



# Waīatarua Community News

800 copies

Easter issue—April 2024

## From the President

### 2024 Waīatarua Photographer Of The Year

I'm delighted to announce that we will be running our second annual Waīatarua Photographer of the Year competition. Last year, we received a lot of high quality entries which demonstrated the incredible level of talent within our community, and now is the time for all our enthusiastic photographers to shine again.

Here's the criteria for the 2024 Waīatarua Photographer Of The Year:

- All photographs must have a connection to Waīatarua;
- The photographs submitted must have been taken within the last six months;
- Entries must be received by 28th April 2024.

It's time to check out our wonderful scenery and our wildlife, so take your best photos and send them to [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz)

### Help us restore the Community Hall gardens

On **Saturday 13th April**, we will be having a working bee in order to tidy up and clear the grounds at the Waīatarua Community Hall. Those who have been here long enough will remember how the grounds used to look before the seating area became overgrown. Our intention is to eventually restore the Community Hall grounds to its original beauty and potentially beyond, but it all starts on the 13th with a working bee. So if you have a few hours spare, are willing to help to dig up some weeds and help out with some trimming, then we need you! There's no need to register, just turn up on the day with your hat, gloves and a weeding tool if you have one. We

will be starting at **10:00am**. We look forward to seeing you there.

### 2024 Waīatarua Indoor Bowls Tournament, Saturday 15 June

There's been a change to the date of our first ever Indoor Bowls Tournament—it's now going to be held on **Saturday 15th June** so check your diary and clear a space on your shelf for the Waīatarua Indoor Bowls trophy. In next month's newsletter we will be announcing the full details. There will be two categories, singles and doubles and competitors will have to register prior to the event. We will not be able to accept entries on the day so if you want to become a champion then email me at [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz) to register. There's no fee, just let me know if you want to enter the singles or doubles or both.

If you want to know more about indoor bowls or if you haven't ever tried then come along on a Thursday night at the Waīatarua Community Hall and join our indoor bowling group. We start at 7:00pm every Thursday and it's \$3 per person with all proceeds going to good causes.

### Mid-winter Christmas Dinner, Saturday 13 July

Have you ever wondered what Santa gets up to when it's not Christmas? Well apparently Santa is planning to visit Waīatarua and will be joining us at a Mid-winter Christmas dinner on Saturday 13th July to be held at our Community Hall. We are still trying to work out the details with Santa, but to be honest I'm still annoyed with him for only bringing me deodorant every Christmas for the past five years. I'm getting the impression that Santa is trying to tell me something, anyway as soon as he explains himself we can work out the details and can let you know. Until then, keep Saturday 13th July free in your diary.

*Mark Wager*

*WRRRA President*

## 2024 Waīatarua PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

### PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS

**Eligibility criteria:**

- Photographs must have a connection to Waīatarua
- Photographs must have been taken within the last 6 months

Send your photos to [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz)

**Closing Date 28th April 2024**



*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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**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)

WRRRA thank Marketing Impact Ltd for their support in producing this newsletter [www.marketingimpact.co.nz](http://www.marketingimpact.co.nz)

## Fire Brigade News

Earlier this month, our Brigade came together, joined by our esteemed life honorary members Helen Longley and Ian Ford, along with distinguished guests including Darryl Johnston VSO FENZ, Ricky Hodge of Papakura (Auckland Provincial Fire Brigades Association), and representatives from Helensville, Piha, Karekare, and Titirangi brigades. We gathered to honour and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our fellow brigade members. The awards ceremony was graced by the presence of Graeme Booth (UFBA/Laingholm) and Scott Marchant, Waitemata District Group Manager for FENZ, who presented the accolades.

This gathering marked a significant occasion as it was the first official recognition event since the onset of the Covid pandemic. It provided us with the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our brigade members and their supportive partners and families, without whom our accomplishments would not be possible.

