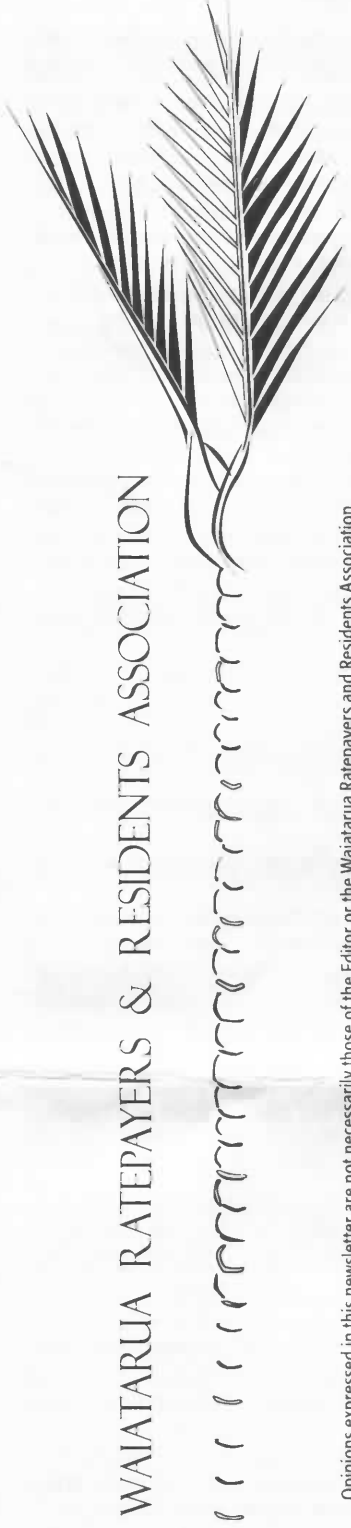


Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

July August 2006



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

'Dancing with the Locals'
by the dynamic and versatile
Russell French

Last chance!
 Be in to win the lucky door prize!
 All proceeds go to a good cause

Saturday August 12th 8pm to midnight.
 \$12-00 per person (no door sales).
 Bar open for beer, wine, juice - no BYO!
 18 years and over ONLY.
 Nibbles available.

Bookings for prepaid tickets via
 Michelle at 279 Forest Hill Road. and on Phone: 814 9707.
 Limited to 60 tickets, so be quick.
 Entry solely to ticket holders.
 (WRRRA reserves the right to cancel if insufficient sales by August 1st)



Postcode Perplexity

After receiving several letters re the newly allocated postcodes and some confusion over Waiatarua's boundaries, we registered our own inquiry on the matter via NZ Post's on-line customer support service. For your information, the response was:

Good afternoon

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of Oratia and Waiatarua on the recent Postcode mailer.

The purpose of the mailer was to inform customers of NZ Post of the new postcodes for the address the mailer was delivered to.

The boundaries we used on your mailers are the suburbs and localities as defined by the Emergency Services Association as Waitakere City Council has yet to define and have gazetted all its suburbs and localities. Once they have done so we will incorporate this information into our systems and update our published material.

The key elements of an address for postal purposes are the street number and name and postcode, followed by the town and then suburb. The first three elements are enough to uniquely identify the destination of the mail and our new machinery can then sort it down to the postie round level. Should one or more elements be missing or incorrect then the machinery look at the rest of the address and deals with the mail by either sending it to the relevant mail centre or delivery branch where it is sorted manually or rejects it a source in which case it is investigated and if necessary returned to the sender.

To have a look at the postcode boundaries there are maps on the NZ Post web-site at -

www.nzpost.co.nz/Cultures/en-NZ/Personal/AddressingAndPostcodes/Postcodes

The locality or suburb line is not as important as the street delivery line and postcode so if a customer is comfortable with a particular label for their address as long as the other elements are correct will be able to sort and deliver the mail (and even if they aren't we will still try to determine the intended address and deliver it but it will take a bit longer). Additionally NZ Post has a vast database of adjacencies and alias for suburbs and localities, including abbreviations and spelling mistakes, to assist with sorting mail.

Suburb and locality boundaries do not normally go down the centre line of roads but are defined by land parcels and are normally the back of land parcels where they follow roads. As always there are exceptions to this rule and parts of the boundary between Oratia and Waiatarua are one of them.

Looking at a map of LINZ land parcels the boundary is between numbers 867 and 869 on the North of West Coast road opposite Bush Road and between Rimu Road and Roaroa Terrace on the Southern side. The black line on the following shows this boundary.

