

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies April - May 2005

Be Prepared



The scenario: Late summer... a large tropical cyclone comes in from the northeast and Auckland takes a direct hit, with extensive wind damage and flooding. The eastern flanks of the Waitakere Ranges suffer torrential rainfall. Waiatarua is isolated with numerous slips across the Scenic Drive, Forest Hill Rd and West Coast Rd. All power, phones and water services are out. Local cellphone transmitters are also damaged. Your house has lost half of its roof, and next door is uninhabitable after being hit by a landslide. The Volunteer Fire Brigade is flat out but has only eighteen members. There's extensive flooding in West Auckland and no backup can reach us for at least two days. How would you cope?

TV One's recent documentary "Are You Ready" examined our preparedness for a situation like this. Virtually every year, communities somewhere in New Zealand are faced with something like it. The bottom line is - the cavalry will not be here in half an hour to sort it

all out for you. Chances are you'll have to look after yourself, your family and possibly your neighbours for up to four days. As a first step, read the guide inside the back cover of the Yellow Pages. **Do it today.**- Ian Ford (Waiatarua Fire Chief)

What a Drama

Waiatarua's newly formed Drama Group had the community buzzing, with the recent roaring success of their dramatic debut 'Murder at the Music Hall'. Crowds came from far and wide to the local hall, as word spread of a great night's entertainment. A free matinee was organised for some lucky retirement village residents, in addition to six sell-out evening performances. Many disappointed people missed getting tickets in time, but the talented theatre group are keen to strut their stuff again in the not too distant future. When the question initially came up at a WRRA meeting last year re 'what to do with the money left behind by the original drama group', some felt very strongly about keeping it in the community if possible. A call-out went via the



Community News and before long budding actors, actresses and like-minded folk began to emerge from the bush... then the project gained momentum from there.

Those in the spotlight included fire chief Ian Ford and local resident Royston Steer, who will both long be remembered for their leg exposure. Sexy songbird Christine Healy tantalised the audience as Big Lil, and Bernadette Fastnedge convinced patrons to avoid doctors such as her. Music Hall MC Dave Pocock, who grew suitable whiskers for the occasion, introduced a variety of amusing acts including an unforgettable pantomime of Cinderella.

Throughout the show, spectators were taken by surprise, as performers sprung from the congregation and became part of the plot... like fictitious lovers John King and Charlotte Holzke, who were constantly confronted by Celeste Strewe - the jilted ex. Adrian Hooke and Lynn Radford from the police department managed to keep everyone on the edges of their seats during the 'Who Dunnit' scenes. Pianist, Linda Hogsden, titivated the entire play with her musical prowess on the ivories.

In the background lurked a crew of hard-working supporters who assisted with lights/sound, front-of-house, makeup/costumes, props/sets, parking etc. The generosity, comradeship and strength shared by all was obvious. These are the sort of situations where true community spirit soars. A hundred pats on the back and a thousand hats off, to all those involved... take a bow!

Waiatarua Playcentre news

Our centre reached the grand old age of thirty last year! As well as celebrating the fact that a second generation member, who attended this playcentre over twenty years ago, is now bringing her daughter; we decided to also look at our ageing outside play equipment and come up with a new solution. We have had a 'specialist designer' draw up some plans and we're now preparing to earnestly raise funds for an upgrade of the outdoor area. Our major fundraiser for the new playground is a proposed garden ramble to possibly be held in December. We are asking Waiataruians to consider helping us by opening their gardens for a tour, and we are inviting local artists to display their art in new locations. We propose to supply any refreshments needed on the day.

If you feel you can assist in any way, we would really appreciate it. Please call Kay on 8149403. - Julia Moore for Waiatarua Playcentre

Membership Call

This is a message to you... if you'd like to endorse who the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association are and what they stand for on your behalf, simply fill out this coupon and send off with the nominal fee. After all, you never know when you may be able to access some assistance with a significant community issue. Welcome packs available to any new residents, by calling Jeanettte on ph: 814 1999.

