



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Christmas issue—December 2022



From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who were involved in the Community Day event on Saturday 12 November.

When I first heard about the idea of having a Community Day I was, to be quite honest, not sure what a community day even was. So I looked up the definition of “community” yet the answer which was “a collection of people” didn’t help. It was only when I came across the work of a Canadian philosopher Jean Vanier that it started to make sense.

The philosopher said “One of the marvellous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals.” I personally believe that as a society, our community spirit of helping people is something from which we have unfortunately moved away. This is why the Community Day was so important. It was an opportunity to welcome and help people, while creating an opportunity for stallholders to showcase their talented craftwork. Sue Dell, Les Duffield and the team from CPNZ talking about the Waiatarua community patrol, Mel and Erika from EcoMatters sharing valuable information and Elaine demonstrating how great our local library is. This was a wonderful day to meet and greet people.

I met Celia Wood-Calvert who told me all about the indoor bowls night at the hall and I will be trying it out next Thursday. Do come and join us! I met the Community Board members, Michelle Clayton, Liz Manly, Linda Potauaine, Mark Allen and Councillor Shane Henderson sharing the frustration with Auckland Transport. I didn't

even get time to see the team who are doing such a great job at the playcentre.

The winner of the bucket of liquorice allsorts from the Community Day was a lovely local lad called Torres who was delighted with his win. He said, "I thought that I wouldn't win, but now I feel on top of the world"! He guessed 69 lollies and there were 68.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work from many people who were willing to give up their time to make this happen, especially Naomi Hosted, Kelly Creaghan and Lydia Starr, who are very special people who have contributed to organising a fabulous Community Day. Take a look at some of the photos taken on the day on page 5.

If you attended the Community Day and found it beneficial or if you want to be a future stall holder, let me know and we can look into holding a future event. As always, I'm here to help, so contact me on 021 354 831 or email president@waiatarua.org.nz if you feel there is anything else we can do as a community to welcome and help people in a way that we can't do as individuals.

As this is our last newsletter for 2022, I would also like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe and successful New Year.

Mark Wager



From the WRRRA Executive Committee

WRRRA AGM

Please see notice on page 2 of this newsletter.

Auckland Transport

It would be wonderful to advise that all issues have been resolved, however, that is not the case. We were advised that our case was closed as AT had looked into the list of issues, as follows:

- Blocked drains and culverts causing flooding across several of the roads
- Excessive forest debris on major roads in the area
- Continuing potholes

- Grading of Brabant Road

We have again gone back to AT advising that the case cannot possibly be closed until all issues have been addressed. The Community Board and the Councillors are copied into all communications and it is the intention of the Committee to attend Community Board meetings in the new year to further push our issues through to Council. We do live in hope that we will ultimately report that these matters have been resolved.

Rose Hellaby House

Community Board member, Sandra Coney has been looking into Rose Hellaby House as the grounds and house have fallen into a somewhat sorry state. Sandra is researching the original Deed set down by Rose Hellaby and will be attending our next Committee meeting to bring us up to date on her findings. We will keep you informed.

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

Contact Us

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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 Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

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\$20 household.

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To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 91 I 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

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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

Advance Notice of WRRRA Annual General Meeting

Waiaatarua Hall at 7.00pm, Tuesday 21 February 2023

All residents and ratepayers are invited to attend. You can join and pay your membership fee on the night.

There will be a guest speaker or speakers. This will be advised in the February newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you – bring your ideas for further Community gatherings, or any issues relating to our environment.

For further information please email the Secretary on secretary@waiatarua.org.nz



Library News

We have just received a variety of books from Auckland Library, including crime, romance, historical, large print and non-fiction, even westerns.

Come and have a browse, try some new authors for a change, we all tend to read our favourites. A change is as good as a rest.

We still need volunteers for the library. Come and see us on a Thursday between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, we will show you around and tell you what your duties would be etc. You would do one day a month, for one hour. If you came on a Thursday, we are here two hours. Not much to ask of your time! We are a very friendly bunch and would love to see you.

Come and choose your books for the holidays, only a few weeks to go now.

