



## Gerry's Christmas Message

Christmas in the Southern hemisphere is such a different celebration than that which I am used to from over 50 years of looking forward to a white Christmas in Canada. If there was no snow on the ground it was not a white Christmas. It was never green, as the predominant colour would be grey and somewhat barren, as most of the trees would have lost their leaves.

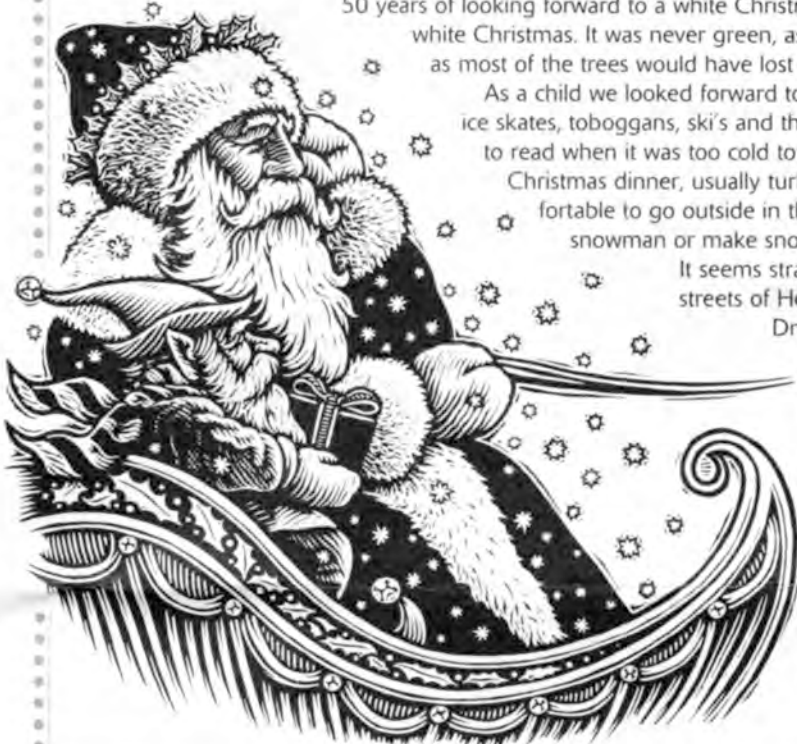
As a child we looked forward to Santa coming with his sleigh and reindeers and presents like ice skates, toboggans, ski's and things like thermal long johns, and books to sit in front of the fire to read when it was too cold to go outside. Families celebrated Christmas together with a huge Christmas dinner, usually turkey with cranberry sauce and so much food that it was uncomfortable to go outside in the snow and ice to try out the new winter toys, or build a snowman or make snow angels.

It seems strange to me, here in New Zealand, to wander through the streets of Henderson to hear a lot of the familiar Christmas songs like "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" and to be wearing shorts and T shirts. Christmas and summer holidays at the same time, or heading out to the beach, still feels unreal for me at Christmas.

What does feel the same for me at Christmas here, are all the good things about Christmas in Canada. It is a family time and sharing gifts with those we love. It is about joy and remembering friends. It is about singing and attending church and worshipping.

As President of the Waiaatarua Ratepayers and Resident's Association, and on behalf of them, I wish you a very merry Christmas filled with the laughter of family and friends and the hope of peace and good times for the year ahead.

Gerry Davis



### Advance Notice

The Waiaatarua Residents and Ratepayers AGM for 2001 is to be held on Thursday 22 February at 7pm at the Waiaatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

As Gerry Davis (President), Denis Graham (vice president) and Wade Cornell, have indicated they will not be standing for the 2001 committee, please consider seriously whether you could commit to serving your local community by becoming involved in the WRRRA 2001. It is not an arduous role, but a very important one, and many hands make light work. Phone Gerry Davis for further information on 814-8833.

### Waitakere Ward By-election Petition

The Acting Chief Executive of Waitakere City Council, Harry O'Rourke, received a demand on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November for a by-election from the electors of the Waitakere Ward.

This demand contained approximately 1400 signatures and is currently being checked for validity. (Of these, 60 were collected in Waiaatarua.)

Mr O'Rourke anticipates that he will know by early December as to whether this is a valid demand.

