

# Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

February-March 2005

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



## Waiatarua Community Breakfast 2005

Families, fun and sun – what more could a community ask for? Such was the scene at the Waiatarua Hall for the annual Community Breakfast on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. Mums, dads, kids, grandparents and neighbours gathered together to share good food and conversation.

It was interesting to note that with a good parking manager on the job all vehicles had a safe place with room still to spare. Good on you, Les.

Rod, the human cash register, quietly went about his business outside the toilets.

Our barbecue team kept the goods coming, managing to remain calm under pressure from the kitchen staff to “bring it on NOW”.

‘Gaww the Clown’ was the main attraction, keeping excited young ones happy and under control. His extra long tie came in handy for wiping mucky faces, but his shoes looked as though they may have required a driver’s license. Thanks Gary for your valuable, voluntary services!

The colouring competition was a must... even for last-minute entrants who sat at a table and studiously created their masterpieces. It was a difficult decision for Gaww, but in the end Samuel took away the cookie jar donated by Longley Printing.

A popular raffle held the crowd in suspense and, when the climax arrived, Linda the winner (a committee member’s wife) threw it back in for a second draw won by Sharon.

This day of merriment was a great opportunity to put the new kitchen through a full catering test. Needless to say, it came up trumps.

Many thanks to all those who attended – it was such a pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves. Cathie Wells, event coordinator, deserves a medal for her input. She has the ability to remain serene no matter what; and possesses a special skill with hard-working volunteers to get the best out of them in the nicest possible way.

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

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[www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## From the Editor

Greetings everyone - I am still on a high after a recent swim in the ocean at Orewa which, in the process of getting me back in touch with nature, reminded me I was still alive despite the stresses of Monday to Friday 'concrete jungle' existence. The waves jostled me playfully shoreward and seaweed delightfully tickled my ankles. Peace, man! It's a good thing to be reminded of vitality once in a while... an experience I was treated to whilst at the auditions for the new Waiatarua Drama Group. This fun bunch of local people, young and old, demonstrated not only incredible talent and courage but also genuine comradeship - even though some of them were meeting for the very first time. I am equally excited about the gradual increase in 'Letters to the Editor' as this is an indication that we're reaching folk and they in turn feel comfortable approaching us with issues important to them. Thank you. Stay safe and keep smiling - Robin

## Fire Brigade

We congratulate Cinnamon Edwards and Andy Holyer on the successful completion of their initial training course at the Mt Wellington Training Centre. The course instructors commended both on their skills, and also our Brigade's Training Officers on how well prepared they were. Take a bow Karl Nuttall, Aaron Offebaker and Richard Seccombe. A recent joint exercise with Karekare and Piha Brigades at Tramping Club huts off Anawhata Rd was a useful training exercise in coping with the problems of difficult access and poor water supplies.

## Projects

A weekend working bee this month saw most of the operational area at the rear of the fire station completed. The remaining decking, concreting and flooring in the training area is now finished. Our thanks go to the Waitakere Licensing Trust for the funding, and to our sponsors and suppliers who helped the Trust's money go even further: R M True Earth Contracting, Hughs Civil, Hynds Pipes Systems, Warren Fowler, Swanson Transport, McClures Timber, Warehouse Building Supplies, City Pavements, Contract Landscapes, Porter Hire, HireQuip Henderson, Glen Eden Landscape Supplies, Tuakau Timber, Oratia Native Plant Nursery and Versatile Buildings. We are preparing a new funding application to the Trust for a winch and a comprehensive first aid kit for our new vehicle, and for an extra 4 portable radios which will mainly be used for traffic control at incidents.

## Recent calls

1:12 pm, Sat 22 Jan - Car fire, Anawhata Rd - handled by Piha Brigade  
3:30 pm, Sun 23 Jan - False alarm, Scenic Drive  
7:10 pm, Mon 24 Jan - False alarm, Scenic Drive  
9:43 pm, 28 Jan - Vehicle rolled after a two-car crash, Piha Rd. No-one hurt, but both vehicles were write-offs.  
10:03 pm, Tue 2 Feb - Power pole on fire, Rayner Rd Piha  
10:17 pm, Thu 3 Feb - Car versus tree, Scenic Drive. Neither survived, but again none of the occupants were injured.

