

Christmas Message

from WRRRA President Geoff Wood

This has been a busy year for WRRRA. Of major concern to your committee was the possibility of structure plans in Waiatarua and the surrounding foothills. However, the proposal for these plans is in abeyance at the moment as the Council are not in a position to proceed with funding.

The debate will continue as to the respective merits of the structure plans and whether there are other alternatives available. Most people agree that we live in a unique environment and this needs to be preserved by proper controls.

During the year we introduced a web site and you can visit us at www.waiatarua.org.nz

Because of the development of the web site, work has been done on the new logo.

Another major issue for our area is traffic safety and we have made submissions regarding the problems in our area. More recently a committee has been formed to co-ordinate efforts to make Waiatarua a safer place for all traffic and pedestrians, particularly by reducing speed. This is an ongoing project.

Half way through the year it was decided that we should introduce combined meetings of the various local ratepayers groups and already two of these meetings have been successfully held. It has provided a forum to get to know our near neighbours and to see what issues we have in common. It also enables us to bring greater pressure to bear by weight of numbers in our approach to Council and the Community Board. Good fellowship has been generated and although our hall is used as the main venue the other associations are taking it in turns to organise the events.

The last meeting in November was attended not only by the representatives from various Ratepayer groups but also by Councillors and Community Board members so it creates good feedback. It turned out that the major issue at that meeting was traffic safety and the reduction of speed in the ranges. Kitch Cuthbert and other speakers attended to give their perspective on campaigns and to co-ordinate the formation of a representative committee to continue work on the problem.

A word of thanks to all those on the committee and other members who tirelessly helped during the year who are now entitled to a well deserved break. Christmas greetings and a Happy New Year.

May you all drive safely !!

Geoff Wood

Peace, Joy
& Love

Farewell

The WRRRA and Waiatarua is sorry to see two of our well liked and well known residents are leaving Waiatarua after some 30 years. Leo and Roz Rothschild are reluctantly shifting to a Retirement Village early in the new year.

For the last 5 years or so Roz has helped in the Library and with the delivery of the Community Newsletter. Thank you Roz for all your efforts.

As long-standing residents Leo and Roz came to Mountain Road, Waiatarua, in the mid-1960s. At that time Mountain Road was unsealed and you took your life into your hands if you tried to negotiate it, and Leo and Roz used the Scenic Drive. They bought about 3 ¼ acres from Fowlds (Seabrook Fowlds). There was an old farm house made from pit-sawn timber and riddled with borer, with the doors swinging in the breeze. The land at that stage was farmland rather than bush and it had been farmed by Mr Brown; it inevitably had Brown's cows which supplied milk to the locals. The house had gained notoriety in that George Wilder had sought refuge in the attic at one stage (luckily not while Leo and Roz were there!). They stayed camping in the old house for five years before building on their land. Leo worked in the city in the pharmaceutical industry and Roz was a Sydney graduate vet and also worked in the city. It was a

coincidence that one of the neighbours was also a vet, but Roz did not establish any local practice.

A labour of love by Leo and Roz saw all the ginger plants blackberry and bracken cleared from the roadside and much of the planting on their land of manuka and kanuka was done by themselves over the years. Leo has been a member of the yacht squadron for 40 years and raced ocean-going yachts up to the Islands and was a skilled navigator. Roz became interested in travelling to out of the way places and became involved with Adventure Treks run by a friend of Sir Edmund Hilary, which took small groups to out of the way places. She has been to such diverse countries as South America, Solomons, Vanuatu, Auckland Islands, and many others. She recalled her first experience of tramping down in the Kaimanawas and how early one morning she decided to go bathing in the local water hole. There was no-one around so she stripped off and had a swim. She was just getting out when she heard a wolf-whistle. Rapidly getting dressed she hurried back to the camp but saw nobody. Inquiries later revealed that nobody had been down to the waterhole, but the source of the "wolf-whistle" turned out to be a sika deer (which makes this unusual sound)

We wish you well in your new residence!

