



Community News

DECEMBER 1991

EDITOR: TONY BACON

EDITORIAL

If it doesn't rain for the next three months, it's all down to me. After four years of thinking about it and one year of doing it, we have at last increased our tank capacity from a meagre 2400 to a semi-civilised 4500 gallons. All we need now is the rain to fill them up. You will notice of course that the project was finished **after** the wettest winter on record.

You will read elsewhere about the resolution of the Planning Tribunal hearings concerning the transmitter site. Everyone in our community owes a considerable debt to the families who carried on this fight, which while ultimately unsuccessful, had several victories on the way. We are particularly indebted to Ivan Beale and Tom Baker who put in untold hours of research, report writing and verbal submissions against the vastly better funded and resourced BCL. These families are now facing costs of up to \$52,000. I would ask all of you to consider making a contribution to these costs - without their efforts, we might have had another large mast from Broadtech, no recognition of the potential dangers of electromagnetic radiation, and no by-law and forthcoming New Zealand Standard to control and monitor it. Send your contribution to The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association, 911 West Coast Road, marking it 'Mast Fund', and we will pass it on.

It is worth asking ourselves whether it was all necessary. If BCL had been more co-operative from the beginning, had acknowledged a potential problem and actively worked to minimise the radiation levels, as was eventually proved to be possible, we would have all saved ourselves years of battles. BCL would have the goodwill of the community and a larger bank balance and the residents would have had peace of mind and no huge costs hanging over them. As usual in these cases, it looks to an outsider as though the real winners have been the lawyers.

The next issue of the newsletter will be in February 1992, so in the meantime have a good Christmas, and watch the waistlines.

Tony Bacon

LIBRARY NEWS

S.O.S.

Helpers wanted! The library is run entirely by volunteers, and we need some more people to staff the desk. Can you spare, once a month, a Friday evening from 7 - 8.30pm, A Saturday morning from 9.30 - 11am or a Sunday morning from 11am - 12 noon? We also need someone for a Sunday morning every three months when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

Perks of the job include the chance to read all the books on the shelves while you are on duty.

If you would like to help, phone Bev on 814 9679 or Joan on 814 9747, or call in at the library sometime.

Christmas Holiday opening.

The last day for borrowing books before Christmas will be Sunday 22nd December between 11am and 12 noon.

We shall open on:

- Sat 28th Dec 9.30-11am
- Sun 29th Dec 11am - 12 noon
- Sat 4th Jan 9.30 - 11 am
- Sun 5th Jan 11am - 12 noon.

Normal opening times will resume on Saturday January 11th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

At our last monthly meeting some of our parents expressed dismay at the comments made in the Waiatarua Community Newsletter of November. These comments concerned the lack of involvement by playcentre parents in the recent community hall working bee. It was felt that these comments were unfair and reflected badly on playcentre parents.

Playcentre has been a part of the community hall for the last twenty years and an enormous amount of cleaning and general upkeep has been done in that time.

We operate three sessions a week and our cleanup at the end of each session involves clearing away all equipment, sweeping and mopping all floors, cleaning the bathroom, toilets and kitchen and sweeping out the storeroom. We also have our own working bees three times a year at which all our equipment is scrubbed, the storerooms cleared out and reorganized and general cleaning done in the kitchen, bathroom and hall area. We feel that this is a significant contribution to the running of the hall.

We are also happy to contribute our services at future community working bees but need to be informed of them first. We have a Public Relations Officer who should be contacted when these occur and she can then organize representatives to attend.

Our next Playcentre working bee is to be held on Saturday January 18th.

Have a Happy Christmas

Susan Butler, President, Waiatarua Playcentre

Nobody is suggesting that the Playcentre does not clean up after themselves, but it would have been nice to see some extra hands to help clean crayon and paint residues from the hall chairs. The working bee was advertised in the October newsletter. That was enough notice for those volunteers that did turn up.

MISCELLANY

Membership

Well done, Waiatarua! In response to the pleadings last month, we now have a membership of 162, - 2

above the level I asked for. To show gratitude for this sterling effort, this month there is no reminder form on the last page. Of course in January, subs are due again...

Newsletter Distribution

Many thanks to Cilla Cooper for her years of service in delivering the newsletter. We wish her and her family well in their move to the North Shore. Good luck and best wishes and welcome to Dave Robinson who is taking over from Cilla. Watch out for the road-hogs, Dave!

Jeff Brinton

Ginger Awareness

The Waitakere City Council is taking a lead from Waiatarua and having another Ginger Awareness fortnight in March 1992 - more details nearer the date. Now the roadsides are nearly clear in our area, this might be the time for us all to get stuck into our own properties and really try to knock the problem on the head.

West Coast Road Slip

They are big poles aren't they? Mrs Warby, a long-time West Coast Road resident, tells me that her family gifted land to the old Waitemata County in 1951 so that that corner could be stabilised - why am I not surprised that it has taken 40 years for the Council to actually do the work?

Welcome to Waiatarua

Debby Young, Martin Brain and their two children Danielle and Alex. They've actually been here a while, but your editor managed to lose the note for last month's issue - old age is definitely creeping up!

PERRY MASON, WHERE ARE YOU?

No, we don't have a murder to solve, but the Association will soon be involved in negotiations with the Council over the legal status of the Community Centre and its administration. This could mean the Association in entering into a formal lease with the Council, and we would like some legal help and advice during the negotiations. If there is anyone out there who could volunteer their services, Richard Hoyle on 814 9641 or Tony Bacon on 814 9860 would love to hear from them.

Tom Baker's Farewell



Thanks from Waiatarua



Really? It runs by nuclear fusion?



SuperTom battles the forces of darkness



So I said to the Judge..



You think we should all be on Rural Delivery, eh?



There we were, with Jerry right on our tail...



Helen Haslam announces a 20% rate decrease for 1992



Excuse me while I adjust the elastic

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was really good to join with 48 other members of our Association on 24 November for a farewell dinner for Tom and Lesley Baker. The presents of a Russell Jackson print (a view of Piha) and a model of the TV mast were very well received. Tom and Lesley have written me a very nice letter of thanks for the evening, with an open invitation to visit them in their new home in Kerikeri.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of the 1992 AGM and the intention of some of the committee to stand down. You can either wait to be asked, or volunteer to join the committee next year, with the assurance of lots of fun and not **much** hard work.

The November newsletter had a tribute from Councillor Helen Haslam to Tom Baker for all his work on our behalf. I was lucky to have the opportunity to thank Tom and Lesley publicly on your behalf and to say how effective he had been, with Lesley's assistance, by dint of prodigious efforts in furthering the causes of Waiatarua.

What have we achieved in 1991? In no sort of order:

- A very successful farewell for Tom and Lesley Baker
- A great Spring Fair
- An upgraded Library to comply with fire regulations
- The great ginger wipe-out campaign
- A coinphone at the Piha turn-off
- A commitment from BCL to take our interests into account in the matter of microwave transmissions
- A smooth-running and very valuable service provided by our hard-working librarians

and, well, lots of you appreciate this newsletter with details month by month of what we do. Thanks to you all who have contributed to the Community of Waiatarua. I think it's worth a bit of effort to enhance the quality of life here, and I hope you do too.

Richard Hoyle.

JUDICIAL RULING ON TRANSMITTER SITE

In mid-November residents at last received the decision of the Planning Tribunal on BCL's applications for a second tower and 9-metre diameter

satellite dish on the Waiatarua transmitter site. The 80-page decision concluded by overturning the 1989 decision of the Waitemata City Council, recommending to the Minister of Broadcasting that both applications be approved. This brings to an end a three-year battle by residents to prevent these structures from being erected on the site. The battle has been costly in time, effort and money, with lengthy Council planning hearings and Planning Tribunal hearings. Interleaved with these was an application for a High Court review of BCL's authority to operate the site. The core group of ten families involved in the High Court action now faces a solicitor's bill of \$25,000 and court costs awarded against them of \$27,000.