Any further questions please visit our websites www.addressing.co.nz or www.nzpost.co.nz or call our customer centre on 0800 501 501.

Regards, David Wilson - Addressing Specialist, NZ Post david.wilson@nzpost.co.nz

EDITOR:

Robin Essex - Ph 814 1850

E-Mail: robsx@free.net.nz

WRRRA President:

Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697

E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Community Hall & Library:

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



Missing

"Disappeared" from West Coast Road about 8-30pm on Monday the 3rd of July whilst protecting the lives of your Volunteer Fire Brigade. These Turboflares cost about \$70.00 to replace. Its anonymous return to the letterbox at the Fire Station would be appreciated.

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

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

Name:
Address:
Phone No.:
Email:

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To Treasurer, Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or **leave at the library**

From the Editor

Robin Essex

Standing behind a young family in a queue at a greengrocer recently, I witnessed a poignant moment. A stressed young mother was unloading and paying for her fruit and veggies, at the same time trying her best to keep two wee kiddies under control. Her daughter (aged about five) wandered off slightly, distracted by and drawn to a truly amazing sight: "A purple egg, Mummy!" Sure enough, as my gaze turned in the direction of the announcement, there was a single purple chicken's egg nestled in one of the many open trays - completely surrounded by the more familiar variety. It was kind of mauve I guess, a cross between cream and brown perhaps? Who knows, but I can tell you this... it was by no means NORMAL.

Anyway, with Mum not showing the slightest bit of interest, young brother supported the cause by ambling over for a looksee; and proceeded to gently prod the purple pet. Unfortunately this brave act did attract his mother's attention pretty quickly, earning him a severe growling and a short sharp pull back to where he belonged.

From afar, the two kids couldn't take their eyes off this newfound wonder. When the checkout transaction was finally complete, the little girl tugged at her Mum's sleeve saying, "Now, can you come see the purple egg?"

A stern response was forthcoming, "No, because I'm not impressed with your behaviour!" And with that they quickly left the shop. What a shame that mother missed the purple surprise!

Two thoughts from me really: one, I felt so fortunate to have been drawn into that child's brief magic moment by seeing through her young eyes. Two, I saw myself in her mother... 25 years ago.

Moral of the story: Smell the roses! Have a great month, Robin.

Property Rates on Council's Website

Homeowners are able to visit the Waitakere City Council's website on www.waitakere.govt.nz and see what rates they will be paying for the coming year. The council is promoting this service to assist ratepayers to find out as quickly as possible what their rates will be this year, rather than wait for the first rates notice in August.

The council wrote to ratepayers in April, telling them what their rates would be if the capital value system was adopted, instead of the traditional land value system. However, after submissions from the community, the council has retained the land value system for the next year but has changed its method of charging for waste-water.

There will now be a fixed annual charge for waste-water of \$350, plus a small variable component based on a property's land value. Where a property provides more than one dwelling - for example if a house is divided into two flats, or if there are two houses on the one property - \$350 will be charged on each one.

"We decided it was better to spend another year on analysis before making any final decisions," says Councillor Ross Clow, deputy chairman of the Finance and Operational Performance Committee. "However, we felt that we had to change the waste-water component now. Charging for waste-water as a percentage of a property's value has no relationship to how much waste-water the property generates," he says.

The council will spend the next twelve months analysing the three rating options available to it - land value, capital value and annual value systems. It will consult on the options before making a final decision on which system to use and how to use it.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

On Wednesday the 2nd of August we'll meet at the Botanic Gardens entrance at 11-00am. The plan is to wander around the delights of the gardens where the camellias will be in their glory, then lunch at 12.30pm in the new visitor centre and off to Camellia Haven.

Call Jean 814 9860 or Margaret on 814 9859 to confirm you're coming and if you'd like a lift.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Bula! Yes, we have just been to Fiji for a week of warmer temperatures and a bit of sun. Mind you, the day we arrived it was absolutely pouring down; but apart from the odd shower was fine thereafter. Of course the smiles of the Fijians ensure visitors are always warm and sunny. It was great wearing shorts and t-shirts for the week. The only trouble is, you feel the cold more when you come home.

Last month we put the call out for a new treasurer to replace Rod. My faith in human nature and especially Waitataruans was renewed with three applicants coming forward. It now gives me great pleasure to welcome Jan Haine to the position and to the committee. I was especially relieved, as I was going to be carrying the can as interim Treasurer. Thank you to the other two ladies who offered their services. This situation does make one stop and think just how lucky we are to live in Waitatarua where the community spirit is so much a part of our lives. When you look at all the voluntary work such as Fire Brigade, Library helpers, Newsletter printers, deliverers and distributors, and our Ratepayers committee... a large number of our community are involved.

The hot subject at the moment does seem to be the new road markers and Chevrons. From the e-mails received and conversations I have had, it seems to be a 50/50 split for and against. This is also true amongst the committee and as such we are keeping out of the discussion. Mind you, this is probably like the wheelie bin episode in so much as we are suspicious of change and in a couple of months will be wondering how we managed without them. Whether we like them or not if they save just one major accident causing serious injury or death they are well worthwhile. As one resident pointed out they are not meant for us, but more for the large number of visitors that come in to the area. Us locals will continue to ignore all the signs and drive too fast, slide off the road etc. - because we know the roads like the back of our hand! Don't we?

Do not forget to book your spot for 'Dancing With The Locals'. Come and be entertained by Russell. Believe me, this guy will give you a night to remember and whatever your taste in music is, I am sure he will play it (classical may be stretching it).

Also, the table tennis is starting in August so dust off dancing shoes and sneakers and pop along to the Hall for one or both of these events. Details within.

By the way, if you haven't been to the Oratia Market yet, pop along. It is quite good with a variety of quality arts, crafts and produce.

Well that's me for another month and just think by the next newsletter we will be looking at Spring around the corner.

STOP PRESS: received a phone call, Sat 5th July, from Rod Maunder to say he and Sylvia had just been out to buy the "rock". Cupid's job is done. Congratulations from us all.

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Yes, it's back! Our show "Phone 1125J" - yes, a comedy about a Volunteer Fire Brigade - is on for two nights only on Thursday the 27th and Friday the 28th of July 2006 at the Waitatarua Community Hall. This is the "short" version, and will be supplemented with other entertainment from Waitatarua's finest. If you haven't seen this phenomenon yet, this may be your last chance! Book with Lyndsay on 814 9872.

Hot Tip for Winter:

The Fire Service has seen a recent spate of house fires caused by ashes that weren't safely disposed of. Remember they can stay hot and capable of starting a fire for up to five days! The safe way to store them is in a metal container away from the hose... NOT in plastic bags, cardboard boxes or the rubbish bag.

Recent Calls:

5:51 am, Sat 17 Jun - Car fire, Scenic Drive. The temptation of a crashed car left on the roadside near Arataki for a few days obviously proved too tempting for some of the local pond life.

5:46 pm, Fri 30 Jun - Garage fire, Te Aute Ridge, Bethells. Significant damage to the house after the fire spread quickly via the ceiling cavity.

8:38 pm, Fri 30 Jun - Kitchen fire, North Piha. Electrical under-floor fire extinguished by Piha crew.

1:59 am, Sun 02 Jul - Car fire, Scenic Drive. A stolen car was set alight before being pushed over a bank, making access difficult and causing initial concern that there may have been someone still in it.

Contacts:

Always phone 111 for fires or any emergency. Otherwise please call Ian Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Council Services Now at Three Libraries Citywide

A number of council services are now available at three local libraries. Payment of land & water rates and dog registrations can be made by cheque and eftpos at New Lynn, Massey and Glen Eden libraries.

Cash payments for any of the above can be made at ANZ banks or the Council's Civic Centre (6 Henderson Valley Road from 24 July).

Residents may also request LIM reports and other general Council inquiries seven days a week.

For more information phone 839 0400 or visit www.waitakere.govt.nz

Waitatarua Rainfall (June 2006)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	16	18th (33 mm)	208mm	993 mm
Brabant Road	17	18th (34 mm)	204mm	961 mm
Quinns Road	18	19th (27mm)	174mm	788 mm
Forest Hill Road	14	4th (40 mm)	180mm	917 mm
Auckland City			102mm	601 mm

Letters to the Editor

Amendment: Apologies to John Isaachsen, after printing his letter to the editor in our last edition and realising we had printed two question marks (??) beside his name. This is due to a spell-check method used for proof reading, when there is doubt as to the spelling of a name. Obviously we overlooked the removal of these temporary punctuation marks.

Dear Editor

My wife and I were just about to get round to sending off the form to join the association (having lived here over 2 years) when we, like your correspondent last month, discover we no longer live in Waiatarua but Henderson Valley. So I contacted NZ Post and asked how they concluded that our house, 390 metres up a mountain, could be classed as a valley. Below is their reasoning.

