

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

August - September 2005

Waiatarua Performing Arts Society

in association with W.R.R.A and Maverick Musicals Pty. Ltd.

Presents A Knight to Remember

by Jane Rothnie



Magenta

Merlin

A madcap medieval tale of magic and mirth set in a time when men were men, women were women and a knight couldn't get his armour off! Life revolved around a "Hey Nonny Nonny", complicated by romance, intrigue and plain dirty deeds.

at the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

Limited Season - only 8 performances:

Wednesday 21st - Thursday 22nd - Friday 23rd - Saturday 24th September

Wednesday 28th - Thursday 29th - Friday 30th September

Saturday 1st October. All performances start at 8.00pm

Tickets: \$15.00 Adults - \$10.00 under 15 years

Book your tickets now by contacting: *ERTEL*
Gary - Phone 814 8737 or Email gary.ertel@xtra.co.nz
John - Phone 814 9537

Ranges Bill Notified by Waitakere, Rodney and Regional Councils

The Bill to protect the Waitakere Ranges and foothills took another significant step on July 4th 2005, with three councils publicly notifying their intention of introducing the Bill into Parliament. The local Bill was lodged in the District Courts at Henderson, Auckland and Warkworth. It will be sent to Parliament within six months.

Waitakere City Council, Auckland Regional Council and Rodney District have adopted the final draft of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill to promote long term protection of heritage features while enabling the 28,500 hectares of public and private land to be lived in and worked in.

"I am pleased to have arrived at this significant milestone. This Bill will ensure that future generations can enjoy the priceless asset of the Ranges and foothills," says Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey. "Over the past few months we have received extensive feedback from the public on the proposed new law and the Bill has been strengthened by this. I look forward to further discussions on this Local Bill," he says.

Any correspondence should be addressed to: C/- SimpsonGrierson, Private Bag 92518, Wellesley Street, Auckland

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

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Talented Youngsters Reach for the Stars

Friends for several years, Sarah Radford (on the right) and Paige Fitton are the two youngest members of the Waiatarua Performing Arts Society. Rehearsals are now under way for 'A Knight To Remember', which will run from September 21st to October 1st.

The two girls attend Bruce McLaren Intermediate, where they belong to the school orchestra. Sarah (aged thirteen) plays the clarinet, guitar, loves to sing and has clocked up three years of drama coaching. She will not be easily forgotten as a wicked step sister, alongside her mother Lynn, in *Murder At The Music Hall* earlier this year.

Paige (aged twelve) is a keen dancer - enjoying jazz, ballet and hip-hop. She also plays the flute, piano and trombone; although will be entertaining the audience in this next production on her recorder.

The pair are determined that stage and music will feature highly in their adult lives.

A Knight To Remember is directed by John King, who was a member of the original Waiatarua Drama Group. This magical, medieval play remains in the realms of comedy - starring old-time favourites such as Merlin, Arthur and Lancelot. The cast and crew have acquired some more new faces, swelling numbers to almost thirty and confirming a positive future for performing arts to continue in Waiatarua.

Management recommend getting in early to secure seats, as many disappointed enthusiasts were reluctantly turned away last time. See the front page of this publication for booking details and website information.

Anyone interested in joining this successful theatre group, please contact Robin on 814 1850. Membership is currently free.



Emergency Home Survival Kit

Food and Water - Enough for 3 Days

- Canned or dried food
- A can opener
- A primus or BBQ to cook on
- Bottled water (3 litres per person per day)
- Check and renew the food and water every 12 months.

Emergency Items

- First Aid Kit and essential medicines
- Spare toilet paper and plastic rubbish bags for your emergency toilet; feminine products
- Pet supplies
- Waterproof torches and spare batteries
- Radio and spare batteries
- Check the batteries every three months.