## Contacts

Always call 111 for any fire or emergency, even if you're not sure of the details. Otherwise please contact Ian Ford (ph 814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777)

## GARDEN GROUP

Our March 2nd get-together will be a day out in South Auckland starting at 10am with a visit to Haunui Farm, 399 Whitford Park Rd, Whitford - a colourful garden of roses, perennials and a water & rock feature with tropical plantings. Entry fee \$5. Lunch will be at the Wholesale Tree Co., then at 1.30pm a visit to Brookby Falls at 162 Brookby Road, Brookby - a formal garden with Topiary, box hedges, waterfall, lavender and roses. Contact Eileen on 814 9298 no later than February 27th for car pooling or further information.

## From the President

Welcome to my last report in this current term, as when you read this we would have held our A.G.M. It has been an interesting twelve months which was made easier by a dedicated, enthusiastic, hardworking committee... all of whom I thank. With one exception we are all standing for re-election, so hope to be back to carry on for another year.

The Forest Hill Road repairs have been an ongoing saga which council assures me will be completed (if not already) within the next month - providing the hot, dry weather continues.

If you were wondering what the reason behind the recent questionnaire regarding drainage and septic tanks was about, you are not the only one! Apparently it is a requirement under the local bodies act to ensure accurate records and information. Also, if they do visit your property, those are the only issues they are interested in. That is what council has told me.

It has been a busy start to the year with our A.G.M and Community Breakfast, both in February. And I had the nerve to go out of town for a week in the middle of it!

If you're curious about the Waiatarua Drama group, it is up and running with the first production at rehearsal stage. Watch this publication for show details next month.

That's all for now. Hope to be writing again in March.

- Dave

## Play and Win - Who am I ?



Well Santa was a popular choice as our first "Who am I" candidate. Some of you even believed it to be the real Santa. Unfortunately for you it was actually our WRRRA President Dave Pocock dressed up as Santa for a "thank you" BBQ the committee put on in honour of the many volunteers who help out the WRRRA over the years. The winner this month is Charlotte Holzke, congratulations. This month's candidate may not be so well know as Santa but when I say she is a regular writer in the newsletter and a WRRRA committee member your choice is narrowed down a bit. Goosey Loosey performed at Lopdell House last year with the rest of the cast in a one off 'private' performance of Chicken MacLittle. So if you know who this is or would like to have a guess, email your answer to korprins@xtra.co.nz.

As many of us have probably been subjected to a profile of Dave before, or feel we already know him intimately, we

decided to take a slightly different slant on things and put him in the capable hands of Harriet Heartfelt for a rather unorthodox but interesting interview over coffee.

**H.H.** What figure would you put on your ETOBS? (estimated times of being Santa).

**D.P.** I'd say about thirty in my lifetime.

**H.H.** Commendable, I must say. What was your first job after leaving school?

**D.P.** Painter and paperhanger.

**H.H.** And what's your current occupation?

**D.P.** Part-time painter and paperhanger

**H.H.** My, you've come a long way. Now, I'm wondering what your favourite food might be?

**D.P.** Indian, actually Harriet.

**H.H.** Ooo, it's getting hot in here right now, isn't it. Have you ever been on TV David?

**D.P.** Yes, many times in the 80's; on one news item and also a documentary regarding BMX racing. More recently...1999 as an extra on Mercy Peak about eight times, Shortland Street once and Secret Agent Man on one occasion.

**H.H.** Gosh, with experience like that I'm surprised you've not been snapped up by the new Waiatarua Drama Group.

**D.P.** Don't be surprised. That's all I can say on that matter.

**H.H.** So, do you have a favourite author or actor? Or both?

**D.P.** Authors would be John Grisham and Patricia Cornwell, both available at our local Waiatarua library. Actors, well in my younger days the early Marlon Brando and James Dean. Nowadays, however, it'd have to be Tom Hanks and Jack Nicholson.

**H.H.** What is the scariest thing a man like you would ever have done?

**D.P.** Without a doubt, my ride on 'California Screaming' at Disney Adventure World.

**H.H.** Oh yes, I empathise. Let me see, now who do you admire? Or what do you aspire to?

**D.P.** I really admire people who have the commitment to succeed and keep on succeeding (i.e. Michael Schumacher). And I aspire to do whatever I'm doing to the best of my ability.

