



Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

Easter issue—April 2023



From the President

OUR COMMUNITY HALL AND LIBRARY THREATENED WITH CLOSURE

It is with great sadness that I have to bring you news of a serious threat to the future of our Community Hall and Library. You will be aware of the challenge the Auckland Council has with the budget where currently it operates with an annual \$295 million shortfall. It's therefore completely understandable that this scenario requires reductions in spending and difficult decisions have to be made. However, there's a big difference between a difficult decision and a bad decision, which is where our Community Hall comes in.

As part of the proposed changes, it has been recommended that any council owned premises that has a community group as its primary occupant, will now incur an annual maintenance and administrative fee to continue using the premises, which means in our case based on proposed amounts, our annual charge will rise by an incredible 6000%. Currently the Hall and Library pays a nominal fee of only a \$1 in order for us to focus solely on adding value to the community, but under these proposals this will require us to fund-raise \$6,000 every year, which is far in excess of any revenue that the Hall currently generates or could possibly generate in our current environment. If passed the proposal will result in the Hall and Library no longer being available to the community.

Currently the Hall is home to the local library, the WRRRA, regular quiz nights, table tennis, indoor bowls, Church meetings as well as various events ranging from wedding receptions to birthday parties. I stress the word currently because there's a high likelihood that none of these events will be able to take place in the future unless we do something about it now. So let me share some good news.

I've spent a long part of my career working in Government Departments and time and time again I've seen decisions changed and policies formed by small groups of people who are passionate and organised, both of which describe our community. A delegation from the WRRRA spoke at the recent Waitakere Ranges Have Your Say event and in addition we are filing various written submissions. Our local MP Dr Deborah Russell attended our recent AGM and is on our side. Now we are asking for YOUR help.

If you want the Community Hall and Library to stay open then you can help make that happen. By the time you read this, the date for submissions will have closed but there is time before the Councillors vote on the budget and you can let them know how you feel. Shane Henderson and Ken Turner are the Councillors representing the Waitakere Ward, representing us, and it's their vote that will determine the future of our Community Hall and Library. Please contact them and tell them how you feel about this proposal.

Shane Henderson

Phone number: 021 044 0088

Email: shane.henderson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ken Turner

Phone number: 021 1934 569

Email: ken.turner@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Your voice matters and just a few minutes of your time could be the difference between our Hall and Library staying open or closing, so speak up and let our Councillors know how you want them to vote.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Mark Wager

2023 Waiaatarua PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS

Eligible Categories

- Scenic Photo Of The Year
- Wildlife Photo Of The Year
- Community Photo Of The Year



2023



Send your photos to president@waiatarua.org.nz

Closing Date 14th April 2023

For more details of this exciting competition please go to page 5 of the newsletter!



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

Contact Us

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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

We are working hard to repair damaged roads

After the storm and cyclone there were over 1300 slips and under-slips on the roads across Auckland. We have cleared and repaired the majority of these sites, and we are still working hard to repair the damage. There are some locations where we are able to provide a temporary repair to enable traffic to safely use the road until we can permanently rebuild the road.

We know that there are some locations that are causing inconvenience to residents, due to detours and closed roads. We want to reassure you that we've deployed as many resources as possible to work on these sites to enable access as soon as possible, including engaging additional contractors. However, there are roads that will take significant time to fully repair.

Our teams are not able to be everywhere at once, and sometimes our teams are working on plans away from a site. We ask for your patience as we have many sites across the region that have significant damage.

Right: Damage to Scenic Drive, Waiatarua, between North Way and West Coast Road. This is an underslip – where earth under the road has slipped away, and the road has collapsed. There are several underslips on this section of the road, which is closed to traffic.

