



Community News

MAY 1991

EDITOR: TONY BACON

DOGS - PETS OR PESTILENCE?

The lady who walked with one or two dogs on Old Coach Road track on Friday 19 April at approx 12.30 pm must have noticed that her dogs - after having been out of her control for some time - returned covered in blood and mud. She must have also heard their barking and growling when they killed all three of the family's pet sheep on their property not more than 40 metres from the track. Apparently she was not enough of an animal lover to investigate and report the dying sheep to their owners. This person is simply not worthy of being in charge of any animals, let alone dogs. After having experienced the massacre of our pet goats in similar circumstances to a jogger and his two dogs and killings of sheep on my neighbours property I am now forced to abandon having animals on the property until I have purchased a gun. However reluctantly, I will then have no alternative but to shoot at sight any dogs straying from Old Coach Road onto my property. Their unfortunate owners will only have the thoughtless and gutless owners of killer dogs to thank. A wonderful chap who makes a tiny supplementary income from tending and shearing about 200 sheep widely spread over small properties in our area, told me that over a relatively short period 60 of those sheep were torn up by dogs and that he is frequently called over to see the carnage, often finding the owners in tears. Shedding tears in anger and sadness is about all you can do when you have to dig those big holes and lower the bloodied and torn carcasses of your family pets into them.

Bob Doorman

Enough is enough. The reports of attacks by dogs are never-ending, and all complaints seem to fall on deaf ears. Your committee has decided that the time for action is upon us. We are not suggesting the storming of the barricades (yet), but something has to be done about the problem. As a first step, we will be calling a public meeting, probably in a couple of months, so we can let Councillors, council officials and our Members of Parliament know the extent of the problem and try to organise a plan of action.

Why in a couple of months and not next week? That is where you can all help. We want to document fully all the cases of attacks by dogs over the last year, so that we have something to show people. If you have experienced any problems with stray dogs, please write down all the details, including:

a) The date(s).

- b) Where the event took place.
- c) How many dogs were involved.
- d) What damage (stock losses etc.) occurred.
- e) What action you took (reported to the council etc.).
- f) What action resulted (visits from rangers etc.).
- g) Anything else you think is relevant.
- h) What you think should be done.

Send your evidence to Tony Bacon, 11 Cascade Avenue, Waiaatarua, R.D. 1 New Lynn.

We can't promise a speedy resolution, but at least this is a start.

One last thing - written submissions only please; that is going to be much more effective than a phone call.

Membership

Stands (or staggers) at 58. I don't have the comparative figure for last year, but what ever it was, we could do with more of those lovely cheques rolling in. Think about it. Where else would you get a monthly update on the goings on in your neighbourhood, notice of social events, free advertising and a committee to look after your interests, all for \$7.00 a year?

Ginger Plant

Isn't it great to see all those piles of ginger lying by the roadside where it won't be able to spread any further through the bush? The Task Force Green team are doing a super job - they were seen toiling away in the pouring rain the other day - so why not stop and give them some encouragement if you see them? This exercise is being organised and supervised for the Ratepayers Association by Wayne Edwards and Margaret Blumhardt, who also deserve our thanks. Incidentally, if you were wondering, the exercise is not costing the Association anything - unless you count the grey hairs for Wayne and our treasurer Marylin Trubuhovich in dealing with the spider's web of bureaucracy that always surrounds these enterprises.

Some residents have asked whether the team will be available to cut ginger on private property. The Association has decided that the first priority has to be the no-mans land of road verges and other semi or fully public land, but if they run out of work (which is most unlikely), then we might look at private property then.

In the meantime, why not try to attack your ginger yourself? At the very least, cut off the flower heads before the seeds develop, but if you can remove the whole plant, all the better. Escort is very good for spraying on cut stumps or entire plants and seems to have minimal effect on surrounding vegetation, although you have to be a bit careful around some tree ferns and flaxes.

Waiatarua Fire Brigade (and Social Club)

The Waiatarua Fire Brigade has recently redecorated its historic premises, "The Ambassador", well-known to locals as the elegant white building below the engine shed.

To mark the occasion (and possibly to raise funds) there will be a series of social evening at "The

Embassador" on Thursdays, from 7pm to 10pm, beginning June 13.

Tea and coffee will be provided free of charge. The bar will be open.

Support the Fire Brigade and meet your fellow Waitaruans (no, not Waiataruans) in convivial surroundings.

RATES

There are two issues around at the moment that should concern us all.

The first is a proposal to change the ratio that is used between the "inner" and "outer" areas when it comes to defining the rates. Currently the outer area enjoys a discount of 40% when the rates are struck. There is a proposal before the Council that this discount should be reduced to 20%. This would have the effect of significantly increasing the rates for many of us.

The things to remember are that the original discount figure seems to have been arrived at quite arbitrarily, and the revised figure seems to be equally so. The reasoning for the change is that services for the outer area have improved to such an extent that the large discount can no longer be justified.

The report proposing this was remarkable in the number of unsupported assertions it made, and the whole thing looks politically motivated rather than being based in any real sense on fairness of rating.

While it is undoubtedly true that some services (road sealing is the most obvious) have improved, it is also true that we still in general have no lighting or pavements (and mostly don't want them) and are remote from Council services, and with very poor public transport if that is how we have to travel to get those services. You only have to look at the saga of the Community Hall non-existent maintenance to see how high we are in the Council's priorities.

