

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

April 2007



WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Weedfree Waitakere

The free weed bin is now at the top of Kauri Loop Road. It will be there until the 10th of April, so take advantage of the opportunity to rid your property of all those "weed nasties", including: 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

In the February/March issue of the Waiatarua Community News there was an excellent article on Weedfree Waitakere's 'Weed War'. This advertised a service whereby residents could receive a site visit with advice on managing their weed problem.

Two years ago I decided to remove all my wandering jew (Tradescantia) and filled a 9 cubic metre bin provided free by the Council. My property was now almost weedfree except for a creek bed at the bottom of a vertical cliff and I often stood at the top and looked down at the now flowering ginger and thought "if only I were brave enough to somehow get down there".

So I rang Neil Henderson of Weedfree Waitakere, who came out to investigate and recommended a contractor who found me a safe way down the cliff face, allowing me to dig it all out myself. I was very impressed with this service as the people were so helpful and it was free.

I believe that hand weeding is the way to go - the weeds are instantly gone, it is non-toxic and very good exercise. Of course, you must follow up several times a year to get the bits you miss and any new seedlings that germinate.

It is very satisfying having a weedfree property and must add to its value. I hope you all take advantage of the free weed bin at the top of Kauri Loop Road which will be there until 10th April.

SUSANNE TIMMS

Thank you Susanne for organising the delivery of the weed bin to Kauri Loop Road. ED

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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



Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust Inc.

Proudly Presents

"The Odd Couple"

(Female version)

*By the hilarious renowned American playwright Neil Simon
Set in New York in the 1980's*

Director: Carol Gibson

At the Waiatarua Community Hall
911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua

Thursday 12th, Friday 13th, Saturday 14th April 8:00pm
Sunday 15th April 6:30pm

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st April 8:00pm

Tickets \$20 - Phone Kandi

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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.

The theatre is licensed so come along for a fun night of entertainment.

Keep an eye out!

In the next issue (or two) we will be bringing a new look to the newsletter - so don't miss it in your letterbox.

There is so much happening in Waiatarua - Drama Group, Table Tennis, Quiz Nights, Debates etc, let the editor know if you have any events happening in Waiatarua that you would like published.

From the Editor

Jenny Bebbington

Oh, what big shoes I have to fill! I do believe I will need to wear a few pairs of socks, but I am sure that with the support of the community my feet will grow – or maybe the shoes will shrink. Of course I am referring to Robin Essex's selfless contribution as editor and to Korstiaan Prins who tirelessly put together the newsletter ready for printing. This is a task that at times can be thankless and is often on the receiving end of criticism. People like this are rare – having given up huge amounts of personal time and commitment for the betterment of the community as a whole. So I know I join many others in saying to them "Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the newfound freedom that gives you the time to pursue other activities". Robin and Kor are both still actively involved in our community and remain committee members.

What I have learned in the short time since volunteering as the new editor, is that there are many, many people who quietly (or not so quietly) have a keen interest and involvement in Waiatarua. These include: Dave Pocock – WRRRA President, Jan Haine – Treasurer, Jan James – Secretary, Les Duffield – Hall Manager, Ian Ford – Fire Brigade, Jenni Hunter – proofreader, Tony Bacon – distribution...I could go on and on; as I am sure there are people for me still to meet. I hope we all take the time to realise that Waiatarua is the place it is because of all these people.

Today, the first day after the end of daylight saving, I pause and contemplate Waiatarua as the new editor. I can still hear the cicadas buzzing and the tuis singing, the only sounds as summer draws to an end. I realise that we are a unique bunch living amongst the bush and just how blessed each and every one of us is. Rarely do I spot a neighbour; I sometimes wonder where the rest of world is and find myself surprised that Auckland City is only a few kilometres away. There is so much history here, many talented artists, beautiful gardens, unique homes and well known (and not so well known) characters. I hope we can bring you some of those stories and would welcome anyone that would like to contribute content to the newsletter. Waiatarua is a positive place and I would like to encourage that optimism in our correspondence with readers – this newsletter is a forum for the exchange of news and opinions from the community and a means of communicating the activities of the Waiatarua Ratepayers' and Residents' Association.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has given me such a warm welcome and offers of support – I am excited that I can now take my turn in making a contribution to 'lovely Waiatarua'.