**H.H.** I'm sure. And what's your philosophy on life?

**D.P.** Believe in yourself, treat others how you want to be treated and enjoy life while you can.

**H.H.** Spot on. Lastly, if you won Lotto what would you do with the money first?

**D.P.** Give my three sons a decent sum, and put the rest in term deposit for six months.

**H.H.** Well, we're out of time Dave. Thanks for the insight. It's been great.

**D.P.** No worries. A pleasure.

Harriet and Dave finish their coffee, shake hands and go their separate ways.

## Library Report

Already, in February, we have put 25 new books on the shelves. Here is a small selection, but remember at the end of each month a full list of recent additions is posted on the website ([www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)). 'Shrek' - this delightful book was written and published by Tarras School and is the story of the now famous sheep that escaped the clutches of shearers for some considerable time. Thanks to local author, Alessandra Zecchini, who has donated a copy of her well-received dessert book 'Sweet As'. We have Harvey McQueen's 'This Piece of Earth' - a NZ memoir on a life of gardening & poetry with the occasional recipe thrown in. For Alexander McCall Smith fans 'The Sunday Philosophy Club' has arrived. Another good month of reading!

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor

Proposed new legislation for the Protection of the Waitakere Ranges.

This is the most important issue for several years concerning residents and owners of property in the ranges. Apart from some information in the newsletter Waitatarua residents have not had the opportunity to meet collectively with council representatives over this issue. As residents we have approached the Waitatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association to hold a meeting in Waitatarua.

No response was forthcoming from the association. Council were more than willing to attend these meetings with expert advice from those people directly involved in putting this proposal forward.

We were concerned that we did not have enough information to adequately answer the questionnaire so we attended a packed meeting of the Titirangi Ratepayers Association on 26 January. This emphasized the need to have a "local" meeting to express opinions peculiar to the area of concern. Titirangi is a village with a different living environment to that of Waitatarua. This came out in opinions and concerns expressed by several speakers from the audience. Meetings have also been held in Swanson, Piha, Karekare, Oratia, Henderson Valley, Huia and Bethels. In fact 12 meetings have been held in the ranges area during the last month or so where Council have attended.

It would have been extremely useful to have shared the opinions of other residents in the area before sending our completed forms. - Tony Powell

*Upon returning from annual holiday on the 8th of January I had an email from Eileen Powell inquiring about a public meeting. I informed her it would be discussed at our next committee meeting on the 10th of January.*

*The committee unanimously voted not to have a public meeting on this. It was considered to be an individual decision, and as the original meeting some 14 months prior and our pre-election 'Meet the Candidates' meeting attracted such embarrassingly small numbers of locals we rightly or wrongly made the decision.*

*Interestingly, apart from the Powells from whom we have received three communications, we have heard from only one other on this subject.*

*I have no doubt that the other meetings were well attended, as was our original one. We found that the majority in attendance were from outside the area with a large contingent of developers and such like that were attending every meeting to push their point of view.*

*I'm sure that anyone attending the Oratia meeting would have found common ground and had ample opportunity to have their questions answered.*

*Your committee has taken an active part in all meetings concerning this matter, to the point where we were invited and had representation at a Mayoral round table discussion late last year.*

*If we got it wrong so be it... nobody is perfect.*

-Dave Pocock - President W.R.R.A

Dear Editor,

Are we allowed to know what "was needed to prevent a repeat episode" in the Lightning Strike story in the January newsletter, or is a secret? -Tony Bacon

*Not being experts in the field of Lightning Strike Prevention, we did some research on the Internet and used some common sense knowledge picked up over the years. For many years now it has been common practice to ground/earth homes by putting a rod in the ground close to the house and connect a wire from the rod to the copper water pipes and bracing strips in the house. Where this can become unstuck is when enthusiastic amateurs start renovations and replace some or all of the copper pipes with plastic pipe. The home is no longer properly earthed and protected from lightning strikes. Always consult a plumber and electrician before you start renovations on older homes to make sure you stay protected and safe.*

*If you wish to safeguard your home from lightning by at least 90 percent, the following four protective measures are suggested:-*

*Lightning-rod and ground system, a grounded TV antenna, grounded appliances via a 'secondary lightning arrester' and surge protectors for your electronic equipment.*

