



Community News

AUGUST 1988

EDITOR: TONY BACON

THAT MURPHY HAS GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR!

Murphy's Law struck again at the Market Day, and we managed to have a double booking at the Community Centre, with the Drama Group trying to set up their stage set while stallholders tried to get organised at the same time. Midwinter weather shortened a few tempers, and some lack of tolerance was shown on both sides. The Market Day managed to proceed with slightly less space than was bargained for, and the Drama Group managed to get their sets up amongst the chaos, so no lasting harm was done. The committee has taken steps to ensure that such a mix-up doesn't happen again.

Despite the hassles, the Market Day was a success. The Association made about \$150, the individual stallholders all seemed to be taking the odd dollar, and the assembled multitudes had a good time.

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The Community's sympathy goes to Chris Kannegieter, guardian of Rose Kellaby House, who recently lost her son in a motor accident.

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TELETHON

It seems Piha wasn't alone in money raising for Telethon. Congratulations and thanks to Megan, Gabrielle, Kara, Kirby, Toby, Jane and Kate who raised \$64 in a couple of hours by selling cakes and homebaked goodies outside the Community Centre. It's good to know that some of Waiatarua's children at least were willing to make an effort.

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LANDLORD OR TENANT? - this is for you.

The Housing Corporation reminds us that they run a Tenancy Bond Division to administer the Residential Tenancies Act (1986). They see their advisory role as being of prime importance, and they will give advice to Landlords and Tenants on their rights and responsibilities. They also provide a mediation service and access to the Tenancy Tribunal to resolve tenancy disputes.

There is a leaflet, "What does it mean for Landlords and Tenants" available from the Corporation, and also "Renting and You", the Guide to the Act, available from local booksellers or the Government bookshop.

The local Housing Corporation office is in the John Henry Centre, Pioneer St., Henderson, phone 837-0771.

LIBRARY NEWS - FREE LIBRARY!

As from 1st August 1988 all books are free to borrowers. The committee reserves the right to re-introduce rentals if at any time the library should be short of funds (Use it or lose it! - Ed).

We will be keeping a stricter watch on overdues. Please remember that by keeping a book for too long a period you may be depriving another borrower and you are certainly creating extra work for our loyal band of helpers.

A number of children's books have been bought and we hope to have many of them available for the holidays.

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GARDEN SUBURB

Driving down West Coast Road is something most of us now look forward to. It's not even spring yet, but we can all appreciate the visual excitement of Topline Nurseries with its beautiful shrubs and plants, and anticipate the dramatic flowering of the azaleas outside Stansted. We would like to thank them and all the other keen 'verge gardeners' who make West Coast Road such a joy at all times of the year.

It is also good to find that our current Waitemata City Council Verge Mower has the same appreciation for Waiatarua's beauty and has dramatically improved the appearance and visibility of our roadsides. We look forward to spring and the wild flowers with renewed enthusiasm. If only we could get rid of the ginger!

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SUPPORT LOCAL ENTERPRISE

On the first Saturday of every month Cathie at the Mountain Top Cafe is going to put on a night with a special theme, e.g. Seafood and Champagne. You'll need to book, on 8149-804 or 8149-601. Sounds like it could beat travelling into town for an evening!

And quite by coincidence, Paul Richards of Top Shape in Henderson tells us that they are running an 'Over 50s' course to encourage continued physical awareness and give diet advice. So if you are over 50 in any dimension, why not give Top Shape a ring on 837-0072.

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PLAYCENTRE

Another successful Market Day is over and our funds were boosted by about \$320. Very many thanks are owed in particular to female members of the Residents Association, but also to all those others who supported us. The Gourmet Hamper raffle was won by Betty from Glen Eden. It was good to be part of the bustling cheerful atmosphere - a welcome break in the midst of wintry days.

We have encountered a zoning difficulty with our Bush Road site, so we are considering alternatives in case the problems are insurmountable.

BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

Philip and Denise Rutten.

The Van Lingen family.

MOBILE POSTBANK

This service now operates from outside the Oratia Dairy, as forecast last month (Remember you read it here first!)

COMMUNITY CENTRE PIANO

The sensitive among you will be delighted to hear that the piano has been tuned, and also now has its own heater so it doesn't get chesty.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY, or how to avoid getting complaints

A slip of the typing finger last month meant that Wayne Edwards' phone number for problems with Newsletter delivery was incorrectly stated. The number should be 8149-976. Our apologies to the Glen Eden Health food shop that kept getting strange phone calls from Waiatarua residents.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are trying to revitalise this concept, and have arranged a meeting at the Community Centre on Sunday 18th. September, at 2 p.m. to discuss how to get things going again. This is your chance to contribute to your own security and the security of the community. There won't be another newsletter before the meeting, so put this newsletter down right now, and mark the date on the calendar before you forget.

MEMBERSHIP

A slight slow down in the avalanche of new members - we are now 134. Rumour has it that I overstated the number we had last month, so the increase is not as small as it seems. Still, we deliver to over 500 households, so there is a long way to go before we even get to 50% membership. We don't take credit cards, so you can rest assured that none of your subscription will end up in the coffers of a finance company - surely that's a good reason for sending us \$5?

MICROWAVE CORRIDOR

Further to last month's item, your committee has decided to lodge an objection to the corridor, in support of the residents who will be most directly affected. The grounds of our objection are that insufficient information has been provided on actual or potential health risks to people living in the vicinity.

