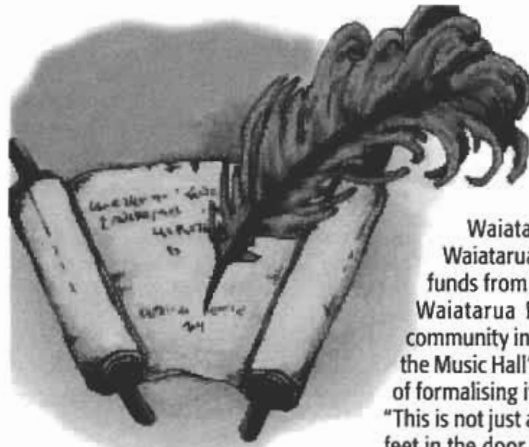


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

April - May 2006

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Get Your Act Together

Hear ye, hear ye... a call goes out to any playwrights interested in submitting One Act plays to the Waiatarua Performing Arts Society for consideration in their next staged event. Drama, comedy or musical... all genres considered. Closing date for scripts is Friday the 26th of May. Preference will be given to writers who are also able to direct their own work.

Waiatarua Performing Arts Society was formed late 2004, after the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association initiated interest in residue funds from a previous drama group, no longer operating.

Waiatarua Performing Arts Society brought entertainment to the local community in the form of two very successful productions last year - 'Murder at the Music Hall' and 'A Knight to Remember'. The group is currently in the process of formalising its status - most likely to that of a Charitable Trust.

"This is not just a chance for practised performers, artists and writers to keep their feet in the door but also the perfect opportunity for newbies to test the waters in

a safe, friendly environment", says Christine Healy (Big Lil).

For further information re involvement with WPAS or submission of plays, please phone Christine on 814 9505 or Robin on 814 1850.

2016 and Beyond

Waitakere City Councillors have completed their deliberations on the draft Annual Plan and Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The Annual Plan sets projects and budgets for the 2006/2007 financial year while the LTCCP, a new requirement under the Local Government Act, sets priorities for the next 10 years.

Councillors have deliberated for two weeks and the plans are open to public submissions until May 12th. After that, hearings will be conducted and the final plan adopted in June.

The draft budgets show an average rates increase of 6.85% for the coming financial year with similar figures indicated for the next 10 years. The major drivers are depreciation and interest charges which alone account for over half of the proposed increases.

In the next financial year the Council will spend the bulk of its money (78%) on stormwater, wastewater, parks and roading.

Some features of the 2006/2007 budget:

- A feasibility study into a 3000 seat covered grandstand at the Douglas Track and Field in Henderson (next to the Trusts Stadium)
- Water rates remain unchanged (at \$1.48 per cubic metre)
- \$2 million in next year's budget for a re-development of Lopdell House in Titirangi (subject to a feasibility study)
- Universal Dr in Henderson will get a \$2 million upgrade
- A new Civil Defence headquarters (\$1 million)

Meanwhile, the Council is also considering a change in its rating methodology. As part of the Annual Plan and LTCCP process, it will consult with the public over a proposal to change from a system based on land value to capital value (and a move to a Uniform Annual Charge for wastewater on residential properties, rather than having wastewater assessed against property values).

Under land value, the value of a property as a vacant site determines its rating valuation. Under capital value, the value of improvements (such as buildings) is also taken into account. The change would redistribute the rates burden more evenly and does not increase the Council's total rate requirement.

Ratepayers will receive individualised letters outlining the impact of the proposed change to Capital Value (and the other proposals) on their property.

Other issues highlighted for consultation are:

- Targeted Rates - whether specific areas that are being developed with significant Council funding, and which will benefit economically, should be rated separately.
- Cycleways - should the Council spend \$6 million (over the next 10 years) on completing a network of cycleways across the City?
- Transport Strategy - Whether the strategy and associated programme of around \$380 million on physical works in roading, public transport and other initiatives is favoured (spread over the next 10 years).

For further information: Cr Clews, Chair of the LTCCP and Annual Plan Special Committee - (818 7262). Andrew Pollock, Director of Finance - (839 0400).

Dream Come True

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc. will launch its grand book on the Waitakere Ranges on **Sunday May 7th at 3.00 pm** in the Titirangi War Memorial Hall, South Titirangi Road / Titirangi Village. This book has over fifty contributors and covers the natural history, history and arts and writers of the Ranges area. This book has something for everyone who loves the beautiful Waitakere Ranges - over 500 pages, hard-covered, in full colour and lavishly illustrated. The publication has been a dream of the Society for twenty years, which has finally come to reality. It is sponsored by Waitakere City, Auckland Regional Council, ASB Trust, Lotteries and the Licensing Trusts. Come and share in the excitement of its launch. All welcome.

