

# Community News



JUNE 1998

EDITOR : CARLEINE RECEVEUR

## INNER - OUTER DIFFERENTIAL

The total number of submissions to the annual plan were approximately 3,400 with 834 of these addressing the inner - outer differential.

By the time you receive your newsletter, the meeting to decide this issue will have been held. Thanks to everybody for all their efforts - we'll let you know the results in the future.

## INORGANIC RUBBISH COLLECTION

An inorganic rubbish collection is performed twice a year. Every home should receive a notice advising the week the collection will be made at that home. This notice is usually sent about two weeks before the collection.

**For most residents collection will be between the 15 June - 19 June.**

This includes the following: Piha (1 to 573) - Taiwini Rd, West Coast Rd, Forest Hill, Kelly's, Atarua Gardens, Kauri Loop, Cascade and Parker Road.

### Exceptions are:

Mountain Rd - collection is from 20 July - 24 July

Scenic Drive - all north of Piha Rd

: even nos. 20 July - 24 July

: odd nos. 27 July - 31 July

If you do not receive a letter of notification, or wish to confirm the collection date for your road, you can contact either the 24 hour council hot line on 8368045 or the Council receptionist on 8368000, who has a list of collection dates for each road right by the phone.

### Inorganics that the council will accept include:

Old electric appliances; old furniture; bikes, toys; kitchen tools; whitewear; curtains; carpet; old tools.

### Inorganics that the council will not collect include:

Car bodies - panels, engines, gearboxes, tyres, batteries etc building materials - bricks, blocks, glass, gib-board etc garden waste - tree branches, lawn clippings, soil etc hot ashes, flammable, explosive or hazardous substances oil, grease, paint, trade waste.

You may put inorganics on the grass verge outside your home on the Saturday or Sunday before your collection week.

## WRA COMMITTEE PROFILE

### Introducing ..... Denis Graham

I was born in Sunderland, England, which to all intents and purposes makes me a "Geordie", so I talk funny like the Likely Lads, for those who remember the TV programme or more recently Oz in "Aufwiedersein Pet".

I immigrated to New Zealand in 1976 after a career in the Civil Service. My last few years as a VAT (NZ GST) inspector in London, not the most popular job hence moving to the other side of the world.

I met Carol in 1981 and we married in 1986. We lived in Hepburn Road, Glendene, until two years ago when we moved to Atarua Gardens, with our extended family. The family consists of Carol's Mother and Father, both in their late eighties, our grandson who is nearly seventeen and our eight cats, none of which (the cats) bother the wildlife.

Why did we move to Waiaatarua?

We wanted a larger house, on one level for Mum and Dad, to accommodate the other beasties, frequent visits from our two daughters and three other grandchildren, more soil to develop a garden and be in a peaceful, natural environment.

It was love at first sight when the real estate agent brought us to number 9. Lots of room for everyone and just over a half an acre of bare land, surrounded by native bush, for Carol and I to indulge in our favourite, outdoor pastime, gardening.

As well as the hills of the Waitakeres, we are also surrounded by wonderful neighbours - a real community feeling.

What do I miss about England? Nothing!

What do I like about New Zealand? The people, the climate and the quality of life.

Harking back to me heritage as a Geordie, if you see a blue Mitsubishi Magna station wagon with a sign on the back window "Gan Canny, We're Geordies", give us a beep and "Gan Canny" ie take care.

## WANTED

Volunteers to go on back-up distribution list for circulation of our newsletter. Please contact Adith Stoneman ph: 814-9822

## Red Hat No Knickers

A new play written and produced as a fund raiser for the Waiaatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The play is set in the late seventies and is about a young man from Te Kuiti who comes to Auckland and gets involved with a ventriloquist's dummy and some madcap cabaret acts.

Anyone who may be interested in betting, on or off the stage - please phone Lyndsay Whittle on 814-9872 or Tony Holt on 814-9688.

The play runs for three weeks and opening night is on the 18th June at the Waiaatarua Community Hall.

Please come along and support your local Fire/Rescue Service volunteers.

## YOU AND YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

### - a review of more than you want to know about what happens after you flush.

The type of septic system most of us have is based upon a tank which receives liquid and solid waste. Heavy solid waste settles to the bottom, and lighter waste and fats rise to the surface to form a layer of scum. Bacteria in the tank partially digests the solids (which reduce the volume) and allows some of the material to be carried off as liquid "effluent". The liquid effluent is then dispersed via pipes and trenches to leach away into the ground. The solids which remain in the tank eventually require removal. Currently tanks are pumped out by the Council once every three years; the common perception being that this is sufficient to keep systems in proper order. The funding charge to the "outer area". Unfortunately this pump out service is not necessarily adequate and homeowners may require more frequent pumping and maintenance.

Obvious and extreme environmental problems in the Karekare and Piha areas precipitated a study being undertaken by Worley Consultants. The result was that fully "25% of on-site wastewater disposal systems (septic systems) are failing to adequately treat wastewater within the boundaries of the property of origin". Subsequently many residents' systems are being upgraded in the Karekare Piha areas with the hope that the high levels of pollution in streams and lagoons will soon be cured. We are likely to have similar problems here in Waiatarua, which could be posing health threats to ourselves, our children, as well as to the environment.

The Council, in partial recognition of the potential problem has increased funding and directed the contractors who pump out tanks to "inspect" each system. Unfortunately, the level of inspection is not likely to be adequate due to timing (months when the ground is not saturated) and limitations of the contractors.

**What can you do:** Contact your Community Board members Bill Hales 817-357 or David Harre 818-7816, and / or your city Council-

lors Penny Hulse 832-5358, Paul Lowe 810-9192, and Carolynne Stone 818-8057. Request the initiation of a programme for full inspection of systems throughout Waiatarua be carried out by qualified inspectors.

**In the meantime?** Keep your system in good working order by following these simple rules:

1. Do not flush anything down your system except toilet tissues and jobbies. Facial tissues, cigarettes, tampax, disposable nappies etc do not break down in your system, will fill the tank quicker, and could block your irrigation system (which leaches the waste water away).
2. Do not use garbage disposals (in-sink-a-rator, wastemaster etc), they can overload your system's ability to digest waste.
3. Use only biodegradable detergents and laundry soaps. Strong bleaches and chemicals should not go into your system.
4. If you have a trench system of "irrigation field", keep aggressive rooting vegetation clear of the trenches as roots can invade the drain pipes and eventually block the system.
5. Look into the possibility of installing a gravity effluent filter to prevent solids from blocking waste water disposal system.

**Warning signs:** Smell, (that should be obvious). Wet or boggy areas. Toilets or drains that seem partially or completely blocked.

**If you have a problem:** Don't ignore it! It will only get worse. Call the Council's sanitation officers, they can advise a number of options. Many new systems are not as dependent on having adequate percolation (ability of the soil to drain). We are fortunate in that Waitakere City recognises a number of innovative systems which are cost effective and cite electric toilets, treatment plants and sand filters. The new effluent disposal systems are only slightly below ground, and more easily maintained. Contact the Council for an excellent brochure which lists the approved types and manufacturer / distributors for New Zealand.

*Wade Cornell*

## PLAYCENTRE

Everybody is settling back into playcentre after the school holidays. We're pleased to welcome back Marjan and Joseph Paler on a full time basis and we wish to welcome Donna and Chucky Heald into our family.

There has been a lot of talk in the news lately about the waiting lists at public kindergartens with children not able to enter until almost 4 years of age. This is indeed a long time to wait -but an answer to this dilemma is PLAYCENTRE! We in Waiatarua are privileged to have this option so close at hand.

Playcentre :

- 1) is a family cooperative (run by the parents)
- 2) is an early childhood education centre
- 3) has a free play philosophy which allows children to develop at individual rates
- 4) has an excellent child to adult ratio (1 adult : 2 children), allows for the children to be adequately supported in their play
- 5) is available to children 0-6 years of age

At Waiatarua we have no waiting lists and are a very well equipped centre.

If you and your children would like to give playcentre a try - we are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 0930- 1200, 911 West Coast Road (down community centre driveway).

For further information phone the playcentre within these hours on 8148835 or Debbie Brown after hours on 8149187.

## A NEW WAY OF DEALING WITH PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST PROBLEMS OUT WEST

There's a new way of dealing with plant and animal pests in the Auckland Region. From now on, you should not call your local council, but rather the Auckland Regional Council's Biosecurity Unit.

What is the Biosecurity Unit?

On 1 July 1997, the Auckland Regional Council established a Biosecurity Unit to carry out its plant and animal pest management responsibilities. This function had previously been delivered under contract, by the city and district councils of the region. This arrangement was deemed to be no longer appropriate with the introduction of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

This Act gave central government and regional councils specific responsibilities in managing pests and unwanted organisms which pose a threat to the New Zealand environment. The Biosecurity Unit is a team of Regional Council staff who deliver the plant and animal pest management function across the entire Auckland Region.