The threshold to demand a by-election is 5% of the electors of the ward as at 1998. In this instance the total number of electors was 15,739, which equates to 787 signatures.

If this is valid, then the election will be held in March 2001, and Ms Allen and anyone else, will have the opportunity to stand for the position.

Kevin Healy, of the WRRRA, would like to thank everyone who helped collect signatures.

### Waitakere Hospital Upgrade

Waitemata Health is upgrading Waitakere Hospital to a sub district general hospital. This will result in many more services being provided than at present. There are two main drivers behind the expansion. Firstly, West Auckland's population is growing rapidly and is predicted to grow from it's current 178,000 to 254,000 by 2021.

Secondly, the Health Funding Authority and the three Auckland hospital providers have agreed to a principle known as *sub regional equitable access* (SREA). Rather than increase the size of central Auckland hospitals, secondary services are now being relocated to areas where the patient lives. This means Waitakere Hospital will provide more services in future.

Currently only maternity, services for older people, minor day surgery outpatients, mental health and community services are provided from Waitakere Hospital.

Waitemata Health will build a comprehensive sub district hospital over the next four years. It will be providing as many services as clinically possible.

Existing services will remain, new or expanded services will include :

Emergency department/acute assessment unit, Medical and surgical inpatient services, Child health/24 hour paediatric assessment and treatment beds, Maternal health and special care baby unit, Health services for older people and psychogeriatrics, expanded outpatients/day medical/day surgery, diagnostic and therapy services, including laboratory and radiology.

By 2004 Waitakere Hospital will have about 150 beds serving the population of West Auckland.

Thank you to Lesley Phillips who has volunteered her time to represent Waiaatarua at the Reference Group meetings for Waitemata Health's Upgrading of Waitakere Hospital.

## Speed and our Local Roads

by Carolynne Stone

Recently I have been dealing with a number of complaints related to speeding vehicles and accidents occurring, particularly on the Forrest Hill Road.

The Council are launching their Safe Summer Campaign to highlight safety issues across the City, but I think our ward in particular is burdened with rural roads with open speed limits, very few footpaths and few drivers who drive to the conditions of the road and the environment.

We are writing a submission to the Minister of Transport about the issue of speed designation and asking that the Council is given more flexibility in being able to vary the speed limits on our own roads.

## Isaiah's Fire Re-kindled

Lyndsay Whittle has written a play based on the characters from Tony Holt's 1125-J series. Set a year or so after the last play, the Nihotupu Volunteer Fire Brigade members get up to their usual antics with the help of the local populace. Keeping up the tradition, in the immortal words of Tony Holt, "There will be something to offend everyone."

Once again, proceeds from the play will be a vital part of fundraising for the real Waiatarua Fire Brigade. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of \$14,000 from the Waitakere Licensing Trust to have rear doors fitted to the Station, to avoid blocking the Scenic Drive when reversing the truck. However, we still need another \$15,000 to seal the turning area at the rear of the appliance bay.

The casting couch is being warmed up, helmets are being polished, and the play will open in April 2001 at the Waiatarua Community Hall.

## Neighbourhood Watch

A new Neighbourhood Watch Street Coordinator is needed for the Tui Crescent area. If you are interested in fulfilling this important community role, please phone any one of the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators listed on the back page.

Be on the look out for any suspicious movements of a silver BMW, believed to be involved with a number of recent burglaries in our area.

The AGM of the West Auckland Neighbourhood Watch/Support Inc. was held at the Henderson Police Station on 16<sup>th</sup> November. All street coordinators from West Auckland were invited to attend and were treated to a nice selection of finger food and drinks prior to the meeting. Committee members were elected, finances discussed, and a detective spoke on a new initiative named "Buzz Off", which is aimed to tackle burglaries in Waitakere City. More will be revealed on television in December. The guest speaker, Paul Kingsman, spoke on 'Motivation'. All in all a great evening - Paddy Marshall.

## Waiatarua Playcentre

It's been another busy month at Playcentre and we now have 2 new families with us enjoying the Playcentre experience. A big welcome to Richard, Helen and their daughter Emma, also to Deborah and her little boy Cai.