Heartfelt congratulations are extended to our deserving award recipients for their exemplary service to both the brigade and the community:

**Three Year Certificate recipients:** Brigade Support Christine Healy, QFF Damian Woolliscroft, QFF Dave Anderson, QFF Gareth Wilson, QFF Jacob Moolman, and RFF Rohan Patel

**Five Year Medal recipient:** Christine Healy

**Two year Silver Bar recipients:** QFF Derek Renata (21 years), CFO Steve Smith (23 years), DCFO Jay Percival (11 years), SFF Matt Walkinshaw (11 years), RFF Richard Renata (9 years), and SFF Jono Going (7 years)

**Two year Gold Bar recipients:** Ian Ford (39 years) and SO Kevin Healy (27 years)

**Long Service Good Conduct recipients:** QFF Derek Renata (21 years) and CFO Steve Smith (21 years)

**Brigade Awards - "Renata Trifecta":** Derek Renata 20-year trophy,



Richard Renata Recruit of the Year 2023, and Glynis Renata appreciation flowers in recognition of years managing annual financial accounts.

We extend our gratitude to the Waitakere Resort and Spa Team for providing an exceptional experience for all attendees.

### Fire Events in Feb/March

6<sup>th</sup> February – Structure Fire, Waitakere

10<sup>th</sup> February – Vegetation Fire, Waiatarua

13<sup>th</sup> February – M/Vehicle Crash West Coast Rd

13<sup>th</sup> February – Animal Rescue – Scenic Drive

17<sup>rd</sup> February – Accident Piha Road

29<sup>th</sup> February— Car Fire Scenic Drive

**Community Events** - Our brigade had a great time supporting the Boot Sale at the Waiatarua Hall and successfully initiated some fundraising for the upcoming financial year. A big thank you to everyone who supported us on the day.

## Waiatarua Hall Boot Fair Feedback

The Boot Fair held at Waiatarua Hall on Saturday 16 March was deemed a success, as far as the residents who set up their stalls before 8am that morning were concerned. 14 tables filled the hall with all kinds of items for sale. Disappointingly only around 20 individuals turned up to make purchases, however this event coincided with the Henderson Valley Community Day and was a busy weekend for many. Sales were made but most of the goods returned with their owners.

However, the stall holders were not deterred, and all in attendance agreed it was a great idea and would want to come back again. Unfortunately we are unable to provide photos of the event as promised in the last newsletter.

Feedback received was that it was a great way to connect with friends and meet some new faces. Hopefully with more parking being available and greater advertising the next event will attract a higher attendance.

*Les Duffield, Organiser*

## Working Bee at Waiatarua Hall

Saturday 13 April at 10am

A Working Bee will take place at the Hall to clean up the grounds which have become quite overgrown and weedy. Council have advised that they are comfortable with the WRRRA carrying out this work.

The Weed Bins are scheduled to be on site on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, therefore the Working Bee will be **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 10am**. If you are willing to assist come along with your garden gloves and handy implements and join committee members with this tidy up.



**MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

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

**FRIDAY 19 APRIL**

# 2024 INDOOR BOWLS

Register today

THE 2024 WAIATARUA INDOOR BOWLS TOURNAMENT

911 WEST COAST ROAD, WAIATARUA COMMUNITY HALL

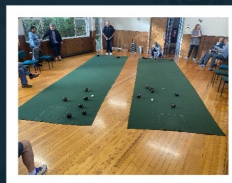
ON SATURDAY 15TH JUNE WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR FIRST INDOOR BOWLS TOURNAMENT

REGARDLESS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE LEVEL IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME NOVICE OR A BOWLING MASTER COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE DAY.

I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL WIN BUT I CAN GUARANTEE A LOT OF FUN AND LAUGHTER. SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SUPPLIED DURING THE DAY AS WELL AS SOME DELIGHTFUL TROPHIES FOR THE WINNERS SO CLEAR A SPACE ON YOUR SMARTEST SHELF AND REGISTER TODAY

REGISTER NOW FOR THE SINGLES AND DOUBLES COMPETITIONS

THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE WAIATARUA COMMUNITY HALL. THE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS WE FINALISE THE ENTRIES BUT WE ARE AIMING TO HAVE A SINGLES EVENT AS WELL AS A DOUBLES EVENT SO REGISTER BY EMAILING [PRESIDENT@WAIATARUA.ORG.NZ](mailto:PRESIDENT@WAIATARUA.ORG.NZ) CLOSING DATE FOR ENTIRES IS 25TH MAY 2024



## 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.

**Dead tree management:** local available for managing dead, diseased or damaged wood to maintain healthy trees, and tidying up trees that hinder or stop property repairs or that have become a nuisance and reduce aesthetics. Ph Craig Starr 021 610 408.

**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 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. Ph 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. Ph Margaret 814 9859.