Emergency Clothing

- Wind proof and rainproof
- Sun hats
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Strong shoes for outdoors

Supplies for Babies and Small Children

- Food and drink
- Change of clothing
- Favourite toy or activity

Special Supplies for Those with Disabilities

- Hearing aids
- Mobility aids
- Glasses

Tramping Safely

Plan your hike well - ask yourself: Where are we going? Do we need permission for access? Who is going? How long shall we go for? What shall we take? Choose a walk in keeping with the experience, fitness and ability of your party. Be realistic. Include contingency plans for bad weather. Get up-to-date information and advice about where you're going tramping. Department of Conservation centres have local track information and maps. Go with someone experienced and learn from them. Contact the MetService for an up-to-date weather forecast. Be aware of waterways in the area and the location of bridges. Always carry emergency shelter. Leave your trip details with a responsible person.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT : 1) A light, strong, comfortable pack with waterproof liner. Carry no more than one quarter of your weight. 2) A map of the area, in clear plastic cover. 3) Small first aid kit, with insect repellent and sunscreen. 4) Compass (know how to use it). 5) Torch, with spare bulb and batteries. 6) Drink bottle. 7) Knife in a sheath. 8) Toilet paper, handwashing products. 9) Whistle. 10) Pencil and paper. 11) Snacks such as nuts, raisins, chocolate. 12) Cell phone.

CLOTHING: 1) Waterproof parka with a hood. 2) Windproof overtrousers. 3) Sturdy well-fitting boots. 4) Spare socks. 5) Sunhat and/or balaclava. 6) Gloves or mittens. 7) Cotton shirt. 8) Lightweight jersey. 9) Quick-drying shorts. 10) Underwear that breathes (natural fibres).

Well I Never...

This month's contribution comes from a reader who experienced a strange situation whilst selling a home some years ago.

We decided to multiple-list our property, with the expectation that the more foot traffic we attracted the higher the odds of catching a fish. Admittedly, it was difficult to cope with so many comings and goings; and not so easy keeping the house clean and tidy at all times. Sometimes I didn't know whether I was Arthur or Martha!

However, what occurred one particular day had me thinking I was going around the twist. Early in the morning a rather portly agent, whom I had not met before, arrived to show a young family around. They all seemed suitably impressed, with the agent raving enthusiastically about our magnificent view.

Later that day, the same gentleman from the same real estate company arrived with an older female client. On greeting me, he immediately began raving about the view and asked "Where on earth have you been hiding this one? I have never seen anything like it." I was a bit puzzled, but thought perhaps he was just one of those con-men switching it on for the benefit of a sale. However, as he proceeded through the house I overheard more comments indicating that this guy had never visited us before in his life. As far as I was concerned at that stage, he either had amnesia or I was losing my marbles.

About a week later, all was revealed when I discovered this particular company had a set of identical male twins in their employ - *stocky ones!*

Library Report

We have the latest *Harry Potter* - and as of the other day, only one reservation for this; so be quick and put your name down (jaws@clear.net.nz) or call at the library.

Other new books this month:

"One Shot" by Lee Child - a thriller with twists and tension to the end.

"Eleven On Top" by Janet Evanovich - a zany story that ranks with her best.

"Lost in the Forest" by Sue Miller - family life changes when death occurs.

"Spice" by Jack Turner - fascinating account of the trail of spice back through time.

Remember the full list of new books is on the Waiatarua website and at the library.

Noise Control

Hints on how to avoid a complaint: Having a party? Be a good neighbour!

Most noise complaints in our community involve neighbours playing loud music or having noisy parties - but problems can be avoided with a little neighbourly consideration.

If you're planning a party or like playing music, here are a few hints that may prevent your neighbours from lodging a noise complaint against you. . .

Inform your neighbours well in advance and give them some idea what time it is likely to finish. How about inviting them to join you?

Keep your music equipment inside and close doors and windows where possible to prevent noise escaping. Keep party guests inside also and ask them to keep their noise down when entering and leaving. **Don't carry out band practice sessions** in the middle of residential areas without an okay from your neighbours. Keep the sessions short and restrict them to daylight hours.

Keep your radio close to you while working or relaxing on your property.