"As a part of the overhaul of the post coding system in New Zealand, New Zealand Post has consulted with city and regional councils and emergency services to ensure we have the correct suburbs linked with the towns / cities.

In the case of the Waitakere City Council, they advised us that they have never gazetted suburbs for street addresses in the Waitakere area. So we went to the Emergency Services to ask them what suburbs they use and we also did some random sampling of mail addressed to the Henderson / Waiatarua area to find out what is common usage - which suburbs are linked to which addresses."

I have replied including the link to the website so they can see for themselves, and pointed out that as they supply a lot of the information to the big corporates and their mail outweighs our personal mail this isn't a very fair way of analyzing it.

Oh yes only our Bank and Power Company think we're in Waiatarua. Telecom, and would you believe the council, have us in Henderson !!

If like us you object to where NZ Post has relocated you I suggest you go to www.nzpost.co.nz Go to customer support and submit a question, then they might get the hint.

Yours truly: Paul Osborne, Turanga Rd., Waiatarua 0612

New Pool Safety Standard Doesn't Solve Complex Issue

Proposed new standards for pool safety released on the 19th of June by Standards New Zealand do not help solve the questions raised by such a complex issue, according to councillor Derek Battersby, chairman of the Swimming Pool Exemption committee.

"Waitakere City Council, with other territorial authorities, went to the High Court in 2004 to seek a clearer definition of the term 'immediate pool area' because of ambiguity in existing legislation," says councillor Battersby.

The judge ruled that any further interpretation of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act should be done by Parliament, not the courts. However the judge's acknowledgment of an existing grey area in the law, which makes it difficult for both pool owners and local authorities to understand and comply with their obligations, was helpful. It was hoped this would spur some legislative action from Central Government.

"It is good to see some effort being made in response to the judgement, but it does little to answer our original questions about the issue in regards to defining barriers and areas around pools," says councillor Battersby.

The Standard, which is being developed by an expert committee of representatives from a cross-section of organisations, will limit unsupervised access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs by establishing layers of protection for young children against the potential for drowning.

The intention in developing the Standard is to enable Parliament to consider using it as a replacement for the Schedule in the Fencing of Swimming Pool Act 1987, by way of an amendment to the Act.

The submission period runs from the 19th of June to the 11th of August 2006. For a copy of the public comment draft please contact Vicki Allison at Standards NZ on vicki.allison@standards.co.nz or phone 04 495 0932. Otherwise see the following websites:

The Department of Building and Housing: www.dbh.govt.nz - Water Safety New Zealand: www.watersafety.org.nz

Council Puts Street Litter 'Code' On Trial

Waitakere City Council is testing the new national code of practice for the distribution of unaddressed mail developed by the Marketing Association.

The code is being promoted by organisations which account for over 95% of all unaddressed mail deliveries - a group of distribution companies, retailers, magazine and newspaper publishers including New Zealand Post, Deltarg, PMP Ltd, and the New Zealand Retailers' Association.

The council has resolved to defer enforcing its own junk mail provisions of the bylaw until it has monitored and assessed the code of practice and decided whether there is a need to retain the junk mail part of the waste bylaw reviewed in 2005.

"We can bring in the bylaw at any time if there is still a problem," says Deputy Mayor Carolynne Stone.

"Further education of the advertising sector, including the real estate industry will be encouraged to promote greater awareness of letterbox stickers," she says.

The key principle of the code is to respect at all times the individual rights of the householder. It prohibits delivery of unaddressed mail to letterboxes with a sign requesting non-delivery, when the letterbox is full, or it is unsuitable for such material. An 0800 number (0800 111 081) will be operated by the Marketing Association from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday to receive complaints about unaddressed mail delivered to a letterbox displaying a non-delivery sign, or the dumping of bulk quantities of printed material.

Letterbox signs are available from most leading hardware retailers.

The Arataki Rangers Roundup

We've had a chilly few weeks but things have been humming along, with a range of events being held around the Park.

Park staff, visitors from Head Office and members of Auckland's migrant community observed the Matariki (or Pleiades constellation) from the top of Pukemateko. These star clusters traditionally symbolise the best time to plant trees and prepare land for crops. The occasion was a chance to learn more about Matariki from the local tangata whenua and members of the migrant community as well as celebrate the place that we live and work in.