Dr Gareth Morgan: raising funds for Karekare Surf Club

High profile economist, author, investment manager, columnist and philanthropist, Gareth is presenting 'The Investment Adventurer' at the New Lynn Community Centre on Thursday 17 May. Dr Morgan will speak about: Outlook for Investment Markets, Kiwisaver, his 'Backblocks America' motorcycle road trip, and experiences as a beginner in the philanthropic sector.

Admission \$15 payable at the door, with proceeds going to the Karekare Surf Club, matched dollar for dollar by the Morgan Family Charitable Foundation. Register at www.garethmorgan.com or, for more information, contact Kevin Healy at Kevin@healy.co.nz

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Sponsored by the Fairy Flower Shop,
423 Titirangi Road, Titirangi. Phone 817 3780

The **bouquet** goes to Robin Essex and Korstiaan Prins. We have received several nominations, as gratitude for the huge effort Robin and Kor have made as the "Newsletter Team".

There have been no nominations for **brickbat** this month.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi all! Welcome to the first newsletter from our new editor Jenny, and the first report from the new committee year. We had our first meeting on the 14th March and believe me this is shaping up to be an exciting year with a fresh injection of ideas from our new members; Suzanne is a keen gardener and will be helping us all to become weed free, whilst Simon and Oliver are keen to introduce regular community activities based around our Hall.

You may be interested to know that the council recently engaged locals Kevin and Christine Healy to do an inspection of all the halls in Waitakere. Their comment was that as far as presentation, facilities and environment are concerned our hall was right up there as one of the best, so let's be proud and use it. Our Quiz will, or has started on the 31st March so if you missed this one look out for the next as these are great fun. Once again we have Ian Ford and Cathie Wells to thank for these.

Table tennis starts again next month and we have two brand new tables so no more excuses. They tell me the Whittington family has been practicing so much that their dining table is just about worn out.

Hope you have June 23rd marked on the calendar, or you will regret missing the first Waiatarua Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner and Debate. Robin tells me the debating teams are going to blow your socks off. Thanks to all those people that sent in ideas for the debate topic: we received none, even though a free meal was in the offering.

Also coming up in April is the latest production from our own drama group 'The Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust'. Opening night is Thursday, April 12th and 'The Odd Couple' is going to be one hilarious play.

It was good to see Frank Hodgson at the last committee meeting looking fighting fit after his quadruple by-pass. Daylight saving has finished which means it is lighter in the mornings, which suits me fine being an early bird. **Well that's all for now folks, Dave**

THE WAIATARUA DEBATE

We have the participants but still require some suggestions on topics for June 23rd. Remember there is a prize for the winner – complimentary dinner at the event! Call Robin or Kor on 814 1850 for further information, or email robsx@free.net.nz

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

The recent wet weather was greatly appreciated by all Volunteer Fire Brigades in the Ranges, as it has been by everyone with rapidly emptying water tanks. The only fire of any size that we attended during the dry spell was at Piha, across the stream from the camping ground.

Motor vehicle accidents were the subject of a one day course for the whole brigade at the Fire Station this month, in addition to our regular Monday night training.

Recent Calls:

10:29pm Sunday 25 February – Car fire, Spraggs Bush, Scenic Drive;

2:13am Friday 2 March – House fire, Lone Kauri Road. The unoccupied two storey house was well alight when the first crew from Karekare arrived, and that combined with difficult access and a lack of water meant that it was beyond saving. Karekare were assisted by crews from Piha, Waiatarua and Henderson. The tinder-dry bush around the area was our major concern, once we established that there were no lives at risk;

2:10am Saturday 3 March – Car fire, Shaw Road;

2:28pm Saturday 3 March – Scrub fire, Lone Kauri Road. This fire took some time to develop after a smouldering mosquito coil dropped into some dead leaves, but once started it was potentially serious. It was brought under control quickly once discovered;

7:19pm Thursday 8 March – False alarm, Waiatarua Community Centre;

1:44pm Saturday 24 March – Rubbish fire, West Coast Road; and

9:07pm Saturday 24 March – Car fire, Scenic Drive.