Have a happy Christmas and New Year 2023 from all of at the library.

Barbara Field



Community Dinner at Elevation Brasserie

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

Next dinner: Friday 9 December

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

See you there!



Quote of the Month for Christmas

What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future.

Agnes M. Pahro



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From the Editor

Hello everyone

Well here we are again at the end of another year, Christmas and the holidays are virtually upon us. Once again I am amazed at how quickly the months seem to have passed by!

Great news! Well, for us anyway—our renovations are finally more or less complete. I was promised a new kitchen when we moved to Waatarua in December 2009 and now, 12 years, 11 months and 9 days later (can you tell I have been counting the days) I finally have what I have longed for all this time. It's been a tortuous 9 months, 5 of which I've spent cooking in our minor dwelling since our kitchen got ripped out. While I'm grateful to have had the use of that, nothing beats having a brand new, spacious, well laid out, functional kitchen with plenty of storage. In my own house! Best of all I have an island (which I've always wanted) and bifold windows to serve from.

Still a few things left to finish off but I can at last use my lovely new kitchen which I just love. I am hoping that now I will begin to enjoy cooking once more, as I haven't for years!

The newsletter takes its annual break in January, with the first one for 2023 being the February issue. With this being the last one for the year it is timely for me to do my usual round of thanks to all those wonderful people who help to get this publication out. These include our new WRRRA President, Mark Wager and the WRRRA Executive Committee; Tony Bacon, Carol Hinton and the dedicated team of volunteers who dis-

tribute and deliver the newsletter; the regular newsletter contributors who provide copy for me; our advertisers; and our printer, Ben Deakin at Promotion Matters, for his support of our publication. Thanks to each and every one of you for all your support and encouragement, if it weren't for people like you there would not even be a newsletter, and it's something of which I am very proud.

Lastly I must thank you, the readers! I enjoy my role as newsletter Editor and I hope that you find pleasure in reading this little publication as much as I like putting it together once a month.

A heads up that the WRRRA AGM will be taking place on Tuesday 21 February 2023, 6.30pm for a 7pm start at the Waatarua Hall. Refreshments will be provided, and we are hoping to get a speaker or speakers for the evening. More details to follow in the February newsletter.

With that, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. If you are going away for the Christmas break, please drive carefully, and I hope that you all have a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

See you all again in February!

Cheers, Erin



Community Activities in December at Oratia Church

Community Picnic

Sunday 4 December from 6pm

Music by local musicians, Father Christmas, item by Oratia School, lighting the star countdown, free sausage sizzle, face painting, cake stall for Save the Children, gift stall for Nepalese Education Trust. Gold Coin book stall for holiday reading – (preloved). And the ice cream van will be there! Please bring your rug and picnic and an unwrapped

present for under the Christmas tree (for various charities)

Oratia Singers

Sunday 18 December at 7pm

The Oratia Singers perform a Carol and Readings Service with a collection going to a local charity. This is followed by a supper in the hall afterwards. All are welcome. Not only locals come to this popular evening.

Christmas Day

An interdenominational Carol service for everyone at 9.30am.

All are welcome.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor

by 5pm on FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, editor@waatarua.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.

Waatarua 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 waatarua@playcentre.org.nz or www.facebook.com/waataruaplaycentre

We are Loud: Modern Music Lessons. Vocals, piano, guitar, ukulele, bass, drums, theory, songwriting & 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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Community Day at the Waitatarua Hall—Saturday 12 November



Clockwise from top left: Community Board member Linda Potauaine with WRRRA Secretary Lyn Chappell; Community Board member Michelle Clayton and Councillor Shane Henderson; Diana Hosted on her hempcrete stall; Sue Bowers on her healing bush balms stall; Valentina and Yovi of Greenstitch with their gorgeous cushions; Friends of Arataki with their delicious bakesale; Erika and Mel from EcoMatters sharing their knowledge of pest plant strategies; a busy hall at a very successful Community Day 2022.

Photo credits: Naomi Hosted and Mark Wager

A Little Local History

Kenneth Mackenzie - Champion for a Great Park in the Waitakeres

Lately I have been researching the people who over four decades fought to create a "Great Park" in the Waitakere Ranges. Their efforts were rewarded in 1941 with the passage of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park Act.

