



Waiaatarua Community News

800 copies

Christmas Issue—December 2023



From the President

This is our last newsletter for the year which coincides with the one year anniversary of my wife Maria and I volunteering with the Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA). I was struggling to summarise what the approach of the WRRRA is, then I came across this quote by the Author Brian Solis

“Community is much more than belonging to something. It’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter”

During the last year we saved the Community Hall & Library by lobbying the Local Board and the Auckland Council to change their budget proposal and we developed community activities such as the Photographer Of The Year and the Cutest Pets competition, along with the Community Dinner, Classic Movie night and Community Day. All these events have resulted in us having a record breaking number of members, and with more members we have more resources and more opportunities.

The good news is that 2024 (yes, time is going that fast!) is going to be an even better year for our community with the intention of building better relationships with the relevant decision makers so that we don’t get overlooked and that the issues that impact us are raised. In addition, as you can see from the graphics in this newsletter, we have a lot of activities lined up for 2024 that I genuinely hope you will find enjoyable.

Last week I had a phone call from someone who had just moved into Waiaatarua a month ago and they wanted to volunteer. During their short time they have seen the type of community we live in and they wanted to become an active part of it. For me that was a sign that we are on the right track - making our community a place where not only people want to belong and be a part of, but also in doing so, make our community matter.

And, on that note, on behalf of the WRRRA Executive Committee I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

Mark Wager

WRRRA President



A Date for your Diary

WRRRA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th February 2024

**6.30pm for a 7pm start at the Waiaatarua Hall
911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua**

Residents are invited to attend – bring your thoughts and ideas that you would like to see the Committee address during the coming year.

To vote you are required to be a financial member - there is one vote per household. If you are not sure if you are “financial” then please email secretary@waiatarua.org.nz to check. If you are not a financial member and would like to join prior to the AGM then please check on the website for the Membership Form. The sub is \$20 per household.

Should you wish to nominate someone for the Committee—the positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor and General Committee – please contact the Secretary at secretary@waiatarua.org.nz for a nomination form. Completed nomination forms need to be with the Secretary 72 hours prior to the AGM.

Guest speakers will be arranged and notified in future newsletters. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

Did you know...

The image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh began in 1819 and was created by Washington Irving, the same author who dreamt up the Headless Horseman.

The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is donated to the people of London every year by the people of Oslo, Norway in thanks for their assistance during World War II.

The three traditional colours of most Christmas decorations are red, green and gold. Red sym-

bolises the blood of Christ, green symbolised life and re-birth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.

In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness at Christmas. In fact, spiders and spider webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations. According to legend, a spider wove baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.

Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.

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: 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

WRRRA thank Marketing Impact Ltd for their support in producing this newsletter www.marketingimpact.co.nz

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:
\$20 household.

Email: _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Rd, 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?

In addition to the 10% discount offered by the friendly local businesses listed below when you show your membership card:

The annual subscriptions go towards the running of community events at the Hall;

Your membership also increases our "voice" at both Council and Community Board Level with issues affecting our community

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:

Plyman/Timberman Ph: 021 738420 70 The Concourse, Henderson www.plyman.co.nz

2024 Events

Tuesday 20th February
The WRRRA AGM

Saturday 23rd March
Community Dinner

April
The 2024 Photographer of the Year

Saturday 22nd June
Quiz Night

Saturday 25th May
Indoor Bowls Tournament

July
2024 Cutest Pets of the Year

Saturday 27th August
Waitarua Has Talent

Saturday 21st September
Community Dinner

October
2024 Neighbour of the Year

✕ Saturday 2nd November
2024 Community Day

Saturday 30th November
Volunteers Lunch

Library News

We have just purchased some new books for the library. Here's a selection:

Martina Cole
Clive Cussler
Tom Clancy
Val McDermid
Sophia Kinsella
Sophie Hannah
Robert Galbraith
James Patterson Women's Murder
Club Novella

Loyalty
Condor's Fury
Weapons Grade
Past Lying
The Burnout
Hercule Poirot's "Silent Night"
The Running Grave
231/2 Lies

We have also received a new lot of books from Auckland library, so there are plenty for you to choose from for your Christmas holidays.

Let's hope we all have a better summer this year, and can relax and enjoy ourselves.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Cheers!

Barbara Field



Rose Hellaby House

Some maintenance has recently been carried out at the house. It has been re-roofed and the grounds have had a marginal tidy up. There are no tenants currently at the property and Council are keen to liaise with the community for ideas on how this property can be used.

