



Community News

MAY 1988

EDITOR: TONY BACON

MRS. PATRICIA COLE - "COLEY".

She held out her hands to so many.

With the death of Mrs. Patricia Cole on April 14th. this district has lost a very special person.

Mrs. Cole and her late husband Gordon bought their property in 1941 and came to live there permanently a few years later. Mr. Cole was Music Master at Avondale College, conductor for many musical productions in and out of Auckland and among other things was the inspirer for the Junior Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. Cole was right behind him in everything he did.

They both encouraged young performers at the start of their careers - Heather Begg, Mina Foley, Heather Fryer, Malvina Major, Michael McGifford, Anne Stott and Mark Pedrotti to name but a few. Tapes, letters and photos from some of these flowed into Pat's house from all over the world right up to the time of her death. Her belief was "If this is a young singer we must support him or her". One neighbour can remember at least four occasions when established performers interrupted their programmes to say they had heard Mrs. Cole was in the audience and they would sing something specially for her in appreciation of what she and her husband had done for them.

Pat - "Coley" to her many friends, was a woman of principle. She believed in a fair deal - and a fair return on her rates. She would ring the City Council when the white lines on the road needed to be repainted or gravel clogged the ditches. But there was always a cup of tea and scones for the workmen when the job was done.

She regularly attended meetings of the Residents and Ratepayers Association of which she was an Honorary Life Member, and kept scrapbooks of their notices and news reports of local affairs. At a meeting to protest at the proposed erection of a second mast in Quinns Road she challenged "Do you want the Waitakeres to look like a picket fence?". On another occasion, to emphasise the state of the West Coast Road, she asked a City Councillor to reimburse her for her broken shock absorbers.

To the end of her life she stood by her principle of paying for what she received when people tended her garden and lawn. She was totally non-judgemental, accepting people for what they were.

In World War II when the Home Guard went out on their greatly improvised schemes the Cole home was the Headquarters.

Widowhood certainly didn't slow Coley down. She had a very positive attitude to life. Her fruit cakes, cream sponges and scones were famous at fundraising events and as gifts.

Who organised a party to welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood? Why Coley, of course.

Who arrived with hot soup if someone was ill? - Coley.

Who mothered a lonely old bachelor for 20 years, for seven of them visiting him in hospital? - Coley.

Children loved Coley. She welcomed them and was interested in all they did. If there wasn't a piano in their home, they could practise on hers. And there was always a chocolate for them when they left and one to take home to their parents. She made teddy bears, knitted jackets and dresses for small people.

Tommy, her beloved Corgi, came to live with her when he was unclaimed after a car accident. Regular travellers on the Scenic Drive will always remember Coley's small figure in flowing green cape and Tommy on his leash as they walked together in all weathers.

Even when she was dying Coley thought of others first. "If people are good enough to come and see me the least I can do is to see them" she said. Her eyes would open and she would ask about their doings.

Mrs. Pat Cole - "Coley", has left us a legacy of caring and sharing.

This appreciation was written by Phyl Vincent.

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MONEY MAKES THE WORD GO ROUND - so where's yours?

At the last count, 54 households had paid a subscription to the Association, which is not a very big percentage of the roughly 600 newsletters that we deliver. Now I know I'm biased, but I would have thought getting this sparkling publication every month was worth \$5.00 a year just in itself, let alone all the other things the association does (and would like to do if it had more cash). Some of the services you get:

Administering the Community Centre.

Administering the Community Library.

Monitoring Council Agendas and Minutes for things that affect the Community.

Raising issues with our elected representatives - see the item about Ray Nola and the Power Board elsewhere in this issue.

Organising community events.

Keeping the Community informed - through things like this magnificent newsletter.

Isn't that worth \$5.00 a year? So if you haven't yet done so, why not complete the coupon at the back of this newsletter, drop it in at the library or the Community Centre and help us to help you.

"Sir, I have two very cogent reasons for not printing any list of subscribers; - one, that I have lost all the names, - the other that I have spent all the money."

FROM OUR THEATRE CORRESPONDENT

WAIT UNTIL DARK - a thriller. At the Waiatarua Community Centre.

The latest offering from the Drama Club certainly lived up to its advertising. Right from the opening scene the tension built through suspicion, duplicity and cunning until the climactic confrontation in the darkened room, as the tables were turned and the hunter became the hunted. There were consistently strong performances from all the cast, with Brett Whyte's Roat being particularly full of cold menace.

Altogether it was one of the best staged shows of recent times at the Community Centre, and the long-overdue decision to stop using a prompt has wrought a miraculous improvement in the cast's ability to remember the lines.

One minor quibble - no professional theatre worth its salt would advertise an 8 p.m. start yet consistently have curtain-up at 8.10 or 8.15.

That aside, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, with the usual excellent supper and compulsory raffle. We look forward eagerly to the next production.

And while were are on the subject -

Drama Club want to thank all its local supporters for a very good turn out to its most recent production. With the longer season that we now run, isn't it great not to have everyone packed in like sardines on the last night? We really value our local audience, and it is also encouraging to see so many younger members of this small community getting involved.

We always welcome enquiries from new or existing residents, especially from those who want to get a bit involved, but don't regard themselves as acting material! There is still catering, bookings, sewing, set designing, painting and hammering to be done before any play gets off the ground - can you help? In particular we would be delighted to hear from anyone in the district who would be keen to 'take charge' of our workshop and direct the building of sets and stage equipment from time to time.

If anyone out there can help us, even just occasionally, we would like to hear from you.

Phone Gill 8149-220

Phyl 8149-837

Vivienne 818-2521

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LIBRARY NEWS

Lots of books were added during April, so come and massage your brain with a good read! The loan books from the Central Library service will be exchanged on 18th. May, so there will be an even greater selection of reading matter for those long dark winter evenings. Some of the new titles:

SECRETS - Steele	THE TWO MRS GRENVILLES - Dunne
UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Hines	THE COUPLE FROM POITIERS - Simenon
CIDER HOUSE RULES - J. Irving	ARROGANT AUSSIE - Leapman
LIFE OF A PAPER TYCOON - Murdoch	2061 - ODYSSEY THREE - Arthur C. Clarke
WORLD GUIDE TO AUTOMOBILES	CREATIVE CRAFTS WITH WOOL AND FLAX

and lots more!

TELETHON '88

This is your last chance! The response to our call for helpers last month was precisely zero, so unless some volunteers are forthcoming almost immediately, there will be no Telethon activities in Waiatarua this year, which is something that I think should make us all slightly ashamed. The contact name this time is Tony Webber on 8149-693 - phone him ~~now~~ and offer your services; even a couple of hours before the event or on the day will be gratefully received.

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DOGGONE

The rubbish has a lovely smell
To wandering dogs, as you can tell.

Their habits are not very nice
As I have found out once or twice.

If they would eat the food they find
And not leave tins and bags behind.

So let us try if we can con
These dogs with something like Savlon.

Or try a disinfectant spray
To help to keep those beasts away.

ANON

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WAITAKERE RANGES AUTHORITY

A public meeting is being held to discuss this important issue, which could profoundly affect the future of our community.

Gary Taylor will discuss the proposed Authority, and also the Resource Use Planning Statute review being carried out by Central Government.

The meeting is on **Tuesday May 24th**. (sorry about the short notice) in the Oratia Settlers Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

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THE POWER OF THE PRESS - Read about it today, see it happen yesterday!

Our remarks last month about the state of the roads obviously bore fruit, as repairs were started two days before the issue hit the streets! We can't really take credit for that, but we can report that work is also due to be carried out on West Coast Road between Forest Hill Road and Scenic Drive to bring the original work up to a satisfactory standard. Presumably this is not costing ratepayers very much as the work was inadequately done first time, but there must still be Council costs involved in inspection, renegotiation, monitoring etc, not to mention the dust and general inconvenience we will no doubt have to suffer.

Perhaps if the Council staff put more effort into defining the requirements for the job and choosing a competent contractor, it might all end up cheaper in the long run.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - or whose volt is it when the lights go out?

We had a discussion at the last committee meeting with Ray Nola, who is our representative on the Waitemata Electric Power Board. The committee had previously written to the board about a number of things, but specifically asking about the possibilities of putting our power underground, with a view to reducing the number of power cuts we suffer and also reducing the visual pollution from the poles that seem to get bigger every time the Power Board teams pay us a visit.

The response from the board was that undergrounding was not feasible for technical reasons, a view not altogether accepted by your committee, and also on grounds of cost. While it is likely that power cuts would be less frequent if the cables were underground, the time to locate and fix faults would be greater. The initial costs of undergrounding would have to be borne by the community, those costs being the difference between pylons and trenches, and also the cost of undergrounding from the roadside to your house. If there is sufficient support for the idea of undergrounding your committee will pursue the matter further, so let us know your feelings.

The current work being done in West Coast Road is to increase the capacity from 11 to 33 kv which is why larger poles are needed. Other work is being done to improve the security of our supply.

We also raised the issue of insensitive pruning of trees by power board workers, and Ray acknowledged a problem in that area. Your committee is going to obtain a copy of the board works programme so we know in advance when work is likely to take place in our area, and can keep an eye on things. In the meantime, if you have a problem with an unsightly pole or overzealous pruning, Ray asks that you contact him so he can follow it up.

Ray also reminded us of the slightly depressing fact that in 1989 the board is likely to become a fully commercial enterprise and so with its monopoly position is likely to be even less responsive to our problems.

You can contact Ray on 818-5508, but please don't just ring him up to complain if your power bill is too high - that is a matter for the board staff.

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GINGER PLANT

Our ever-resourceful Fire Brigade have come up with an idea that could raise them some money and provide a great community service.

They are willing to spray ginger plant on road frontages, at a cost of say \$20 per hour plus materials if the plants are standing, or \$15 if they have been cut down and only the roots need treating. We hope to be able to deal with both private and Council land - if the Council will contribute their share.

The idea is still in its formative stages and costs are not yet fixed, but this could be a way to really attack the plants on a large scale. If you like (or hate) the idea, contact Ian Wells on 8149-601.

ADVERTISING

The great response to the 'Help wanted' ad in the last issue has prompted this one:

WANTED

- Person for lawns, and gardens, Waiatarua area. 3 hrs. a week. \$5 per hour. Phone 8149-440 evenings.
- Person for housework. Waiatarua area. 3 hrs. every second week. \$5 per hour. Phone 8149-440 evenings.

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Deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, 14th June. Please send legible copy to the Editor, Tony Bacon, 11 Cascade Avenue. All submissions must have a name and contact phone number, even if that is not for publication.

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Our thanks to Waiatarua residents Grant and Carol Longley of Longley Printing for their help in the production of this Newsletter.

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This Newsletter is published by the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association and delivered to all households in the area. If you are not already a member, your subscription of \$5.00 per household (\$2.50 for single occupants) will help us to maintain and improve the services we provide. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer, Gisella Kernot, 12 Tui Crescent, or left at the Library.

Please accept my 1988 subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I enclose \$5.00 (Household), or \$2.50 (Single occupant)

This is a renewal / new subscription (Delete one)

Name _____

Please send to

Address _____

The Treasurer,
Gisella Kernot,
12 Tui Crescent

or leave at the Library

Telephone _____