*Views on how far to go with protective measures are based on a variety of factors from... whether you live in a high-risk area with frequent severe thunderstorms, to weighing up the cost as opposed to the likelihood of a strike. The decision is a personal one.*

*We do not recommend carrying out any of this work if you are not an expert in the field.*

*Our advice is to check with your licensed plumbers and electricians about exactly what your home may or may not need. -Ed.*

### Waitatarua Rainfall (January 2005)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	December Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	5	7th (11 mm)	32 mm	1924 mm
Brabant Road	11	7th (19 mm)	46 mm	1979 mm
Quinns Road	8	7th (15 mm)	44 mm	--
Forest Hill Road	6	6th (19 mm)	40 mm	--
Auckland City			31 mm	1241 mm



### WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

911 West Coast Road, under the Community Centre. Phone 814-9353

#### Hours of Opening

Thursday	10.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday	11.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday	11.00am - 12.00pm

## Wheeler Bins

New 140 litre mobile recycling bins, navy blue with yellow lids, will be delivered to Waitakere residents before July 1st 2005. This is part of an initiative designed to encourage householders and businesses to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Some local Waitatarua residents have raised concerns in and around collection frequency, transport down long steep driveways and space to place by the roadside.

For information or queries call Councillor Ross Dallow on 021 525 180 or visit the website [www.waitakere.org.nz](http://www.waitakere.org.nz)

In the meantime watch out for a bogus collector seen stealing Waitakere City's older green 45 litre recycling bins. "This activity is clearly theft," says Ross Dallow (a former police officer). The culprit drives a vehicle similar to a flat deck ute. It is thought the stolen bins may end up in flea markets, so keep in mind that anyone buying these is receiving stolen property.

## Waitakere City Open Studio Weekend

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th March 10am-4pm

Waitakere City Council supported by Waitakere Arts Network are promoting this exciting new event.

Fifty artists from all art disciplines are opening their home studios to the public. This initiative was created to encourage greater awareness of the artists in our community, both locally and regionally.

For further information contact: Neil Buddle on 836 800 ext. 8934 or [neil.buddle@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:neil.buddle@waitakere.govt.nz)



## Diary of a Bird Watcher

February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005

Last night at around 11pm a bird flew into my carport - friendly, touchable and smelly (and I mean SMELLY). It turned out to be a sea bird, a Shearwater Petrel.

I decided it was tired and needed to rest overnight. In the morning I took it out and tried to give it a little help flying, to no avail.

It turned out that ten or more of these birds crashed in the Waitakeres last night (Wednesday). Apparently, it is not uncommon for them to get lost in low cloud or try to land on roads when they are wet, thinking they're rivers.

These particular birds are unable to fly without being thrown off a cliff into a strong breeze. They are also unable to feed themselves on land.

If you find one, place it in a box with air holes and put on the verandah of number 9 Universal Drive Henderson. This is the address of a dedicated bird rescue volunteer. It is an unpaid service, although whenever I drop birds off I choose to leave a donation to pay for their care.

The moral of this story is... "if you find one of these birds, help it get airborne again or it will die on the ground". Thank you from Paul.

Alternatively, Paul says he is happy to deliver any birds to Universal Drive if you contact him at [paulking@intersol.co.nz](mailto:paulking@intersol.co.nz)

# Advertising and Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Korstiaan Prins via Email korprins@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 1850.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2005, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the treasurer - Rod Maunder on 814 1831

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED:** Conscious couple require a 2-3 brm home in semi-rural or quiet location (March). References avail. We offer long-term & secure tenancy, and appreciate a spacious & creative living space. Please call Colin or Helen on 814 9963.

**CLOCK REPAIRS:** Experienced clock repairer will restore most mechanical clocks back to life. Clocks made before 1900 a speciality. All work guaranteed. Phone Mike on 814 1817 or e-mail: mikesclocks@paradise.net.nz

**LAWN MOWING:** Local, Reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333.

**LA LECHE LEAGUE:** Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

**MARVELOUS MOSAICS:** This excellent course embraces an ancient art that is regaining popularity. Beginners & experienced mosaicers welcome. Running on two Sundays: 20th February, & 13th March. 9.30 - 5.00 pm. Please call Dianne or Lorraine @ Titirangi Community House [venue] on 817 7448 to book in, or Helen [tutor] for a materials list and any queries on: 814 9963

**MATHS TUITION:** To year thirteen, experienced high school teacher Phone 814 9269.

**PLANTS:** taros, bulbs, cannas and various perennials for sale. \$1 - \$3. Also some shrubs. All sales for charity. Phone Margaret 814-9859.

