

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

February - March 2007

Weedfree Waitakere to Run Five-Week Weed War

War on Weeds is to run for five weeks this year so Waitakere residents have plenty of opportunity to do major invasive weed clearing from their properties and get rid of their weeds in free jumbo bins at high-profile sites around the city. Traditionally held in March, War on Weeds will be from Monday 5th March until Easter Monday 10th April, 2007. This year it's being administered by Weedfree Waitakere Trust, a co-Trust of Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust which has run the event for a number of years. War on Weeds is run in partnership with Waitakere City Council and in conjunction with Auckland Regional Council.

The Weedfree Waitakere Trust's Community Coordinator, Neil Henderson, believes War on Weeds is one of the big annual events on local gardeners' calendars with hundreds of tonnes of invasive weeds being removed from private properties in recent years.

He says, "During War on Weeds we focus on ridding Waitakere City of the 'nine nasty' weeds, but there are dozens of noxious weed varieties in our environment and they can be dumped in the bins as well. Our aim is for all of us to get rid of as many fast spreading weed invaders from our gardens as possible.

Things like ginger, blue morning glory, Arum lilies and convolvulus are all in flower at the moment so they're easy to spot. It's important to get these and other weeds before they fruit (go to seed). For example, woolly nightshade can become a small tree capable of spreading thousands of seeds in a very short time.

Climbing asparagus has become a nightmare, in Titirangi especially. It's generating lots of berries at this time so keep an eye out for it because if you don't the birds will.

Agapanthus has an uncertain status as a weed in Waitakere and in some areas it's getting out of control. If you want to get rid of the plants, dig them out; otherwise de-head promptly after flowering (and before seeding) and that will keep them under control.

The War on Weeds campaign is a great time to attack these weeds and take pride in doing our personal bit to protect our environment."

Neil stresses that in order to best utilise the free jumbo bins, no woody weeds (eg bamboo) or trees should be placed in the bins during War on Weeds. Weedfree Waitakere Trust can help with the disposal of these weeds by offering vouchers for the Transfer Station.

The 'nine nasties' are ginger, moth plant, smilax, Tradescantia (wandering jew), blue morning glory, japanese honeysuckle, plectranthus, jasmine and climbing asparagus.

Weedfree Waitakere Trust also offers a service where residents with major weed infestations on their properties can receive a site visit and detailed advice on managing the problem.

For more information on War on Weeds, call Weedfree Waitakere on 826 4276. For enquiries about pest species, call Auckland Regional Council on 366 2000 or go to the Weedbusters Website: www.weedbusters.org.nz

Hear Ye - Hear Ye

Probably the first official Debate of Waiatarua in the 21st Century
Do you support the "Affirmative" or the "Negative"?

Debate Teams Wanted

A call goes out to anyone interested in becoming involved in a light-hearted debate for entertainment purposes at the Waiatarua Community Hall on Saturday June 23rd 2007. Four keen locals and one community board member have stepped forward so far. Organisers are combining the event with a topnotch mid-winter Christmas dinner.

Celebrity Call-Out

We are seeking at least one celebrity to take part in our debate at the forthcoming mid-winter dinner. This event is solely for fun and entertainment. The rewards of taking part include not only the pleasure of entertaining your fellow Waiataruans, but also a complimentary dinner. Please make contact via details below.

Competition!

We invite readers to enter a competition by submitting possible debate topics. The winner will receive a ticket for one complimentary dinner at this event, and will be able to enjoy seeing their idea come to fruition.

Please call Robin or Korstiaan on 814 1850 for further information or e-mail robsx@free.net.nz

Waitakere Getting Tough on Illegal Dumping

Waitakere City Council is asking the public to take a tough stance against people illegally dumping rubbish in the city, which has increased by about 30% on previous years.

Councillor Janet Clews says the problem of illegal dumping has massively grown recently, coinciding with Waitakere's inorganic rubbish collections.