Waiatarua Residents & Ratepayers AGM

To be held on Thursday 21st February, 2002 at 7pm in the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Waitakere Ward Ratepayers Associations Meeting

Thursday 15 November

The second meeting of the Waitakere Ward Ratepayers Associations was organised by the Huia-Cornwallis Ratepayers & Residents Association, but was held at our Community Centre because of Waitatarua's central location in the ward.

As it happened, the first agenda item – Safer Roads – occupied the whole of the meeting. Again, Kitch Cuthbert (Waitakere City Council Road Safety Co-ordinator) addressed the meeting, supported by Waitakere City Council Road Safety Engineer Alan Hopkinson.

For an update of progress with our road issues ...

The Safer Roads Campaign

Waitatarua has been the focus of several local initiatives that have grown into a Waitakere Ranges community 'Safer Roads' campaign. Resident Debby Young has recently amassed hundreds of signatures on a petition to improve the dangerous intersection of Forest Hill and West Coast Roads.

Back in July, Kevin Healy, of the Waitatarua Ratepayers, developed an e-form on the Waitatarua web site to gather information about local road danger 'hot spots'. Upper Forest Hill road is clearly a major concern.

Since mid-November, three meetings of Ratepayer groups have been held with Council Road Safety Managers, Councillors and Community Board Members. There are 14 Ratepayer and Resident Associations in Waitakere Ward.

Discussion at the meetings identified that the major problem on our narrow, winding roads is driving at speeds inappropriate for the conditions.

A regional campaign is now being planned with community ownership targeting local drivers as well as visitors to the ranges and coast.

Waitakere City Council staff members supporting the Safer Roads team are helping to design an exciting and innovative campaign. Multimedia and fun activities will be used to pilot a voluntary speed reduction campaign in the Waitakere Ranges.

Consultation and planning are currently under way, with implementation of the campaign proposed for mid to late December.

Kevin Healy, Waitakere Community Board

Santa's Grotto

by Ross Davenport

Local resident Ross Davenport has been busy the past few months creating a Christmas wonderland for children under the age of 102 years.

Santa's Grotto (www.santas-grotto.co.nz) is part of Christmas Wonderland and was formed from the mind of our managing director, an English woman, who, from her childhood, has memories of Santa's fantasyland created by organisations and charitable people for the pleasure of local children (and their parents too, of course).

Some of us will remember the grotto at the top of the old Farmers building from our childhood. It is from these ideas that we have been able to create our own magical wonderland of fairy lights, ornate Christmas trees, animated elfen workshops and a letterbox for youngsters to post their wish lists to Santa, amongst many other delightful themes all inside a private home redesigned for the purpose.

I was asked to be involved because of my background in graphics and my experience in designing and building sets for film and live theatre.

The purpose of Santa's Grotto is to employ our skills and talents to bring an inexpensive delight of Christmas to the young and young-at-heart in Waitakere City and beyond. A personal goal of mine is to be able to make donations to charity; to wit, the Salvation Army will be receiving food donations dropped off at the bin at 26 Blacklock Avenue, Henderson (our venue) along with a percentage of the takings.

From the reactions and comments we have been getting today, our opening, people are extremely delighted with the event. They are constantly saying how delighted by the entire production they are and commend us on our efforts and the affect we have achieved. The children love the elf's mailing and wrapping rooms, parents love the magical fairy at the top of the tree, and of course Santa caps off the visit in his own parlour. You are most welcome to bring along your own camera.

Santa's Grotto is at 26 Blacklock Ave., Henderson (sign posted); and open

now 3:30pm to 10pm weekdays & 10am to 10pm every weekend and the week up to Christmas. \$3 per person or \$10 a family of 4. Please visit the web site for a map, hours and great graphics. Remember, the magic is inside; and we look forward to seeing all the children under 102 years old down at the Christmas Wonderland that is Santa's Grotto.