Environmental Issues

Trees and Power Lines

Concerns have recently been voiced by a number of Scenic Drive residents, after Vector apparently distributed flyers re the trimming of hazardous trees near power lines outside their properties by Treescape. Debate has arisen over what is considered by some to be excessive pruning. Clarification is pending on just how much will be topped off the trees before commencement of this work. Anyone wanting more information can visit www.vectortrees.co.nz

Septic Tanks

If you live up this way, the odds are you'll have a septic tank. It's easy to forget the rules, which are in place to ensure you maintain a trouble-free system. Here are a few reminders:

Waste disposal units are an absolute no-no.

What not to put down the loo - tissues, supersoft or printed toilet paper, sanitary products, disposable nappies, condoms, disinfectants, antibiotics or bleach.

What not to put down the plugholes and drains - coffee grounds, tea leaves, chlorine compounds, nappy soaks, stain removers, whiteners, antiseptics, pesticides, oil and fat, chemicals, paint.

If you must use them, check all household cleaners for suitability. Remember there are cleaning cloth systems available that require no cleaning products, just water!

In the laundry, stick with synthetic petroleum-based washing powders, not soap-based products.

When attending to your personal hygiene, use body washes and shower gels (again petroleum-based) rather than soaps.

Hello Everybody

An issue burning a hole in my chest right now really has nothing to do with Waitarua, but the utter relief of airing my frustration in this month's edition will be of such value in restoring my sanity to a level required for continuing as editor.

I am talking about 'household enemy number one'... the built-in domestic vacuum system! Whoever invented this weapon deserves a firing squad. At first I took heed of well-intended 'yuppy' advice informing me of how I'd never have to drag a heavy machine around again, the joy I'd experience over noise reduction and the all-important fact that this system would add value to our home.

After installation, I was suitably impressed by what I saw – the loud part was in one corner of the garage, a lovely long hose coiled neatly around a designer bracket further along the same wall and in the house were four subtle flaps for plugging in Vera (I often give machinery personas).

It crossed my mind how pleased the new cleaners would be with such a mod-con. However, when Sadie and Brady arrived they insisted on using their nifty little backpack version; so Vera hung idle in all her glory for an entire year.

Came the day when we decided it was time to do our own housework, just in case we lost the knack; so we sadly farewelled S & B and took up the challenge. Now, I must clarify at this point that I do make allowances for difficulties arising from new situations. Therefore, when the hose seemed ridiculously long, I merely brushed aside any doubt with the reassurance it would conveniently reach far and wide. And when I could barely muster the strength to wrench in- action Vera from the wall, I comforted myself with the optimism of someone who knows good suction is a top priority.

Another year later, I am far from impressed. Vera and I have had more than enough time to iron out any teething problems. When cleaning day approaches I become woefully tense, knowing full well what lies ahead. That reptilian hose is by far the worst of foes – it has repeatedly tripped me into oblivion, initiated many unwanted scums and smacked across my face time and again with no warning whatsoever.

As for emptying the dustcan... it is a chore relished by few, especially asthmatics. If there is an upside to this, it could be the reward I am sorely tempted to offer anyone who can stack this snake tidily around its wall bracket in less than five minutes and without injury.

Vera has become a Vampire! Give me an 'oover anytime... happy cleaning!

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

The nominee for this month's **Bouquet** goes most definitely to Pete and Sandra McConnell for their life-saving call on the 18th (see Fire Brigade report). Your vigilance and concern was outstanding.

Waitakere Tramline Society

Every Sunday at 10 am, 11.30 am, 1.00 pm and 2.30 pm at the end of Christian Road, Swanson.

\$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 per school-age child, pre-schoolers free. Trips are limited to 20 people, and bookings are essential. Waitakere Tramline Society runs tram trips along a narrow gauge bush tramway up to the Waitakere Dam. The tram goes through two tunnels including the longest tunnel in the Auckland Region where you get to see glow-worms in the tunnel plus enjoy travelling through the lush bush of the Waitakere Ranges.

For more information and bookings phone (09) 836 0900 or Visit the Waitakere Tramline Website.