Please see the latest updates of roads in your areas

Forest Hill Road – Fully open. Speed restriction of 30km applies at #292

The road will be closed again when final resurfacing takes place - date to be advised

Mountain Road – Closed. Residents access only from both ends. Section adjacent to approx. #150 Mountain Road fully closed (no through road)

Scenic Drive North, Swanson – between Rangimarie Rd and Puketaha Rd – Currently fully open with 30km speed restriction. From Wednesday 22 March, the site will drop down to one lane only with traffic management from #1160-#1174, and priority give way. This will allow the Drill rigs to do geotechnical investigation which will help with long term repairs. Approximate time for the drilling work to be completed is 3-4 weeks, but we'll keep you updated

Scenic Drive, Titirangi – North Way to West Coast Rd – Multiple sections as below:

Titirangi to Kopu Road – Road open, one lane only with traffic lights.

Shaw Road to 412 Scenic Road – Residents only, access from Shaw Road only, Multiple sections of priority give way along this section.

412 Scenic Drive – Fully Closed

412 Scenic Drive to Forest Hill Road – Residents only

We will continue to monitor the stability of the roads, especially after heavy rain. We'll also complete further assessments, as we

work on the plan for permanent repairs.

For updates on repairs to other roads in your area, please refer to our website. This will be updated through all the stages of assessment and repair [AT.govt.nz/roadrepairs](https://at.govt.nz/roadrepairs)

Roads on this list will include most of the roads with closures or partial closures in your area. There are other sites we are working



on that are not closed, but may have some damage. If you notice any new roading problems with a potential safety risk (for example new slips, cracks in roads, flooding, trees falling over roads/cycleways), <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/>

Preventing future damage at slip sites

What are the kerbs of asphalt which have been constructed across damaged roads? Is this to fix the road?

These are called **bunding**, and they are built onto the surface of the road to help channel water from rain fall away from the slip face. Reducing the amount of water running onto the slip can help prevent further movement of the soil. These are only placed on damaged temporarily, and are not a part of the permanent fix. They will be removed when the permanent works are implemented.



Right: Example of bunding on road surface on Kellys Road, which will channel rain water on the road past the slip.

Continued on page 5

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Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2023

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:
\$20 household.

Email: _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 91 I West Coast Rd, Waiatarua, Auckland, or leave at the library,
or email these details to: treasurer@waiatarua.org.nz

Bank details: 12 3051 02783 13 00 WRRRA

Please note: 2023 membership renewal is now due

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

Free Stuff: I'm decluttering and so far there are about a dozen ring binders, 2, 3 and 4 ring. Free to a good home. Call Tony Bacon, 0274 598 226 or tony.bacon@sthw.co.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 Combined Church: Sunday services at 9.30am, Kids Klub Sunday 9.30am, Fellowship 2nd Thursday in Hall at 1pm, Scrabble/ Rummikub last Friday of month at 7pm. Hall is available for community use. Contact 818 8344.

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: 30 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 email yovistopstitch12@gmail.com

Become A Member of the WRRRA

This newsletter is hand delivered by a dedicated group of volunteers to over 800 households, yet only a fraction of those households are members of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (the WRRRA).

If only 50% of households become a member then not only will we be able to guarantee the future of the Community Hall and Library, but we will also be able to proceed with several Environmental and Emergency Management initiatives which will add value for us all. We can make our special place more special, but only if we work together.

Membership is only \$20 per household per year and in return you will receive discounts at various local businesses including Elevation Brassiere. A list of additional participating businesses is regularly printed in the newsletter.

Don't delay—join us today at www.waiatarua.org.nz

Desperately Seeking New Printer Sponsor for the Waiatarua Community News

After four years of dedicated service we sadly say goodbye to Ben Deakin of Promotion Matters who has regularly printed our newsletter. Thank you Ben for your support, we appreciate everything you have done for us.

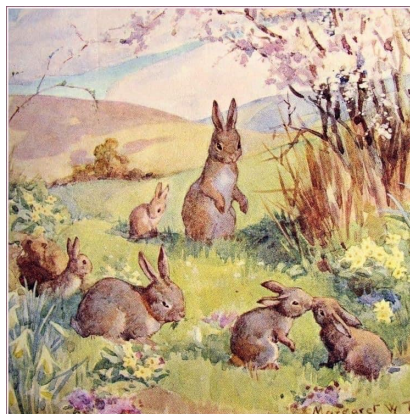



This will be the last issue printed by him and so we are urgently on the hunt for someone who can take over the reins before the May newsletter deadline (5pm on Friday 21 April) in order that you can keep receiving a paper copy.