But who were they? And what was their connection to the Ranges?

It turns out quite a number were prominent professional and business people with a love of the Waitakere Ranges, sometimes going back to childhood tramps in the Ranges.

Quite a number of them had connections to Waiatarua, with some having what they called their "summer houses" on the ridge between the West Coast and the city.

One of the key advocacy groups, the Waitakere Ranges Association, was formed in February 1926 at a huge meeting convened by George Fowlds in the Auckland Town Hall Concert Chamber. A wide range of organisations, from the Auckland Horticultural Society to the NZ Tourist League and the Musicians' Union, urged their members to attend.

Dr Kenneth Mackenzie was elected president of the new association. He owned a "summer house" in Quinns Road, Waiatarua. With expansive lawns and walks through native bush, he and his wife, Flora, hosted many garden parties in the grounds, with photographs appearing in the *Auckland Weekly News*. The property was originally owned by Mary Elizabeth Winstone, who in 1920 sold it to Clutha Nantes Mackenzie at a time when there were only a handful of houses in Quinns Road. Clutha was a returned soldier, blinded at Gallipoli, and Clutha and Kenneth were two of the five sons of Sir Thomas Mackenzie, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and High Commissioner to London during the war years. A liberal at heart, Sir Thomas had the foresight to support the controversial campaign of Ettie Rout to provide condoms to soldiers to prevent VD. All the Mackenzie men were big, imposing men in their mature years, tall with solid frames.



Sir Thomas Mackenzie was a strong conservationist, one of the people behind the founding of the Native Bird Protection Society, later the Royal Forest and Bird Society. Clearly some of this interest had rubbed off on Kenneth.

Kenneth Mackenzie led an active professional and social life amongst the higher echelons of Auckland society.

His town house was at 27 Princes Street, one of those grand merchant houses opposite the university clock tower building. He was one of Auckland's best-known surgeons, having graduated with great distinction from Edinburgh University. As honorary surgeon at Auckland Hospital, he is credited with inaugurating clinical teaching at the hospital. He is described as having "refined, sensitive hands which enabled him to do wonderful work as a surgeon."

Kenneth was a member and later president of the Auckland University Council. He had been vice-president of the Council when Hon George Fowlds was president, another leader in the campaign for the Great Park and owner of his own "summer house" in Mountain Road.

Kenneth Mackenzie was also involved with the Auckland branch of the League of Nations where he rubbed shoulders with such disparate opinion leaders as feminist and Reform Party candidate Ellen Melville and Labour renegade John A Lee.

He was himself no stranger to activism, having run a high-profile public campaign supporting cancer research. As president of the British Medical Association in Auckland and a prominent Rotarian he frequently hosted groups of colleagues to garden parties in the grounds of his house in Waiatarua. Newspaper reports stressed that it occupied "one of the most beautiful and highest vantage points in Auckland. The visitors were delighted with the fine expanse of native bush, the fern glades and the wonderful views of the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours".

Kenneth Mackenzie died in 1942 in his 57th year, so lived to see the Great Park he had worked for created. In 1947 the Quinns Road property was sold to Donald and Margaret McKenzie, another surgeon but not related to Kenneth. The street number is today 41 Quinns Road.

If anyone has more information about anything I write about, I'd welcome hearing. You can contact me at s_coney@xtra.co.nz

Sandra Coney

Above: Guests enjoy the Mackenzies hospitality in Quinns Road at an event in the 1930s.

Left: Kenneth Mackenzie, surgeon and champion for a Great Park



Environmental News

Join the fight against wasps and sign up for 2023 wasp baiting programme. We are looking to grow our pool of vespex handlers along with properties on which to put bait stations.

The more properties we have the better the result will be!

Wasps kill native insects and newly hatched birds along with ruining your BBQ. Baiting will happen end Feb/early March when the conditions are right.

Contact Naomi Hosted on environment@waiatarua.org.nz to get involved.

Naomi Hosted, Environment