"The council has been finding as soon as residents place their inorganic rubbish on the kerb side that people, often from outside the city, come in and dump their rubbish right in the middle of it," Councillor Clews says.

"That is grossly unfair on the people whose streets are being turned into a regional tip, and it is also unfair to all ratepayers who between them have to pay the costs of collecting it."

Councillor Clews says the council wants to stop the illegal dumping but it needs the public's help.

"We have people sifting by hand through the suspected illegal dumps looking for vital pieces of information such as names and addresses, however, this is often insufficient for a successful prosecution."

"We need the public to provide us with descriptions of the dumpers and registration numbers too – if people could take photographs that would be brilliant," she says.

Councillor Clews says that unless stopped, the cost of this level of illegal dumping could threaten the future of Waitakere's inorganic collections.

The council has council officers specifically looking for offenders and has recently installed hidden cameras to detect offenders, who will be prosecuted and face a maximum fine of up to \$20,000.

If you suspect someone is illegally dumping rubbish in your street, please contact the council's call centre on 839 0400.

EDITOR:

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

WRRA President:

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

Community Hall & Library: 911 West Coast Road

Hall hire

Les Duffield - Ph 814 1130

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

can't believe this is our last newsletter with me in the editor's chair. What a rich experience it has truly been! Originally I took up the challenge because we were new to the area, and filling the vacancy seemed like a great way to get to know Waiatarua and its people. Well, that is exactly what happened; and my expectations have been met ten-fold.

Of course, the layout and presentation of this publication have reached a new level in recent years - with the expertise of my dear partner in life, Korstiaan Prins. Thank you. To all the advertisers who were at times puzzled... yes, we both live in the same house!

Working on this project together, since April 2004, has been so rewarding. In this busy life, there was always one weekend per month when we jumped off the 'merry-goround' and focused on an activity that was dear to us and important for the community.

Now it's time for me to discover other elements of my creative side. How exciting! As Agnes de Mille said, "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. We never entirely know. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap into the dark".

I would sincerely like to extend a very warm welcome to Jenny Bebbington, who has very kindly offered to take over as editor from this point. Jenny works in the graphic design industry already, so we have every confidence in her abilities. And as far as enthusiasm goes, Jenny's is boundless.

In addition, Jenni Hunter has put her hand up for proofreading. As one might imagine, this is a vital role and can be quite time-consuming. Welcome and thanks.

To all those folk who took the time to send me nominations for bouquets, letters to the editor, reports, articles etc., I would sincerely like to acknowledge these valuable contributions. Without your input, it would be rather a dull publication. I believe it's only when the 'voice' of the people can be heard that a newsletter like this stays alive and honest. So please, keep sharing what's dear to you.

Thanks also to the WRRA committee for all their support and guidance over the past three years, particularly our President Dave Pocock whom I fondly now call 'O Great One'. I trust his judgement explicitly on all local matters.

Lastly, but by no means least, I extend my ongoing appreciation to Longleys for fully sponsoring the printing of our Waiatarua Community News; and also to those dedicated folk involved in distribution.

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

The bouquet this time round goes to Cathie Wells, who never complains about her dearly beloved representing the Waiatarua Fire Brigade at WRRA meetings every month and volunteering his time to related community matters. Cathie also works with lan on devising the challenging questions for our popular community Quiz Nights.

A brickbat flies through the air to graffiti vandals who think they have a license to deface other people's property. Yes, you may have talent and this community welcomes creativity with open arms. However, there are alternative ways of expressing your artistic abilities that would be far more appreciated by Waiatarua. We invite you to shine in different arenas eg Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust, where good painters are always sought after.

Letters to the Editor

To the WRRA Annual General Meeting:

Please accept my thanks for cards, flowers and visits from your President Dave Pocock, and committee members. I am feeling much better every day and look forward to the coming year with you all.