If you think you, or anyone you know, can assist with printing 850 four to six page A4 size copies once a month in B&W and, from time to time, in colour (approximately 4 colour issues per year), then please contact Mark Wager on president@waiatarua.org.nz as soon as possible. In return for your support we will provide a free advertising banner for your business on the bottom of page 2 (as shown in this copy)

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor by 5pm on FRIDAY 21 APRIL





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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Gotcha....

Why should you advertise with us

Local publications have the huge benefit of being targeted to local audiences. They can give a sense of community and locality that just isn't present in national papers. Establishing a presence in a community newsletter will have huge benefits for local businesses not only in terms of customers, but in terms of trust and reputation among consumers. Community advertising works and costs less.

To have your promotional message seen by a good sized, engaged readership, consider advertising in the Waiaatarua Community Newsletter which is read by around 2,000 Waiaataruans.

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

Continued from page 2

Why are layers of polythene being put over the slips?

Our crews are putting polythene over the slip faces to prevent more rainwater from soaking into the soil. Preventing as much rainwater as possible from soaking into the soil, helps prevent further slips at that location.

In some locations we are only safely able to cover parts of the slip, and in some locations it is not safe or possible to cover the slip.

Traffic Management through damaged roads

AT is working to stabilise the slips and open roads as soon as it is safe to do so. Many of these roads are opened with temporary repairs, so we can reconnect people.

Please drive with care and courtesy through these roads, taking care to heed any speed limits set, and temporary traffic lights. It is important to everyone that we are able to prevent further damage, and to keep the roads open for communities.

Some speed limits in the area are changing 30 March

Following public consultation in 2022, a By-Law was passed changing the speed limit on a number of local roads. This By-Law which comes into effect on the March 30, 2023. AT are legally obligated to follow through with the bylaw for the speed limit changes, or these roads will have no legal speed limit. New signs will be installed in the area.

Some of these roads are under traffic management and are operating at slower speeds through damaged sites.

To see more information about Speed Limit Changes

<https://at.govt.nz/projects-roadworks/vision-zero-for-the-greater-good/speeds-programme/speed-changes-happening-now/>

This information has been prepared by AT Engagement West Hub – ATEngagement@at.govt.nz. If the community needs to send AT an email, this would be the best one to use.



Above: Example of polythene over slip face, combined with bunding treatment.

Are You Waiaatarua's 2023 Photographer of the Year?

We all live in a very beautiful and special part of Auckland and we are looking for members of our community who are best able to capture that special essence of Waiaatarua.

Submit your photo in these following categories and you can be recognised as our first Photographer Of The Year.



Best Scenic Photo—a photo that demonstrates the beauty of Waiaatarua

Best Wildlife Photo—a photo that illustrates our rich and varied wildlife

Best Community Photo—a photo that shows us what our Community means to you

Please submit your photos to president@waiatarua.org.nz by the closing date of Friday 14th April. The shortlisted finalists will be revealed in our May newsletter with the winners announced in the following issue. Prizes for the winners! **Please note: this competition is only open to residents of Waiaatarua.**

Start taking your photos and become Waiaatarua's 2023 Photographer Of The Year!

Library News

We are pleased to be open again after all the road closures and disruptions to our power supply, internet and phones. Grant Longley and Bev Latimer have managed to open up most Thursdays. Apologies if we haven't been open when you've visited at times, hopefully we are back to normal now.