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

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911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Michelle Stanborough
Ph 814 9707

Library hours:

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

WEB Site:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

From the Editor

Robin Essex

I've been thinking about hobbies lately, triggered by my involvement in our recent Autumn Festival. It was pretty gob-smacking to see so many locals sharing and enjoying their 'fruits' of recreational pastimes. To watch a woman rub wool over a wet rock and produce the most gorgeous felt treasures just blew me away, and the content smile on her face said it all.

I'm jealous - that's all there is to it. Time to put my money where my mouth is, methinks. Actually, being editor is great therapy. It allows me to think out loud, often putting myself in a better position to make conscious lifestyle changes. For example, once I announced I wanted to reduce my middle-age-spread, I was instantly committed to a daily walk (especially after being approached by two well-meaning readers to join them on their regular strolls).

A hobby of course is a favourite subject or occupation that is not one's main business. Some of us are lucky enough to be employed in work that we're passionate about, but I reckon it's still a good idea to have the luxury of dabbling in an activity which purely feeds our souls.

Knitting springs to mind - mainly because I was witness to an extremely enthusiastic, needle-happy driver at the wheel of her car... knitting whilst waiting for a red light. Yes, that's right. What utter commitment to the textured yarn fraternities! On second thoughts, I might give that one a miss. It could be dangerous.

Mosaics sound interesting, a favourite pursuit enjoyed by my office colleague. It's so inspiring to hear about her relaxing pleasures recalled on a Monday morning, compared to my "Well, I got all the washing and housework up to date".

I am sure within our community there are countless backyard hobbyists, quietly celebrating their pleasurable pursuits. Anyway, watch this space. You never know what the universe might now drop into my lap.

Life and Soul at the Markets

Take one family man, who just happens to be a busy cabinetmaker working from home building sets for Television, and you have a community-minded fellow miraculously finding the time to develop a focal point for art/craft and produce enthusiasts to gather.

Peter Bunting is set to launch the first of many exciting, local markets in Oratia - gateway to Waitatarua. A café and live music with 'Westumbria' will enhance the atmosphere, to be enjoyed by all those passing through.

Mr Bunting has resided in the immediate area for 18 years, having previously grown up in various West Auckland suburbs. His four children have either been pupils at Oratia School, or are currently attending.

Peter appreciates social events organised by the school and other community organisations, but he would love to see a regular meeting place for like-minded people to come together.

The first market will take place on Sunday May 14th, and runs from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm in the Oratia Hall and carpark. Indoor stalls cost \$25 and outdoors \$20.

Call Peter or Teresa Bunting on 818 9272 or 027 457 6367 for more information.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

The **bouquet** this time is being sent to say thanks to Tania Nearn, our cat rescue volunteer (see article within).

A **brickbat** goes to the foolish driver who dangerously accesses West Coast Road from Parker Ave, via the one-way ENTRY stretch!

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Kevin Healy from the Keep Waitakere Beautiful trust will be our guest on Wednesday the 3rd of May at 1.00 pm. Kevin will give us an insight into the problems Waitakere faces with 'out of control' weeds; but also the good things that are happening around the city. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 by 28th April for further information.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi! Well autumn has arrived with a hiss and a roar, which brings me to our recent Autumn Festival. This was a very successful day in spite of bad weather, which caused a change to plans by curtailing outdoor activities. It is amazing how many activities and people can fit into our hall - a nice cosy atmosphere prevailed. We received good entries for the competitions... congratulations to the prize winners. Special thanks go to our sponsors. Through their generosity and a Waitakere City Council grant we now have nice new tables in the hall.

This festival, following on the heels of a very successful Community Breakfast, only came about with a lot of effort from a dedicated committee. This committee is becoming smaller and so these functions may have to be scaled down unless we can acquire more committee members, or people prepared to help on a working party for specific activities. The latter does not mean being a committee member. Give it some thought, and we would love to hear from you.

The candidates by-election meeting was held at the Oratia Hall last week, and our decision not to host one at our hall was reinforced by the fact that only myself and Les Duffield attended from Waitatarua. Mind you, there were only a handful of Oratia residents, mainly committee. On the bright side there appears to be a good return on postal votes, so if yours is not in yet please tick the candidate you want and drop in the post.