Hi All - Not alot to report this month, which doesn't mean nothing is happening. Quite the opposite in fact! Your committee is working very hard on a number of forthcoming activities, including the next community breakfast and Autumn Festival. The Autumn Festival sub-committee, under the guidance of Frank Hogsden, enters phase two of preparations and as a result there is more and more to do. So, as the saying goes... "many hands make like work". How about some offers of help? I understand, every one is busy with work and family etc. Well, it may surprise you to know that us committee members have those responsibilities as well.

I received phone calls from two concerned residents, voicing their disappointment at our decision not to hold a 'political candidates' meeting. I raised the matter at the August committee meeting and the decision was re-confirmed that no meeting will be held, due to the continued little or no attendance of previous similar events. To those people who are disappointed, I'm sure other nearby opportunities will be available.

As you will read elsewhere, a second production from our own drama group is about to hit the stage and yet again yours truly is attempting to make an absolute fool of himself. Once more, I'm finding the experience an amazing amount of fun; and for two nights a week at rehearsals all the hassles and worries disappear.

Well, that's it for another month. See you at the show!

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

A red letter month for our Brigade – Kevin Healy, Gareth Mullins and Ryan Groves have all been promoted to the rank of Senior Firefighter, demonstrating their good breadth and depth of knowledge on firefighting procedures and techniques. We congratulate them on their completion of alot of very comprehensive course work, theoretical and practical. They join Aaron Offenbaker to give us four SFF, which is three more than we've ever had in the Brigade at one time.

In other news this month: Helen Longley and Karl Nuttall attended a weekend officers' seminar; we thanked the Council and Community Board for their quick work in attending to a poorly marked corner on Scenic Drive; and we've got free firewood for anyone who wants it – check the ad on the back page!

Bathroom Heaters:

You probably don't give this much thought - but if yours is one of the older models which doesn't automatically start the extractor fan when the heat lamps come on, then the Fire Service recommends that you have it modified or upgraded so it does. This will reduce the risk of the unit overheating. Regular cleaning of dust and lint around the fan blades, motor unit and ducting is also a good idea. You can contact your electrician or the manufacturer for more advice.

Recent calls – July:

11.05 pm, Mon 18th – Car fire and rescue, Parkinsons Lookout, Scenic Drive. The occupant owes his life to the alert neighbour who made an early 111 call. The victim was losing consciousness and therefore unaware of the fact that his car was on fire and rapidly filling with smoke. However, we were able to drag him clear before it proved too late.

2.54 am, Wed 20th – Car crash, Piha Rd about 1 km before Lone Kauri Rd. The four occupants were uninjured after the driver lost control, hit a bank and flipped the car onto its roof.

1.05 am, Sat 23rd – Car fire, Scenic Drive near Fairy Falls Track. This one took a while to find – the callers didn't know where they were, and it was first reported as Piha Rd. The incident made the news as the vehicle had been modified for its tetraplegic owner, and was a complete write-off.

2.33 am, Mon 25th – Car fire, West Coast Rd by Kauri Loop Rd.

6.26 pm, Fri 29th – Shed fire, Te Henga Rd. Out when Bethells crew arrived.

Contacts:

Phone 111 for a fire or other emergencies. Otherwise you can call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Waitarua Playcentre Report

What a busy time we have been having at Playcentre! Even though the weather is nothing to rave about, the carpentry table has been in full swing, the paint / collage / playdough are very much loved and the clay area is becoming more popular after our inspiring workshop held here recently. We have also had a few new visitors who have become regulars over the last two terms and contribute so much. We have two families expecting babies, so there will be a few small ones around very soon.

The outdoor area is large and welcoming and is only going to get better. With great plans in hand, we are currently fundraising for a bigger, better outdoor area which we are all very excited about. Indoors is wonderful and super child-friendly as well, with everything focussed on fun learning through play. Our social environment is equally welcoming. We are keen to give our children the best start in life and happy to share the knowledge they've gathered. It has to be said we're also renowned for our combined culinary skills, so morning tea and social get-togethers are fun and varied and often a delicious affair!

About half our families make the drive over the ranges from Piha and Karekare, with the rest coming from nearby Waitarua, Oratia and further afield. We are open three mornings a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). All the sessions are vibrant and full of enthusiastic children and parents. If you'd like to drop in for a look and a cuppa, we'd love to see you.

Dandelion Salad Recipe

4 cups chopped dandelion leaves, 3 hard-boiled eggs, 3 slices bacon. Wash and chop dandelion leaves. Crisp fry bacon in small amount olive oil, drain then crumble. Dressing: 1½ Tbsp. flour, 1 tsp. salt, 1 egg, 2 Tbsp. sugar, ¼ cup vinegar, 2 cups milk or water. Mix together flour and salt; add egg, vinegar and water. Stir until blended. Add to bacon drippings in pan and cook until thickened. Cool slightly. Pour dressing over dandelion leaves and mix lightly. Garnish with sliced or chopped hard-boiled eggs and crunchy bacon pieces. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

Dear Editor

A recent Oratia School newsletter mentioned that the school has received complaints about the new speed lights (40 kmp zone before/after school). The Principal would like everyone to know that the school and kindergarten are not responsible for the lights or control thereof and can not enter discussion on the matter. Presumably the Council or Police Dept. would be the correct avenue.

I would like to record my support of the lights. Many kindergarten committees over the years have expressed concern over the West Coast Road crossing. The carpark is on one side of the road, the kindy on the other. All kindy mums have a pre schooler, many have two or three. As a kindy mum some years ago, I approached the road - controlling 'baby in pushchair' with both hands to negotiate the slope; sensible 4-year-old walking beside, less reliable 2-year-old holding the side of the pushchair. 'Miss Two' suddenly let go and raced out onto the road in front of a car. What could I do? There wasn't time to do anything. I am eternally grateful that the car was going slowly enough to stop in time. Perhaps the driver saw the young family approach the crossing and anticipated the unpredictable behaviour.

Later, a friend decided to let her 9-year-old son cross the road alone for the first time, after some years of training. Perhaps in his excitement he didn't see the oncoming car. She saw him flung through the air and land headfirst in the gutter. He was rushed to hospital with a head injury, from which he fortunately made a full recovery.

Motorists: have a good hard think before you complain, even inwardly, at the inconvenience of slowing down for this relatively short stretch of road. I would like to think that the speed signs will remind us to be extra vigilant even when they're not flashing. Kindy has a lot of mid-day pedestrian traffic between sessions and the school is in use after hours for sports and swimming. Be late for work. Be late for whatever. It could save a life. *-Molly Whittington*

Dear Editor,

I have been thinking for a long time about what I'd like to share with the community. It seems to me that as soon as one heads for the hills from Parris Park one enters into a zone where exceptional customer services can be found. There is a vet who would offer any down-and-out dog the shirt off his own back; a petrol station where not only does one receive lovely greetings but the attendants actually pump petrol for people; and a dairy where the smiles are generous and stocks a plenty. Put this together with a dedicated Waiatarua Fire Brigade and an "onto it" Ratepayers Association, and you have paradise! *- Lucky Resident*

Dear Editor,

Has Waiatarua finally gone to sleep? I was extremely disappointed to read in last month's newsletter that there is to be no "meet the candidates" meeting in our community this year. The reason given was that there had been little or no attendance at other public meetings organized by the WRRRA recently. Leaving aside the issue that just because I am not interested in one issue I might be vitally interested in another, it seems to me that one of the principal reasons for the WRRRA to exist is to provide forums (fora?) for public debate. Some of these will excite huge interest and some very little, but to judge in advance that there will be no interest shows a confidence in the outcome of future events that I'm sure the rest of us wish we had. The General Election is an issue of vital interest to us all, and especially this year, when the race looks to be quite close, to arbitrarily decide that we can go to a meeting at Oratia if we are interested seems high-handed to say the least. We are not Oratia, and have different concerns and interests. If I lived in Oratia I would feel a bit put out that another area was deciding that they should invade our meeting. At other meetings held in Waiatarua there has often been resentment when people from out of the area have attended in order to push their own barrows - and now we are proposing to do the same!

Maybe I am a lone voice in this, and there is no interest in attending a "meet the candidates" evening. However if you agree with me that one of our long-standing and basic community events is arbitrarily being removed, I urge you to contact a WRRRA committee member and let them know your views. If you prefer, you can contact me on 814 9860 or tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz and I will pass your views on.

- Tony Bacon

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

Rose Hellaby House is a special spot in the Waitakere Ranges. It is a great place for a picnic, or to take visitors for the stunning panoramic views over Auckland. The house and land have a colourful history which will soon be brought to life by the restoration of the surrounding gardens. A comprehensive heritage plan has been completed and the Arataki team will now be working closely with the ARC Heritage team to bring these historic gardens back to their original state. Did you know that the grounds of Rose Hellaby house are available for wedding ceremonies? For more information please contact Jonathan Gould, ph: 817-0086.

You may have noticed some changes to the area at Parkinsons Lookout (next to the TV mast) recently. We have been working to tidy this area and improve the safety of the car park for visitors. We have installed new signage on both approaches to the lookout. We have cleared the front garden and opened up the picnic area so that visitors can now keep an eye on their car while still enjoying some time out with family and friends. We will continue to work at Parkinsons over the coming months to further improve the facilities and make this area an attractive part of our park.

Finally, our nursery is looking decidedly bare after a hugely successful planting season. A range of native species have been returned to the park at Piha, Cascades, Muriwai, Huia and Whatipu. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked with us during the planting season - your efforts are always appreciated. And to our regular nursery volunteers, Marnie and Jeanette, you are both stars!

Now, roll on longer days and warmer weather...until then, Ka kite. *- The Arataki Rangers*

Youth Service Comes To Town - be a mentor

The Waitakere Youth Transition Services has opened a resource centre on the ground floor of the John Henry Centre at 10 Pioneer Street in Henderson. The shop-front location is a starting point for teenagers between 15 and 17, who are not engaged in education or work, to find a job or to begin further training or tertiary study.

"The Youth Transition initiative is for any young people who do not have a clear plan when they leave school," says Councillor Ewen Gilmour, Waitakere City Council Advocate for Child and Youth. "Often people need a helping hand so they don't fall down the cracks. The service and the youth resource centre encourages young people to feel a sense of entitlement and to access information on youth issues and services. They are able to do a CV, use the facilities to search for jobs, and go to skills workshops. This is somewhere they can meet their mentors and take some serious steps towards building a real future," he says.

The Waitakere Youth Transition Services has been developed by the Ministry of Social Development with Waitakere City Council. The service is delivered by Youth Horizons in partnership with Hoani Waititi Marae and the Waitakere Community.

Mentors are sought for the programme. They must be over 21 and live in Waitakere City. Full training is given: 21 hours over seven weeks. No formal qualifications are necessary but volunteers will be expected to give references and undergo a police check.

What is a mentor?

A mentor is a friend who can be an adviser, wise guide, networker, resource, teacher or a coach. If you think you fit one or more of these categories, the Waitakere Youth Transition Services would like to hear from you.

"We are looking for positive role models in the community: volunteers who are good listeners, non judgemental who want to share their wisdom in a one-to-one partnership which may last for up to 18 months. But also, we want to find people who will be a supportive friend, have fun together and work to develop the potential of young people participating in our programme," says Mentor Coordinator Caitlin Bush. "People who have been mentors say the relationship with a younger person benefits them just as much, as they learn a lot about tolerance, improve their communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of youth issues. They are supported and supervised by programme staff through the mentoring relationship," she says.

Chairperson of Waitakere City Council's Youth and Advocacy Committee Councillor Linda Cooper adds, "We need people to step out of their comfort zone and give mentoring a go. We have over 200 young people who have been referred, or referred themselves to the Waitakere Youth Transition Services. These young people are considered at-risk, having disengaged from school, work or training. The mentor training focuses on bringing mentors up to speed with contemporary youth issues, goal setting, communication, resiliency, child safety and resolving conflicts".

For more information, please contact Caitlin Bush, Mentor Coordinator, phone (09) 835 1176 or email caitlinb@youthorizons.org.nz or to find out more about the Waitakere Youth Transition Services ph 0800 WEST UP (0800 937 887).

Waiatarua Playcentre AGM

will be held on

Tuesday the 13th of September 7.30pm

at Waiatarua Playcentre, 911 West Coast Road just down below the Waiatarua community library and hall.

We extend a warm invite to all community members as our AGM, like all of our meetings, is relaxed with everyone welcome to contribute.

**For more information,
phone the centre during session times**

(9.30-12.30)

or ring Kay on 814 9403.

NZ's Largest Recycling Service

As we are all aware, a new fortnightly recycling collection service using blue and yellow mobile wheeled bins is underway in Waitakere City and North Shore City. Residents, participating schools and businesses now have their recycling collected from 140-litre mobile recycling bins (wheelie bins), instead of the smaller 45L crates previously used. Paper and cardboard, placed separately beside the recycling bins, is also collected fortnightly.

More than 15,000 tonnes of recycling - enough to fill over 73 Olympic swimming pools - will be collected every year from both regions and then brought to a new sorting facility, the only one of its kind in New Zealand. Located at Waitakere City's Refuse Transfer Station, the sorting facility has employed almost a dozen new staff.

"The ultimate goal of these new waste minimisation initiatives is to reduce the amount of rubbish we are sending to landfill," says Waitakere City Councillor Janet Clews. "By working together with our neighbours on the Shore we are gaining efficiencies in several areas that will benefit both cities financially and environmentally. The combined volumes of recyclables that we will collect make this project a viable business operation." These combined recycling volumes are projected to increase by more than 200 tonnes per month within a year's time.

Glass, metals and plastics from New Zealand's fourth and fifth largest cities is tipped into a hopper and then fed onto a conveyer belt where all but the metals are sorted by hand. Steel and aluminium get pulled up off the belt by electro-magnetic and electrical current separators. The system, designed by Auckland-based engineering firm Alert Engineering Ltd., is designed to cope with the forecasted increase in recycling.

"Although common overseas, we are not aware of any Council in New Zealand using a system of this magnitude, particularly one that involves glass," says Mike Huddleston (CEO of Onyx Group Ltd.) - the company responsible for building and staffing this operation, as well as collecting the recycling from both cities.

The new recycling collection programme replaces the more hazardous and costly method of sorting recycling on the kerbside, where collection staff were manually lifting heavy crates, tipping them into the truck and sorting the contents in the middle of busy roads.

Street litter will also be reduced, as the bins will protect the items inside from being blown about by the wind, some of which end up blocking stormwater drains.

The new blue and yellow mobile recycling bins that have been delivered to all households free of charge are three times the size of the crates they have replaced, and will make it easier for people to waste less and recycle more.

A purpose-built fleet of vehicles painted with an eye-catching new theme emphasising recycling and waste reduction are collecting all recycling and rubbish from both cities.

For more information, please contact:

Jon Roscoe, project manager for shared services and Waitakere's solid waste manager, on 836 8505.

GARDEN GROUP

Our next garden visit will be held on Wednesday the 7th of September at 1-00 p.m. We are visiting Valeside Gardens at 266 Pt. View Drive, Howick; which is a garden of one-and-a-quarter acres. There are spectacular views over Auckland to enjoy, and a huge collection of plants for every gardener's taste (collected since 1994). There is an entrance fee of \$8.00, and residents of Waitakere are welcome to join us. Please phone Eileen on 814 9298 for further information or carpooling.



