



# Community News

AUGUST 1996

EDITOR : MARGARET BLUMHARDT

## OBITUARY

### Ian Wells

Waiatarua lost one of its true personalities on the morning of Sunday 21 July. Ian Wells died peacefully in Auckland Hospital from cancer at the young age of 48.

Originally from Wanganui, Ian moved to Waiatarua in the mid - 1970's as ARA caretaker at the Upper Nihotupu Dam. In the following years he made his mark in virtually every aspect of life in our community. He was active in the Waiatarua Theatre, in the Ratepayers and Residents Association for many years and 1989 - 1992 was a Waitakere City Councillor for the Waitakere ward. His association with the Auckland Regional Authority (later Council) continued, and at the time of his death he was a specialist Park Ranger based at Arataki.

Soon after he came to live here, Ian joined the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade and for the next twenty years was vigorously active in all areas in the Brigade. After one (obviously inspiring) weekend at a Fire Service training course he announced on the following Brigade night that he intended "to turn you Wallys into a first class firefighting force". As a result, he immediately earned for himself the nickname "Wally" or "Wal". He was an excellent firefighter and Station Officer, competed in the inaugural World Firefighter Games in Auckland in 1990, and on 22 July 1995 became the first Life Member of the Brigade.

Ian's funeral services at Titirangi Fire Station and Morrison's were a true celebration of his life. One of the tributes was "THE MAN OF MANY HATS", read by members of the Fire Brigade. It first appeared in this newsletter about six years ago and is reprinted again in this issue.

We extend our love and sympathy to Ian's wife Cathy, his children Kyleigh, Levon and Susan, sister Bronwyn and brothers Sandy and Simon.

## CANDIDATES MEETING

This year our meeting to hear our parliamentary candidates takes on a new significance with an MMP election.

The date will be Thursday September 19 at 7.30 pm at the Waiatarua Hall. We will have a cups of tea and coffee available at 7 pm and you can socialise before the meeting.

All candidates for The Waitakere electorate will be invited and will be able to speak for five minutes. This will be followed by question time.

This is a not to be missed occasion when you have a good chance to assess the relative merits of the candidates standing in our electorate.

## OPERATION SPRING CLEAN

This year "Keep Waitakere Beautiful" is organising the annual "Operation Spring Clean" on September 21 and 22.

This has become a world wide clean up day.

The focus this year is to clean up the rubbish from the main roads in our area. We will be supplied with gloves and rubbish bags for the project.

Tony Holt has offered to co-ordinate this in our area and would like to hear from all those able to take part - come and help make this a significant clean up weekend in our area.

Tony and several others have been out picking up rubbish as well as painting out graffiti. They filled eight rubbish bags from the "Devil's Elbow" on West Coast Road up to the Fire Station. A lot of it was down in the bush.

A lot of people could make a big difference if they were able to help, even for a short time. Please phone Tony on 814-9688 and help clean up Waiatarua.



## GRAPEVINE

The Supervisor for the delivery of this popular magazine in the Oratia, Waiatarua and Piha areas, Raewyn Stockham is leaving the hills. Thankyou for all your efforts. Although Raewyn did find a replacement the Grapevine declined to continue in this area as the city deliverers now deliver the Warehouse mailers to help with funding the magazine. Do not despair as you can subscribe to Grapevine and receive every edition monthly by post instead of only some as in the past. The cost is \$29.95 for 12 editions (normally \$35.95). Students, beneficiaries and senior citizens pay \$22. Post subscriptions to - Freepost 86, Private Bag 92124, Auckland. Phone 624-3079 to subscribe via credit card.

## GARDEN GROUP

This month there is a change of day. On **Tuesday August 27** we will be visiting the orchid collection of Frank Brjevich at 15 Raroa Terrace., Waiatarua.

There is some parking on the side of the road or you can park at Marshalls', 19 Raroa Terrace, where you are welcome to have a cuppa and a chat after viewing the orchids. Parking is also available at Blumhardts', 849 West Coast Road, opposite Raroa Terrace.

You are welcome to join the Garden Group activities occasionally or every month, there is no membership or fees to pay. We normally meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month – this month being an exception. .

For further enquiries phone Eileen on 814-9298 or Margaret or Terry on 814-9843.

## PLAYCENTRE

If you and your child are interested in coming down to Playcentre to see what is going on we'd love to see you. We are down the driveway next to the Community Centre, 911 West Coast Road.

Our sessions are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9.30 am – 12 noon and our phone is 814-8835 or phone Debbie 814-9187.



## FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

The NZ Fire Service and Waitakere City Council are promoting the FireSafe Waitakere campaign this month. The objective is to get a smoke alarm in every house in the city. Home safety inspections are also available to check that your house is as safe as you can make it.

Call the FireSafe Hotline 836-1188 if you wish to take advantage of these discounted smoke alarms or arrange a safety check. "For a limited time."

There's good news and bad news about the new Fire Station. First is the good news – a new Fire Station for Waiatarua is at the top of the NZ Fire Service's list for capital expenditure projects in the Northern Region. Now the bad news – no new capital expenditure in the current financial year ( until June 1997). Only projects already committed (new stations at Kaitaia, Mamaku and Albany) will be going ahead this year.

The silver lining to this cloud is that we now have more time to raise money for our additional requirements. We had major success with our play "*Phone 1125-J - A Short and Three Longs*" in April and May. There's a strong rumour about that the Bard of Waiatarua, Tony Holt, has been seen penning the sequel to this cultural milestone. Watch this space . . .

### CONTACTS-

ALL FIRES AND EMERGENCIES – dial 111.

*FireSafe Waitakere Hotline* 836-1188 for discounted smoke alarms and/or free safety checks.

*For anything else,*

Ian Ford (814-9618), Lyndsay Whittle (814-9872) or Richard Seccombe(814-8860).

## PROFILE OF VICE PRESIDENT – Kevin Healy

I love Waiatarua. I was born West of Auckland City and have lived in the Waitakeres all of my life. I have had my own home in Cascade Avenue for the past eight years and am currently involved in this community as Vice President of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association, Volunteer Firefighter and also Producer and Director of Theatre. This is my home.

## WAIATARUA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Your committee has sent a letter to Council stating that we are ready to sign the proposed lease (very much simplified and user friendly from the one we cancelled) as soon as a couple of maintenance issues are fixed.

Terry Blumhardt, Phone 814-9843 has been appointed temporary custodian and will be able to arrange bookings for you.

We look forward to having the Centre well used from now on.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We have two new volunteers for Saturday mornings - Thankyou Robyn and Robert. Brian is waiting in the wings. Now all we need are lots more readers !!!

### NEW BOOKS:

ABSOLUTE POWER D. Baldacci  
*comes highly recommended by the Whitcoulls buyer*  
A PLACE CALLED FREEDOM Ken Follet

Our 200 exchange books have arrived from the Te Atatu South Library - come and have a browse through them. We have them for six months.

*An evaluation of the Waiatarua library is being undertaken by Waitakere City Council. Remember – use it or lose it!* EDITOR

## WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road,  
under the Community Centre.

Phone 814-9353

### Hours of Opening

Thursday	10am – 12 noon
Friday	7pm – 8 pm
Saturday	11am – 12 noon
Sunday	11am – 12 noon

Books can be returned at any time through the chute by the library door.

## Stepped Differential Rating

Following a recent successful challenge in the High Court the Waitakere City Council has reversed a decision to keep the current rating system which was so unfair to a small minority of ratepayers throughout the City with highly-valued properties.

The stepped differential rating system now adopted means rate rises to some ratepayers of 38% but this is still far less than under the old system.

Chuck Humphrey and Richard Hoyle from Waitatarua R&R Assn were among about 60 representatives of Ratepayer Associations who went to a protest meeting at the Sunnyvale Hall organised by the Sunnyvale Ratepayers Association. The stated intention of this meeting was to organise a public meeting to protest against the adoption of stepped differential rating, but in this the Sunnyvale people were unsuccessful since an obvious majority at the meeting favoured accepting the High Court decision (as if there were any option!!).

The meeting passed a motion to tell the Waitakere City Council to drop any idea of an appeal to the Court of Appeal against the High Court decision.

The most positive outcome was an obvious wish from all present to reduce the rate burden to everyone in the City, and to organise a meeting to discuss all forms of rating with the intention of adopting, for an extended period, the fairest system for ALL ratepayers.

Your comments are welcome. Chuck Humphrey 814-9557; Richard Hoyle 814-9641.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Dr Peter Maddison, Waitakere City Councillor and member of the Royal Forest and Bird Society has been given that group's highest environmental award, the "Old Blue".

Dr Maddison has been chairman of both the Auckland and West Auckland branches of the society, and was an executive member from 1988 until 1993.

\* Old Blue was a female Chatham Islands black robin which saved the species. Now dead, she mothered six offspring and was grandmother to eleven, helping to save the bird from almost certain extinction. There are now more than 150 of the birds

## ROAD VERGES

Did you realise that responsibility for the noxious weed clearance in front of your property stops at the centre line of the road?