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Ross Davenport and the Christmas Wonderland team

Brickbats and Bouquets

A *bouquet* to Waitataruan Les Fletcher for all his hard work improving the corner and verge of Quinns Road.

Another *bouquet* to Debby Young and her team, who have started the ball rolling by organizing a petition to put in a Stop sign at the corner of Forest Hill and West Coast Roads.

A *brickbat* to the boxer dog who continues to tear apart rubbish sacks early on Wednesday mornings, prior to collection, on West Coast Road (around the 770's). Perhaps the dog owner would like to offer to clean up the mess left or just keep the dog within it's property.

The Nikau Club

I visited The Nikau Club the other day to see when it would be opening. I was amazed at 'The Boohai' – of old's transformation. Real Oomph has gone in to this transformation, both inside and out. It's fantastic. Something for Waitataruan's to get excited about.

The Nikau Club is offering a breakfast to dinner menu, wines from our local vineyards, 'roasted addiction' coffee, licensed to 1am and takeaway meals also available.

They are opening early December.

The Nikau Club Phone 814-1919

Scene or Heard in Waitatarua

Have you travelled up West Coast Road during the evening hours and 'scene' the delightful display of 'seasonal spirit' on and around the home at 682 West Coast Road?

This home is lit up with many Christmas lights and makes for a warm welcome to the hills of Waitatarua. Thanks Rosemary and Murray.

Waitatarua Walkers

Starting again February 2002 – Saturday mornings at 7.30am. Meeting outside the Oratia Church cnr West Coast and Parker Roads. We walk for 1 hour. For further information contact Jo on 814-9945.

What's On

- **'STOMACH ACHES, SUPER-HEROES AND OTHER STORIES'** is a concoction of three short plays to be staged at the Lopdell House theatre in Titirangi. Directed by local resident John Goudge. There are more than 20 students performing as part of their community drama course.
When: 13 – 15 December at 7.30pm. Bookings, Phone 814-9744.
- **'SANTA'S GROTTTO'** – definitely worth a visit to see the man in red. See article.
- **THE 'ORATIA CHURCH ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS'** with The Oratia Singers, will be held on Sunday 16th December at 7pm. All welcome.

Waitatarua Community Library

The Library will close 20 December and re-open Thursday 10 January so be sure and get your Christmas reading organised early. We have great plans for lots of new books to be on the shelves early in the new year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time during the year as without your help the Library would not function. We wish everyone in the community a Happy Christmas and hope you have time to relax with a good book.

GARDENING

We are finishing the year with a visit to a local garden and a Christmas Lunch. The year has again been one of contrasts with visits to a range of gardens and places of interest. We welcomed new members and said farewell to one of our most regular members, Karen, who moved to the Coromandel. Personally I would like to thank the friends who visited and helped out earlier this year when I was "Plastered" and take from that a message to be careful out there in the garden.

We would normally arrange our first meeting for the new year early February but as it falls on Waitangi Day we will bring it forward to Wednesday January 30. Mark this date in your diary and contact me the previous week for details.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and we hope you have time to relax in the garden you have been working on all year.

Ring Eileen 814 9298 for information

Eileen Powell

Waiatarua Playcentre

Just as for everybody else the year is drawing to a close for us at Playcentre. 2001 has certainly been a busy year for us with the departure and arrival of many families. We have seen a handful of 5 year olds off to school knowing, that with their Playcentre background, they would more or less have a smooth transition into their new world.

A couple of them have been very keen to pop back to Playcentre for a visit.

Our AGM was held in September and it was great to see all committee positions were filled by enthusiastic parents. Parent education is in full swing with Playcentre training now being registered with NZQA.

A number of social events have been held through the year including our extremely successful family camp at Shakespeare Park. This camp is now a permanent fixture on our annual calendar of events.