Sandra Coney has been advising the updates and is in the process of setting up a meeting at the house with Council representatives and WRRRA Committee members. We will keep you informed and will seek your suggestions on how this beautiful historic property can be used.



From the Editor

Hello everyone

Well here we are again at the end of another year, Christmas and the holidays are virtually upon us. How this year flown by so quickly? It just seems to go by faster and faster!

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 awesome people who help to get this publication out. These include our WRRRA President, Mark Wager and the WRRRA Executive Committee; Tony Bacon, Carol Hinton and the dedicated team of volunteers who deliver the newsletter; the regular newsletter contributors who provide copy for me; our advertisers; and our printer, Marketing Impact, for their support of our publication. Lastly I must thank you, the readers! I hope you have enjoyed our offerings over the past year.

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!



A Bit of Festive Fun

Christmas is one of the jolliest times of the year. So what better time to roll out some amusing jokes? Here's a selection to get you in the festive mood.

What happens to elves when they're naughty? Santa gives them the sack.

What kind of music do elves listen to? Wrap.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no-body to go with.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy!

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? Rude-olph!

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!

What do you get if you combine Santa and a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

What never eats at Christmas dinner? The turkey – it's stuffed.

What is a librarian's favourite Christmas song? Silent Night.

What do you call an old snowman? Water.



Festive Recipe

Beaujolais "Soup"

This is an absolutely delicious drink, perfect for Christmas or any occasion. A word of warning—it's pretty potent!

2 soup ladles lemon juice
2 soup ladles sugar syrup
4 soup ladles Cointreau
2 x 750ml bottles of sparkling wine

Mix lemon juice and sugar syrup well in a

large bowl. Stir in the Cointreau and top with the wine.

To make sugar syrup: Combine equal measures of sugar and water in a saucepan over a medium heat. Bring to the boil stirring and boil gently for a few minutes. Remove from heat, cool and refrigerate (keeps well).

Enjoy!



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

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor by 5pm on FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

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West All New Life

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Details:
10am
24 December 2023
Waiatarua Community Hall
Light refreshments provided

Let's celebrate! ♦ **RSVP:**
17 December
021 145 1495

BODEGA EATERY
PH: 09 8359904

TRADING HOURS

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
10AM - 10 PM

SUNDAY
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Great opportunity to advertise directly to locals in Waiatarua. Get in quick before the limited spaces are snapped up!

1 square size: 62mm wide x 54mm high - \$40 per issue for up to 4 insertions or \$35 per issue if a year (11 issues, total \$385).

2 square size: 124mm wide x 54mm high - \$80 per issue for up to 4 insertions or \$75 per issue if a year (11 issues total \$825).

4 square size: 124mm wide x 108mm high - \$160 per issue for up to 4 insertions or \$155 per issue if a year (11 issues total \$1705).

Send us your artwork in either jpeg or png format. Contact Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, Editor on editor@waiatarua.org.nz

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BARFOOT THOMPSON &

What a wonderful Community Day

I just want to say a big thank you to everyone who made our second annual Community Day such a success. There were so many people involved on the day that naming everyone would take up the entire newsletter but I have to highlight the fact that Kelly Creaghan and the volunteers made the day possible.

We had a wonderful selection of stallholders, all of whom took this wonderful opportunity to display their talents, ranging from photography, home made stuffed toys, balms, cakes and many more gifts that were quickly sold out. I mustn't forget the Wonky Dogs stand whose hot dogs were was absolutely delicious.

I also have to take a moment to appreciate those who couldn't have a stand. On our first community day held last year, we struggled to get stallholders, but this year we had more enquires than space. Unfortunately we had to disappoint some people but hopefully they

will have a stall next year.

The Community Day was also an opportunity to catch up with the people who provide such essential services such as the Volunteer Fire Brigade (who, by the way, are looking for volunteers), Eco Matters (I spent way too long trying to identify weeds in my garden), the Community Patrol who do a great job and our wonderful little library. If you are reading this and haven't yet joined, it's a must. For such a small library, there's a wide range of books available. I've joined and borrowed the Song of Two Waters by Jeanne Wade in order to learn more about the early history of Waitarua.

Lastly, a Community Day wouldn't be possible without the widespread support of the community itself, who turned up in numbers to enjoy the day. Thank you to everyone involved and I'm looking forward to an even bigger, better Community Day next year.

Mark Wager



Plant of the Month

Libertia – Mikoikoi / tūkāuki / New Zealand Iris

I love irises. Who doesn't?



