



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Spring issue—September 2022



Update from the WRRRA Committee

Quiz Night – Saturday 23rd August: A great success and it was wonderful to see around 60 residents enjoying the challenges presented by Ian Ford and Cathie Wells, our Quiz Masters – they do throw some curly questions at us! There were a total of nine teams



vying for the winning spot which was taken out by The All Sorts – well done!

Another Quiz evening is

planned, most likely late October, early November – we'll let you know in plenty of time so that you can assemble your team and brush up on your general knowledge.

Some Progress with AT: Councillors Linda Cooper, Shane Henderson and Community Board members Ken Turner, Mark Allen and Sandra Coney met with members of the committee on Saturday 23rd August. This was a follow up to recent communications with AT and the above people regarding a number of roading and drainage issues in the Waiatarua area. Michelle Clayton, whilst not present on the 23rd, had taken the time to visit with us on the prior Saturday. It was disappointing that AT did not see fit to send any participants, even though they were copied into all communications regarding this meeting. We would like to thank everyone that took the time to meet with us.

The Councillors and Community Board members were driven along the three main corridors Forest Hill Rd, West Coast Rd and Scenic Drive so that they could see first hand the state of the roads – slips, sinking roads, potholes, vegetation debris on roadsides and blocked and semi blocked drains and culverts. They were left in no doubt about how the residents are feeling about these issues. They were also shown a property near Brabant Road that was seriously damaged in the August 2021 storm – a direct result of a blocked stormwater drain that had not been cleared on a regular basis. Not only was the house damaged but there were two major

slips on the property that have affected the stability of their home.

With regards to the clearing of the roadsides, **it is now the responsibility of the residents to report issues** on either the AT web site – At@govt.nz - or by phoning the Western contractor on (09) 355 3553 and lodging details. In the words of AT “the problem will be assessed and made safe on an as and when required basis”. **AT no longer carry out regular roadside checks to ensure that roads are safe and in good order** – we are not sure when this became the taxpayer's responsibility!

The good news - some work has commenced – the blocked drain near Brabant Rd has been cleared; there is also some evidence of clearing of a section of culvert on Forest Hill Road, some potholes have been filled and some work has been done on recent slips on Forest Hill Road and Scenic Drive – though hard to tell if these will be adequate given the condition of these roads. At this stage, no action has been taken to clear the roads of the fallen debris.

We have been allocated case numbers and a Case Manager and currently have open cases for which we are in constant communication to try and obtain action and rectification. Michelle Clayton from the Community Board has been particularly supportive communicating with AT on our behalf and for that we are extremely appreciative.

Another fact that came to light during the group meeting – the clearing of trees growing through the power lines is now largely the responsibility of Auckland Council. However, the high tension lines, are the responsibility of Vector. There are lots of lines in Waiatarua that need attention, so residents are encouraged to lodge a complaint on the Auckland Council website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. Go to Report a Problem – please be sure to provide the location.

There is also to be a change to the contractor conducting “the work” in our area – for many years it has been Fulton Hogan; over the coming months this will change to Ventia. Only time will tell if this makes a difference!!

It is also somewhat disappointing and disturbing to know that one or two of the Community Board members are reluctant to support any remedial work along the main corridors into the Waitakeres – their preference is to leave it “wild” as this may well discourage people to visit the region thus reducing the need for capital investment in the areas – not sure where that thinking leaves the residents.

Please let us know what you think, or if you have other issues that the Committee can bring to the attention of AT, Council and the Community Board. With elections coming up, it will be an ideal time to let the Candidates know what your thoughts are on these topics.



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: 021 355 009 Email: editor@waiatarua.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@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

CATASTROPHIC WRRRA COMMITTEE COLLAPSE

Ah! Now that I have your attention...

Committee Vacancies

HELP! WE ARE GETTING DESPERATE! We STILL require the services of not one, not two but now THREE more volunteers to fill the positions of President, Treasurer and Environment – if you would like to become involved with your community then please contact us via email: secretary@waiatarua.org.nz. We would certainly appreciate your input. Details of these three positions have been outlined in previous newsletters, which are available on the website: www.waiatarua.org.nz.

We bid farewell to Rita Steel our Environmental lead who is stepping down from the role after many years' service to focus on work and family. We now need someone else to step up and take over. Details of what the role entails can be found by clicking this link <https://waiatarua.org.nz/people/rita-steel/> and then clicking on "Word Document" at the bottom of the page.

Thank you Rita for all your hard work and everything you have done for the environment and our community—we wish you all the best for the future.

With Committee members dropping like flies, it is not too extravagant to say that this is a crisis for the WRRRA. If we don't get people to stand for election to the committee there is a real danger that the Association will have to go into recess. This would be a disaster for Waiatarua, because;

- We would no longer have a voice with Auckland Council;
- We would have no means of running the Community Hall;
- The newsletter would disappear;
- The Community Library would probably continue, but be thrown totally on its own resources as far as administration, maintenance etc. is concerned; and
- There would be no-one organising social events – community breakfasts, quiz nights, debates etc (more on events below).