**Table Tennis:** every Wednesday in the Hall, from 7pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week. Ph Tony 814 9860, email to-ny.bacon @sthw.co.nz

**Tiler / Stone layer:** 30 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Ph 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](http://www.weareloud.co.nz) or ph 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

*Do you enjoy reading about what is going on in our community?*

*Do you want to keep informed about what the WRRRA is doing for our community?*

*Do you like hearing about community events the WRRRA organise, through this publication?*

*Do you like receiving a printed copy of this newsletter once a month?*

*Do you, or someone you know, have a small business that they would like to promote?*

If the answer is yes to the above then we would love to hear from you. In order to keep this publication going in its current printed form, we rely on advertising to help pay for the printing costs.

This newsletter is hand delivered to 800 households in Waiatarua and uploaded to the website. You can see previous copies here: <https://waiatarua.org.nz/our-monthly-newsletter/>.

The newsletter makes it easy to target messages to local residents and is perfect for advertising discounts, events and to reach people who are not on social media. For pricing at very reasonable rates and format please see the other side of this page. Contact the Editor at [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz) to place an ad—we have spaces currently available.



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JOIN US FOR

**CHURCH**  
this Sunday

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY HALL  
911 WEST COAST RD, WAIATARUA  
WORSHIP SERVICE STARTS 10AM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: PS NANCY MATANA  
PH: 021 145 1495 EMAIL: waiaturch@gmail.com

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

This newsletter is hand delivered to 800 households in Waiaatarua and uploaded to the website. You can see previous copies here: <https://waiatarua.org.nz/our-monthly-newsletter/>. The newsletter makes it easy to target messages to local residents. Perfect for advertising discounts, events and to reach people who are not on social media. Price list and format below:

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

## Waiatarua Community Patrol News

Our local CPNZ group has been working hard to set up a community patrol in Glen Eden, and we are very pleased to announce that they are now up and running and out on regular patrols.

Recently some of our team attended the Henderson Valley Community Day to raise awareness of our organisation and hopefully recruit some new patrollers! It is always such a great event and the team enjoyed rolling out some fun games for the kids, and chatting with the community.



There are many ways you can help us to be the eyes and ears for the Police in our community, not necessary as a volunteer although we are always on a lookout for more patrollers:



Stay safe, and look out for your neighbours.

Be aware of our volunteers and give us a wave when you see us

out on patrol.

Tell others about us and the work we do.

Volunteer with us as a patroller (covering Waiatarua, Oratia, Henderson Valley and more). A flexible commitment of around four hours per month. Full training and uniform supplied. Police security clearance check and current drivers licence required.

Volunteer with us in a support role. It takes a team to keep our wheels on the road.

Our biggest expense is petrol – donate directly to our fuel account at Oratia Mobil station on West Coast Road.

Donate to our Givealittle page – no amount is too small: [www.givealittle.co.nz/org/waiatarua-community-patrol-charitable-trust](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/waiatarua-community-patrol-charitable-trust)

Contact Sue Dell, Patrol Leader ([waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz](mailto:waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz), 021 681 207) for more information, or check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/waiataruacommunitypatrol>.

**Remember** – please phone Police to report any incidents in our neighbourhood including witnessing bad driving. This enables Police to identify trends in the area and does get included in their planning activities:

111 - Emergency

105 - Non emergency (incident already happened and urgent assistance not required), or online [105.police.govt.nz](http://105.police.govt.nz)

555 - From mobile phone only – urgent but not life-threatening driving incidents

0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers – to report anonymously, or online [crimestoppers-nz.org/report](http://crimestoppers-nz.org/report)

*Renee Patterson*

*Secretary, Waiatarua Community Patrol*

## Outlook bright for Waitākere Ranges Dark Sky project

Volunteers are now able to use equipment for light monitoring and help register a pre-application to Dark Sky International for the Waitākere Ranges to become an International Dark Sky Place, thanks to the support from Waitākere Ranges Local Board.

The board recently allocated \$7,700 for the Waitākere Ranges Dark Sky Project, one of their key priorities in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair Greg Presland is pleased to see the project take its first steps.

“Our board is thrilled to help start the project. Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is a taonga, it is special, and it deserves and needs our continued protection and support,” he explains.

“We’d love the Heritage Area to be a Dark Sky Place where people can enjoy the starry night sky, and value the natural darkness that helps protect our native wildlife and natural areas. This will also make our local area a greater attraction to tourists from far and wide.