The second issue is a proposal to change the basis of rating from unimproved land value to capital value. This is a complicated subject, but the effect would be that those living in expensive housing on small or low value sections would see their rates increase, while those in cheaper housing on large or valuable sections would see their rates decrease. The overall

DUVALS BAR AND BRASSERIE

The good, the so-so and the sloooow.

It was just like old times when our party of four walked through the door of Duvals. From the eccentric decor to the logos on the crockery and the bill to the uncomfortable (but very stylish) chairs, it was the Fork'n'View reincarnated. Would the food and service follow the same pattern?

Things started off badly when there was some confusion over our booking, with the implication that it was somehow all our fault. Still, we got seated, near the fire, and settled down to study the single page menu. The half a dozen starters and about twice that number of mains all looked interesting. Two of us decided on seared chicken livers on a bed of spinach with a flamed port wine sauce, one ordered smoked snapper chowder and one caesar salad. For mains we ordered pasta, fresh baby salmon, char-grilled chicken breast and a blue cheese and kumara phyllo parcel. All this to be rounded out with a 1990 Babich Sauvignon Blanc and a 1988 Irongate Cabernet/Merlot/Franc. As we were all a bit peckish, we asked for herb bread to be going on with. That was our first mistake.

There is a fine line between being rushed through the meal and being ignored, and unfortunately on our visit the staff didn't have it right. A 40-minute wait for herb bread is just too long, and when it is immediately followed by the entree one suspects that something was forgotten. All was temporarily forgiven when we attacked the food, as the dishes were uniformly excellent. The portions were substantial for entrees, which was just as well, as it was another long wait until the main courses arrived. The baby salmon was excellent, as was the pasta. My chicken breast was generally good, although I had a couple of unpleasant surprises in the form of small pockets of what appeared to be solid salt. The cheese and kumara phyllo was good, although a little strong for my sister's taste. Each of these was accompanied by a separate dish of broccoli, carrots and cauliflower, cooked just right.

My wife considers herself a dessert gourmet (or should that be gourmand?), so it was with some anticipation that we looked at the dessert menu. I chose a lemon and ginger pie, and the others (with

one abstention) chose devil's food cake and almond and hazelnut tart. I think I made the best choice, as the pie was excellent. Unfortunately the devil's food cake was fairly average, and the almond and hazelnut tart was on the dry side. We decided to forgo coffee.

Will I go back again? I will certainly try it once more, as the food is good and interesting, but the service will have to improve considerably if I am to become a regular customer.

For: Good food, reasonable wine and food prices, very close to home.

Against: Slow service, and extremely noisy. It was difficult to hold a conversation at times as the other diners competed to make themselves heard. Increasing the volume of the background music in these circumstances does not help.

ODDS AND ENDS

Thanks - and do you want a job?

Thanks very much to Margaret Blumhardt for holding the fort magnificently while your editor was steaming in Singapore. Dare I suggest that we may have found my successor?

A Plea for Cooperation

The deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is always the first Wednesday of the month. This deadline gives your Editor (barely) enough time to assemble the edition to get it to the printers by the following Monday morning. The Longleys then print the Newsletter during that week ready for distribution the following weekend. A tight timetable, I am sure you will agree. It is not helped by people sending stuff in late, and especially not by people phoning the Longleys and asking for things to be inserted, sometimes up to a week after the deadline. Please help us to do a good job by respecting these deadlines, and not asking for special favours.

I should say that this request has not come from Grant or Carol Longley, who continue to give us a terrific service, but from your editor, who is usually too kind-hearted to tell people they have missed the deadline, but whose heart is rapidly hardening.

*"The best number for a good dinner is two - myself and a dam' good headwaiter."
- Nubar Gulbenkian.*

effect on the city's income would be nil, but the burden would be differently spread.

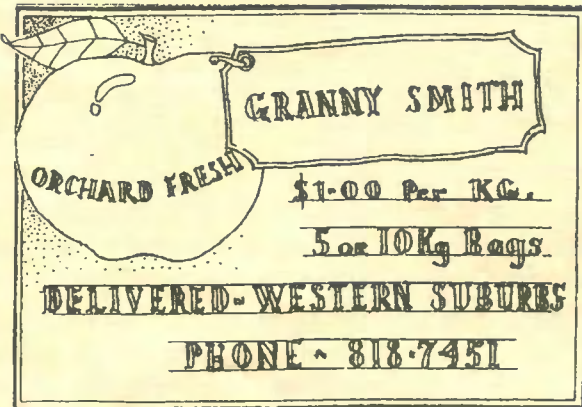
Neither of these changes would take place until 1993, but now is the time consider them and lobby if we see problems.

Your association will obviously be taking a keen interest in these matters (we are after all a RATEPAYERS and Residents Association), but we need help, input and opinions from everyone in the community if we are to be effective. Send your comments to the Secretary, Waiatarua Community Centre, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. You might also like to talk to your Councillors, Ian Wells (8149-601), Helen Haslam (8128-890) and Bill Haresnape (8178-500).

ADVERTISING

VETERINARY SURGEON

Another local service will be available for Waiatarua residents from June 1st - Dr. Neil Pullan will be available for house-calls for treatment or vaccination of pets. He will discuss any health problems and surgery that may be required. Please telephone him at his home on 8149-504 for a visit or advice.



Please accept my 1991 subscription to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I enclose \$7.00 (Household)/\$4.00 (Single Occupant)

This is a renewal/new subscription (Delete one)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please send to:

The Treasurer
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road
Waiatarua

or leave at the Library



Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday 5th June 1991. 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.

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

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 \$7.00 per household (\$4.00 for single occupants) will help us to maintain and improve the services we provide.