



# Waīatarua Community News

850 copies

May 2023

## From the President

### Have your say on the future of the Waīatarua Community News

The newsletter you are reading now has always been intended to be an important service to the community, providing updates and valuable information. I remember when my wife and I moved into Waīatarua not even a year ago, we came across the newsletter in our letterbox and wondered what it was. Our first impression was - not another flyer from a real estate agent! It seemed that we were bombarded with them, but upon reading the newsletter, it provided us with an insight on the area we've moved into, what was going on around us, its history and its activities. So we started going to the indoor bowls evening at the community hall. The newsletter is the reason why my wife and I decided to join the Waīatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association and volunteer our time. There's no doubting the importance of the newsletter. However, recent changes mean that we have to seriously rethink what format the newsletter takes moving forward.

Up until now we've relied on the kindness of local printing businesses to print our newsletter either for free, or at a greatly reduced price. Unfortunately, now we will have to pay market prices which makes delivering a monthly newsletter to every household in Waīatarua much more challenging. I know some of you may be wondering why we don't just email everyone a pdf version so we don't have to bother with printing anything. That's a genuine

point, but I believe there is definitely something a bit more special about holding paper in your hands and reading it physically. If I'm being honest, if the newsletter was an email I would probably have overlooked it among the sea of emails I receive. As we move forward we will need to make a decision about the future of our newsletter, whether we continue the printed version or the emailed version. So there are three ways you can help.

- If you know of anyone that can help with printing, please email me at [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz). See our ad below.
- If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in the newsletter, email Erin Kingsleigh-Smith on [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz). Advertising can pay for our newsletter printing costs. Further info can be found on the advertising page on the back of this issue.
- If you have an opinion about whether the newsletter should continue in its current form or be changed to an email format, feel free to text me on 021 354 831.

### Are you a Bingo whiz?

We are looking at putting together a regular monthly Bingo night at the community hall. We will buy all the necessary equipment and supply the hall free of charge but we are looking for someone with knowledge of Bingo to help us put together a fun night for the community. If you are reading this and are able to help out one night a month and assist with organising a Bingo event, then either email me on [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz) or call me on 021 354 831.

*Mark Wager*  
WRRR President

## REALLY Desperately Seeking New Printer Sponsor for the Waīatarua Community News

Do you like receiving a paper copy of the newsletter?



So that you can continue to receive one, the WRRR Executive Committee are **urgently** on the hunt for someone who can become our new printer sponsor.

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](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz) as soon as possible. In return for your support we will provide a free advertising banner for your business displayed across the bottom of page 2 (as shown in previous issues)

## Mail Theft in Waīatarua and Oratia

Over the past several months one of our local residents in the mid-700's of West Coast Road has sadly and frustratingly been the victim of mail theft. Despite having a padlock fitted, on each occasion the very determined thief has all but destroyed the letterbox with a pry bar. This resident has spoken to a lady a few doors up from him and she has reported having a credit card stolen from her letterbox. This is not just a problem in Waīatarua, but also in Oratia, with letterboxes in Carter Rd being raided recently.

Please be aware that this despicable activity is happening in our area. Those that have no locks on their letterboxes would be totally unaware that mail is being stolen.

Ensure you are emptying your letterboxes regularly and keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously. Ask the courier companies to deliver to your front doorstep and not the letterbox. Perhaps even consider installing cameras as a deterrent.

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

Contact Us

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**WRRR President:** Mark Wager Phone: 021 354 831 Email: [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:hallhire@waiatarua.org.nz)

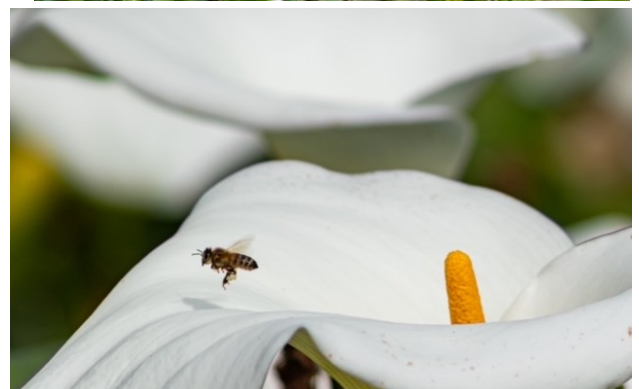
**Library hours:** Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm  
Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm  
**website:** [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## The 2023 Waatarua Photographer Of The Year

As announced in last month's newsletter, we are looking for the 2023 Waatarua Photographer of the Year. I'm pleased to say that we have been inundated by some amazing photos and it's clear that we have some very talented people within our community.

The judges will soon be going through the applications with the intention of announcing the winners in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy this small sample of the quality entries we have received.

*Mark Wager*



*Entries from Stephen Kelpe, Paula Pollard, Andrea Tritton and Paul Hogan*

# A Little Local History

## Flames raze Dutch Kiwi

In the "swinging 60s", the leafy hills of Waitakere were one of the few places Aucklanders could enjoy a wine or cocktail with a meal. Down in Oratia was the Harres' Town & Country Roadhouse located in the old Parr homestead, Albion Vale. Up West Coast Road was the Lanes' Back o' the Moon. And Rolf Feijen and his partner H Romyen ran one of the first licensed restaurants in Auckland when they converted the old Waiaatarua Boarding House (then in flats) into the smart and fashionable Dutch Kiwi Restaurant

Feijen had started with a tearooms of the same name at the "elbow" on the corner of West Coast Road and Forest Hill Road before moving up to the old boarding house where he and Romyen undertook extensive renovations. In January 1962 they received a licence to serve liquor, along with the Toby Jug in Titirangi, two of only three restaurants Auckland-wide able to serve alcohol. With a resident band and lots of padded vinyl in the interior, this was indeed the go-to place for weddings, twenty-firsts and end-of-year bashes. Boasting a huge selection of wines and spirits, a dance floor and spectacular views over the lights of Auckland, the place was often booked out.

But everything went badly wrong on the night of 13 January 1970. The chef, Nicolaas van der Valk, preparing meals in the kitchen, found the deep-fryer on fire. After an unsuccessful attempt to phone the Glen Eden Volunteer fire crew, he returned to find the kitchen billowing smoke. He retreated outside taking with him two pet dogs, Percy and Kim, then asked a couple who had been waiting for the doors to open to go up to the store and get the store owner, Mr R Langley, to raise the alarm. Behind him the kitchen exploded.

First on the scene was the truck of the newly formed Waiaatarua volunteer fire service. Water was short and cars in Scenic Drive got in the way. A portable pump was brought in and the hose rolled up from a neighbouring swimming pool. Volunteer fireman T B Whyte began hosing through a window but despite being 10 yards away, "one of my sleeves started to catch fire in in the heat". The Henderson fire crew said they could see the fire from their station as they left it, and radioed for more help. Eventually eight machines and 40 firemen attended but "the restaurant was an inferno by the time they arrived". The roof collapsed and 12 firemen had to be treated for burns. The Dutch Kiwi was a complete write-off.

Rolf Feijen got on the phone to cancel the 60 guests booked in, while mourning the \$14,000 worth of wine that went up in smoke. He estimated the total loss at about \$120,000 including stock and fittings.

*Sandra Coney*



*Right: The burned out shell of the Dutch Kiwi the day after the fire.*

**JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Copy needs to be with the Editor by  
5pm on FRIDAY 19 MAY**

## Quote of the Month

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you"

- Walt Whitman

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 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



**Quiz Night**  
Every Thursday  
at 7pm

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

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**Why you should 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.