CONTACTS: Phone 111 for anything you want the Fire Brigade to attend, even as a precaution. Otherwise please call Ian Ford 814 8871, Helen Longley 814 9855 or Karl Nuttall 814 8777.

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Recommences 24th April, 7pm, Waiatarua Hall – 911 West Coast Rd. \$2 per person. Everyone welcome, so bring along your family for this fun, weekly event. Contact Les on 814 1130 or Korstiaan on 814 1850, for further information.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our March get together in South Auckland was very enjoyable despite the rain showers. Addenbrook Garden was a delight and we were able to satisfy our retail urges at the two completely different nurseries. We finished the day with Devonshire tea in the café by the lake.

Our April 4 visit is to the garden of Glen Crewther and Bruce Fraser at 54 Robley Crescent, Glendowie. It is a fairly steep subtropical quarter-acre paradise, bordering a stream. The entry fee for the garden is \$5 and we will meet at 1pm. We will then have a bonus visit to a nearby garden featuring many mosaics, which is set on the harbour edge.

All Waiataruans are invited to join us. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 or Margaret on 814 9859 for further information or to arrange car pooling.

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE WARBYS

Frank Warby does not claim to be a long term local. However, over 60 years in the district means he is certainly no *Johnny come lately*.

Educated at Oratia Primary and Henderson High, where he met his wife Cheryl, Frank has a long history with the council as a roadworks contractor working on the local road network including involvement in the sealing of Forest Hill Road. As far as memories are concerned there are many, with some not suitable for publication. Growing up in the district, Frank recalls the area certainly had many characters residing in the hills. I dare say this still holds true today.

One character in particular was Vic Whittle, who used to deliver the Evening Star newspaper. In itself this hardly warrants mention, it was the method of delivery that was a delight. It seems that Waiatarua in the 50s & 60s had two bus services; one at 3pm – known as the shoppers' bus – and the workers' bus at 5pm. This workers' bus was instrumental in Vic's method of delivering the Evening Star. It seems that he would stand on the front steps on the bus and hurl the papers out. To reach other side of the road he would throw the papers over the roof of the bus. Being the workers' bus, often there was considerable merriment – perhaps caused by the amber fluid. Combine this with Vic and his newspapers and it must have been a sight to be seen. After Vic retired, his wife continued the newspaper delivery – this time on horseback.

Frank is now retired from contracting and devotes his time to finishing his new house on West Coast Road. In their spare time Frank & Cheryl can be found at any number of RSAs dancing up a storm, anything from rock and roll to the popular Aussie Dance Steps.

Frank's other passion is educating people on the true name of our area, and that's another story.

Victor Maxwell – Cascade Avenue

Victor has generously offered to provide a regular article on the many interesting characters in our community. Be sure to keep an eye out each month for these fascinating stories. ED

Roadwatch Report

Les Duffield

I started the roadwatch campaign with the hope that we could improve the conditions we drive in and the manner in which we drive on these roads that we all use. Even as I walk the dog, I am still surprised at the number of drivers who make no attempt to slow down, move out and if necessary stop for vehicles coming in the opposite direction and I've followed vehicles that nearly take out walkers, runners and cyclists, in the same situation. As we feel that we are getting nowhere with our reports and warnings, it has been decided to end the 'roadwatch' report in the newsletter. However, we will still act as a liaison with the Waitakere City Council for reports on damage, repairs needed and your thoughts on the conditions here in Waiatarua. **In summary, it is not safe to walk, jog and let our children ride their cycles in the area of Waiatarua. Take care!**

As this newsletter went to print I received a report from Les, about a vehicle that lost control on West Coast Road. The previous day had been sunny and hot, but on the day rain prevailed, making road conditions treacherous. Luckily the car hit a bank – another 15 feet and it would have hit an occupied bus stop. No one was hurt – thankfully. ED

The Stick Insect – Phasmida

Stick insects are the largest insects in NZ and are also notable because of their size, fearsome appearance, and perfect camouflage. They are wingless, lack ears, make no noise and are harmless to man. If startled, they will freeze and can remain still for considerable lengths of time.

We have about 22 species of stick insect, placed in nine genera. There is some debate about their taxonomy and there are new species that have yet to be described. Some species of stick insect are parthenogenetic, meaning that they reproduce without requiring a male of the species to fertilise the egg.