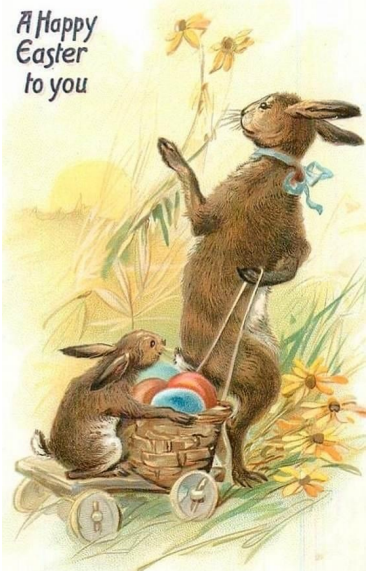
We have just received a great new supply of books from Auckland Library, come and have a browse at what we have got. We have bought some new books for the library too. Here's a small selection:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Nicholas Sparks | <i>Dreamland</i> |
| Graham Norton | <i>Forever Home</i> |
| Tony Park | <i>The Pride</i> |
| Jane Harper | <i>Exiles</i> |
| Robert Galbraith | <i>The Ink Black Heart</i> |
| Carol Drinkwater | <i>The Olive Season and The Harvest</i> (remember her as Mrs Herriot from "All Creatures Great & Small") |

Please come and visit us at our library, we are below the Community Hall. You'll be surprised at all the books we have. Bring your children, there are plenty of books there for them to read too.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Barbara Field, Waiaatarua Volunteer Library



A Little Local History

Nurse Mueller and Auckland's "Great Park"

One of the few women who held office in the fight to get a great park in the Waitakeres was Mildred Violet Mueller, a highly qualified nurse who established the nursing home *Rangimarie* in the Ranges.

Mildred, called Milly in her family, was the daughter of Gerhard Mueller and his wife Elizabeth. Gerhard was born to a Danish-born Professor of Mathematics in Darmstadt, Hesse, Germany. Avoiding being conscripted into the German army, Gerhard set off to see the world. He arrived in New Zealand in 1858 as a 23-year-old, qualified as a surveyor and became the Government surveyor for Westland, based at Okarito. He was a great explorer of Westland with his Māori guide, Kerei, providing maps and place names still in use today.

In 1862 he married Elizabeth Bannatyne McArthur, called Bannie. The couple had eight children of whom Mildred was the sixth, born in 1880 at Hokitika. Gerhard instilled in all his children a love of the outdoors and for the New Zealand native bush and wild places.

He became the Commissioner of Crown Lands and then Assistant Surveyor-General. The family moved to Auckland in 1891 and Mildred started training as a nurse, qualifying in 1911. She earned a Gold Medal for the highest marks in her year and in 1912 became sister in charge at Auckland Hospital. She did not stay long in the post, leaving to "go home" according to the nursing journal *Kai Tiaki*. This could have been to nurse her mother who died in 1915.



published a book of her parents' letters when living in Westland entitled *My Dear Bannie*. Mildred died in 1969 after a stroke and was cremated at Purewa. *Rangimarie* was demolished in 1970 and another house built on the site.

Sandra Coney

Photos clockwise from top:

Rangimarie from the south-east. William Beattie photograph, JT Diamond Collection, Auckland Libraries

Mildred Mueller in her nursing uniform. Heritage Collections, Auckland Libraries

Gerhard Mueller with his Māori guide, Kerei. Alexander Turnbull Library



In 1917 she bought just over two acres of land a little north of Waiatarua (today 499 and 501 Scenic Drive) and founded the *Rangimarie Convalescent Home*. It boasted "bracing air, nursing attention and diets." "No infectious cases taken". Advertisements always mentioned that the height was 1260 feet (384 metres), the air in the hills being seen as good for health, and there was a croquet lawn and balconies looking back to Auckland.

Mildred lived in a cottage on the same site. Mueller descendants remember that Mildred "absolutely loved the outdoors" so the project to create the great park fitted with her interests. Her residence at Waiatarua would have brought her into contact with Dr Kenneth Mackenzie and Sir George Fowlds, president and vice-president of the Waitakere Ranges Association, the principal group fighting for a great park in the Waitakeres.

Mildred retired from running *Rangimarie* in the 1930s but seems to have stayed on at Waiatarua living with her oldest brother, Gerhard, a retired marine engineer, so she would have seen the eventual creation of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park in 1941. In the mid-1940s she went to live at the Mueller family home in Victoria Avenue, Remuera. In 1958 she