**THE U3A WAIATARUA ART HISTORY GROUP:** at our last meeting we ventured into the highly inventive pictorial language of Paul Klee, and the dream fantasies & imaginary landscapes of Joan Miro. We are a small group of people who enjoy reading about and discussing various aspects of art. Would you like to join us in 2005? If so, phone Shirley on 814 8938 so that she can arrange suitable meeting times.

**TOASTMASTER:** meetings held on every other Tuesday morning from 7.00 till 8.20 AM - more information call Adith Stoneman 818 7728

**WAIEMATA TECORIAN SPEAKERS:** Gain confidence, communicate more effectively, extend knowledge, stimulate imagination and have fun at the same time. We meet at the Titirangi community centre every second and fourth Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Men and women are welcome. Contact Margaret on 817 0520 or Gill on 838 1983 for further information.

**WANTED TO RENT:** unit, flat or similar wanted for young professional couple - nonsmokers, no pets and very tidy. Must be in close proximity to Waiatarua Fire Station. Pls. phone Maxine on 814 1868.

## WRRRA 2005 Membership is now due

Please accept my Membership to the  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

I enclose: \$10.00 household, \$5.00 Single Occupant

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

E-mail .....

To Treasurer  
Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association  
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waikare City  
or leave at the library - WEB Site [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)



## Handyman Services

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Contact Les on 814 1130

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CAREGIVERS ALWAYS REQUIRED

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Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30 - 6.30pm  
Saturday 9am - 12noon



Phone 818 4104 for an appointment

## FAYE'S YOGA CLASS

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Commit yourself to your Health  
LEARN TO RELAX & BREATHE  
Phone 837 7794

## Neighbourhood Support

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.

Denis Graham Atarua Gardens	814-9706
Ross & Kath Mullins 330 Forest Hill Road	814-9402+Fax
Jenny McGee 886 West Coast Road	814-9954 jenny.mcgee@xtra.co.nz
Margaret/Paddy Marshall 19 Raroa Terrace	814-9859
Sandy McConnell 550 Scenic Drive	814 9962

For more information about  
**Neighbourhood Support**  
take a look at the website at [www.ns.org.nz](http://www.ns.org.nz)

## Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (does not apply to already discounted or sale items).

### Glen Eden Landscape Supplies

293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

### The Nikau Club Café

Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919  
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

### Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper

Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

### Elkes Wine and Food Market

113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10am-6pm)



## DAVENPORT'S

### FURNITURE HOSPITAL

Telephones: Mobile 0274 820827

Residence 818 3349

E mail: [redredwine@paradise.net.nz](mailto:redredwine@paradise.net.nz)

Pickup and delivery if required

Wooden Furniture Repaired - Cane Replaced & Stained

## ELKE'S WINE AND FOOD MARKET

Open every Saturday for German Rye Breads, organic cheeses, German meats, Q-garden pickles and chutneys, chocolates and more. Also a great selection of Seibel wines, Port and Mead at cellar door prices. Tastings available.

**Open Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm**  
at 113 Sturges Road, Henderson.



## The Waiatarua Community Hall

Hire this excellent facility for training sessions, meetings, parties, dances, birthdays etc. Fantastic bush setting for a relaxed and pleasant environment.

For booking enquiries phone the WRRRA enquiry line on 814 9353

The Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association meetings are from 7.30pm every second Wednesday of each month. Would you like to attend our monthly meetings or have your say at the public forum before each meeting? If so come along to the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

The WRRRA Committee would like to thank

### Longley Printing Co. Ltd.

29 Bruce McLaren Rd Henderson - Ph. 837 0729

for their support in printing this publication.

## MARCH - APRIL NEWSLETTER

From time to time snippets of news come to our attention via the 'bush telegraph'. We would prefer to access information on any interesting news articles directly from the original source. If you would like to share stories with our community we welcome your contributions wholeheartedly. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,  
by **WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH, 2005**

Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua.  
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: [robsx@free.net.nz](mailto:robsx@free.net.nz)