However the residents' actions have had some positive results. Waitakere City Council have been persuaded to introduce a bylaw controlling radiation levels near radiofrequency transmitters and the Minister of Broadcasting was persuaded to instigate the development of a NZ standard for safe exposure to this type of radiation. The Planning Tribunal decision also recognised residents' concerns by placing restrictions on BCL's use of the second tower and the satellite dish, and on further development of the site. Planting on the boundary has also been recommended to provide effective visual screening. Possibly the most significant result is the raising of national awareness of the possibility of harmful effects of radiofrequency radiation, with other local bodies now proposing to introduce appropriate bylaws.

Residents are grateful for the support and encouragement received from some City Councillors during the last three years, particularly Dorothy Wilson and Helen Haslam.

Ivan Beale.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on Wednesday February 26th, in the Community Hall. This is just an advance notice, as we will send you an official notice nearer the date.

This of course is the occasion when we elect/re-elect our Association Officers and committee members. One important office we are seeking to fill is that of Secretary. Ian Ford, who has given us great service for some years, will not be standing for re-election, so we will be looking for someone to fill his shoes. The job mainly involves taking the meeting minutes, and writing the letters that the Association from time to

time fires off to the Council, New Zealand Post, BCL etc. If there is someone out there with the skills and willingness to do this job, please phone Richard Hoyle on 8149 641 so that you can be formally nominated.

Apart from all the usual formal stuff, we are hoping to get someone from the Council along to talk about the strategic plan for the city. This is an attempt to set goals and directions for Waitakere City for the next ten years, rather than just for the next annual plan. It is something that will affect us all, and to which we can all make a contribution, so it should be an interesting occasion. It's not yet definite, but we will confirm it in the AGM notice.

FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

There has been much concern about the fires in the past few weeks which could be potentially dangerous as the season gets drier. Cars have been driven off the road deep into the bush and set alight. At one incident the car had been driven in about 200 metres resulting in a bush fire which fortunately was brought under control. If you see anything suspicious, please ring 111 immediately, and note any details - registration numbers etc.

Also, just a reminder that the restricted fire season is now in force until 30 April 1992. Again, don't hesitate to call 111 should any uncontrolled fire concern you, no matter how minor, i.e. rubbish fires or even barbecues.

The Ambassador

We now have available 1992 Fire-fighter Calendars on glossy paper at only \$10 each. The proceeds go to the Child Cancer Foundation. If you want one, it can be bought at your local Fire Station on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm onwards.

Your local volunteer Fire Brigade would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a fire-free New Year.

ADVERTISING

HOUSE TO LET - WAIATARUA

Sunny, part furnished, 1 bedroom. Close to bus stop. Garage. \$110 weekly. Phone 892 861 evenings.

ELECTRICIAN

Insite Electrical. Free quotes. Extra lights and power points \$50 + GST. Phone Richard 814 9137.

ERNIE: Christmas always brings out the best in people, doesn't it?

ERIC: Well, you tell my wife that.

ERNIE: Why, is she giving you trouble?

ERIC: I'll say. She said to me today, 'You've done absolutely nothing to help with the Christmas dinner. Absolutely nothing.'

ERNIE: What did you say to that?

ERIC: I said, 'What! Look at the turkey - I bought it, I've plucked it, and I've stuffed it!'

ERNIE: Good for you!

ERIC: Now all *she's* got to do is kill it and put it in the oven.

Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, *The Morecambe and Wise Joke Book*, 1979.



Deadline for the next issue is **Wednesday 3rd February 1992**. 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 Waitakere 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 Waitakere by the Waitakere 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.