The end of term is on its way and plans are afoot for the annual Christmas party. This year the children will be entertained by the delightful Fairy Claire, and we are all eagerly anticipating the visit from Santa.

Our last day at Playcentre is on Dec 13th and we start again on Jan 30th, 2001. We would love to see some more new faces.

You can visit us on session Mon, Wed, Fri between 9.30am and 12.00noon.

For any enquiries please phone Elke on 814-8803.

And finally "A very Merry Christmas" from all the children and parents at Waiatarua Playcentre.

*Anton and Nadia enjoy creating and cooperating together at playcentre*

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

I would like to respond to Patsy Trousdale's letter. We too have had very disappointing interactions with the Waitakere Council, but I would like to encourage you to keep "bugging them". After all it is the squeaky wheel that gets the oil. Also I would like to tell you that in our experience there are TWO Councils. One is the council that we, the people, elect.

The other is the staff you get when you phone city council, and they are often incompetent, inefficient, and indifferent.

However, we have found our elected representative, Carolynne Stone to be just the opposite.

I suggest that if you want action you go the route of your elected representative, because they know their jobs are on the line at each election. Whereas, in New Zealand, firing for incompetency appears to be culturally unacceptable, because after all "they" are so nice and have good intentions! We actually had a staff member hang up on us, because she was afraid she would say something she would regret. Now that's real professionalism!

Apparently she didn't regret hanging up. So I say phone Carolynne Stone for real action.

Or better yet, someone on 'Go Waitakere', since, I'm guessing, they are REALLY wanting to perform about now!!

As for the police, get on Brian Neeson's tail and ask him to produce some results, he's such a "law and order" man. And gee, this advice didn't even cost you a dime.

Helpfully,

*Karen Davis*

## A Few Tips From West Coast Veterinary Clinic...

As we approach the holiday period make sure your pets are up to date with vaccinations and worming treatments before they go to the kennel or cattery. If they need to be vaccinated again, this must be done at least 3 weeks before they are going to their boarding facility. Immunity after vaccination lasts for one year, but some catteries will ask to have your cat vaccinated inside the last 6 months. Some kennels ask for the 'Kennel Cough' injection, which is not commonly included in the annual vaccination.

Ring your kennel or cattery and make sure there is no misunderstanding about your pet's boarding needs.

Over the summer months many of your beloved pets will develop some sort of skin problem. Most of these cases are related to fleas. Protect your pets against fleas and save money treating related skin disorders. (There will be more about skin problems in our Summer Newsletter which comes out in December.)

We will be closed on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December and on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001. All calls during these days will be treated as an after hours emergency. We can be contacted on our normal phone number 814-9419 or mobile 025-852-728.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from Zoran at the West Coast Veterinary Clinic in Raroa Terrace.



## Waiatarua Community Library

Please note that the last day for borrowing before Christmas will be Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Come and stock up on your holiday reading.

The library will re-open on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

A happy Christmas to you all and a great 2001.

A big thank you to all our volunteers, who have helped over the year. Without you, the library would not function. We are losing Anne from our staff of voluntary workers – a big loss – but we wish her well in her new home in Kumeu.

## Thank you

The Oratia Kindergarten staff, fundraising committee, parents and children, would like to thank local businesses and residents for their support of our annual Trike-a-thon on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. A great day was had by all. Over \$3000 has been raised, and trike-a-thon sponsorship money is still coming in. Thank you.

## Waiatarua Walkers

We will be taking a break from our early Saturday morning walks over the Christmas period. We will begin again on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2001, meeting at the Oratia church at 7.30am. For further information Phone 814-9945.

## The Boohai

Cinnamon and Simon have taken over 'The Boohai'.

They are open Tuesday – Sunday.

Café/Takeaways 11.00am until late. Restaurant 6pm – 1am

Weekend brunches in the restaurant 10am – 4pm. Licenced for dinner from 11am – 1am.

There is a 'Jam' night every Tuesday for local musicians – 1<sup>st</sup> drink free. Already there has been a lot of interest with muso's from local bands including Grand Central and RNB. A great evening to join in, or just sit back and enjoy.

The Boohai also does functions and caters for up to 60 people.

Recently the local fire brigade had their Christmas do at The Boohai. Reportedly, a great time was had by all.