Due to the horrible weather over the first weekend this December our plans for a barbecue at the beach on the Sunday were thwarted. Not to mind though, those lazy, hazy and crazy days of Summer will soon be upon us.

The final event for us is our Christmas Party, which is to be held on December the 10th. The children eagerly anticipate this day and have been busy making Christmas decorations for the tree.

The final day for Playcentre this year is Monday the 17th Dec and will open again with the start of the new school term in 2002.

From all of the Waiatarua Playcentre families to all of you ...A very safe and Happy Christmas.

For any queries please phone Jenny on 814-9954.

The Waiatarua Playcentre Fair & Car Boot Sale

February 2002

A Fair and Car Boot sale is planned for 16th February 2002 at 911 West Coast Road, 9am onwards.

Over the Christmas holidays lets get the garage sorted, the cupboards cleaned out and the toys tidied and bring your wares up to The Waiatarua Car Boot Sale. There will be bargains galore – face painting, balloons, devonshire teas, sausage sizzle and much more. A great family outing.

Car Boot \$5 Table in the hall \$10. For bookings call Adith on 818-7728 See you there.

Neighbourhood Support.

Summertime ... the season for bbq's, outdoor living and enjoying the unique-ness of where we live. However, please consider your neighbours when you turn the volume up on your stereo. Sound carries easily through our bush environment. If having a special event or party, let your neighbours know. Keep the channels of communication open. Informing 'Noise Control' should be a last option – and if we all consider others, it need not be an option at all.

If going away over the summer period it is a good idea to give a neighbour a contact phone number where you can be reached, and the date you intend to return home. The same neighbour may also be willing to collect your mail and keep an extra eye out on your property.

Weed of the Month

Agapanthus. The perfect garden plant – plenty of blue and white flower heads, grows in sun or shade, wet or dry, thrives with little or no maintenance, and will happily colonise that problem area you always wondered what to do with. These attributes also make *Agapanthus praecox* one of the fastest spreading weeds in the Waitakere Ranges and beyond. A quick glance at roadside banks near the top of West Coast Road will confirm this undesirable reputation, as will a trip to Piha.

From personal experience, a sharp spade is effective for small areas or individual plants – just make sure you get the entire rhizome, it's ok to leave the small fibrous roots. If you're just removing the seedheads for now, you can burn them or bury deeply. It's difficult to control chemically, but recommended are Grazon (60 mls in 10 litres water with 10 ml Pulse), Yates Hydrocotyl Killer (150 mls in 10 litres water, with 10 mls Pulse) and, more recently, Vigilant (rate not known – check the label).

For more, check out <http://www.piha.co.nz/environment.htm>

http://www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au/media/news/2001/news_011011.htm



Fire Brigade News

At a Brigade dinner held last month, Mayor Bob Harvey presented the 14 members of the Brigade with a commemorative medal marking the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. We are also grateful to our partners, family and friends who support us individually and the Brigade as a whole. Bob presented IYV Associate lapel pins to 27 members of our 'support crew' as a token of our appreciation for their sacrifices and their effort.

Service Honours were given to Kevin Healy (5 year medal), Paul Kauder (3 year certificate) and Marie Brittain (bar for 7 years' service) by Laingholm's Chief Fire Officer Graeme Booth, Past President of the NZ United Fire Brigades Association. We also made a presentation to Lyndsay Whittle, recognising his 33 years service to Waiatarua and the Waitakere Ranges as a volunteer firefighter.

Recent Calls

Sun 11th, 7:43 p.m. – Motorbike over bank, Scenic Drive. The rider was unhurt, and we winched the bike out with the Brigade ute.

Mon 12th, 9:32 p.m. – Car crash, Scenic Drive. Alcohol, high speed and a complete bloody idiot combined to produce a narrow miss for innocent motorists when a car coming down from Piha Rd bounced off a concrete wall outside the fire station.

Sat 17th, 3:41 p.m. – Scrub fire, Whatipu. 2 helicopters and 7 fire crews were needed to control a blaze started by fireworks. (Why would you take fireworks to Whatipu?)