Phasmids are common throughout both islands, and can be found from sea level to high altitudes – occurring most frequently on manuka, bush lawyer, astelias, and other endemic bush trees and shrubs. Some species are green and merge well with foliage; others are brown and drab-coloured, resembling twigs or small branches. Spines and irregularities of the integument add to their general twig-like appearance. These fascinating creatures are vegetarian, eating tender shoots and leaves of the trees they inhabit. Their eggs are remarkably camouflaged to appear like small pieces of bark or broken twig and so are almost impossible to see amongst plant litter on the forest floor. All New Zealand species are wingless and range in size from approximately 4cm to 15cm in body length, with legs correspondingly long. Although this might be thought quite large, one Malaysian stick insect has been known to reach a length, legs included, of 56 centimetres!

Stick Insects are aplenty at this time of the year – thanks Robin for bringing us this story, it's fabulous to have a better understanding of this species we share Waiatarua with. ED

Waiatarua Ratepayers & 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

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Secretary

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

Newsletter Editor

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Hall Manager

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

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

Brian Riley Ph 814 9957 brian.riley@xtra.co.nz

Susanne Timms Ph 814 9346 shtimms@xtra.co.nz

Simon Prast Ph 308 5520 simon@twa.co.nz

Oliver Driver driver@easytoremember.co.nz

Representative:

Ian Ford Ph 814 8871 ian.ford@xtra.co.nz

(Fire Brigade)

The Arataki Rangers' Roundup

Well, there has certainly been a lot going on around Arataki lately. The Education team has kicked off the new school year with a full and exciting range of courses.

The Arataki Nature Trail has seen some extra attention, being re-metalled in February. It took the whole Arataki crew, with the aid of two generous Dutch volunteers from out at Piha, one and a half days to spread 40 tonnes of metal around the trail.

Some of you driving past Parkinson's Lookout may have spotted some changes. The Arataki and Huia Rangers put in a team effort to thin a lot of the old (and in some cases dead) vegetation back. The central plantings and border gardens both received attention – the hope is that by opening the area up it will appear more inviting to visitors to the lookout and picnickers, and less so to late night revellers!

The high winds of early March saw a lot of fallen trees over the tracks. One sad victim was a nice kowhai at the Arataki Visitor Centre that gave up the ghost.

Unfortunately we are still encountering a great deal of garden rubbish dumped on Park land. This is a frustrating and illegal practice and is also a primary vector for spreading weeds throughout the Park. If you are witness to such acts, please report them to the Arataki Visitor Centre on 817 0089.

On a brighter note, March 10 saw the annual Volunteer Celebration at Kaiterakihi. Many of the volunteers and their families came out to enjoy a day put on by grateful Rangers and ARC staff. A highlight was a free harbour cruise, giving many a different perspective on and appreciation of the Manukau. Our thanks go out to all those volunteers who make so many of our programmes possible.

March 11 was witness once more to the extremely popular and 18th annual – Oxfam 'Walk for Survival' fundraiser. Thousands turned up to support the cause and explore the historic tramline. Opened up just this one day a year by Watercare along the lines of their Rainforest Express, walkers experience spectacular dam and Manukau vistas in between ducking through the cave weta in the narrow tunnels!

**That's all for this time around. Kakite
The Arataki Rangers**

West Coast Gallery presents Gillian Harrop – Holding the World

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Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Jenny Bebbington via Email bizart@xtra.co.nz or phone 814 9665. Community Notices are free to financial members 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.

OTIMAI: - 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.

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB: - Recommences April 24th at 7pm, Waiatarua Hall 911 West Coast Road. NEW TABLES. Everyone welcome. \$2 entry. Contact Les 814 1130 or Korstiaan 814 1850.

WAIEMATA TECORIAN SPEAKERS: - Gain confidence, communicate more effectively, extend knowledge, stimulate imagination and have fun at the same time. We meet at the Tiritangi 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.

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.

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).

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Come along for casual/relaxed dining.
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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	

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MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of The Editor,
by **WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL, 2007**
Jenny Bebbington Ph 814 9665
bizart@xtra.co.nz