The Boohai welcomes local artists interested in displaying their work.

At present there are some pieces by Piha sculptor, Pardo, on display.

Local band "Grand Central" is booked for New Year's Eve.

When not booked for functions, The Boohai, hope to have live music during the weekends. Recently 'Twisty Willow' played, and people of all ages enjoyed the night.

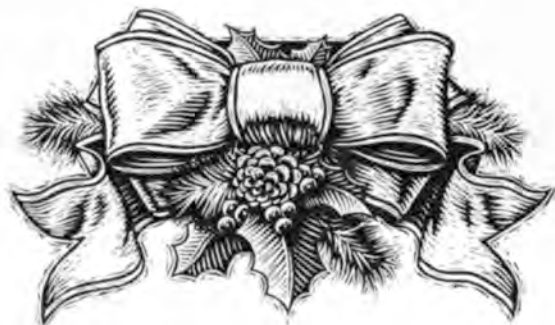
'The Boohai' at 473 Scenic Drive Phone 814-9008

## From the Editor

I would like to thank those in the community who have contributed (willingly, and sometimes not so willingly) with articles, letters and interviews, to the Waiatarua Community News.

Thank you to the deliverers and their monthly commitment to exercise and to the Longley family for doing the layout and printing of the newsletter each month. Our community newsletter is a little part of what makes our community a unique place to live in, and I have enjoyed the many aspects of being the editor, this year. (except, perhaps, the threat of legal action by Go Waitak.)

I wish you all a fun filled and loving family Christmas and safe travelling over the holiday period.



## WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road, under the Community Centre.

Phone 814-9353

### Hours of Opening

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

## Fire Brigade News

### Fire Station Opened

The Volunteer Fire Bigade's new station was formally opened by Dame Margeret Bazley, chairperson of the NZ Fire Service Commission on Saturday 18th November. Other speakers were Auckland Region Fire Commander Paul McGill, MP Brian Neeson and Deputy Mayor Bob Stanic. Waiatarua's Chief Fire Officer Ian Ford recounted one or two incidents from the Brigade's history. A few months before the demolition of the old building a rat was found drowned in the toilet – proof that even the vermin had given up on it!

### Gold Star Presentation

At the same function, a Gold Star for 25 years service was presented to Waiatarua Station Officer Kevin Pennycook. Kevin joined our Brigade as its training officer last year after serving as a career firefighter in Auckland for over 23 years. We've been very fortunate to benefit from the experience that he has brought with him and we congratulate him for attaining this award.

### Calls for November

Sat 5th, 11:33 pm – Tree across road, Piha

Tues 21st, 6:28 am – Car accident Piha Rd, near Scenic Drive.

Somehow the driver of a Nissan Skyline escaped without a scratch after rolling the car and flattening most of the roof down to bonnet height. Luckily for her, the only part not squashed was a small area above the driver's seat.

A quiet month – just two calls. Here's hoping for a quiet summer...

### Preparing For Summer

Waiatarua's native bush doesn't normally have the potential for the extremes of fire danger which occur overseas or even in other parts of the Waitakere Ranges. But it can still burn. You can reduce the risks with a few simple measures, like removing dead or dry vegetation from your road verge, keeping the grass mowed and having easy access to water supplies. A free brochure with more hints is available from any Fire Station.

For all fires and other emergencies phone 111. Brigade contacts - Ian Ford 8148871, Richard Seccombe 8148860.



It has been a very interesting and enjoyable year! We have seen some fabulous gardens; Been inspired by Ikebana; Ogled at Cacti; Learned about herbs; Tempted by Dahlias.

If this sounds too good to be true why don't you join us next year and check us out.

Ring Eileen on 8149 298 or Margaret 8149 859

We would like to wish all the Gardeners out there a Happy Christmas and hope you all have plenty of flowers and interesting foliage to grace the Christmas Table.

Welcome to Waiatarua ... Robyn and Glen O'Connor and family of Turanga Road.

# Advertising

This is free to financial members  
for 2000, 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 members will only be printed  
as space allows.

**JP** – Mary Kelly. For personalised weddings, re-affirmation of wedding vows, ceremonies of commitment, naming ceremonies, MC, Chair for public meetings etc, Phone/Fax 814 9857.