We have introduced a new communication system for all those items that happen between newsletters. This is in the form of e-mail to financial members who have supplied an e-mail address. If you are a member with an e-mail and have not received them, forward your e-mail address to davepocock@xtra.co.nz

By the way, just a friendly reminder that all memberships expired on the 31st of December so if your card still says 2005, it is due for renewal.

Shirley and I had an enjoyable time attending the Waitatarua Fire Brigade's awards evening and 40th Anniversary celebrations at Elevations. Thank you to Ian Ford and the Brigade for an entertaining event and congratulations to all those who received awards

Finally, to the concerned person who dropped a nice letter in my letterbox (792 West Coast Rd) expressing concern about my large dog coming down the drive when they are walking their dog... we do not have a dog of any size. Unfortunately you left no contact name or details so I have been unable to assist you, but please give me a call on 814 9697.

That's all for this month from Dave.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

The social event of the month was our Brigade dinner at Elevation last Friday, where we also celebrated our 40th birthday. Guests of honour were the original Fire Party's "founding fathers": John Isaachsen, the first superintendent; and Bill Beveridge, the former Chief Ranger who trained the original group of good keen men and women.

We also presented current Brigade members with Service honours. The NZ Fire Service awarded a Long Service and Good Conduct medal to Richard Seccombe for 14 years service. Ian Ford (21 yrs) received a first clasp to the LSGC, and Lyndsay Whittle (35 yrs) a third clasp.

United Fire Brigades Association 3 year Certificates of Service were awarded to Renée Mihaljevich-Groves and Maxine Arden. Five year silver medals were presented to Gareth Mullins, Steve Smith, Karl Nuttall, Aaron Offenbaker and Derek Renata. And medal bars marking an additional two years' service went to Kevin Healy (9 yrs), Ryan Groves (11 yrs) and Lyndsay Whittle.

Recent calls:

11:23 pm, Fri 17 Mar - Car over bank, Piha Rd. Same old story - excessive speed, a powerful car, a driver not used to the road. Two of the five occupants were hospitalised, one with nasty facial injuries. We stayed to assist Police and the Serious Crash Unit with lighting and traffic control for the next 3 hours.

10:12 am, Sun 19 Mar - Rubbish fire, Forest Hill Rd. No action required; permitted fire posing no danger.

5:47 pm, Tue 21 Mar - Car overturned, Piha Rd. No injuries.

8:51 pm, Mon 3 Apr - False alarm, Waitakere Hospital.

5:33 am, Wed 12 Apr - Car fire, Anawhata Rd.

Fire Permits:

From the beginning of May until the end of November you do not need to apply to the Council for a permit for an outdoor fire. However, your fire must still comply with WCC by-laws. These include it being safe and supervised, out by sunset, not too close to buildings or boundaries, and not being a nuisance to your neighbours. For full details phone the Council or go to <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/abtcit/cp/ruralfire.asp>

Contacts:

Phone 111 for fires and emergencies. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Waitatarua Rainfall (March 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	16	26th (24 mm)	94mm	220 mm
Brabant Road	19	21st (26 mm)	113mm	236 mm
Quinns Road	19	22nd (29mm)	101mm	194 mm
Forest Hill Road	12	21st (22 mm)	111mm	231 mm
Auckland City			64mm	150 mm

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

An exciting new pilot programme has been launched in the Cascades Kauri Park. Five Auckland Secondary Schools in association with the Arataki Education Team and Ark in the Park are embarking on a fortnightly exercise in pest/predator control and monitoring. This is a rare opportunity for these students to develop a hands-on skill base and an appreciation of a practical conservation approach. At over 2000 hectares, Ark in the Park represents one of the largest restoration projects in New Zealand.

Anybody yet to explore this remarkable open sanctuary is in for a treat as it boasts some of the greatest stands of un-logged kauri in the Waitakere Ranges with rich bird life. This area is accessible from the walks beginning at the end of Falls Road off Te Henga/Bethells Beach Road.

A new pou is nearing completion and will be erected at Karamatura. This is a joint project between Te Kawerau a Maki, Friends of Arataki and the ARC. The pou addresses the traditional naming of the area: 'Kaingamatu' (the dwelling place of the deaf lovers). We will advise you when it is in place and encourage you to explore the extra value this adds to the Karamatura experience.

The finishing touches on the Arataki Nature Trail tunnel have been completed with the retaining wall having reached its final extent. This now allows for the gardens surrounding the tunnel entrance to be barked and planted up.