**What is its strategic role?**

The functions carried out by the Unit are:

- developing policy
- planning operations
- providing advice, education and publicity about pest management
- monitoring, recording and reporting on control initiatives

Cont/....

- inspecting and maintaining surveillance of pest infestations
- implementing biological control programmes
- enforcing regulations relating to plant and animal pests
- managing contractors as they carry out on-ground animal pest on behalf of the regional council
- monitoring low incidence pests
- undertaking research on specific plants and animal pest issues / problems

### Our strategies

The Biosecurity Unit is responsible for implementing the Regional Plan and Animal Pest Management Strategies. These are required by the Biosecurity Act and came into effect on 1 July 1997. The strategies clearly define what constitute a plant or animal pest within the Auckland Region and the type of control which applies to them. They are in effect plans to help keep the plant and animal pests under control.

### Your Biosecurity Officer

The Auckland Regional Council has assigned Biosecurity Officers to cover various parts of the region. For the Waitakere area, your Biosecurity Officer is **Chris McKain**. Chris joined the Regional Council's Biosecurity Unit in September 1997. He came from a noxious weeds contracting business operating from the North Shore. Chris has a NZCS in chemistry and is qualified in chemical application from the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust. Chris also has a background in the floriculture industry and in native reforestation projects, which include native plant propagation.

Based at Arataki Visitor Centre, Chris is central to his operational area. He can be contacted by phoning **8175153**, or fax **817 5253** or by mobile **025 222 9069**. Chris can provide a plant identification service for both native and exotic plants and is willing to provide advice on all aspects of weed control.

For the rest of the winter months, Chris will be helping Operation ForestSave, which is the Regional Council's project to help save the Waitakere Ranges from the ravages of possums. This means he may not always be immediately available to answer your calls, so if you call, please leave a message and he will get back to you. He looks forward to working with the residents of the Waitakere area, and while enforcement of the Pest Management Strategies is expected, Chris feels that education and hands-on demonstration are by far better options for implementing the strategies.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We have some very good new books. Do you realise to get some of these latest books there are very long waiting lists at the main libraries - so why not pay us a visit.



- |                   |                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joanne Trollope   | - Other Peoples Children                                                 |
| Danielle Steele   | - The Ghost                                                              |
| Robin Cook        | - Toxin ( <i>very good, thrilling, chilling - about food poisoning</i> ) |
| Catherine Cookson | - Solace of Sin                                                          |

and a non-fiction by Henrick Harrar - 7 years in Tibet. Have you seen the film?

### Missing

Video cassette of the Waitatarua History Afternoon - August 1997. If you know of its whereabouts please return to the library.

**PS.** We have a lot of overdue library books, please check and return. This is important.

## MISSING SCHOOL BELL

Oratia school is trying to track down its large school bell that went missing some years back. The school is about to build a new hall in which they want to install the bell in.

If you know any details about its whereabouts please contact the school on 818-6216.

## GOING BATTY?

If so Greg Wittmer, Conservation Co-ordinator at Arataki wants to know. Greg is investigating the presence of bats in the Waitakere Ranges. Long tail bats that fly on the fringes of native forest at dusk are suspected to be the bat, if any, that residents may come across in the ranges.

If you do spot a bat please report your sighting to:

Greg Wittmer - Conservation Co-ordinator  
ph: 8171613 Mon - Fri 7.30am - 4pm.

## WHAT'S ON:

### May - Stored Images - Arataki Gallery

Exhibition of Robin Overall's handcrafted wall cupboards painted with images of KareKare.

This is the final show to be held in the Arataki Gallery.

### 27 May - 6.30pm

### Lopdell House Gallery - An Evening of Art and Wine

Come and enjoy a relaxed evening of Art and Wine. Lopdell House Gallery curator Brett Levine will talk about works in the current exhibition (Re)visioning the Real.

Simon Nunn's winemaker from Coopers Creek will do a tasting of their award winning wines.

Admission : \$5

Light refreshments included • Numbers are limited

Please RSVP by 22nd May • ph: 8178087

### Sunday 24 May 4.30pm - Dan Poynton -

### Lopdell House Gallery

Poynton plays a selection of works by New Zealand composers (Dadson, Body, Whitehead, Crayford, Lilburn, Psathas, Lockwook - and a number of classical pieces. ~ Tickets \$10 waged, \$8 unwaged



### Wednesday 27 May 1 pm.

This month we are visiting Landsend at 108 Parker Road, Oratia. Mr and Mrs Endt grow a large variety of palms and sub tropicals and will give us a comprehensive tour for \$5 each. We will take our own afternoon tea to enjoy afterwards and hope the weather will be favourable.

We have planned a workshop for our June session in which we will endeavour to answer queries and have a range of references available. Plant swaps/sales will be welcome so get potting!

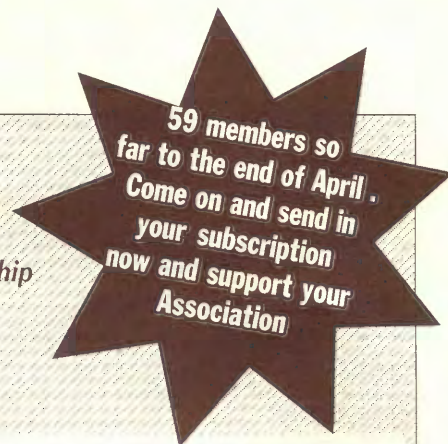
Any queries ring Eileen on 814-9298.

# ADVERTISING

*This is free to financial members for 1998, 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**



**LEARN TO SPEAK ITALIAN** with an experienced native teacher. Private or groups, all levels – conversation, grammar, business. Phone Alessandra, 814-8993.

**ROOSTER FOR SALE** – a pure bred Buff Pekin Bantam. Ph 814-9272

**WANTED** – A caring person to supervise my two well behaved young boys, aged 5 and 7 years, in my home after school. Please contact Valerie, Phone 814-8991 after 6pm.

**WANTED** – Someone to mow the lawns at “Off the Vine” Restaurant and Wine Bar, on a permanent basis. Ph Sandy or Greg 8149804.

**VETERINARIAN** – Full veterinary service for dogs, cats and other pets; including spays and neutering, Xrays, urgent medical and surgical treatment. House calls. Phone Neil Pullan on 814-9504.

**EXCELLENT CHEAP GLASS REPAIRS** – phone 814-9786

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** – guaranteed dry split macrocarpa, \$60 per cubic metre. Call at 17 Rimu Road or phone 814-8833

**MUSIC TEACHER** – available to teach piano, keyboard and theory. Based in Waiatarua. Offers one-to-one tuition, practical and theory exams, competitions – all at reasonable prices. Contact NZ Modern School of Music on 0800 696874

**KEEP HEALTHY NATURALLY** – Tricia Lukas, Classical Homoeopath Dip. A.C. Hom. First Aid and Chronic Health Problems. Phone 814-9221

**PRUNING** – Roses, fruit trees, shrubs and Garden Design and Maintenance. Phone Linda 025 835610 or evenings 833-7860

**PROFESSIONAL ROCK BAND FOR HIRE** – Very versatile with full stage show. For details and bookings phone 814-9191.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The names of our current co-ordinators are listed below. If you haven't been approached yet and would like to belong to one of these groups, give the co-ordinator a call.

NAME	ADDRESS	PH/FAX	E-MAIL
Mary Kelly	3 Atarua Gardens	814-9857 + Fax	turtle@xtra.co.nz
Denis Graham	Back up - Atarua Gdns	814-9706	
Tony Holt	56 Bush Road	814-9688	
Ross & Kath Mullins	330 Forest Hill Rd	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Rd	814-9954	
Chris Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	CHRISLIZ@VOYAGER.CO.NZ
Ngaira Mason	21 Tui Crescent	814-9036 + Fax	
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tee	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	
Debbie Irving	562 Scenic Drive	814 9789	

Please accept my subscription to the  
**Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association**  
**for 1998**

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**

## WAIATARUA

### COMMUNITY HALL HIRE

Remember to hire this excellent facility for your meetings, parties, dances, birthdays (children's and adults) etc. Lovely wooden floor for dancing.

Friday and Saturday evenings, (including chairs & tables) \$100.

Hourly rate, (max 3 hours) \$10 per hour

Sunday to Thursday evenings \$65, hourly rate \$7 per hour, (max 3 hrs)

Daily rates Monday – Friday, Full day \$25, hourly rate \$5

Saturdays & Sundays, Full day \$35, hourly \$7

Crockery hire \$25, Bond up to \$250.

Discount for regular users. Community Barbecue hire \$20

Phone the custodian, Terry Blumhardt, on 814-9843

## JULY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of

The Editor,

722 West Coast Road,

Waiatarua

by MONDAY 5TH JUNE, 1998

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