



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

November 2022

From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and to introduce myself as well. My name is Mark Wager and I'm the new President of the WRRRA. My wife Maria and I moved into Waiatarua two months ago. If you are wondering how much I know about Waiatarua, the answer is very little but what I have quickly learned is about the type of community we have moved into. It's a community that cares. It cares about the area, the environment and about each other.



In our first week, my wife and I had been invited to not one but two community dinners, one being the Waiatarua community dinner held on the second Friday of every month (see ad on page 2 of this newsletter) and the other was the dinner for the residents of Atarua Gardens. We have spoken more to our neighbours here within the first few days than we have during the past ten years at our last home.

On top of that both my wife and I fell victim to covid in August only

to receive emails from our neighbours including people we hadn't even met yet offering assistance. It's this type of community spirit that is often mentioned but is very rarely seen in action which is why I already believe Waiatarua is a very special place to live.

I saw that community spirit in action recently at the Meet the Candidates night which was held at the Waiatarua Hall on Wednesday 28th September (see photo left). At the event, residents had the opportunity to present the prospective candidates for the Local Body Elections with questions and while not everyone would have received the answers they were looking for, it was pleasing to see the passion and how candidates make themselves available.

During my career I've worked a lot with councils, government agencies and politicians especially during my time as the National Manager of the Tribunals Unit in New Zealand. The key lesson I learned was just how influential a small group of passionate and organised people can be. I've seen change happen on a national level as a direct result of a small group of people wanting to see change. This is why I've volunteered to become President because I've seen what a wonderful area we are living in and I know I can add value by making things better.

So a big thank you to everyone for making my wife and me so welcome and I hope to repay that kindness by adding value to Waiatarua. If you ever have any questions or you want to make me aware of anything please feel free to contact me on 021 354 831 or email president@waiatarua.org.nz

Mark Wager



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor by 5pm on **FRIDAY**
18 NOVEMBER

Waiatarua Quiz Night

Saturday 26 November, 7.30pm at the Waiatarua 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

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: Mark Wager Phone: 021 354 831 Email: president@waiatarua.org.nz
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 Waitarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:
\$20 household.

Email: _____

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

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

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

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www.waitakereresort.co.nz

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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

From the Committee

Update on communications with Auckland Transport

The ongoing email exchange continues – AT seem to think our case is closed, however, there are still a number of outstanding issues, as previously outlined. The battle continues and we are hopeful of being able to enlist the assistance of the Community Board and Councillors once the final results are published. The email exchange continues.

Auckland Transport and roading issues in general are a very hot topic around the country with numerous articles in the Herald and also on various radio programmes – it would seem that we are not alone in our fight for better roads. One can perhaps live in hope that the new Mayor of Auckland will live up to his promise of dealing with AT!

There is a Public Meeting being held on 2nd November at 5pm at the Auckland Trades Hall, 147 Great North Road which features the Transport Minister Michael Wood; two of the WRRRA Executive Committee members will be attending to see what he has to say. Please attend if you are able.

There is also a very interesting article in the October issue of the Ponsonby News (Facebook is @ponsonbynews if you want to read – page 15). This article touches on two projects planned by AT – one in Grey Lynn on Great North Road and the other on Meola Rd from Pt Chevalier Rd to Garnet Rd – a total expenditure of just on \$75 million; the work mostly includes controlled pedestrian crossings, cycle ways, bus lanes, restricted parking, humps and bumps along the roads, etc.

This expenditure at a time when our roads are falling to pieces seems somewhat ludicrous.

Waitakere Forest & Bird

“Flora of Gondwana”

Talk by **Shane Wright** - Senior Lecturer Faculty of Science, Biological Sciences, University of Auckland

Thursday 17th November 7:30pm

Shane is a Biogeographer teaching at the University of Auckland who has worked in Oceania for many decades. He has a particular interest in the floras of the more ancient land masses such as New Caledonia. During the early 1990s he spent several months in that country working as part of an effort by Conservation International and the Native Forest Action Council to secure areas of protected land in that very impacted landscape. A substantial component of his teaching now includes study of New Caledonia and its ancient Gondwana biota. He has also travelled and worked extensively in South America.

Note: change of venue: Te Pai Centre (Netball Waitakere), 31-35 Te Pai Place, Henderson. Non members welcome, join us for supper afterwards. Koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information ph Liz 0274 762732, lizanstey@hotmail.com

Community Dinner at Elevation Brasserie

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

Next dinner: Friday 11 November

RSVP to Brett at Elevation on either 814 8727 or 021 230 0751.

See you there!

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**Waiatarua
COMMUNITY
DAY**

SAT 12TH NOV

10AM - 1PM

WAIATARUA HALL

**WEED BIN & ECO INFO
CRAFTS & BAKE SALE
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

Waiatarua Community Day

Where: Waiatarua Hall, 91 | West Coast Road

When: Saturday 12 November, 10am – 1pm

Pop in and grab a free cuppa or juice for the kids, while you browse craft stalls, find out about local groups and have all your pest questions answered.

The community weed bin will be on site and Mel from EcoMatters is available to chat about pest plant removal and share info about the buffer zone.

