



Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

October 2022

WRRRA Committee Update

New Committee Members

Our pleas have been answered! We are very pleased to advise that we have five residents who have put their hands up to assist with the Committee. They are:-

Mark Wager	President
Chris Fowlie	Treasurer
Ram Vijapurapu	IT
Naomi Hosted	Environment
Kelly Creaghan	Assisting with events
Lydia Starr	Assisting with events

We would like to thank all for their support. The existing committee members look forward to working with you and the appropri-

ate handovers will take place over the coming weeks.

Update on the issues with Auckland Transport

It is an ongoing battle with AT to try and extract some sort of plan for the issues that we have raised (refer to September newsletter for more information). Emails are regularly forwarded to the Case Manager and additional problems recently raised by residents have been added to our list. Once the elections are over, the Councillors are known and the Community Board is in place, it is our intention to attend Community Board meetings on a regular basis to keep pushing the problems. As and when appropriate we will also be inviting Councillors or Community Board members to some of our Committee meetings.

If any residents have further issues then please let us know and we will add these to our ever growing list.

If you require further information on any of the above please email: secretary@waiatarua.org.nz

Meet the Candidates—Wednesday 28 September

6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start at the Waiaatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road

Refreshments served at the conclusion of the meeting at approximately 9pm

With the fast approaching Local Body Elections we felt it important to meet the Candidates to learn a little more about their backgrounds and to understand what they believe they can bring to the role to support the residents of our area.

The presentations will commence promptly at 7pm so please ensure that you arrive in plenty of time. Each candidate will have four minutes to introduce themselves and to outline their objectives for our area. At the conclusion of their presentations, questions will be accepted from the floor. At this stage we have 11 candidates confirmed so please, if you can, have your questions prepared prior to your arrival.

The following candidates have confirmed their attendance:

Linda Cooper, Shane Henderson, Michelle Clayton, Mark Allen, Greg Presland, Wendy Fowler, Rob Gore, Aimela Hansen, Jessamine Fraser, Liz Manly, Sandra Coney. We have received an apology from Mark Roberts.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the evening, refreshments will be served which will also provide an opportunity to speak to some of the Candidates one on one.

All welcome!

Waiaatarua Quiz Night

Saturday 26 November, 7.30pm at the Waiaatarua Hall

With the July quiz night being such a success, our esteemed quizmasters (Cathie Wells and Ian Ford) have agreed to run a further quiz.

Pub quiz format ... teams of around 6 or 8 (but we are not that strict). You can organise your own team or just turn up on the night and we can fit you in.

Entry \$5.00 per person

Please BYO drinks and nibbles to share with your team (AND the quizmasters).

Looking forward to having a good turnout again!

For more information please email:

secretary@waiatarua.org.nz



Quote of the Month

Being fearlessly yourself means loving yourself enough to live without your baggage, without seeing the world the way the others do, or would have you see it. It means not needing approval to feel worthy, not needing an illness as an excuse to take care of yourself, not having to justify being yourself. It means knowing you're worthy and deserving without having to prove yourself.

Anita Moorjani

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@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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:

\$20 household.

Email: _____

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

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

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

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

Plant of the Month

Chatham Island Forget-Me-Not – Kopakopa

I've been seduced – again!

I'm seriously considering growing a Chatham Island Forget-Me-Not – *Myosotidium Hortensia*—for a third time. Tricky to grow, but if you succeed you will be rewarded with an outstanding cluster of plants that have large glossy, rippled leaves and impressive blue flowers in the spring. There is also a much rarer white variety.

Not a true forget-me-not, *Myosotidium hortensia* is so named because of the similarity of the flowers.

On the Chatham Islands, it happily grows along the coastal cliffs, in the forest openings, among the rocky outcrops and on the landward side of boulder beaches, where it grows among the heaps of kelp and accumulated paua shells. In your garden, the plants like rich, moist soil – it will not tolerate drought – and some shade, but not deep shade where they will not flower well. Plants can form clumps over a metre in diameter and look good under trees, but avoid competition from other plants.

Coastal development has destroyed the only known wild population of white-flowered plants. Grazing, trampling by domestic and feral animals, and weed encroachment, especially marram grass, are major threats to this endangered native plant.

Cathie Wells



Library News

With spring here and no masks to wear we all feel much brighter and happy and are looking forward to summer.

Here are some of the books we have bought:

Kate Quinn	The Diamond Eye
Janet Evanovich	The Recovery Agent
Lynda La Plante	Vanished

Carl Nixon
David Baldacci
Ann Cleeves
Kathy Reichs

The Tally Stick
The 6.20 Man
The Rising Tide (Vera series)
Cold Cold Bones

We STILL need more volunteers to help us at the library. Come along and visit us and peruse all the shelves full of books to choose.

We look forward to meeting you all.

Barbara Field

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Have you seen TomTom?

Our beloved TomTom is still missing from Forest Hill Road since June 15th 2022.

He is a 2 year old male grey tabby, de-sexed and has two microchips. He has black paws and a light brown tabby tummy.

He is a very affectionate cat, loves cuddles and adores his sister. She is not the same since he has been missing and is constantly searching for him.

We miss him terribly and would love to have him back home where he belongs.

We rescued him and his sister after visiting Turkey and finding ourselves stuck there for 9 months due to the pandemic. After many months of organising and waiting, the cats finally arrived in NZ and absolutely love their new home. Unfortunately TomTom went missing the night of the 15th June and we have been searching for him ever since. We have had amazing support from our neighbours and are hoping this article will reach the wider neighbourhood and someone will know his whereabouts.



Cats have an amazing survival instinct and are often found months after they go missing. So we do not want to give up on finding him.

If you happen to catch sight of him or are currently looking after him please, please call Rosalia McKendrick on 021 02645877.

A reward is offered for his safe return.

Rosalia McKendrick



Oratia Combined Church Celebrates 150 Years

2022 is the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Oratia Church that has served the community ever since.

The church has quite a history. In 1867 four acres of land was granted to the settlers of Waikumete Parish by Queen Victoria for religious and educational purposes. Four years later a small building was erected by George Gunson, a local preacher, who also made the heavy pit sawn kauri pews, the building materials donated by local settlers. The church has always been shared by Anglican, Methodists and Presbyterians and administered by a Trust.



The first trustees were Messrs Kelly, Parr and Cantwell. In the 1950s the Parkin, McMaster, Whittaker, Davidson and Allen families were very involved with the Trust.

Oratia School also held classes in the church three days a week until it opened its first school building in 1882. The teacher walked from Glen Eden Station. Two rooms were added to the back in 1922 and in 1956 another two rooms to the front. Then in 1967 the church was uplifted and moved to its present site beside the

new church. This was opened debt free in 1968. It was designed by Russell Gash and Fred Whittaker. Albert Latham supervised its building with the help of voluntary labour at a cost of \$15,000.

The original church is now used as a hall and various community groups use it regularly.

There will be an **Anniversary Service at 9.30am on Sunday 30 October** with a lunch to follow. Everyone is invited to join in this special service and enjoy community fellowship at what is the oldest public building in the area.

Margaret Marshall

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, 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

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.

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 or www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre

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

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DON'T READ THIS

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Gotcha.....

Just like you, around 2,000 other Waiataruans are reading this newsletter. And many will come back and read it more than once...

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

To have your promotional message read by a good sized, engaged readership, advertise in a publication that is read.

Contact the Editor today on editor@waiatarua.org.nz for more information and pricing at very reasonable rates.

Waiatarua Community Patrol News

It is great to see the weather warming up...but that does mean more vehicles on our local roads and people visiting our walks and beaches. Often these are visitors who are not used to driving our semi-rural and bush conditions – so take it easy and stay aware when driving over the coming Spring and Summer months. If you are parking at one of the walk or beach carparks, make sure you secure your vehicle and remove all valuables. Don't leave anything in view that might look 'interesting' and encourage a break-in.

For advice on protecting your property and belongings – refer to the NZ Police website: www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/protect-property-vehicles

There is also a great new "Community Safety and Support" page on the Auckland Council site, proving a hub for information and resources for community safety issues and concerns: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/community-safety-support.aspx

Our patrollers have been reporting quite a number of street traffic signs damaged (or removed) recently which have been reported to Auckland Transport. We use the **Snap Send Solve** app to report all kinds of local issues to the appropriate service (including Auckland Council, Watercare, Auckland Transport, Chorus, Vector and more...). This app is available to everyone for free (on either App Store or Google Play) – plus they have regular prizes for logging issues...which is always a motivation. Find out more at: www.snapsendsolve.com/new-zealand/

Community Patrols - How could I help?

By being aware of our volunteers and giving us a wave when you see us on patrol.

Telling others about us.

Becoming a volunteer patroller for the Waiatarua CPNZ group (covering Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley – and more...). Volunteers are always 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 and current drivers licence required.

Or Volunteering in a support role. It takes a team to keep our wheels on the road..

Sponsoring us or donating. Givealittle: www.givealittle.co.nz/org/waiatarua-community-patrol-charitable-trust or pop into the Oratia Mobil Station on West Coast Road to donate directly to our petrol account.

BE THE POLICE'S "EYES AND EARS" IN YOUR COMMUNITY

As always, we are very grateful to our volunteers for all that they do – and welcome new recruits and supporters.

Stay safe... and look out for your neighbours.

Contact Sue Dell, Patrol Leader (waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz / 021 681 207) for more information.

Remember – if you see something suspicious or need to report an incident to Police:

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

Sue Dell

From the Editor

Hello everyone

Yes, I know it's a 6 page issue this month which is a bit naughty, but I had content left over from last month that I couldn't fit into September's issue, plus quite a bit for this month. We really do need more advertising revenue to justify the printing cost of having the extra page. I love filling the newsletter with content to make it more interesting for you, the reader and the usual 4 page issue is simply not enough at times. So, I'll ask again - if you, or anyone you know, has a local business that they would like to promote please contact me on editor@waiatarua.org.nz. Our advertising rates are very reasonable!

After a month or so of nothing happening on site due to a transition period where we sacked our first lot of builders (not a happy tale) and engaged a new crew it's all go again with our never-ending renovation at home. A lot of progress has been made which is heartening but there is still a fair way to go. Most of all I am absolutely desperate for my new kitchen which still seems like a far-off dream at the moment. I think it will take me some time to actually enjoy it all once it is eventually done due to the trauma experienced throughout this incredibly stressful exercise - something on which other friends and acquaintances agree with me having been through similar experiences themselves. Once the gib stopping and sanding

is done then we will have to try and pull together a working bee of friends and family to smash out the interior painting before the kitchen goes in. Which is still some weeks away! [insert long-suffering groan here]. Suffice to say - I never, ever want to do anything like this again!

At least the days are getting longer and it's noticeably lighter in the mornings and evenings. By the time you read this it will almost be daylight saving time with our clocks going forward one hour. It definitely feels like spring with sunnier, warmer days and everything coming into bloom and leaf. However just when one is lulled into a false sense of weather security, freezing cold weather with pouring rain and wind reappears just to remind us all that winter hasn't quite lost its grip on us. I like to call this period "Sprinter".

A common spring sight locally are the ubiquitous Taiwanese cherry trees in full bloom. Yes, I know they're considered a pest, but I love them. Ours have been heavily covered in blossom this year and regularly visited by tuis. We have one of these trees just outside our bedroom window and are lucky enough to see these beautiful native birds right up close as they flit between the branches singing their hearts out and enjoying the nectar. Our neighbours also have young lambs which are a delight to see as they gambol around the paddock. Everywhere there are signs of new life. Now that's something to gladden the heart!

Cheers, Erin

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor by 5pm on FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

A Little Local History

Mander & Bradley's timber mill at Nihotupu

The timber firm of Mander & Bradley milled Nihotupu. Francis "Frank" Mander and Samuel Bradley were principals of the company. They bought the rights to mill Wasley's bush in 1895, from a firm called Clinkard & McLeod who had acquired it from the Wasley family in 1890.

Mander was Onehunga-born and started his working life at 10 years of age. He was in his mid-40s when the Nihotupu operation started, but this was not his first timber-milling venture; he was a lifelong timber man and had already milled at Awhitu, Kaipara and the Northern Wairoa. Mander was later a Member of Parliament and newspaper proprietor.

Mander's partner, Samuel Bradley, was also Onehunga-born and a successful businessman. The youngest son of a Fencible, Bradley owned coastal ships and successfully raced horses as a hobby.

The Nihotupu trees had survived into the 1890s because they couldn't be extracted with the usual transport method of driving dams. Mander & Bradley had the know-how and capital to tackle this difficult extraction and they hired as mill manager Nicholas Gibbons who had long experience with his family's operations at Huia and Whatipu and had managed Mander & Bradley's Albertland operation. Nicholas's eldest son, Robert Henry "Bob" Gibbons, then 32 years of age, was the bush contractor. The Nihotupu mill was located in the long shallow basin just west of Waiatarua. 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. A journalist who Frank Mander invited to come and inspect the system has left us with a very full report of how it worked.

"The mill, under the control of Mr [Nicholas] Gibbons, is well equipped for dealing with the large kauri logs, which average six feet in diameter, running up to eight and 10 feet."

When the journalist visited in December 1897, 100,000 super feet a week were being produced by the mill. 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. The tramway used a unique three-rail track and gravity system whereby the heavy descending wagon hauled up an empty wagon on the other side, using ropes. Teams of strong horses were used to pull the laden bogies on the three-stage tramway which not

only ran across ground, but on viaducts suspended in the air. The tramway dropped 300 metres in 1.5 kilometres on its journey. Ten trucks went out a day, each carrying 1800 to 2000 feet of timber. When the laden trucks reached the depot in Henderson valley, a traction engine took the timber to the rail line or the highest navigable part of Henderson Creek, from whence it was transported by scows pulled by steam tugs to Auckland. All the output of the mill went to the newly established Melbourne syndicate, the Kauri Timber Company, which had headquarters in Customs Street. At one point Bob Gibbons sent down to the Kauri Timber Company's headquarters a section of a huge kauri that was then exhibited in its window. It stood "the height of a butcher's block, and is over 36 feet in circumference without a fault or 'shakes' in it". It was so large it was suggested it go to Auckland Museum.

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. 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.



Sandra Coney

Above, left: A group of workers from Mander & Bradley's mill at Nihotupu beside the tramway to Henderson, Frank Mander sitting on the right. The other men are mainly from the local Cantwell family.

Above, right: Mander & Bradley's Nihotupu timber mill. Both photos are by Joseph Hibbs and from Heritage Collections, Auckland Libraries.