



# Community News

SEPTEMBER 1990

EDITOR: TONY BACON

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## BITS AND PIECES

### Happenings

Commiserations to Phyl Vincent, who was burgled *again*, and a reminder to keep your eyes open for strange goings-on in your neighbourhood.

Much sympathy to the Healy family who were left with just the clothes they were wearing when their house burnt down.

### Community Centre Working Bee

Bring your shovels, secateurs and scythes on Saturday 6th October and help us to clean up the Community Centre Grounds. Start time is 9am, finish when its done or every one is exhausted. The community barbecue will be on hand to provide lunchtime sustenance for the workers.

### Ginger Plant

The Waitakere City Council is organising a "Ginger Out" week, probably in late November. More details nearer the date.

Well done to the residents of Bush Road and West Coast Road who have attacked the pest on their own properties - it's great to see the piles of debris waiting to be removed.

### Cat's Eyes

Your committee is trying to get cat's eyes installed on more of the Scenic Drive. Those of you who have driven along the Swanson end at night will know what a great safety aid they are - especially when it is foggy.

### General (yawn) Election

The one bright spot in the election campaign will be the Waiatarua meet the candidates meeting. This is always an entertaining and informative occasion, so don't miss it. The actual date hasn't yet been arranged, but we will let you know in plenty of time.

### Western Leader

Are there any adult residents who would be willing to deliver the Western Leader in our area? The pay is minuscule, but it would be a good public service. If you are interested, contact Tom Baker on 8149-340 or Tony Bacon on 8149-860.

### Membership

It now stands at 172 - exactly the same as this time last year. We are going to have to get a move on if we are to reach 250 by the end of the year, so if you have not already done so, lose no time in filling out the form on the last page and sending it off.

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## LIBRARY

The latest books by Wilbur Smith and Barbara Taylor-Bradford are now in the library, together with some lesser known authors.

Can anyone spare one Friday evening every three months (just four times a year) to help on the desk? Please ring Bev on 8149-679.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Firstly I would like to pass on the Association's sympathy and support to the Healy family who lost their home and personal possessions in a fire which destroyed their house in Quinns Road. James, Wendy and their four children must be devastated by such a horrific experience. Wendy has been very active and supportive in our community affairs, serving as President of the Playcentre and as a committee member of the Ratepayers Association over a number of years.

The Association wishes to start a fund to give some financial support to the Healys. If you want to help, please phone Debbie van der Walle on 8149-654. We urge you to give generously to help this young family.

You are probably aware that Waitakere City Council have produced an Annual Plan for the coming financial year. Although they are trying to keep rate increases to the level of inflation, the plan shows drastic cuts in engineering works and community services, but very little trimming in some extravagant areas. We will be submitting comments on the draft before it is finally adopted.

I would like to thank all residents who objected to the planning application by Broadtech to build a transmission facility at Quinns Road. Although we have not received a final count of objections, we estimate between 1100 and 1200 were submitted. This effort is most encouraging. Special thanks must go to Carol and Grant Longley, Oratia Store, Barbara Cullen, Dave and Pam Robinson, Walter Gollon and the many others who contributed to the success of the objection appeal. From experience the Mayor and some Councillors give very little sympathy to the residents of Waiatarua, so we must be prepared to put up a good case at the planning hearing to prevent Broadtech from erecting another mast on the Waitakere skyline.

The radar dome for the Airways Corporation has been structurally completed, and the two transmission towers on the site have now been removed

as promised by their public relations department.

We do not approve of another transmission facility erected on the Waitakere skyline, but as the Government made the decision based on the matter of safety for air transport, there was no alternative but to accept that decision.

The co-operation and communication between the Airways Corporation and the residents on this radar installation must be applauded.

Finally an up to date report on the BCL mast issue.

After BCL commenced transmitting Sky TV and further FM channels on the mast, measurements were taken in February which proved that BCL were exceeding the maximum permissible levels as specified by the Australian standard. BCL and the Council would not accept the results of these measurements until June, when an agreed independent adjudicator in Australia confirmed that BCL were operating above the Australian standard, and recommended that transmission be reduced.

To achieve this recommendation, BCL changed the configuration of the FM antennae over a six-week period. This has resulted in a substantial reduction in radiation levels on certain properties in close proximity to the mast. It is unfortunate that so much of the residents' time and money had to be expended to achieve these end results, which could have been achieved much earlier had BCL co-operated with residents before they expanded their operation. Credit must go to the Waiatarua Action Group, who through persistent lobbying and their decision to take the matter to the High Court at a very high financial cost to themselves, forced BCL to recognise and rectify the situation by reducing transmission. It seems unfair that a few families must be subject to high financial cost to protect the local environment and security of the community.

Tom Baker JP  
President

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Many residents will now have received an "open letter" from BCL, the operators of the TV transmitter at Waiatarua, advising residents of recent changes to the radiation pattern and again providing assurances that we are safe from harm. While news of reduced radiation and limited future expansion is very welcome, it is disappointing that there is no mention of the official verdict that the Australian safety standard was exceeded for months, nor any apology for this. The point must be made that the residents' "fears" and "concerns" were vindicated, and BCL's denials were not.