Please acc	cept my Mem	nbership t	o the
Waiatarua Rate	payers and R	Residents	Association
	2005		

	2003			
	I enclose: \$10.00 household, \$5.00 Single Occupant			
Name				
Address				
Phone				
E-mail				
To Treasurer Waiatarua Patenavers and Residents Association				

911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library

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

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From the Editor

Well, I mustn't prattle on about the Drama Group anymore... otherwise the Community News would be full of only that. But hey, what a fine effort all round eh?

When it comes to getting up on a stage, or public speaking of any kind, I really do just go to pieces. Perplexing really, and very embarrassing! Some years ago, I was asked to present a testimonial to a gathering of about a hundred people. As the speaker before me drew to a close I could feel my heart almost pounding out of my non-smoking chest. (a good hit of nicotine probably would have helped actually). Up front and into the first few sentences, I was suddenly in the grip of a most terrible affliction – the dreaded face twitch. Maybe nobody noticed but it felt to me as if I'd literally had a stroke and was losing the use of the left side of my dial. My voice somehow managed to carry on, despite the onset of full body trembling which surely was confirmed by the shaking and subsequent dropping of my notes. After the situation was over, I suffered the most horrendous migraine for the remainder of the day. And that is where my experience was left.

More recently, through a work situation, I was in a similar predicament although much less grand. None of the above revisited me; however, the small audience became a blur from where I stood and I certainly did a lot of umming and arrring. The constructive feedback I received later, for which I was humbly grateful, included a comment on 'my fancy footwork'. Oh dear, what was that all about? I had amnesia!

So, I shall leave all this to the professionals. Or perhaps sometime in the future I might seek skilled help in this area of my life.

- Robin

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I just want to express my appreciation of being a resident of the Waiatarua Community and how much I enjoy our monthly newsletter, besides many of the other advantages of living in this beautiful area.

Since our neighbour's daughter was involved in the 'Murder at the Music Hall', it was a little push I needed to go and see this local drama.. so glad I did.. it was brilliant - beyond my expectations! The production was very professional, entertaining, warm and funny; and having the audience be a part of it all, was just an added bonus. Well done, all of you that took part. We applaud you for your obvious talent and all the hard work you put in. Looking forward to the next one. Thanks alot.

- Mandy Stutz.

Be Your Own Life Coach

"The best way to predict the future is to create it" (Alan Kay)

As a Life Coach my job is to help you set goals and work out how to get from where you are now **to where you want to be.**

But what if you just don't know where you want to be? You're not alone and working this out is the first step of the goal setting process.

Over the coming months I look forward to helping you work out what you want from life and bringing you some great tips and advice on making it happen.

- Lucy Reade



Our May visit is to the Kelmarna Organic City Farm. This peaceful haven in urban Auckland produces organic vegetables and herbs, facilitating biodiversity with integrated pest management. The address is 12 Hukanui Crescent, Herne Bay; and we will meet at 1 pm May 4. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 by May 1st for further information or car pooling.

From the President

Well, we sure are going through some interesting times with surveys, bills, wheelie bins, annual plans etc. All this keeps us on our toes attending meetings, communicating with council, and generally keeping abreast of proposed changes. There are reports contained within covering some of our involvement in these matters.

We have new chairs installed in the Hall and, believe me, it is a pleasure to sit on them - so much so, that we now are looking at upgrading the tables. It is good to see an increased usage of the Hall, as it is a facility we should all be proud of.

The Waiatarua Drama Group is well and truly back, with the first production having just finished. It was my privilege to have a part in this show, "Murder at the Music Hall", and a thoroughly enjoyable experience it was. I'd like to thank the fine bunch of people, both young and old, for making my first involvement in drama so much fun. I hope I get the opportunity again.

As the nights draw in and the temperatures drop, spare a thought for our hardy bunch of newsletter deliverers; and don't forget the library when you need a good book to read on a wet, windy winter's day.

That's all from me, Dave.