A special word to members of the community who have been on the Committee in the past — please consider whether you would like to do it again. We could certainly use your experience.

We have a great community here and we are lucky to live in such a beautiful area. If we want the WRRRA to continue we need people to work on the Committee. Please, if you care about our community, want it to stay as the beautiful place it is now and have a bit of spare time, contact the Secretary now and offer your services.

Letter to the Editor

I was reading the Waiatarua Community News recently and I noted with interest the article on the roading issues. I live on Forest Hill Rd and have been flooded out several times due to a lack of maintenance on the roadside drains. Of note was a storm that caused a slip in June 2020 which blocked the roadside drain and then debris blocking the drain during the storm in August 2021 (due to a roadside sign placed in the drain by roading contractors). In both cases I contacted the council immediately and asked for an urgent clearing of the slip/blocked drain. Despite them saying someone would be there shortly, no one ever came. Long story short, despite numerous phones and emails, the slip wasn't cleared until January/February. The August 2021 incident wasn't cleared until May 2022. The driveway culverts were also meant to be cleared at the same time but weren't (other than shoving a spade up each end and forgetting about the centre of the pipe). The council passed the job onto Auckland Transport (AT) (case number CAS-445529-Q2R7L6) CRM:001050000873), but they were as

useless as the council.

I have to maintain the roadside drain to prevent flooding (including the slip) as the volume of water and roadside debris being diverted onto my property is huge (water starts to collect from the Community Hall, several hundred metres up the road). Every time it rains heavily I have trouble sleeping and sometimes will work from home due to my concern.

I have asked for a bund to be put between the road and my property so I at least have some protection from flooding, but nothing.

The council have a complaint email and promise to reply within three working days, but I have never had a reply from any of my complaints sent to them despite that promise.

I have found the council and AT woeful, dishonest, unhelpful and basically negligent.

I look forward to hear any outcome you get.

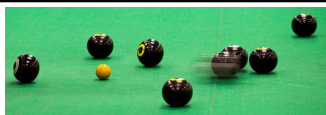
Gerhard, Forest Hill Rd

Indoor Bowls

How about taking time out for two hours on a Thursday evening for good company, tim tams, a hot drink - and fun learning how to play bowls? Guaranteed to make you forget your problems.

There is no age limit. Come on, test your ball skills along with lots of laughter and good cheer.

\$3 donation goes to the local food bank and to the Waiatarua Community Patrol. Details are in the Advertising & Community Notices column on page 3.



Community Dinner at Elevation Brasserie

473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua. Second Friday of each month at approximately 6.15pm. Next dinner: Friday 9 September

What better way to get to know your neighbours than over dinner and a few drinks? Everyone pays for themselves, enjoying great prices on offer.

A very big thank you to Carol Longley who has been tirelessly and diligently handling all the RSVPs for this monthly event. Carol is now passing on this task to Brett at Elevation. Please RSVP to him directly on either 814 8727 or 021 230 0751. *See you there!*

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Library News

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We really need more volunteers for the library as we have lost a few of ours. Some have moved out of Auckland or into a retirement village. We are also having trouble with illness and Covid isolation.

Come in and see us on a Thursday from 10.00am - 12.00 noon, or pop in on a Saturday or Sunday morning between 11.00am-12.00pm. We will gladly welcome you!

Do you know where the library is?

We are situated under the Community Hall, just come down the steps and you'll find us! See you soon.

Barbara Field

Spring has sprung, the grass is ris

Julia Digby sent in these lovely photos of her chooks enjoying the sunshine and spring flowers in the "meadow" at her Waiaatarua property. How happy and content they look.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor by 5pm on FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, editor@waiaatarua.org.nz, ph 021 355 009. 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 the local food bank and 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, from 7pm. 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.

Waiaatarua Playcentre: Come and have 3 free visits at our bush-nestled Playcentre. We are child led, parent run and full of fun! Open 9:15am - 1.15pm Mon and Weds. Contact waiaatarua@playcentre.org.nz or www.facebook.com/waiaataruaplaycentre

We are Loud: Modern Music Lessons. Vocals, piano, guitar, ukulele, bass, drums, theory, song-writing & band. Group & private lessons, online & in-person for all ages & skill levels. Visit www.weareloud.co.nz or contact us on 027 470 7042.

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



Quiz Night
Every Thursday
at 7pm

Free entry for the Quiz Night. Prizes for first and second place

Sponsored by Asahi Super Dry and Adam Humphris from Ray White

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DON'T READ THIS EITHER

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The fact is that people do read print publications.

More often than not, their search for a specific product or service starts with something that they have read somewhere. And even if they do additional research and make their eventual purchase through some digital platform, their choice will still be shaped by what they have seen in print. In addition, the same information is also available on our website: www.waiatarua.org.nz

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