Regrettably, the welcome communication from BCL is marred by two misleading references to safety standards. First, the 1990 revision of the Australian standard is simply a re-issue of the old standard with a few minor corrections of ambiguities. The project committee responsible for this standard did not meet, and was not even aware of the re-issue of the standard. They are, however, about to reconvene to work on a revision of the standard, a task expected to take some years to complete.

Second, the June revision of the American standard has NOT been approved by ANSI because of concern over "lack of biological and medical expertise on the project committee" and "because the majority of its members represent the U.S. military." According to Dr. Louis Slesin, editor of *Microwave News*, most of the state health representatives on the committee voted against the proposed standard, and questions of membership expertise and balance will have to be resolved before the standard can be adopted (*Microwave News*, August 1990).

The central issue in this controversy is whether a safety standard should provide protection against non-heating biological effects of weak fields. Those doing the radiating, like BCL, refuse to acknowledge the need to provide this protection.

Understandably, potential victims take a different view.

Thanks for the letter, BCL, but can we look forward to less disinformation in future letters?

Ivan Beale.

Dear Editor,

Well, there is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that it seems that BCL have made major reductions to radiation levels around the mast. While there is little doubt that BCL now comply with the Australian standard, we must now insist on some more extensive tests to ensure that the so-called "hot spots" have not just moved to other properties. The residents of Waiatarua are very grateful that something positive has now been done and we look forward to working closely with BCL in future to maintain realistic and acceptable levels around our homes.

The bad news is that it has taken 2½ years, hundreds of letters, months of research, hours of presentations and \$44,000 to achieve reductions in radiation. All this however provided us with a wealth of knowledge and experience which will be extremely valuable in the future to deal with the likes of Broadtech in Quinns Road.

There is one very pressing matter which must be attended to. That is the question of the \$34,000 shortfall that the group of ten families who were in the forefront of the battle, are faced with. I know this appeal comes at a difficult time for many of us, but we would be extremely grateful for any financial support that can be mustered. We hope like us, you will think of your contribution as an investment in the future of Waiatarua.

Please "dig deep" and send your contribution to the Residents and Ratepayers Association Mast Fighting Fund, P.O. Box 21197, Henderson, or leave at the library.

Mark Heimgartner.

Deadline for the next issue - Wednesday 3rd October

Dear Editor,

I'd like to apologise for all the inconvenience cause by my Silky Terrier, Cupcake, in the Cascade Avenue area. We are moving to Parker Road where he can be fenced in. Thanks for your forbearance.

Kathleen Romano.

*One letter has been held over till next month - Ed*

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### PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre is a pre-school play and learn group run by parents of children between 0-5 years. We meet every Tuesday and Friday morning between 9.30 and 12 noon and you will find it a very informal and friendly group. If you are new in the area or a new mother or father please come and join us.

Our Annual General Meeting is being held on 26th. September at 7.30 pm at 19 Quinns Road.

### APPEAL APPEAL APPEAL

Playcentre has been a vital part of life in Waiatarua for nearly 20 years. It has provided a place for parents new in the area to meet and for families to get together and for children to form friendships. Our days are numbered in the Community Hall as it is seen as unsafe for children to gather in by the Fire Service. We have to find another location.

We ask all residents to let us know if you know of any flattish land, minimum 250 square metres or a small house and land or a piece of a piece of land that we could buy.

If you have any suggestions, or need more information about Playcentre and its activities, phone

Debbie van der Walle, 8149-654  
or Penny Pirrit, 8149-909.

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### ADVERTISING

#### FOUND

Gold ring in West Coast Road. Phone 8149-316.

#### WORK WANTED

Lawns mowed, sections tidied, chain sawing. Also truck and driver for hire - no job too small. For reliable service and free quote phone Scott, TGN 817-4738.

#### FOR SALE

Talbot Alpine SX 1.6, 1983, 5 door, excellent condition. 79,000km, \$6000 ono. Phone 8149-818 evenings.

#### FOR SALE

Bouncer-exerciser, top quality, as new. \$50 o.n.o. Phone 8149-757.

#### HATHA YOGA CLASSES

For strength, body toning and stress management. Feel the difference! Classes (with an IYTA registered teacher) held at Waiatarua Community Centre, Mon and Thur, 9.30a.m - 11.30am, Oratia School Hall Thur 7pm - 8pm. For more info phone Alison, 837-4618. All welcome.

#### WANTED

Person for gardening and lawn mowing. 2 hours a week. 5 dollars per hour. Phone 8149-440.

#### ROOFING SHINGLES

New promotional offer of fibreglass shingles. View first sample roof in Waiatarua and purchase remainder of container load at discount price. Latest U.S. roofing with 40 year guarantee. Phone Mr. Ward, 8149-002.

#### SAVE THE CHILDREN

Christmas cards now available. Phone 8149-835.

#### FOR SALE

Bar and 4 stools. Attractive design, excellent condition. \$400 ono. Phone 8149-818 evenings.

#### COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

IBM AT clone, 1 megabyte RAM, 40mb hard disk, 1.2mb & 360k floppies, EGA screen. Heaps of software. \$2700.  
Intel Above Board with 2 mb RAM \$1500.  
Phone Tony, 8149-860.

Please accept my 1990 subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I enclose \$5.00 (Household)/\$2.50 (Single Occupant)  
This is a renewal/new subscription (Delete one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to the Treasurer:  
Wayne Edwards  
PO Box 21197  
Henderson  
or leave at the Library