THE ANNIVERSARY - at the Waiaatarua Community Centre

The latest production of the Waiaatarua Drama Club was billed as a black comedy. This is arguably one of the most difficult theatrical forms and the Club is to be congratulated on its bravery in attempting it.

The lights went down at 8.10 to the scenario of Mum's wedding anniversary (Dad has been dead for some years), and the family is gathered according to time honoured tradition. Mum rules the family with a mixture of bloody-mindedness, blackmail, bribery and sugar coating, but things are coming to a head, with each son about to provoke his own crisis.

The situation is ripe for both comedy and tension, and the script gave us plenty of both. Henry's liking for lingerie, Tom's habit of bringing fiancées home for the party and Terry's incompetence as a builder provided lots of opportunities for laughs.

However comedy of whatever colour stands or falls on timing, and while this production didn't fall, it certainly stumbled occasionally. All too frequently what should have been a quick-fire interchange of sharp comment was a fairly wooden delivery of the words from the script, with little apparent appreciation of the possibilities of varied delivery speed or vocal range.

Helen Burnett gave us a suitably awful Mum, Vivienne Stanley was good as the long-suffering wife who has finally had enough and David Fuller gave us the occasional good whine, but the rest of the cast were fairly cardboard.

My own enjoyment was further diminished by the group in the audience who seemed to regard the show as their private party. Their loud and frequent interjections and comments were an objectionable intrusion into the performance. If people aren't willing to give a play the respect it deserves they should stay away.

'Critics! - appall'd I venture on the name,
Those cut-throat bandits
in the path of fame' - Robert Burns.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was forced to leave the production of the Waiaatarua Drama Club due to smoking in the audience. The venue was the Waiaatarua Community Centre where I believe smoking is not permitted. Furthermore, it is situated in Waitemata City which now has explicit smoking by-laws. I would like to know:

- a) If other non-smokers (about 95% of the audience) were offended by the smoke,
- b) The rights of the matter. Would the editor care to follow it up?

Yours Sincerely

Jill Fenwick.

Jill, this matter has been discussed in the Association committee and with the Drama Group. We will be putting up No Smoking signs, and the Drama Group will be putting a No Smoking request in their programmes. Of course whatever the law says, these things ultimately come down to the goodwill of individuals - I hope that goodwill and respect for the health of others will prevail - Ed.

THE HUMBLE SEPTIC TANK

What happens when the bath is emptied or the toilet is flushed?

How it Works

Liquid household wastes from the kitchen, bathroom, laundry and toilet pass into the septic tank. The solids settle out to the bottom of the tank; lighter solids, fat and grease rise to the surface and form a layer of scum. Sludge and scum are partially digested by anaerobic bacteria. The remaining liquid passes out and is absorbed by the soil. The effluent from the septic tank contains harmful bacteria and has an offensive odour, therefore it is important your septic tank is kept in good condition to avoid polluting your (or your neighbours') environment.

Maintenance

Depending on the size of the tank and the size of the household, tanks SHOULD BE CLEANED OUT EVERY 3 YEARS. Failure to clean the tank results in the solid wastes building up to the point that they overflow and clog the disposal system. The effluent odour becomes more offensive and the discharge more polluting.

Do's and Don'ts

- * Moderate use of household cleansers has little effect on the septic tank. Some antiseptics can kill the bacteria which digest the tank's contents. Be careful you don't kill these friends.
- * Newspapers or disposable nappies won't decompose and may lead to clogging.
- * Grease and food scraps should be removed from dishes before washing.
- * Roof water and other large volumes of water (such as auto washing machines, dish washers, spas etc.) SHOULD NOT BE PIPED INTO THE SEPTIC TANK as it is likely to lead to an overflow of solids and consequent pollution of local waterways. Remember that we live on low-absorption clays. Waste disposal units cause a faster build-up of solids in the tank so more frequent cleaning is required.

If you rely on a septic tank, keep a plan of the system and record cleaning and maintenance. If any changes are made to the system contact the W.C.C. Drainage Inspector.

You can make a saving of 10% on the cost of having your tank cleaned by getting two of your neighbours to get their's done on the same day. Three septic tanks constitute a tanker load so you save on transport. (See the Yellow Pages for names). You can save 100% of the cost of cleaning by doing it yourself. The sediment residue is very good compost and your garden will love you for it. (If you want more 'do-it-yourself' advice phone Len on 8149-826.)

(This article originally appeared in the Oratia Ratepayers Newsletter).

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'If you would be a real seeker after truth, you must at least once in your life, doubt, as far as possible, all things.'

- Rene Descartes, 1596-1650, 'Discourse on Method'

ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

Queen Bed, mattress and base. New Therapedic, Still in wrapper. \$850.
Oak leadlight china cabinet. Good condition. \$250. Phone 8149-616.

FAX & PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE

This service is now available locally from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Prices are considerably lower than elsewhere, not to mention the time savings! Phone 8149-830 for details.

WORK OFFERED

Person for lawn mowing and odd jobs, \$5.00 per hour. Also person for housework. 3 hours weekly. Atarua Gardens, phone 8149-818, evenings.

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Deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, 13th September. 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 delivered to all Households in Waiatarua by the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association. 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)

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