Waitakere Autumn Festival Earlybirds

Spring is in the air and we want you to include next year's Waitakere Autumn Festival in your garden plans! Here are the competition categories for the green fingered. There will be a children's class in all these categories and the adult's class can be an individual adult or a family entry:

- **Heaviest pumpkin**
- **Home-grown veges** - 3 different varieties
- **Home-grown flowers** - 3 blooms of the same variety

And for children only, with separate classes for preschoolers and 5 -12 years:

- **Tallest sunflower**
- **Largest diameter sunflower**



So... get the compost going and a raised bed started, in pursuit of an early sowing - for "as ye sow, so also shall ye reap." And we, your trusty WRRRA committee, are working hard to procure lots of good prizes; so that bumper pumpkin could be worth its weight in gold.

There will be other competitions too. For example: home brew gingerbeer, so start practising now (we're trying to persuade Frank to share his 'Secret Family Recipe' with our readers); a few crafts including a needlework sample (hand or machine) up to

500 X 500mm, and a homemade card and envelope with a Waitakere or West Auckland theme. Yes, there are kid's classes for these too, except the gingerbeer which is adult or family.

We're letting you know now so that you can put the last of these cold wet evenings to good use. We'll tell you about the other competition categories nearer the time. There are prizes for all classes!

Please plan to participate in our Autumn Festival (Sunday 26th March 2006) as it's YOU who will make the day a success!

If you'd like to help with this community venture or have prizes to donate please phone Frank on 814 9869 or Michelle on 814 9707.



Waitakere Rainfall (July 2005)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	July Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	27	11th (62 mm)	270 mm	919 mm
Brabant Road	29	11th (59 mm)	283 mm	987 mm
Quinns Road	30	12th (63 mm)	240 mm	834 mm
Forest Hill Road	24	11th (62 mm)	267 mm	892 mm
Auckland City			162 mm	575 mm



If you thought it was wet here in July, spare a thought for the citizens of Mumbai, India. On the 26th, in the middle of a week of monsoon rains, they received a staggering 944 mm of rain. That's our rainfall since the start of the year, falling in 24 hours!

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

CAN YOU RECOMMEND A HOUSEKEEPER? Family of six needs someone who does a good job, has initiative, and is honest and reliable. If you know such a gem who may have 2 - 4 hours for our employ, please call Molly on 814 9034. Thankyou.

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

DRAMA CLASSES: with tutor John Goudge at Rimu Glade Studio, 4 Rimu Rd, Oratia, Waitakere City. 9 week courses for adults, & youth aged 10 -15 yrs. Monday nights, 25 July-19 Sept, 2005. This term: Acting for Camera. Price-Youth \$100. Adults \$150. For more info. or to enrol, ring John (ph) 814 9744 or email goudgedrama@zip.co.nz

FREE COMPUTER COURSES: Learn Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, MYOB and more. NZQA approved Qualls. Study at home using your computer & internet connection. Phone: Active Computer Learning on 836 7572 or email: active.learning@xtra.co.nz

FREE FIREWOOD: - wooden pallets stacked up behind the fire station are FREE for removal. Take as many as you want! First in, first served.

HELLO NEIGHBOUR: - my name is Sheryl Hawkes and I would just like to say a very big thankyou to everyone who responded to my flyer I recently delivered to the Scenic Drive / Mountain Road area, regarding starting in Real Estate. The response was amazing and encouraging. Cheers!

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

OTIMAI: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Cherie and Graham to view 814 9992 or 638 9060 for bookings.

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 Thursday 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.

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 10.00am-5.00pm)



Handyman Services

- Many years experience
- Any work considered
- No Job too small

Contact Les on 814 1130

Thinking of Selling?

General enquiries and after hours appointments are my pleasure.

Michelle Stanborough
Sales & Marketing Consultant

Res: 814 9707
Mob: 021 605 996



Harcourts

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For a FREE quote of your home

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.

The Waitarua Community Hall

Excellent facility for training sessions, meetings, parties, dances, birthdays etc. in a relaxed and pleasant environment.

For booking enquiries phone the
WRRRA enquiry line on 814 9353

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



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SHERYL HAWKES

NORWEST REALTY
RES: 838 6520

Mob: 021 757427

Email: newfie@xtra.co.nz



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER, 2005**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waitarua
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL robsx@free.net.nz