Regards, Frank Hogsden

From the President

Dave Pocock Hi...what an evening! The AGM was held last night (Feb 22nd) and a good time was had by all. I am sure those present enjoyed our guest speaker Ian Ford as much as I did.

I think the Elections must have created some sort of record. As expected, the existing members (Kor, Jan, Robin, Les, Frank, Brian and myself) were all re-elected. The first pleasant surprise was when Jan James volunteered for the position of secretary, and so it went from there with another three hands going up for committee - Simon, Oliver and Suzanne. Thanks to them, and I am sure this is going to be an exciting year.

Another addition to the committee is our new newsletter editor and also a proof-reader. Jenny Bebbington and Jenni Hunter are the two ladies. We are grateful to them for coming forward.

That means of course that this is the last newsletter to be edited my Robin, with able assistance from her partner Kor. What can one say apart from a great BIG thanks for a fantastic job. Robin and Kor have remained on the committee with Kor returning as Vice-President.

Have you like me wondered what is being built adjacent to the church at 647 West Coast Road? Well it is to be a new electricity substation which may perhaps mean less power cuts. Who knows?

I can't help but notice that wheelie bins often end up being put out on the wrong weeks, so if in doubt the collection dates are actually printed on the back of your WCC rubbish bags.

Further to the cases of bad/dangerous use of our roads, I am pleased to say that our community constable is happy and willing to deal with these matters. Her name is Theresa McCabe - phone 818 8295 and leave a message with name and phone number, and she promises to contact you. Theresa does not work 24/7 and is not in the office all the time as she is very busy, so please give her time to respond. Make sure what you are reporting is illegal or dangerous and not just DARNED annoying before you call. Also you can report people on-line at www.police.govt.nz/service/road/roadwatch.html

All you need is the Rego, make, model, paint colour and how many in the car. Plus where, when and what they did of course.

Keep those membership renewals coming in, especially if you intend to visit Elevations for a meal, buy some landscaping materials from Glen Eden Landscape Supplies or maybe paint and wallpaper from Colourplus Glen Eden. Remember to take your current 2007 membership card to enjoy 10% discount. This may not apply to all items, so please check first.

If there are any businesses out there also wanting to offer our members a discount of say 10%, please contact me Dave Pocock, phone 8149697, davepocock@xtra.co.nz

I will be changing to 2007 membership list soon for WRRA Hotmail, so if you wish to keep receiving it or wish to start... join up, and don't forget to include your e-mail address. Well that is from me for another month.

Fire Brigade

This month we've drafted our Annual Plan for 2007/8. We've identified our biggest hazard - traffic - and managing this problem will be a higher priority at incidents. We've also changed the way we organised our training programmes, aligning them more closely with the highly structured Training and Progression system introduced by the Fire Service.

Recent calls:

10:53 am, Tue 6 Feb - Car crash, Piha Rd. The driver of one car died when two cars collided head-on, and the other was cut out of her overturned 4WD with serious injuries. The crew on the rescue tender felt that the first victim would almost certainly have survived and probably wouldn't have been too badly hurt IF she had been wearing her seatbelt.

3:14 pm, Sat 17 Feb - Scrub fire Piha Rd. Two young guys did a great job of just about beating the small fire out with a beach towel. We just had to damp it down and avoid the idiots hooning around a blind corner towards us.

4:25 pm, Sun 18 Oct - False alarm, Piha Rd.

10:22 pm, Sun 18 Feb - Petrol spill after crash, Piha. Handled by Piha crew.

2:42 pm, Sat 24 Feb - Scrub fire, Piha. One house was briefly threatened and about 1000 square metres of grass and scrub burnt before crews from Piha, Waiatarua, Karekare and Glen Eden brought it under control.

Contacts:

Always phone 111 for fires or any incident you want the Fire Brigade to attend. Otherwise please call lan Ford (814 8871), Helen Longley (814 9855) or Karl Nuttall (814 8777).