The Arataki nursery is in full seed collection mode. Species harvested include pohutakawa, ngaio, mahoe, rewarewa, flax, puriri, kahikatea, kawakawa, cabbage tree, kowhai and koromiko. These will be propagated at Arataki where they will then be distributed around the park for various programmes during the planting season. That's it for this month. Happy trails. *Ka kite, The Arataki Rangers*

Thank you very much for your kind donations!



chairs the venue now presents itself perfectly for meetings, training sessions, workshops and team building exercises. If your organisation is looking for a venue, other than your usual boardroom, why not give Michelle a ring on 814 7907 and check out the Waiatarua Community Hall. There is off road parking and the hall kitchen is equipped and ready for your catering needs. Onsite catering can be arranged as can any audio/visual equipment you may require.

After almost two years of dedicated fundraising-via newsletter advertising, community breakfasts, autumn festival and a grant from the Waitakere City Council-the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association is proud to show off the new tables and chairs in the Waiatarua Hall. Bookings for the hall have been steady in the last two years including the local drama group which was happy to utilise this great community facility. We also saw an increase in the hall being used for such events as birthday parties and several civil unions. With the new tables and



Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

Is it not amazing that rain after sun causes cars to slip off roads? – lots of "near misses"!

Letter: To Whom It May Concern:

It seems a lot of money this financial year has been spent on upgrading Old Forest Hill Road. This money used for resealing has produced a much needed??? racetrack for the area. There had already been instances of 'car racing' down this road.

The other day a car speeding down Old Forest Hill Road could not stop at the bottom and hit another car coming down, pushing it to the opposite side of the road and causing considerable damage. This happened in the middle of the day! Old Forest Hill Road meets with Forest Hill Road at a gravel bus stop. This is a major bus stop for the local school children, and at 3.20 pm up to ten children can be alighting at one time. Luckily the bus had not just been on this occasion.

Old Forest Hill Road is mostly one lane and has been popular for locals walking their dogs. Could speed bumps or other safety measures be installed to control the speed on the lane to protect locals? Erosion is a major problem on this road too.

The application of the loose seal also appears to have been a waste of money as, with heavy rain, the road is washed away causing the loose stones to appear in all the lower properties' drains.

- A Concerned Resident

We've also had a conversation with Bob from Tui Crescent who comments that despite the efforts of the WRRRA and others to get a Compulsory Stop installed at the junction of Forest Hill Road and West Coast Road, many motorists are still not bothering to stop. This makes driving in this area extremely dangerous, and 'approach with caution' are the key words here. Bob wonders whether a roundabout might be a better solution.

A big thankyou to all our sponsors and donors of goods to aid our fundraising for new tables at the Waiatarua Hall. A special thanks goes out to all the local sponsors: Terry Prince (artist), Waitakere Estate, Michelle Stanborough (Harcourts), Erwin Langereis (Barfoot & Thompson), Brian Riley (Oratia plumbing), Kenloch Motors, Gordon's Nursery, Alessandra Zecchini and Oratia Superette. The Waiatarua Fire Brigade's help with traffic control on the day was also much appreciated.

We now have our lovely new hall tables. Many thanks to all those who attended our Autumn Festival in such bleak conditions Roll on 2008 for the next one!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

With all the media hype and political attention which Telecom has been receiving I thought I would enquire of the WRRRA members whether any have experienced similar problems with Telecom as I have regarding Broadband services.

Telecom stated on a recent TV news article that if you live within 6km of a Broadband capable exchange that you can receive broadband access. This turns out not to be the case for some residents of Waiatarua. After going through the process of signing up for Broadband and purchasing equipment we were informed on connection day that telephone lines in our area have "line coils". These evidently are a hangover from the days of the old exchange and were used to amplify the line signal. Line coils effect the operation of Broadband and Telecom were not prepared to remove them as this involved digging them up which was not cost effective for one customer.

Also we are not able to receive Telecoms wireless Broadband system as we do not lie in the coverage area and certainly are not eligible for the government subsidy as we are not considered a rural area.

What I am proposing is if any other members have the same problem then maybe if we got together we could petition Telecom to rectify the situation. They may find it justifiable for a number of customers. If any members or residents are interested they could contact me at alley@ihug.co.nz Thanks. *Regards, Dennis Allely - Kauri Loop Road*

Nip Wild Cats in the Bud Please

Certain areas of Waiatarua are being used as dumping grounds for unwanted cats and kittens, causing large feral colonies to develop. Tania Kearns, Treasurer of Auckland Cat Rescue Incorporated, is one of the dedicated volunteers helping to combat this problem in our community.