The wild and rainy weather delayed several planting days, but most eventually went ahead in late June. Over 200 primary school children spent mornings at the Whatipu Lodge campground and at Muriwai Regional Park planting a variety of trees with local Rangers and NZ School of Outdoor Studies students. At Pae o te Rangi, the Cascade-Kauri Rangers hosted the Visitor Services and Assets team from town for a planting day at their Pa Harekeke site. This site aims to establish a stock of flax species, which can be culturally harvested for educational and training purposes. In total, over 4000 trees were planted including pohutukawas from the Project Crimson Trust.

The Arataki Visitor Centre has been buzzing with activity since the start of the school holidays. Centre staff have been running a school holiday programme called "Geckos Galore" which involves identifying, locating and learning all about Geckos and their natural environment. Extra geckos were brought in to complement the permanent display in the centre and the programme has been a booked-out success.

The end of June also saw the departure of Jonathan Gould who has been a Ranger at the Arataki depot for over six years. He is replaced by Reg Phillips who will take over Jono's role as Senior Ranger - Recreation for the Park. Reg comes to the ARC after 17 years working for the Department of Conservation in the Rotorua area. He and his family are settling in the area and are looking forward to exploring the West.

That's it for another month. Ka kite

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

It's time to fire a **brickbat** at the scoundrel / scoundrels stooping to the low levels of syphoning local residents' petrol, sometimes from vehicles right outside the owner's property. Neighbourhood vigilance has stepped up a notch or two to eradicate this problem as soon as possible. To the culprits... just remember - 'what goes round, eventually comes round'!

If anyone has a **Bouquet** nomination acknowledging someone selflessly contributing to our community, please contact us at: robsx@free.net.nz or phone 814 1850

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

More good reading at your library... here is a selection of our new titles:

"Inhaling The Mahatma" by Christopher Kremmer (author of Carpet Wars) - Kremmer, who lived in India for 8 years, revisits and finds a country undergoing enormous and sometimes violent change. A compelling read.

"The Secret River" by Kate Granville - in this historical novel a convict becomes a free man, learns to understand his new country and in the process realises that he and his family are Australians forever. A fascinating read.

"The Boy Who Fell From The Sky" by Ken Dornstein. This memoir follows the author as he tries to find out about his brother, David, who died in the Lockerbie plane crash and what his life was really like. This is an amazing story.

"Sweetness In The Belly" by Camilla Gibb is an empathetic story of a white Muslim nurse living between London and Harar, Ethiopia. This novel explores a life lived between two cultures.

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 president Dave Pocock on 814 9697

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

FREE: - 1) Scales (analogue) - to 8kg. No longer certified. Original butchers. **2) 7m of 100mm diameter plastic drainage pipe.** Phone Roy on 814 9550

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Phone Mike 814 9708

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

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.

THURSDAY CHURCH SERVICE: For the elderly or infirm: 1st Thursday of each month. 10am cup of tea, followed by an informal half-hour church service. Drivers available for those requiring transport. For more information call Frank or Lynda on Ph: 814 9869.

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

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB: - Ping Pong is coming to Waiatarua! Start date is Tuesday August 22nd at 7.00pm, and this will be a weekly event at the Waiatarua Hall 911 West Coast Road. Cost is just \$2-00 per person.

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.

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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

WEST COAST Veterinary Clinic - 546 West Coast Road, Oratia

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Saturday 9am - 12noon



Phone **818 4104** for an appointment

Thinking of Selling?

General enquiries and after hours appointments are my pleasure.

Michelle Stanborough Sales & Marketing Consultant

Res: 814 9707

Mob: 021 605 996



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Advantages of being a WRRR 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
Glenmall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

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

The Waiatarua Community Hall

The WRRR is making the Waiatarua Community Hall available for corporate training sessions and meetings. The hall, built in the 1970's, is in very good condition with a new kitchen and new comfortable tables & chairs and has an idyllic bush setting.



For booking enquiries phone
Michelle Stanborough on 814 9707

Yogalife

Complete Mind and
Body Fitness

Class Schedule

Wednesday	9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall	6.00-7.30pm General Oratia School Hall
Thursday	6.00-7.15pm Beginners Oratia School Hall	7.30-8.30pm Restorative Oratia School Hall
Friday	9.15-10.45am General Waiatarua Community Hall	
Saturday	10.00-11.30 General Oratia School Hall	

General: mixed level class • Restorative: deeply relaxing and rejuvenating
Beginners: suitable for people with no prior yoga experience

Bring a mat and blanket • Wear comfortable and loose clothing,
Do not eat for approx 1.5 hours before the class

Cost: \$12.00 Casual
\$90.00 Concession
(10 classes)

Phone Megan 817 5999
for brochure / more info

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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 9th AUGUST, 2006**

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