“We know that artificial light disrupts natural cycles and we want to do our best to make sure that Nature can continue to recover and replenish itself.

“I’d like to thank our passionate volunteers – we now have a dedicated Dark Sky Team made up of Dark Sky enthusiasts from Te Kawerau ā Maki, Piha, Anawhata, Titirangi, Laingholm, and Karekare. Each of us is eager to help turn this great idea into reality,” says Presland.

The Waitākere Ranges Dark Sky Project is an initiative to maintain the health of the Waitākere Ranges’ night sky by becoming accredited with the International Dark Sky Association whose goal is advocacy and education to protect night skies globally.

The project is now in the initiation phase, during which the group will need to determine the site’s night sky quality, complete a preliminary lighting inventory, decide the site’s boundaries, land ownership and threats, engage with Dark Sky International, until it moves to the planning and implementation phase.

Preserving New Zealand’s night sky is vital for conservation and biodiversity. There are currently six internationally recognised dark sky parks in Aotearoa. They are Aoraki Mackenzie, Aotea / Great Barrier, Oxford Forest, Stewart Island / Rakiura, Wai-iti and Wairarapa.

*Article taken from Waitākere Ranges Local Board e-newsletter*

# Stickered Titirangi Area Residents Group wants to hear from you

## Do you have issues with slips on road reserves?

The Star ☆ group (Stickered Titirangi Area Residents) is interested in hearing from residents across Auckland who have been affected by road reserve landslips on Auckland Council owned land. There are an estimated 150 road reserve slips in the wider Auckland area and there is currently no funding allocated for the repair of this damage. Auckland Transport has acknowledged there is a gap in funding and a need to resolve the issues caused. This process is separate to the private property categorisation.

We believe it's important to form a united voice on this issue and that we need to make Auckland Council officers, government departments and local government and government representatives (Councillors and MPs) aware of



the impacts on homeowners.

If this issue affects you please get in touch with Star Group by emailing [stickereditirangiresidentsgrp@gmail.com](mailto:stickereditirangiresidentsgrp@gmail.com)

*Catherine Albiston*

*on behalf of the Stickered Titirangi Residents Group*

## From the Editor

Hello everyone

By the time you read this, Easter will have come and gone. Still, I thought the following might be of interest regarding this annual event.

One of the most recognisable symbols associated with Easter is the Easter egg. This symbol goes back to the Ancient Babylonians. They believed an egg fell from heaven into the Euphrates River, and "hatched" the goddess of fertility, Astarte (also known as Ash-tur, Ishtar, and, yes, Easter). Pagans exchanged eggs as gifts during their springtime festival. Today, the chocolate variety are used in the ever-popular Easter egg hunt, where they are hidden for children to find and collect.

Another popular Easter symbol is the Easter Bunny. Like eggs, rabbits represent the spring season and fertility. The Easter Rabbit tradition originated in the pagan festival of Eostre, represented by a northern goddess who was associated with the rabbit and hare. The modern Easter Bunny brings eggs and treats for children to enjoy every Easter.

The white lily is so connected with the holiday that it is sometimes known as the Easter lily. Lilies are associated with purity and resurrection. One legend says lilies grew in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Christ prayed the night before his death. Spring flowers like daffodils, crocus, hyacinth and tulips also are associated with Easter

(although obviously not here in NZ, where Easter falls in the autumn and not in the Northern Hemisphere spring).

Other symbols for the Easter holiday season include crosses and crucifixes as a direct connection to religious teachings, chickens and chicks as a spring message of rebirth, and palm branches which are significant for both spring and Christianity

It's hard to talk about Easter food without acknowledging an historical tradition. The foods we associate with this time of year have Christian and Pagan symbolism. Why do we traditionally eat certain foods on certain days?

Hot cross buns and various breads are eaten on Good Friday and Easter eggs on Easter Sunday. Mix that in with a good measure of 21st century commercialism, all manner of cute things like the aforementioned chicks and Easter bunnies, and we end up with a blur of something that probably, to many, means a long weekend full of sugar-loaded treats.

Spiced buns to be eaten on Good Friday were institutionalised in Tudor England by law. They could also be eaten at Christmas or funerals. The symbolism of the cross is obvious in Christian belief but also had Greek, Roman and Saxon references.

Whatever your beliefs, Easter is a great occasion for decorating your home and sharing a meal with close friends and family.

*Cheers, Erin*