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

Zig Zag Track: On Saturday the 12th of March we celebrated the newly revamped Atkinson Park, home of the popular Zig Zag track. Lots of locals came along on the day to walk the improved track which winds its way through from Park Road to Titirangi Beach Road, with just a short walk down to the beach. The valley features sizeable trees - especially kahikatea, rimu and kanuka; with low undergrowth of nikau palms and tree ferns. The track crosses the Paturoa Stream in several places, with rocky waterfalls and pools which add to the charm of this well-used track.

On the day, we fired up the BBQ for a sausage sizzle and had prizes for the oldest and youngest walker & the cutest dog (on a lead of course). Our oldest walker prize went to Titirangi local, 96-year-old Bridie Irwin, who enjoyed a wander through the lower, flatter section of the track. With her as an inspiration, you might want to go and walk the track yourself! If you walk it at night you may even see glow worms...

Rubbish: We're still being kept busy picking up garden and household rubbish dumped on Waitakere parkland. Not only is it unsightly and often dangerous, but garden rubbish may contain nasty weeds that can easily invade our parks. Please contact us if you see people dumping rubbish and are able to get any details (car license plate, description of car and occupants etc.), as we may be able to fine those concerned.

Nursery Update: Brendan is busy in the nursery with seed collection and finishing the last of the bagging up of seedlings. There is a wide variety of nursery tasks available for keen volunteers – he can be contacted on 817 0094.

Pest Control Project: Jonathan Gould has moved up into a management position and has handed the pest control project over to Sandra Jack. Sandra is keen to round up more volunteers to help keep pest animals in low numbers around the Visitor Centre area. There have been plenty of stoats caught over the summer period, and we're about to fire up the insect monitoring part of the project so we can see what impact the pest control is having on insect numbers – hopefully increasing them!

We are constantly striving to make the Waitakeres a special place for present and future generations. Come along and help us by volunteering for any of the various projects going on in the park.

Contact us at the rangers station on 817 0099 if interested

- Ka Kite

Waitakere City Council's Draft Heritage Bill

The draft Bill, and the impact it will have on Waiatarua residents and the surrounding area, was discussed in depth at the recent WRRA Committee meeting. The committee agree that individual assessment of the draft Bill issue is best, and recommend that you become involved.

Waitakere City Council have encouraged community and individual involvement throughout the process, and continue to do so with flyers to all our homes plus the recent 'bring your questions' dropin sessions at all local centres. Visit www.waitakere.govt.nz for all the information you might have missed, or phone the Get the Facts Hotline 839 0401 to have information posted out to you or to ask any questions. You could formulate a hypothetical example of something you might want to do (e.g. a retaining wall or patio) and ask Council what difference the proposed legislation will make. Or do the same for a property that forms part of your view or is in some way special to you. Will the Bill, and should the Bill, 'protect' it? Since we WRRA committee members were elected to represent all of you, it is not appropriate for us to take a 'committee stand' on this issue.

Those for the Bill feel that it refines the intent of the Resource Management Act (RMA) and tailors it to our unique area. Those against, feel that it adds red tape to the already unwieldy RMA. There is disagreement locally over whether subdivision and more housing should be allowed in the foothills. The Draft Bill does not make a ruling on this but presents an ideal for the area, which it suggests should remain rural in character with built structures being less dominant and green/rural areas and trees more dominant.

A summary of progress to date: Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council are currently revising the draft bill. This will be available for public viewing 7 - 10 days before a council meeting in late May. This special meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 24 May, with a vote on whether or not to support the bill. Some councillors are in favour, others not.

If the revised bill gets Council support, it will be lodged with the District Court for at least 3 weeks, with copies to all local libraries etc. also. Public submissions will be invited and collected by the Council at that time. These will be reported on and responded to as part of the Council's submission to the Select Committee.

- Molly Whittington (vice-president WRRA)

Most in Waitakere City Satisfied with Quality of Life

The majority of Waitakere residents (86%) rate their quality of life as "good" or "extremely good" in a Quality of Life Survey, while an overwhelming majority (98%) of the city's residents have had some positive contact with people in their neighbourhood.

The survey's results show that about 84 percent of Waitakere residents take part in regular physical exercise, and the same percentage are satisfied with life in general.

Over half (54%) have confidence that the decisions the council makes are in the best interest of the city. This is above the national average (50%) and that of other cities in the Auckland Region.

The survey was a joint effort between the Ministry of Social Development and twelve Quality of Life Project Cities; and is part of an ongoing series of research exploring quality of life and well-being issues in cities throughout New Zealand.

This information is used to help inform central and local government policy, particularly for cities undertaking monitoring of progress toward achieving community outcomes under the Local Government Act.

Survey interviews were conducted over the telephone with 7,800 people.

Waitakere City's results were similar to those of the larger cities in New Zealand, particularly those in the Auckland Region.

The overall purpose of this study is to identify common community issues; with the objective of working together with central government, community organisations, businesses and residents to improve the lives of people living in cities.

More Survey Results:

- Over half (58%) of Waitakere City residents rated their overall health as "good" or "very good".
- Of those residents who had experienced barriers to their leisure activities (42%), most attributed this to lack of time due to family and/or work commitments.
- The majority of Waitakere City residents agree that they are using their work skills, training and experience in their current job.
- 67% of Waitakere City residents are satisfied with the balance between their work and other aspects
 of life.
- The majority of Waitakere City residents feel safe from crime in their own neighbourhood after dark (67%), but just under one third (27%) do not feel safe from crime in their town centre after dark.
- Waitakere City Residents are more likely to see dangerous driving as a problem in their city compared to the national average (67% and 60% respectively).
- Over half of Waitakere City residents (53%) stated that the group or social network that mattered
 to them the most was mainly made up of people who had the same interests, culture or beliefs as them,
 but who did not necessarily live in their area. Twenty-two percent stated that their social networks
 were mostly made up of people who lived in the same area as them (that is, their local neighbourhood),
 while 22% stated that there were no particular groups or networks that they felt part of.
- Waitakere residents are less likely to see air, water and noise pollution as a problem in their city, compared with the national average.
- About three quarters (74%) of Waitakere City residents agree that their city has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene (much higher than the national average of 63%).
- Of those that had a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels (67%) the majority said so because of the green city, beautiful parks and gardens and friendly, welcoming people.

Play and Win - Who am I?

Are we making it too hard for you? Again this month no-one got the right answer. The driver of the fire truck was none other then Ian Ford the Waiatarua Fire Chief. Harriet Heartfelt spoke with Ian.

HH: So Ian – why did you move to Waiatarua?

IF: I took up a post as Park Ranger for the Auckland Regional Authority (now ARC) in the Parks house in Mountain Rd. That was in 1976.

HH: And since then?

IF: I left Parks about 15 years ago to work in the IT industry – it seemed like a good idea at the time. I've moved about 6 times, but always within Waiatarua. Cathie and I are now well settled in Brabant Rd.

HH: Why did you join the Fire Brigade?

IF: I joined in 1983 at the suggestion of my friend and workmate, the late Ian Wells, who was the officer in charge. He suggested that even though I lived a fair distance from the Fire Station then, I'd be useful because I worked in Waiatarua during the day.

HH: What was your acting experience before your performance as the Hairy Godmother in the Drama Group's recent play?

IF: I'd played the linguistically-challenged Ivor Cheslenkoff (Chesty) in the Fire Brigade's plays written by Tony Holt.

HH: What's your biggest concern at the moment?

IF: That my teenage sons might need counselling after seeing me on stage in my latest role.

HH: And just to confirm for our readers...

IF: Yes, I saw the tape recorder. And I've only had half a glass of wine.

HH: Thanks Ian.

This month we have another WRRA committee member and a vocalist in the "Murder at the Music Hall" production. If you know who this is, email your answer to wrra@waiatarua.org.nz or write it on the back of an envelope and drop it in the letterbox at 911 West Coast. Road. Good Luck.



Roadwatch Report

- 1- Cyclists, walkers and runners, please please please wear a reflective vest or shoulder strap we do want to SEE you. Also run and walk facing the traffic, except on bends when you go round the outside. It's worth it not to be squished on my bonnet.
- **2- Forest Hill Road repairs**: further repairs will be made to FHR surface within the next couple of weeks. The repairs made appear well done; and the bends with more severe wear will be receiving a new recommended repair seal.
- **3-** When I first took on the Road Watch role I was looking for a particular driver who came round a corner on my side and went as white as a sheet... I only wanted to strangle him but he disappeared into the woodwork. Now I find we are looking out for letterbox bashers. Come on guys and girls, go play softball or take up polo. *Cheers Les*

Fire Brigade

Calls since last Community News (no prizes for spotting the theme):

March:

3:35 pm, Mon 18th - car crash, Piha Rd. No injuries. 10:22 am, Sat 26th - car crash, Piha Rd. Three people were

hospitalised with moderate injuries after a head-on crash. 8:23 pm, Mon 28th - car overturned, Seaview Rd, Piha. Handled by Piha Brigade.

3:44 am, Tue 29th - car over bank, Piha Rd. Also sorted by Piha.

10:52 pm, Tue 29th - car fire, Scenic Drive.

Contacts

Phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For other information please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy FlowerShop, 423 Titirangi Road, Titirangi Phone 817 3780

There are two deserving **bouquet** recipients this month after a bit of a lull. The first nomination stems from the following email...

Last week, our neighbour across the road had just returned home late at night with his family. From his house in the spill of a car's headlights, he observed briefly what he thought was a person at the top of our drive. He took the time and effort to ring me and ask if I could take a look - we live down a curving driveway and can't see the end of it from our home. I took a torch out and to my amazement found a lady lying face down in the grass by our letterbox! She was conscious and sat up, but clearly all was not well. I got my wife and we helped the lady walk down the drive to our house. I called the police, who duly arrived in good time and took control of the situation. I shudder to think what may have happened had James not bothered to ring me. A single female lying near a road edge in the Waitakeres late at night! Hence, my nomination for the Bouquet award to James Lyman. Many thanks, Eric.

The second **bouquet** goes out to another good Samaritan, Glenda Northey, who administered first-aid to an elderly lady who had a fall whilst walking on Piha Road.

As for a **brickbat**, it might hit home if thrown at the people who had a party in the vacinity of the "Horse Poo For Sale" sign. It's rather dangerous and irresponsible allowing drunk guests to wander West Coast Road late at night wearing dark clothing. A young couple were reported lucky to be alive, after almost being wiped out by cars coming in both directions.

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

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.

Maths Tuttion: 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.

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

Waitemata 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.

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.

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Harcourts

Waiatarua Rainfall (March 2005)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	March Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	11	25th (34 mm)	83 mm	210 mm
Brabant Road	16	26th (41 mm)	87 mm	218 mm
Quinns Road	15	26th (39 mm)	89 mm	200 mm
Forest Hill Road	8	27th (24 mm)	58 mm	169 mm
Auckland City			39 mm	133 mm



Hours of Opening

Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

10.00am - 12.00pm 7.00pm - 8.00pm 11.00am - 12.00pm 11.00am - 12.00pm

WAIATARUA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

Amongst our recent additions we have:

Union Belle by Deborah Challinor – this novel is set in NZ in 1951 with the waterfront strike as a backdrop; The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty - the story of a man's journey to rediscover life; Backyard Battlefield by Ruud Kleinpaste – a guide to controlling pests in your garden; The Triumph of the Sun by Wilbur Smith – reserve this great author's latest work. In addition, we have a copy of the new Road Code at the library for your perusal. - Jeanette.

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

Advantages of being a WRRA 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)



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29 Bruce McLaren Rd Henderson - Ph. 837 0729

for their support in printing this publication.

MAY - JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by WEDNESDAY 11th MAY, 2005 Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua. Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz