

Robin Essex - Ph 814 1850 E-Mail: robsx@free.net.nz

#### **WRRA President:**

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697 E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

#### WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

## Waiatarua Community N

September - October 2005

#### **EcoWise Community Awards 2005**

The aim of the 'EcoWise Community Awards' is to celebrate and honour the people of Waitakere City who show a commitment to beautifying their City and caring for their environment through volunteer action and pride.

The Kauri Award - Most active individual volunteer working in the community to beautify Waitakere City, or reduce litter, weeds and graffiti.

The Totara Award - Most active group of volunteers working in the community to beautify Waitakere City, or reduce litter, weeds and graffiti (may include church groups, sports clubs or any other community group).

The Rewarewa Award - Best native residential garden in an urban environment - the garden which best reflects Waitakere City's eco-systems with a range of flora attractive to native birds.

The Kowhai Award - Best urban residential vegetable garden - the garden which meets the food needs of the family living at the property.

The Pohutukawa Award - Best school grounds - the tidiest and best presented grounds which are litter and graffitifree through ongoing action by the students. The judges will also consider gardens within the school grounds which have been planted and tended by the students.

The Puriri Award - Best shop frontage - the most attractive individual shop or group of shops (outside a mall environment) which present a visually attractive, litter and graffiti-free view to passersby.

The Rimu Award - Most presentable street - the street which is the tidiest, cleanest, litter and graffiti-free street in Waitakere City through neighbourhood action

#### Conditions of Entry:

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 7th October 2005. All nominations must be in writing. Photographs (print or digital printouts) should accompany nomination forms if possible. Any resident of Waitakere City may enter the 'EcoWise Community Awards' on their own behalf or by nominating another party. Judging of each category will be carried out by a panel of judges representing Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust, Waitakere City Community Boards and the Waitakere City Council. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The nomination forms and accompanying documents become the property of Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust and may be used for promotional purposes. Winners will receive a certificate and prizes. The winners will be announced at a Civic function to be held at Waitakere City Council Chambers on Friday 28th October 2005 between 5 - 7pm.

Please forward entries to: EcoWise Awards, c/o PO Box 15 215 New Lynn or phone: 826 4276.



# Community Breakfast Sunday the 6th of November, (9am on)

Following lots of requests for another of these Sunday morning get-togethers, committee have planned a community breakfast for Sunday the 6th of November, **9am on**. We won't be having one next March because of the Autumn Festival, so take this chance to join friends and neighbours for a cafe-style Sunday breakfast at the Waiatarua Community Hall. Enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast plus pastries, muffins and fruit - all prepared by the WRRA Committee. There will be children's activities, a prize or two and a raffle.

\$15-00 adults, \$8-00 children under 12, or for WRRA members \$10-00 adults, \$5-00 children. Prebook please with Rod rod.m@xtra.co.nz or phone/fax 814 1831. Alternatively, leave a message on the Hall Phone 814 9353

### Waiatarua Autumn Festival

Sunday 26th March 2006 (10am - 4pm)

Put this in your diary now and come along for a good old-fashioned country day. There will be the wonderful crafts our area is so well-known for, plus games and entertainment. Of course there will also be baking, gardening and craft competitions for adults, children, and families - all with prizes! Devonshire teas and lunch available. Don't forget pumpkins, sunflowers and some flowers and vegetables for our competitions when you put your garden in this spring. And we have procured



Frank's gingerbeer recipe for you. Even if your brew doesn't win the prize, you will enjoy this refreshing bubbly mix over the summer months.

#### Waiatarua Rainfall (August 2005)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	August Total	Year to Date
<b>Mountain Road</b>	14	1st (16 mm)	63 mm	98 mm
<b>Brabant Road</b>	17	23rd (15 mm)	57 mm	1044 mm
Quinns Road	18	1st (20mm)	54 mm	908 mm
Forest Hill Road	12	1st, 22nd (12 mm)	54 mm	946 mm
Auckland City			37 mm	612 mm

#### From the Editor

Robin Essex

As I stood in front of the women's bathroom mirror at Waiatarua's Community Hall rehearsing my incessant lines for the latest drama production, two strange things happened: I was suddenly reminded of every "said the actress to the bishop" joke I'd ever heard; and I inexplicably managed to conjure up an auditory reminder of those awful TV show titles such as 'When Chainsaws Attack'. Why? Well, let me try and explain. You see, my relationship with this local hall has become rather intimate – I seem to be spending more and more time up there (along with many others). Every nook and cranny appears to ooze juicy gossip and colourful history.

It set me to thinking... imagine if halls could talk!

Think of the events that would have taken place on this community-centred plot, and within the walls of the current hall

In June 2004, we reported "our very own community hall is planted on the site where Mrs Impey once provided care for Tubercular patients in Nihotupu House". Bless her.

The completion of Waiatarua's public facility in the early 1970's must have been an auspicious occasion. At last people sharing common interests were able to meet in larger numbers outside of their own homes.

Council related events could now happen on residents' doorsteps e.g., polling booths!

Waiatarua soon sprung an early drama group which led on to the building of their very own clubhouse, called 'Badgers', still standing in all its glory at the bottom of the driveway. I'm sure the hall would have hosted a great variety of events over the years. Those floorboards must have steadfastly supported thousands of tapping feet at many a lively shin-dig. No doubt, the place was often thick with smoke in the days of 'cigarette acceptance' – the perfect atmosphere for those raunchy love-at-first looks across crowded rooms.

Of course the WRRA meetings brought a different facet to the goings on within. Countless heated discussions most definitely would have taken place, naturally with the community's best interests at heart. The association obviously also made the most of the venue by organising information evenings, meet the candidates sessions, community breakfasts, wine and cheese nights, Autumn Festivals and the like.

1996 to 2002 saw the community centre rocked by the trilogy series "Phone 1125-J", the Fire Brigade's much appreciated contribution to performing arts, which went on to form a TV documentary.

Let's not forget the quaint community library, housed in the hall basement, and enjoyed by those of us who prefer to select their reading from this tranquil environment rather than battle the traffic of suburbia.

Keeping things in the family, a neighbouring playcentre continues to responsibly provide fun and education to local kids. Bravo!

Getting back to 'talking walls' however, my mind runs away with me visualising weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, barbecues, music-halls, rummage sales, karate classes, slide shows and more recently – civil union celebrations.

With the passage of time, additions arrived and upgrades have occurred e.g. heaters, new curtains, comfortable chairs, an annexe, wheelchair-access bathroom, new kitchen with modern appliances etc.

Nevertheless, the ladies toilet represents an icon, almost too precious to replace. Who in their right mind could contemplate silencing those beloved rattling pipes which have carried gallons of water to many a hearty flush? Happy contemplation....

#### **Hot November Night**

Oratia Playgroup Auction, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005 7.30pm. Tickets \$5.00 - includes first glass of wine or beer on arrival and nibbles. Cash bar operating. Auctioning off all new products donated by businesses: everything from fishing gear to lingerie, kids toys, BMX bikes - you name it we have got it. Contact Kelly Humphrey on 814 8838 for a ticket. Limited numbers.

Hi All - I write this month expressing views as an individual, and as I see my role as President. This has been brought on by Tony Bacon's letter to the editor last month, and although I could have responded then I decided to leave the arena open for your comments. Well, we heard from six people, three before newsletter release (including Tony) and three after.

I'm sure there are others who never responded but more importantly, criticisms were made about the present committee which I take exception to.

As President I only have one vote on committee but I do have an obligation and duty to guide the committee in the right direction, so I also take such comments personally.

How does one end up as President? Well basically, turn up at the A.G.M put your hand up (usually the only one) and you're it. Nobody is interested in how you see the association running, what your ideals are or anything; other than 'some sucker took the job'.

Well I'm going to tell you how this sucker thinks, in case I decide to stand in February; thus giving you plenty of time to stand or vote against me. The first thing I'll make clear is that nothing has changed my mind on the decision we made this time about political candidates meetings, and in fact Oratia came to the same decision. The other thing is, as far as I'm concerned, just because it was always done that way in the past doesn't mean it was right, popular or will be done again.

I have studied the constitution and have copied the Objects as they appear with comments to each one

#### **OBJECTS:**

The objects of the Association which is a 'non-party political' Association shall be:

- . To encourage and organise combined efforts to achieve the objects hereinafter set forth. **Comment -** Standard opening item.
- 2. To co-operate with the Statutory Bodies in looking after the affairs of the District and to secure the maximum fair expenditure of the General Rates levied by such Bodies within the District for the benefit of ratepayers, residents and visitors.

**Comment -** This to me means to work with and monitor the activities of the Waitakere City Council as it affects our area. We have representation at most community board meetings, working parties such as: Ranges Protection, long term district plan, wastewater management. We have liased on behalf of individuals as well as the community on matters concerning Wheelie bins, septic tank cleaning, road safety and many others.

- 3. To pursue and undertake any activity with the object of establishing, improving or preserving social, cultural or sporting activities or amenities or the unique natural environment of the area.
  Comment This is to me the fun part and in the last 18 months we have re-established the drama club, held a community breakfast, information night (who ,what ,why), volunteers xmas B.B.Q, produce a monthly newsletter (which I might add is the envy of neighbouring Ratepayers groups) and are currently working on another breakfast, b.b.q. and the Autumn Festival. With other activities in the pipeline. . .
- To co-operate with or act in support of any person or organisation in or towards the achievements of the objects of the Association.

**Comment - Well covered above.** 

I am proud of what we as a committee have achieved in the last 18 months, and it is my intention we will continue on a similar path.

Two comments we received were: "Principal reason for our existence was to provide public debate forums" and "Political candidates meeting the single most important thing we do". If that's the case I'm the wrong man, as I believe a good community environment for the majority is our mandate.

The original notification of no meeting was in the July newsletter and it took a month for the first complaint. Instead of complaining, somebody could have offered their services to organise or help organise one.

You have an enthusiastic committee covering many age groups and we intend to move forward with new direction and focus. Thanks. - Dave Pocock

#### **Roadwatch Report**

Les Duffield

ow would you like to wake up to the screech of brakes and a loud thump, followed by the sound of a car rolling over? How many times, even the driver didn't know!

To my relief, on arriving at the scene (after a very hasty dress), I found the driver had crawled out of the vehicle unharmed and was talking to another driver.

West Coast Road had claimed another victim. This motorist was aware that she wasn't speeding, but probably was going too fast for the conditions. At that location there are ripples on the road surface and, when wet, this combination can be lethal. Thanks to the other drivers (both tradesmen) who stopped to assist in the traffic control.

Please slow down and drive carefully. There is no such thing as an accident – these occurences are crashes. *The difference:* **driver responsibility.** 

**To Sonya:** I would like to thank you for stopping your run and helping my daughter who was comforting an injured cat at the side of the road. Sonya not only stopped, but went and got her car and took the cat to the vet. Thank you.

**Forest Hill Road:** re the slip area where we have to go to a single lane (horrible little bumps, are they not?). Work should have started by the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, and this will last about a month. Cross over to West Coast Road via Kelly's Road, but watch out for speeding cars.

- Les Duffield

#### **Tickets Going Fast**

If you have not already secured your tickets to the comedy play "A Knight To Remember" at our local hall (911 West Coast Rd.), presented by Waiatarua Performing Arts Society, then get in quick! The final night is completely sold out, but you may still be lucky for Sept. 28, 29, 30 @ 8.00pm. Adults \$15-00 and children \$10-00. Phone: Gary on 814 8737.

#### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Friday 8th September I had a few musician friends over to our studio (4 RImu Rd) for a night of music & celebration. I sincerely apologise to all neighbours who may have been annoyed by the loud sounds of drum, bass, guitars & voices.

However, to the person who called Waitakere City Council Noise Control (who arrived at 11.40pm) I have this to say: Why not just come over & tell us we are too noisy? Or you could have phoned - my number is frequently in the Waiatarua News, advertising drama classes (it is 814 9744, by the way). If you had done so, I would have apologised profusely & probably sent you chocolates or flowers. You instead decided to call the authorities?! What's with that? That is not very neigbourly. I can only surmise that you have no fortitude to actually speak to fellow human beings, & probably live a pathetic life with no fun. I am extrememly sorry for you. Next time you hear us enjoying ourselves, why not come & join us? You are more than welcome. You might just enjoy yourself. Yours sincerely, John Goudge

#### Dear Editor

After an unpleasant reminder of how harsh our roads can be late on the evening of September 1st, I was prompted to write this letter. I don't know the names of the poor people who lost two dogs, probably as a result of being hit by a vehicle; and I can only imagine the hurt they must be feeling. I'd like to thank the lady, in the Nissan Langley/Pulsar, who stopped to help collect these pets off the corner of Kelly's and Forest Hill Road that evening. I am sure she was just as upset about the unpleasant scene as I was. So just remember, if you are travelling on our roads, that anything unexpected may happen. And if you are unfortunate enough to injury an animal, it would be really nice if you would stop and assist.

#### Fire Brigade

Outside fires don't need a fire permit until the end of November. You DO still need to follow Council bylaws - the fire must be supervised, out by sunset, at least 10 metres from a building and 3 metres from the boundary, have a cleared area around it and have some means of control (e.g. a hose). You can be required to extinguish it at any time if it is a nuisance to your neighbours or the Fire Brigade believe it to be unsafe.

#### **Recent Calls**

As at the time of writing, it's seven weeks since the fire siren last sounded in anger on 29th July. Well done everyone!

The Fire Station was used as a base for a Police search on Wednesday the 14th of September. There was concern about an elderly gentleman missing for several hours after visiting a relative in Waiatarua. The Police helicopter and dog teams had been searching for a couple of hours, and Search and Rescue volunteers were starting to set up when he was located safe and well.

#### **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).

#### **Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust - Operation Spring Clean**

The annual Operation Spring Clean event aims to increase awareness about waste in the environment by encouraging schools, service organisations, sports clubs, church groups, community groups, businesses and individuals to take an active role in cleaning up the environment.

Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust provides rubbish bags, gloves, jumbo bins and disposal to anyone registering a clean-up on public land.

Have you registered for Operation Spring Clean 2005 (19 September - 16 October)? We need you to help make our city a healthier and even more beautiful place to live.

Please register now and tell us what you'd like to do to remove litter and clean up your community, school grounds, street, local park, beach, river, lake or any other part of the environment which you think needs attention. Share your ideas and plans with us.

Together we can make our community a better place. Together we can make a real difference! ONLINE Registration: www.kwbt.org.nz Phone: 826 4276

Alternatively, register by post: PO Box 15 215 New Lynn; fax: 826 4278; email: moira@kwbt.org.nz

DON'T DELAY, REGISTER TODAY. THANK YOU!

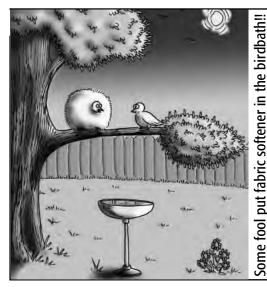
#### **About Neighbourhood Support New Zealand**

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Incorporated was established in 1999. A committee of 12 elected District Delegates and deputies meet quarterly. Neighbourhood Support works closely with the Police and many other organisations in your community to reduce crime, improve safety and prepare to deal with emergencies and natural disasters.

**Aims**: Neighbourhood Support aims to make our homes, streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer and more caring places in which to live.

Neighbourhood Support Groups enable people to share information, ideas and insights.

A Neighbourhood Support Group will: Encourage neighbours to talk to each other; share information that will help reduce the risk and fear of crime; help foster a sense of community spirit, where everyone is respected and valued; educate and empower neighbours to take responsibility for their own safety; identify the needs of neighbours and ways to assist each other; identify the strengths and skills of neighbours to contribute to solving local problems; minimise burglaries and car crime in the local area; reduce graffiti, vandalism, violence and disorder; support victims of crime; enhance the safety features and appearance of the neighbourhood; decide on ways to handle any civil emergencies that may occur; know when and how to contact Police, other emergency services or support agencies; liaise and co-operate with other community groups. **Contact:** Trish Maxwell, Phone: 09 834 5813



#### **Welcome Donations**

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association welcomes any donations towards community hall improvements, for example: safe, new tables to go with the lovely comfortable chairs. We sincerely appreciate Michelle Stanborough's commitment to advance \$100-00 for every house she sells in Waiatarua. Heartfelt thanks for your generosity Michelle, way beyond your contribution as WRRA minute-taker!