**AUCKLAND SUN CLUB INC.** The family club for clothes-free recreation invites you to visit. For further information please call 814-9973.

**WEST COAST VET CLINIC** – Offering full veterinary service for your pets. ... 24 hour service Phone 814-9419

**KENDRICK PAINTING AND DECORATING:** for quality and service Phone Graham on 837-1612.

**PHONE "HERE FOR HAIR" MOBILE CUTS.**  
Phone Lesley 814-9242 or 025-203-9276.

**TREE WORK** – Fully insured and qualified arborists.  
Phone Guy Thomas 813-1481 or 021-255-6418

**VISIT "EARTH SEED" 100% ORGANIC SHOP**  
for a great selection of organic and GE-free foods.  
547-549 West Coast Road. Open 7 days Phone/Fax 818-6411.

**SOLICITOR** – Are you buying and/or selling your business/house? Are you interested in setting up a Family Trust? Phone Geoff Wood for your legal needs at 623-7541 DDI or 836-8630 a/hrs weekdays. Home visits by arrangement.

## 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, JP	3 Atarua Gardens	814-9857 + Fax	turtle@xtra.co.nz
Denis Graham	Back up - Atarua Gdns	814-9706	
Ross & Kath Mullins	330 Forest Hill Rd	814-9402 + Fax	
Jenny McGee	886 West Coast Rd	814-9954	
Chris/Liz Field	799 West Coast Rd	814-9876	crislizf@voyager.co.nz
Adith Stoneman	8 Kauri Loop Rd	814-9822	
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Rarua Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrich	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2000

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

**WORK WANTED:** Registered drainlayer, 30 years experience. 6 tonne and 2 1/2 tonne diggers for hire. Phone Ray 814-9242

**WEB PAGE DESIGN,** Desk top publishing, Graphic Design, Computer Support, Phone Petrik 8365202.

**TYPING OUTWORK WANTED:** Secretary with general and legal background wanting work for own computer. Skilled in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. Affordable Rates. Phone 814-9788.

**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

**RELAXING, REFRESHING AND REJUVENATING** – for a therapeutic massage ring Rowan on 833-7860

**VICKY'S BEAUTY THERAPY:** 10 years experience. Facials, waxing, massage, manicures etc. Available 7 days. Phone 814-9317.

**ATARUA GARDENS BED AND BREAKFAST:** No room for your out of town visitors? Contact Carol and Denis. Phone 09 814-9706 or 025-283-7544

**MARRIAGE CELEBRANT PLUS VENUE PLUS J.P.** for your specifically designed ceremony and garden setting (if required), talk to Peter George Ph 814-9456

**HORSE MANURE FOR SALE** \$1 per bag at 253 Forest Hill Road.

**LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC:** John Hendrikse also available after hours and at weekends. Fees excluding GST and disbursements, are \$350 for a straight forward house purchase, \$550 for a combined sale and purchase. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road Ph/Fax 814-9991

**WOODEN FARM GATES:** Tanalised timber with galvanised bolts. 10' - \$61.00 and 12' - \$68.00, or made to order. Ph. 814-9700

**ELECTRICIAN:** Phone Jim your local man Ph. 814-9344

**OUTBACK COUNTRY COLLECTION:** Gift baskets for Christmas. Gorgeous preserves, chutneys and relishes. Packed to order and delivered free in the Auckland area. \$25 and \$40. To order phone Jill 814-8825

**LOST** tabby cat named Burtie from 793 Scenic Drive. White paws and bibbed front, bold eyes, pointed ears and very bushy tail, wearing black collar with bell. Burtie has a very friendly nature. He has been missing since 12<sup>th</sup> November. Please phone 8375422 or 025-645-2552.

**WHITE FANTAIL DOVES FOR SALE** \$10 each. Call 814-8833 for viewing.

**BABYSITTER** – Mature, honest and reliable lady. Experienced. \$8 an hour Phone Juliette 814-8802

## 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 Pauline Isaachsen on 814-9847

## FEBRUARY / MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of  
The Editor,

757b West Coast Road Road, Waiatarua. Phone 814 9945

EMAIL: forwardthinking1@xtra.co.nz

by WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2001

Thanks to the Longley Family for printing this Newsletter.

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