At one particular site, where residents have been plagued with wild cats for twenty-five years, she has managed to reduce the population down to 4 or 5. Evidently, it is important to maintain a small group of 'fixed' members in order to keep new ones entering a domain. The primary message Tania would like to get across to people is... *If you feed a stray cat, this action deems you responsible - you then need to take the next step by getting the animal to a vet or contacting the SPCA.* It goes without saying that the females require spaying in order to keep numbers down. Shop around for vets however, as prices can vary immensely.

Ms. Kearns is employed professionally full-time, as a University marketing manager in the City. She absolutely adores cats, so her labours of love are 'squeezed in' outside of paid working hours. It is not unusual for Tania to head for Waiatarua straight after work, rescue a cat or two then take them home to Waterview for the night (she liaises with residents over feeding and safe capturing). Up early the next morning, a quick trip out to the SPCA at Mangere precedes the journey to Auckland Central to begin her day job.

Fortunately, Tania's partner is also passionate about cats and very supportive of what she does. The couple often fosters, and re-homing is achieved whenever possible. Many devoted hours are spent cuddling their proteges in front of the TV, part of the process demanded in taming a wild species. "It's worth it in the end. Even just giving one a chance makes it all worthwhile," says Tania. "I receive follow-up photos from time to time, which is lovely."

Auckland Cat Rescue Inc. has just celebrated its first year of existence. The organisation consists of a core team of six executives, with approximately 150 volunteers to call upon. As with the SPCA, they belong to the NZ Companion Animal Council. Some funding has come from Auckland City Council and the Lotteries Board, with the rest raised by way of sausage sizzles etc. Cat Rescue has spent \$22,000 in the past 12 months on vet bills, and was also involved in subsidising a de-sexing programme on the North Shore.

For more information visit www.aucklandcatrescue.org or phone 0275 737 283.

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 2006, January to December. Any queries about membership can be answered by phoning the treasurer - Rod Maunder on 814 1831

BABYSITTING: Reliable and mature girls are looking for babysitting work. References are available. Please phone Jessica or Angelique on 814 9577.

FOR SALE: Complete home brew kit including bottles and caps in excellent condition. Offers. Phone Hayden on 814 1850

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: Welcome to a 2-day workshop embracing a beautiful, ancient art form. Easy to learn, results are immediate, and you will complete 1 - 2 items. Dates: Sat May 27th 9.30am - 5.00pm and Sun June 11th 9.30am - 5.00pm. Venue: Titirangi Community House. Please call them to enrol on Ph: 817 7448 [\$65]. Call Helen [tutor] for a materials list on Ph: 838 1320.

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

THE ORATIA COMMUNITY CHURCH : On the corner of Parker & West Coast Roads. Activities - Bible Study and Prayer Group: Tuesdays 1.00pm. - Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursdays of each month.

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL IS PROUD TO PRESENT: 1 May - 31 May: Waitakere City Council Foyer Exhibition: Pacific Arts in Waitakere. Artists from around Waitakere City will be showcasing their work. Weekly demonstrations by the Pacific Arts Group from Corban Estate. Enquiries ph: Julie Nash 836 8000 extn 8934, Waitakere City Council, 6 Waipareira Ave, Henderson. Open Monday - Friday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm

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.

WANTED - HOUSE TO RENT: Professional lady, 40's, non-smoker, meticulous with excellent references - looking to rent quality home with rural feel, long-term. Please phone Kim (09) 828 1336.

In association with Go West Music Works

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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

Elevations Licenced Café & Restaurant
12.00pm till late - 471 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919
(applies to max 2 adults per visit)

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper
Glenmair, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

Elkes Wine and Food Market
113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10.00am-5.00pm)

Renew your Membership now by posting
your cheque for \$10.00 to
WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waikarua
Don't forget your Name, Address and Email
on the back of the cheque

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.

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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The Waikarua Community Hall

The Waikarua Community Hall is available for corporate functions and meetings. The hall is in very good condition with a new kitchen and new comfortable tables and chairs. It has an idyllic bush setting.

For booking enquiries phone
Michelle Stanborough on 814 9707

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.

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Phone Mike on 814 9708

APRIL - MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 10th MAY, 2006**
Robin Essex, 13 Bendalls Lane, Waikarua.
Phone 814 1850 - E-MAIL: robsx@free.net.nz