Spot prizes will be awarded for impressive invasive weed hauls!

Borrow a trap or a book from our fantastic Waiatarua libraries, buy a treat from the bake sale and connect with your fellow Waiataruans.

We still have a couple of stall spots left. Trestle tables are provided so get in quick and contact Kelly Creaghan on 021 208 5475 if you have crafts/plants/art to sell.

Stalls are free for WRRRA members, it is easy to join up via the WRRRA website and is only \$20! Follow this link: <https://waiatarua.org.nz/waiatarua-ratepayers-and-residents-association/wrra-annual-membership/> or see the membership form on page 2.

Naomi Hosted, Environment

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

Sponsored by Asahi Super Dry and Adam Humphris from Ray White

473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua 09 8148727
www.elevationbrasserie.co.nz

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DON'T READ THIS

See below.....

DON'T READ THIS EITHER

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's been a pretty quiet month for us, with only one or two patrols out each week.

We are actively looking for new members, so please consider joining us and making a difference in your community.

Our team participated in the Henderson Heroes School Holiday event last Friday – run by Neighbourhood Support Waitakere, NZ Police, WestCity and more. This is always a wonderful family event – with lots of fun for the kids (big and small!).

We joined forces with both the Henderson and West Harbour Community Patrols – to showcase our activities, and provide some fun games for the littlies (with thanks to West Harbour Patrol for their



fantastically creative stand and activities).

Theft from mailboxes and vehicles seems to be on the rise in our area – so please take care to empty your mailboxes regularly (and add a lock if you are able to) and do not leave valuables in your cars if parked publicly.

If you do have evidence of your mailbox or vehicle being tampered with – please report it to Police on the 105 line (even if nothing has been stolen, as this is damage to property). This enables the Police to identify trends in the area.

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

Fire Brigade News

Retirement of Deputy Chief Ian Ford

The brigade farewelled our longest-serving current member last month, when Deputy Chief Ian Ford hung up his boots after 39 years. Not only an active firefighter, rising through the ranks to become Chief, Ian was also fully involved in all brigade fundraising activities and community events. Some may recall his hilarious char-

acter Ivor Chesticoff in the Waiatarua theatre plays that helped build our fire station's social room. Always one of the first to roll up a hose or do some dishes, we will miss you at training and on the fireground Ian.

Thank you mate, for a lifetime of service to our community.

Christine Healy



Slower speeds on our local roads



Waiaatarua roads will soon have reduced speed limits, as part of Auckland Transport's plan to save lives and prevent serious injuries.

Our main roads such as Scenic Drive, Forest Hill Road and West Coast Road, will go to 60kph, with side streets becoming 40kph zones.

The narrow winding residential side streets, such as Raroa Terrace and Kauri Loop Road, often have blind corners, reduced width and no markings yet are currently 70kph or even 'open road'.

The Piha Road intersection, a notorious high crash zone, will be reduced to 60kph while still allowing 80kph on the Nihotupu to Anawhata section.

Submissions to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board, received earlier this year, showed strong support for reducing speeds on all roads, and providing more footpaths and safe ways for people to cycle.

On the other hand, some submissions said reducing speed limits would not work and the roads should be improved to allow faster travel.

Auckland Transport is changing the speed limits for 1600 roads across the region. The changes come into effect in Waiaatarua from March 2023 when new signage is due to be installed.

Look up changes in your street at the www.at.govt.nz website, by searching for the Safer Speeds Programme, then "speed changes happening now"

Safe Speeds Programme
Public feedback on proposed speed limit changes March/April 2022
Feedback related to Waitākere Ranges Local Board area



Quote of the Month

"Smile"

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected

Spike Milligan

Your WRRRA Executive Committee



Introducing some new (and not so new) WRRRA Executive Committee members. Clockwise from left: Ram Vijapurapu, IT; Grant Longley, Library; Lyn Chappell, Secretary; Cathie Wells, Website & Social Media; Marq Holibar, Vice President; Mark Wager, President and his wife Maria; Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, Newsletter Editor; Kelly Creaghan, Assisting with Events; Chris Fowlie, Treasurer. Thanks to Chris for the photo taken at the October meeting.

From the Editor

Our renovation is inching forward to completion. Interior painting is done and the floor is ready for sanding and varnishing which will happen this week. We have been blessed with amazing friends who have helped us with this final push. Between Labour Day and the weekend after, fingers and toes crossed, my new kitchen will finally be going in. It's been a very long 6 (or is it 7? I've lost count) months without one in the house. I've been waiting 13 years for a new kitchen and I am so looking forward to having a new one.

Our lives have been pretty much consumed with the build for most of the year so it will be good to finally get it finished. Especially as we are rapidly hurtling towards Christmas! It has meant not a lot of time for socialising but we still had a party for our elder son's 18th birthday and our younger son will be turning 16 in a week's time. Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday that they were small. Now they both tower above me!

It was lovely at the weekend working outside in the garden in the sunshine - it actually got quite hot. Most welcome after that cold snap we had a few weeks ago.

Cheers, Erin