Garden Group

full day out in South Auckland is planned for Wednesday the 7th of March. We will meet 10.30am at Addenbrook Gardens, 80 Razorback Road, Bombay. This luscious four-acre garden has a spectacular waterfall, roses and perennials, a cottage garden and wide sweeping lawns. We will take a picnic lunch to eat in this garden. At 1.30pm we will visit the two-and-a-half acre garden of Irene Birt at 440 Batty Rd, Karaka. This informal garden features 600 carpet roses, a lake with waterlilies, fern areas and a conifer grove. Contact Eileen on 814 9298 for further information or car-pooling; and bring a packed lunch and \$7-00 for entry fees.

Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

We have had a heap of new books arrive this month. Amongst them you will find:

"The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield – ghosts, secrets, family set largely in libraries & bookshops.

'The Friday Night Knitting Club" by Kate Jacobs - a group of woman solving issues as they meet and

"Wild Fire" by Nelson De Mille - NYPD detective John Corey is an irreverent terrorist hunter.

"Treasures of Khan" by Clive Cussler - a descendant of Ghengis tries to control the world's oil supply. "Hannibal Rising" by Thomas Harris - another of his Hannibal tales (Silence of the Lambs).

See you at the library.

The Odd Couple

Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust is proud and excited to bring to you our next production "The Odd Couple". The play is the female version of the television show and revolves around the dysfunctional relationships of a group of friends from New York in the 80's. Comedy and hilarity are liberally sprinkled throughout the production as two complete opposites attempt to share an apartment.

For Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust this is an ambitious and challenging play and we welcome the arrival of Carolyn Gibson, a professional and proven director, to our theatre. Tickets are available by calling Kandi McKelvie **838 5215** at the cost of \$20 per head. The theatre is licensed so come along for a night of entertainment. The show runs on the following dates: Thursday12th April 8:00pm, Friday 13th April 8:00pm, Saturday 14th April 8:00pm, Sunday 15th April 6:30pm, Thursday 19th April 8:00pm, Friday 20th April 8:00pm, Saturday 21th April 8:00pm

Outside Activity at Waiatarua Playcentre

It has been a busy and exciting few months for the families at Waiatarua Playcentre. We have expanded our covered all-weather deck and have also made a great start on a new outdoor play area. The ASB Trust, Waitakere City Council's Community Wellbeing Fund and Playcentre's Northern Regional Fund have been very generous and we have **almost** raised enough money to finish it - complete with safety matting, new swings, a speedy slide, cool water feature and more... almost, but not quite! Unfortunately, we are \$1000 short.

A few former Playcentre families have generously offered to help us meet this shortfall and we are wondering if there are any more kind donors out there? If you look back with fondness at your time at our lovely Playcentre, or would just like to help us complete our long-awaited playground, we are gratefully accepting donations.

For further information or to contribute to our playground fund, please phone our Treasurer, Catherine Perich, on 814 1122

For general information about Playcentre, phone 814 8835 during session times, or feel free to pop in. We run three sessions a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 – 12:00. See you there!

The WRRA have voted in favour of making a \$100.00 donation to the Waiatarua Playcentre, to assist in the completion of their new outdoor play area.

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

I thought there was nothing to report. Think again! An accident involving a Ute, round the West Coast Road corner where them 'orrible ripples are... a spot of rain and whoops, away goes the railing we just got the Council to repair after the last crash. My definition of 'crash' is "bad driving". Now, who pays the thousands of dollars required in repairing safety bars, retaining wall and the pavement?

Last month I asked how someone loses control on a straight road. Well someone took me to heart and tested the route. Yup, lost control and up the bank 50 metres from the last accident.

I don't know why Auckland allowed the V8 races to go to Hamilton. We could have hosted them here in the Waitakeres, on West Coast Road and the Scenic Drive. After all, we host such races most days and we have got our own 'Westie' go-faster drivers.

New Eco Design Advisory Service at Waitakere

Waitakere is offering a free 'eco design advice' service for people planning to build or renovate their homes.

Eco design advisor Fred Braxton can give impartial advice on sustainable design topics such as energy, water and materials for home building or renovation projects within the city's boundaries. Clients can make an appointment to meet him for up to two hours at their own site, at their designer's office or at the council - Waitakere Central, Henderson. The position, which is being trialed by Waitakere in association with BRANZ, aims to make better use of resources.

Braxton acknowledges that people are seriously considering environmental issues in their homes because they want to improve the health of their family, save money on energy and water bills, be more comfortable and reduce their impact on the environment.

"They can have a more satisfying environment to live in, and probably increase the re-sale value of the house," Braxton says.

He provides independent, factual, and practical building information on reducing energy bills, improving thermal performance, reducing water use, better waste management, careful material choices and improved indoor air quality. He has access to a large support network of specialists, design tools, assessment methods, and materials information – all free. Not only homeowners but also designers and other building professionals can use the service.

For either a new build or a renovation, the best time to make use of Braxton's skills is at the preliminary design stage after any planning constraints have been identified.

The service is currently provided at only three councils in New Zealand, for a trial period of ten months – Hamilton, Kapiti Coast and Waitakere.

For more information visit www.ecodesignadvisor.org.nz or email Fred at Fred.Craxton@waitakere.govt.nz Alternatively, call 836-8000 ext 8886.

Waiatarua Quiz Night

31st March 2007 at 7-30pm - in the Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road.

Based on that favourite Pub Quiz format, and kindly facilitated by Cathie Wells & Ian Ford Create a team of 6 to 8 people, or just drop in and become part of a friendly table team.

Use your imagination to create a catchy name for your dynamic crew.

Fantastic prizes to be won once again. Don't miss out! - Cover charge just \$5-00 per person.

Please BYO drinks and also BYO nibbles - this enables us to keep costs well down so that

everyone can enjoy a very affordable night out. For more info.

Please call Robin or Korstiaan on 814 1850

Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. Committee as from February 2007

President / Community Board

Dave Pocock Ph 814 9697 davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Vice President

Korstiaan Prins Ph 814 1850 korprins@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

Jan Haine Ph 837 2318 jan_haine@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Jan James Ph 814 9194 pwmandjjj@clear.net.nz

Newsletter Editor

Jenny Bebbington Ph 814 9665 bizart@xtra.co.nz

Hall Manager / RoadWatch

Les Duffield Ph 814 1130 lesjudyj@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members:

Frank Hogsden Ph 814 9869

Robin Essex Ph 814 1850 robsx@free.net.nz

Brian Riley Ph 814 9957 brian.riley@xtra.co.nz
Suzanne Timms Ph 814 9346 shtimms@xtra.co.nz
Simon Prast Ph 308 5520 simon@twa.co.nz

Simon Prast Ph 308 5520 simon@twa.co.nz Oliver Driver driver@easytoremember.co.nz

Representative:

lan Ford Ph 814 8871 ian.ford@xtra.co.nz (Fire Brigade)

Stop Press!

Awhole 'New World' has opened up in Waitakere City, and perhaps elsewhere. Not only can we dispose of number one's and number two's, but any plastic container from one to seven. The numbered codes are printed on the underside of all plastic packaging inside a small triangle shape. So, let's join together in filling up those blue and yellow bins to the brim. Some folk may even require a second one!

Annual Plan Deliberations Begin

Waitakere City Council has begun deliberations on its Draft Annual Plan (budget) for 2007/08.

Annual Plan Special Committee chairperson, Janet Clews, says that councillors will initially be examining the "first cut" of recommended work plans and budgets, and the outcomes will form the Draft Annual Plan and budget that is offered for public submissions.

"During this process we will be considering recommendations from the council, community boards and the chief executive. It is important that the public know this is the second year of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) which we adopted last year. This means that nearly all the work is already programmed, consulted and agreed upon; and this is mainly a fine tuning exercise. It is also important that the public realise the council will be doing everything possible to reach a balance between the lowest possible rates while not sacrificing public services," says Councillor Clews.

The council is scheduled to adopt the Draft Annual Plan on March 2nd for public consultation. Public submissions will open on Monday 26th March and close on Friday 27th April. At a meeting on February 20th, councillors discussed an urgent item regarding any possible financial contribution for an upgrade to Eden Park for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. While the council has not formally been asked to contribute funding for this, it resolved that if any such request were received from the Government it would consult with residents (during the Annual Plan process) before making a decision.

While the Annual Plan sets the council's budget for the coming financial year the LTCCP outlines the direction and spending intentions for the coming ten years.

Submission forms will be available in the April issue of the Waitakere News, on the council web site www.waitakere. govt.nz at the Civic Centre, service centres and libraries. For more information please contact Director of Finance, Andrew Pollock on 836 8000 / 021 220 9718; or Councillor Janet Clews on 836 8000.

Advertising and Community N

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

AFTER SCHOOL CARE/HOME HELP NEEDED: - Preferably 4 or 5 nights a week from 3:00pm until 5:30 or 6:00pm. If interested please contact Steve 021 398 425 or Kim 027 563 4475 or Phone 306 5654.

2007, January to December.

HANDYMAN WORK: - Reliable, efficient with fair rates. Special-gutters cleaned and gutter guard installed, from \$45. Phone Mike 814 9708

LA LECHE LEAGUE: Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kelston Community Centre. For more info call Adith: phone 818 7728.

LAWN MOWING: - Local, reliable. Phone Eric 837 2333. ORATIA SCHOOL 125TH CELEBRATIONS NOVEMBER 2007 We have started work on a book covering the events of the last 25 years, and would like to know about past pupils who have done things that might be of interest to other people. Can you help us? Any stories, events, occurrences, successes, will be gratefully accepted at the school office... address / ph no. ??

OTIMAL: - Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Please phone Lynne and Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

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

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE INCORPORATED: - is currently rehearsing the musical "Grease". The director is Dorothy Chisholm and she is working with a group of very talented young performers, who are backed by an excellent production team and stage crew. This production will be performed at Playhouse Theatre, 15 Glendale Road, Glen Eden. Auckland: and the season dates are 8th to 24th March 2007. Booking details as follows: - www.iticket. co.nz Phone (09) 361 1000 or phone 818 8791.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET COMPANY: - performance by the "Tower" TUTUS ON TOUR will be on Sunday 11th March 2007 at the Titirangi War Memorial hall, 7.30pm. Tickets prices are: \$35-00 for adults, \$25-00 for kids & seniors; and are available from the Titirangi Pharmacy.
Only 300 tickets. Door sales will be possible, but cash only.

SEA & SKY: - recent oil paintings by Stefanie Kroeger: 2nd March - 25th March 2007, opening Saturday 3rd March 2.00pm at West Coast Gallery, the old fire station, PIHA. Stefanie's work is photorealist (paintings featuring unusual aspects or close-up sections of everyday views) Cut off subjects leave room for the viewers' personal interpretation, allowing Stefanie to reproduce surfaces in great detail - water, timber and rust are favourite shades and textures. Her last exhibition was very popular and almost sold out within the first week.

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

NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION...

Chef - Brian Young has a passion for food and attention to detail Wednesdays - Kids eat free off the childrens menu.

Friday & Saturday nights - Live entertainment Rod Redgrave and Dave Alley are popular so make sure you book.

17th March St Patricks Day - We are planning a special event for St Patricks Day. Come and "Kiss the Blarney Stone" in Waiatarua! 10% Discount for Residents & Ratepayers Assn members

Remember to bring your card along to qualify for your discount.

Come along for casual relaxed dining. Check the website for more details

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MARCH - APRIL NEWSLETTER

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