#### The Arataki Rangers RoundUp

Kia ora. It seems like spring has arrived early to the Waitakere Ranges. The kowhai and clematis are already in flower and the tuis are having a ball around Arataki. We have been busy with general maintenance of the park over the last month, taking advantage of the great weather to do some weed control and track work.

We have installed two new seats on the Zig Zag track. The seats were made by Bill Beveridge of the Friends of Arataki after a donation was made to the group. The Friends of Arataki chose the seat locations to give great views and tranquil resting spots on the track.

Over the next couple of months we will be running a Pig Control programme throughout the park. The objectives of this programme are to remove all feral pigs within the Waitakere Ranges. This programme will also meet Animal Health Board requirements for the testing of TB. Pig control will be undertaken by three hunting teams and will occur on weekdays only. For information regarding dates and areas for control, please phone the Arataki Visitor Centre on 817-0077

Finally, some mystery at Whatipu Lodge for you... recently a team of contractors had an interesting find when excavating the tennis court at Whatipu Lodge. Whilst digging up the concrete, they noticed some teeth and fragments of bone. The digging was put on hold while a team of archaeologists came to investigate the discovery. A number of bone fragments (including human, bird, sheep, cow) along with nails, window glass, obsidian flakes, railway spikes, slate pencils were found. Dr Lisa Matisoo-Smith (University of Auckland) identified the 'use wear' pattern on the teeth as typical of pre-European Maori. The remains were not indicative of a primary burial and were in a very disturbed deposit. This material most likely represents a collection of fossicked material gathered by itinerant visitors to Whatipu and later discarded!

Until next time, keep smiling! - Ka kite from The Arataki Rangers



Our October visit is to the special local garden of Kitty Sunde, 10 Atarua Gardens. This is a beautiful 'all seasons' garden with a variety of plantings. Meet at 1-00 pm, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Please ring Eileen on 814 9298 by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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

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**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.

Marvellous Mosaics: A chance to make some beautiful Xmas gifts – an ancient art – surprisingly easy to learn. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. 9.30am – 5.00pm @ Titirangi Community House. Cost: \$65-00. Call Lorraine on 817 7448 to enrol, and Helen (tutor) on 838 1320 for list of materials you'll need.

**Maths Tutton:** - To year thirteen, experienced high school teacher Phone 814 9269.

**OTIMAL:** - 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

**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.

#### Drama Classes at Rimu Glade Studio 4 Rimu Rd, Oratia, with tutor John Goudge.

Nine-week courses Monday nights, 10th October to 12th December, 2005

Youth Class, (aged 10-15 yrs), 5-7 pm, Acting for Fun - \$100

Having fun & working with others helps develop confidence, self-expression, & team-work.

Adult Class, 7.30–10 pm, Improvised Theatre - \$150. Learn & practise the art of improvisation—thinking on your feet. On last night of term we perform for friends & family.

Also: Open Performance Night, Rimu Glade Studio Friday 28 October, from 7.30 pm, 4 Rimu Rd, Waiatarua, Waitakere City. Open Performance Nights are for actors, poets, musicians & dancers to perform in an encouraging atmosphere. Everyone is welcome to either watch or perform (entry by donation).

For more info. or to enrol, ring John (ph) 814 9744, or email goudgedrama@zip.co.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 10.00am-5.00pm)



#### Handyman Services

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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



#### WEST COAST

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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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The WRRA 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 Waiatarua Community Hall**

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

For booking enquiries phone the WRRA 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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NORWEST'

#### **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor, by **WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER, 2005** Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waiatarua. Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz