is also available on the website.

## Fire Brigade News

### Our volunteers are essential

Fire and Emergency NZ relies on volunteers in 600 plus stations nationwide, to help communities prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies. As well as firefighting, our volunteers attend medical incidents, motor vehicle accidents, severe weather events and other requests for help. We also install and check smoke alarms and help to improve fire safety in our communities.

If you're a team player, would like to learn new skills and make your community safer, the Waiaatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade would love to hear from you.

You can also find more information here - <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/volunteering/different-ways-to-volunteer/>

### Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency.

To check if you need a permit to light a fire: [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) (or 0800 658 628)

### For our Brigade:

Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505)

Deputy Chief Officer Ian Ford (814 8871)

Volunteer Brigade Support Christine Healy  
([Christine.healy@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:Christine.healy@fireandemergency.nz))



## Locals Night at Elevation Brasserie

**473 Scenic Drive, Waiaatarua. 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 8 April**.

Our local councillor Shane Henderson will be attending. He is very keen to get a bus service up and running again in our area so don't hesitate to have to chat to him about that!

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

*Hope to see you there!*

## Plant of the Month

### Houhere / Lacebark

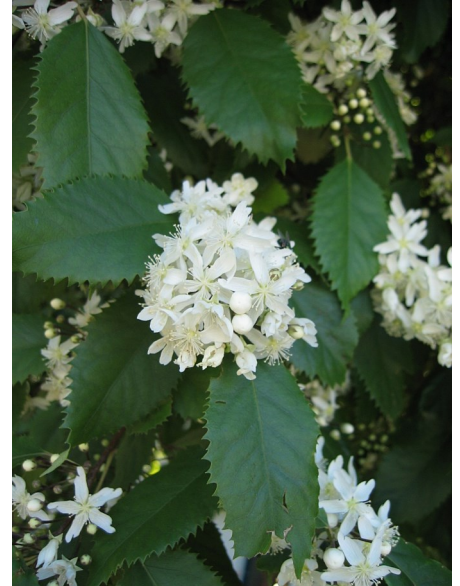
Have you noticed the delicate white flowers in the bush at the moment? It is the Houhere, (Lacebark) flowering.

One of New Zealand's fastest growing trees, it measures about six metres high. It lives on average for 10 years, but in ideal conditions can reach nine metres and live up to 50 years. This

beautiful tree has scented white flowers that appear in autumn. Planting it in your garden will attract kereru which love the foliage, particularly the outermost, succulent new leaves. The species recommended for the Waitakere Ranges is *Hoheria populnea*. It is best planted in moist fertile soil. The young plants are frost tender and need to be protected.

Houhere gets its English name from the fibrous inner bark. Tiny growths of the outer layer of wood penetrate this fibrous layer, giving it a lacy appearance that when dried, comes away from the bark and wood in several fine layers which can be used for fine decorative weaving.

Lacebark also has medicinal uses, many of which are explained on the The Herb Federation of New Zealand's website, <https://herbs.org.nz/herbs/lacebark-ribbonwood/>



## Quote of the Month

The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people. But because of the silence of the good people.

*Napoleon*

### MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Copy needs to be with the Editor**

**by 5pm on FRIDAY 15 APRIL**

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## Letter to the Editor

The caves and tunnels in the vicinity of the Elevation Brasserie are likely to be those made by Frederick Judson, who owned and ran the Waiatarua Boarding House, about two sections down from the current Elevation. Sandra Coney wrote an article about the boarding house for the May 2021 newsletter.

After it was built in 1905 Fred Judson began excavating in the area. Some articles said he had initially been looking for gold, which was unsuccessful, others that the tunnels were dug to provide material for filling and grading tracks through the bush. He created cavities with his digging and 'was amazed one night ... to find them brilliantly lit up by a myriad of glow-worms.' He continued to develop the caves so that his guests 'might take an after-dinner stroll, and see the sparkle.' This proved to be another attraction in the area, apart from the accommodation, and the tea-rooms on journeys to Piha. In March 1926 a journalist described the caves as '20 to 40 feet in length' 'just off the main road, at the peak of the hill at Nihotupu', the previous name for the area, and there were glow-worms 'three or four inches long', although many were smaller. There were comparisons to those in the Waitomo limestone caves, though the Waiatarua caves where the glow-worms thrived were 'friable sandstone mixed with earth'<sup>1</sup>

Fred semi-retired to a cottage he had built around 1915, opposite the Piha turn-off, and others managed the accommodation, although the property still belonged to the Judson family. He was in charge of the Nihotupu telephone office into his eighties. In 1927 the *New Zealand Herald* said he'd driven a tunnel underneath the telephone office, and dug in the adjoining area, and 'hundreds of the glistening points of light can be seen nightly.'<sup>2</sup>

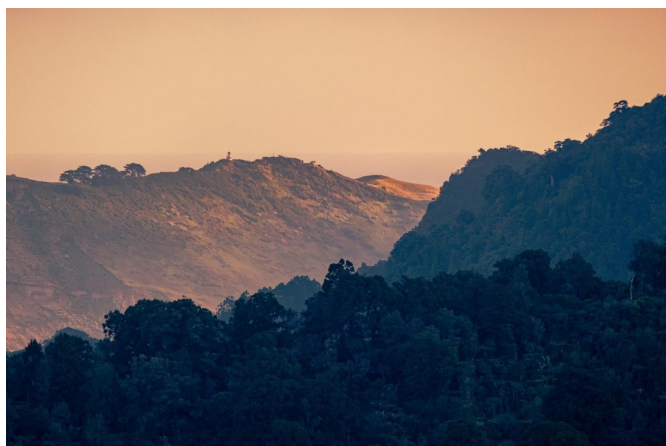
The glow-worms were still an attraction ten years later when Robin Hyde was staying in a bach below the Waiatarua boarding house, where she wrote *A Home in This World*. In her manuscript she said 'when I had had my bath at the accommodation house ... I got a shock. Voices laughing and shouting outside, "Oooh, did you see the glow-worm? Look at that glow-worm!"' 'She thought they were passers-by, who would leave when they had seen enough. But when she came to pass by on the verandah, she found the 'young things' had stopped for a cup of tea and were 'all sitting there, laughing and smoking, watching the long tremble of lights.'<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Auckland Star, 22nd March, 1926

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Herald, 23 February 1927

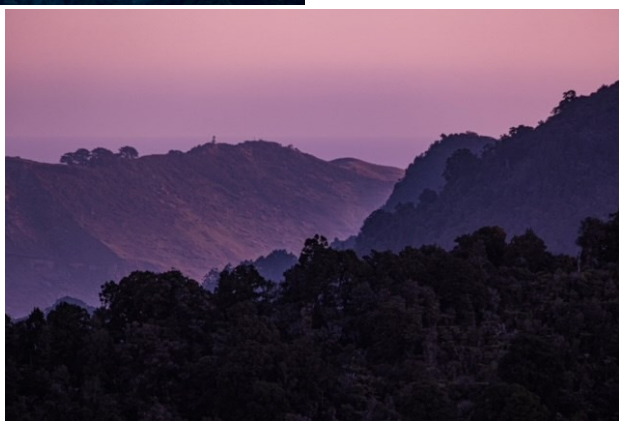
<sup>3</sup> A Home in this World by Robin Hyde, Longman Paul Ltd, 1984, p. 59

Jenny Clay



Top: Sunset's golden light hitting South Head.

Right: Pink post-sunset light on South Head.



Two beautiful images supplied by our resident photographer, Greg Lokes. Greg says that this is one of his favourite views from his place, looking over the bush of the Waitakere Ranges to the Awhitu lighthouse and the grassy slopes of the Manukau Harbour's South Head.

## 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, from 7pm. 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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**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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