Mon 20th, 5:35 p.m. – Fire in wall, Turanga Rd. The fire caused by an overheating water pump was out when we arrived.

Holiday Time

We wish all our neighbours a happy – and safe holiday season. A few checks will make it safer:

Have you cleaned your barbecue lately? Checked the gas bottle for leaks? Is there an extinguisher handy? And your house may have smoke alarms – but what about the bach / caravan / tent? They can catch fire too.

Contacts

Phone 111 for all emergencies. Otherwise, call Ian Ford (8148871) or Richard Seccombe (025915525)

A note from your editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people involved in the production and distribution of the Waiatarua Community News.

A huge thank you to the Longley family for their support and for printing the newsletter.

Thank you to the deliverers who volunteer their time each month.

Thank you to Ian Ford, members of the WRRRA, 'Ken Stacey' and fellow Waiataruan's, who contribute articles, reviews and letters.

We are indeed a fortunate community to have our own newsletter.

Merry Christmas, Jo Hall

Advertising

This is free to financial members
for 2001, 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.

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 818-4104.

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.

WORK WANTED: Registered drainlayer, 30 years experience. 6 tonne and 2½
tonne diggers for hire. Phone Ray 814-9242.

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

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.

LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC: John Hendrikse, available 24 hours by
appointment. Are you buying and/or selling your house? Competitive fees.
Home visits by arrangement. Overseas documents can only be witnessed by a
notary public. Familiar with Afrikaans. 914 West Coast Road. Ph/Fax 814-9991.

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

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

MATHS TUITION, ALL LEVELS. Experienced high school teacher Ph 814-9269

WOODEN FARM GATES AND ENTRANCE GATES made to order.
Phone 814-9700.

HOUSE FOR SALE: ORATIA/WAIATARUA – low maintenance, double storey,
4 bdrm. family home, diesel central heating, dble garaging with workshop, large
rumpus. Extensive valley views. \$317,000. Phone 814-9251.

TREE WORK: Fully insured and qualified arborists.
Phone Guy Thomas 813-1481 or 021-244-8733.

LAWN MOWING: Local, reliable. Phone Eric 8372333.

FAY'S YOGA CLASS – Unique programme of stretching, relaxing fitness health
– Glen Eden Phone 817-8233.

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: shed stored, pine and macrocarpa \$50-\$65.
Phone 814-8833.

BABYSITTER: Friendly, mature and responsible 15 year old girl. \$6 per hour.
Phone Danielle on 814-9131 or 021-268 4401.

HORSE MANURE: \$1 per bag at 253 Forest Hill Road. Phone 814-9771.

**STRESS? NECK AND BACK PAIN? OOS? SCIATICA? CARPAL TUNNEL?
SPRAINS AND STRAINS?..** if so, maybe I can help. I am TMA (NZ) registered.
Phone Rowan anytime on 8337866.

BABYSITTER: Friendly, outgoing and experienced 6th form pupil available
evenings and weekends – \$6 per hour. Phone Tara on 814-8834

HOUSE FOR SALE: Waiatarua. Views for ever – 2 harbours, Coromandel,
outer islands – glorious! 3 – 4 bedrooms, plus workshop and large separate
studio/workshop. Heart rimu floors, large deck' tuis and pigeons in the
birdbath. \$480,000. Phone Tony Bacon on 814-9860.

FOR SALE: Private family home on 1 acre. 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and
single lockup garage. Newly redecorated inside and out \$248,000
Phone owner 814-8792.

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
Margaret/Paddy Marshall	19 Raroa Tce	814-9859	
Gaelene/Tony Goodrick	17 Cascade Ave	814-9788	

Please accept my Membership to the
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

for 2001

I enclose: \$10 Household, \$7 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

Hall phone 814-9353

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 6th FEBRUARY, 2002

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.