Named for Marie-Anne Libert, a 19th century Belgian botanist and mycologist, *Libertia* is the only New Zealand genus in the worldwide Iris family. *Libertia* grows only in the Southern Hemisphere – Australia, New Guinea, Chile and New Zealand with the greatest diversity, eight of the 13 species, endemic to Aotearoa. It grows from Te Pahi to Wellington in the North Island and throughout South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Three species grow in the Waitakere Ranges, and historically a fourth species grew at Piha, but it is now presumed extinct as it has not been seen for a number of years.

Mikoikoi have become popular garden plants for the beautifully coloured structural foliage rather than their abundance of simple white flowers. But I love their bright white flowers that brighten the garden edge. They grow in either full sun or semi shade but look best when given a small amount of shade. Too much sun and wind and they look scruffy with brown leaf tips. The exception is *Libertia peregrinans*.

Predominantly coastal, *Libertia peregrinans*, is threatened in the wild, once found throughout the country, it now grows almost exclusively on the Chatham Islands. The cultivated plants have striking burnt orange foliage that make it a popular plant, well-suited for borders, mass planting, or as an ornamental feature in rock gardens.

Like the *Libertia peregrinans*, the critically endangered *Libertia cranwelliae*, presumed to be extinct until in 2006 a DoC ranger, Graeme Atkins, rediscovered it in the wild in the East Cape region, has a creeping habit with yellowish leaves.

The smallest of the species is *Libertia micrantha*. It can be found mostly in high rainfall forests and river banks, in mountainous areas and in cloud forests, growing on fallen logs and root mounds and in the company of mosses and liverworts. In the Waitakeres it can be located confined to colder areas and in gullies.

Found growing in confined areas are four new species that have been named. Three to honour prominent female botanists of the mid-20th century, Lucy Cranwell, Elizabeth Edgar and Lucy Moore: *Libertia cranwelliae* on the East Cape, *Libertia edgariae* around Wellington, while *Libertia mooreae* has a slightly wider distribution on both sides of Cook Strait and *Libertia flaccidifolia* located only on the slopes of Mt Tamahunga near Warkworth, distinctive because of the more drooping foliage.

In our part of Aotearoa *Libertia grandiflora* and *Libertia ixioides* are a good choice, they have a tight clump forming growth habit and greener leaves than other *Libertia* species. *Libertia ixioides* is common throughout the country and there are now a number of cultivars with stunningly coloured foliage. *Libertia grandiflora* is naturally found only in the North Island but is quite commonly cultivated, its flowers are on taller stalks than *Libertia ixioides* making the flowers appear to float amongst the foliage.

All New Zealand iris flowers attract bees and butterflies and as a native New Zealand plant, it contributes to the preservation of local ecosystems and supports native wildlife particularly if the plants and seeds are sourced from local growers.

Cathie Wells

Resilience in Waiatarua

We (two members of your Residents and Ratepayers Committee and a member of the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade) met with the other Residents and Ratepayers groups at the Oratia Hall last month to begin formulating a resilience plan for Waiatarua. We will be working with the Oratia group to produce a printed book to keep with your emergency kit. It will have emergency phone numbers, who to contact for your emergency, instructions if you are cut off for any length of time and other useful local information.

Karekare and Henderson Residents and Ratepayers Associations have established resilience plans that served them well and saved lives during Cyclone Gabrielle. They both are kindly sharing their knowledge with us, so we don't need to start from scratch.

As part of building our plan we are looking to develop several initiatives with support of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

As you will have read in the previous newsletter and on the website, the Trusts have helped to fund a generator to power the Waiatarua Hall in an emergency. This is our first step in making Waiatarua resilient in an emergency.

Over the next few months, we will keep you updated with our progress. If you feel you have something to contribute, please feel free to email me catherine@kotaredesign.co.nz.

And please come to the WRRRA AGM (see notice on the front page) with thoughts and ideas for discussion.

We don't want to be unprepared again!

Cathie Wells

If the mountain seems too big today
then climb a hill instead. If the morning brings
you sadness it's okay to stay in bed. If the day
ahead weighs heavy and your plans feel like a
curse, there's no shame in rearranging; don't make
yourself feel worse. If a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown, if you haven't
washed your hair for days don't throw away your
crown. A day is not a lifetime, a rest is not defeat.
Don't think of it as failure, just a quiet, kind retreat.
It's okay to take a moment from an anxious,
fractured mind. The world will not stop turning
while you get realigned. The mountain will still be
there when you want to try again. You can climb it
in your own time. Just love yourself til then.

Laura Ding-Edwards

tinybuddha.com

Merry Christmas from Santa Kiwi and the WRRRA Executive Committee

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. Take care and look after each other!