Auckland Regional Council and Waitakere City Council are responsible for their own parks and reserves. The Noxious Plants Officer at Waitakere City Council can help you with any problems about eradication. Phone 836-8037

## The Man of Many Hats

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ Hello, Waitatarua Ratepayers Association.

Joe Ah . . . Joe Public here. I'm a local ratepayer, and would like to borrow the Ratepayers Association barbeque for the weekend.

☎ I'm sorry, you'll have to contact Ratepayers Committee Barbeque Lender Ian Wells. He's not here at the moment, but you should be able to get him on 814 9213.

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ Good morning, Waitatarua Fire Station.

Joe Er . . . yes. I'm after Ratepayers Committee Barbeque Lender Ian Wells, concerning the barbeque.

☎ I'm sorry, Station Officer Wells isn't here at the moment, but you could try him on 836 8000

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ Thank you for calling the Waitakere City Council. How may I help you?

Joe Yes, I'm after . . . er, Ratepayer . . . no, Station Officer Wells concerning the barbeque.

☎ I'm sorry, Councillor Wells isn't here at the moment, but you should reach him on 375 1289

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ Hello, Auckland and Suburban Local Body Labourers Union.

Joe Er . . . yes. I'm after Station Councillor Barbeque Wells about borrowing the barbeque please.

☎ I'm sorry, Brother Wells isn't here but you may get him on 814 9803

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ ARA Water, Nihotupu Dam.

Joe Er . . . yeah. I'm after Station Council Barbeque Brother Whatsisface.

☎ Oh, you mean Ranger Wells. He's not here, but try phoning 814-9804.

*Ring Ring Ring Ring*

☎ Good morning, Mountain Top Cafe.

Joe Yes. I'm after Station Councillor Brother Barbeque Wells about the Ranger no, the barbeque.

☎ I'm sorry, Assistant Manager Wells isn't here. Try him at home, 814 9601.

*Ring Ring – Ring Ring*

☎ Hello, Ian Wells speaking.

Joe Is it now, mate? Well you can take your bloody barbeque and shove it up your backside!

*Click*

## RUBBISH

Waitakere City Council seems to have dropped the suggested rubbish disposal plans in favour of a trial in a small area of 40 litre bins. This will not proceed until the bins arrive from Germany.

## BLUE MOON SERVICE

(For those who go to church once in a Blue Moon)

"Home Improvements" is the theme with Drama, skits, music relating to family relationships. The speaker will be John Cooney, Editor of Grapevine magazine. The date is Sunday 25 August at 7 pm and the place Glen Eden Baptist Church, 79 Glendale Road.

For further information phone 814-9843 or the church, 818-6233.

## 1125-J Newspaper Souvenirs

There are some copies left of the 1125-J newspaper. They are available for 50c per set, and anyone interested should phone Helen on 814-9855 (evenings).

## Comings & Goings . . .

### Farewell –

to the Jones's Family of Bush Road – moved to Orewa.

### Welcome –

to Roy Milam – now of Bush Road.

## ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1996,  
January to December. A list of financial members  
is available at the library,  
and any queries about membership  
can be answered by phoning*

*the Treasurer – Eileen Powell on 814-9298*

**Repeat commercial advertisements of financial members will only be printed as space allows,  
for the remainder of the financial year**

FOR SALE – Electrolux vacuum cleaner (orange model), all accessories. Very good condition, \$30. Sega Master, \$25. 3 drawer single divan bed, old but solid, \$20. Everest single kapok mattress, hardly used. \$30. single foam mattress, hardly used, \$30. Phone 814-9309.

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING –  
Phone Linda 833-7860

VETERINARIAN – For pets and farm animals. House calls a speciality. Phone Neil Pullan on 814-9504.

CLASSICAL HOMOEOPATHY – After 3 years of intensive study I am now a final year undergraduate of the Auckland College of Classical Homoeopathy. I now need cases for my Diploma exams. If you are curious about Homoeopathy or have a health ailment which needs some attention then please feel free to give me a call. I am a mature person with a sympathetic ear. Full confidentiality is assured. In lieu of fee any donation would be appreciated. Looking forward to your call. Phone Tricia Lukas on 814-9221.

Please accept my subscription to the  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association  
**for 1996**

I enclose:     \$7 Household,     \$4 Single Occupant

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

To Treasurer

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association  
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Auckland 8  
or leave at the library

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

Margaret Blumhardt

Phone 814-9843

849 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

(opposite Raroa Terrace)

by WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER, 1996

*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.*

Many thanks to the Longley Family for once again printing this newsletter.