

STOP PRESS! PERMANENT WEED BIN IN WAIATARUA

BRING OUT YOUR WEEDS! The Waitakere City Council is placing a permanent weed bin at the Waiatarua Fire Station on Scenic Drive. This is being made available for residents of Waiatarua to dispose of environmental weeds.

Environmental weeds are species that are invasive – they spread rapidly and overrun the native plants that make up the NZ bush and streamsides. This destroys the ability of these areas to remain healthy, and to support the plants and wildlife that naturally live there, which then damages the water quality of our streams. Remember, weeds spread beyond your land using wind, water, birds and people. Keeping them under control in the garden is not effective.

The weeds we particularly encourage you to remove and bin are: *wild ginger*, *plectranthus* (of which there are three types in Waiatarua), *blue morning glory*, *agapanthus*, *wandering Jew*, *woolly nightshade*, *jasmine*, *pampas grass* and *climbing asparagus*. The bin is for environmental weeds only; please do not put in garden waste such as tree prunings, lawn cuttings, soil, and native vegetation such as fern and nikau fronds in the bin. Other materials such as inorganic, building and household waste are not welcome either.

The folk at the community operated fire station have kindly allowed the bin to be sited within their grounds. Please remember this is an operational fire station, so you must park in the allocated area away from the entrance to the station when disposing of your weeds. The bin is available for all Waiatarua residents to use. Please be respectful when disposing of your weeds, IF YOU ABUSE THIS SERVICE WE WILL LOSE IT.

This is a Green Network Project. The Green Network aims to connect natural areas to create a network of gardens, bush, parks, streams, roadside and coastline vegetation from the ranges to the sea.

Waitakere City Council acknowledges that many residents do a lot of work in caring for nature on their own properties and the council supports this, offering a range of options to assist residents in undertaking this work on their land. For further information on this support (available also to community groups), please contact the Parks Community Assistance Coordinator on 839 0400 or visit www.waitakere.govt.nz.

"We thank the Waiatarua R&R for their initiative on this matter and hope it proves to be a worthwhile service" says Jane Andrews, Community Assistance Coordinator, Parks, Waitakere City Council.

A big thank you to Susanne Timms (WRRRA Environmental Officer) for making this happen – ED

THIEVES, THIEVES AND MORE THIEVES

Every newsletter, or hotmail from Dave, brings more news of thieving. While they are breaking into our homes or our cars and stealing our possessions, creating damage that has to be repaired, they are also imposing themselves on our privacy. When will it stop?

One email described a neighbour who was willing to go and investigate; he wasn't in a position to apprehend the thief but did get a description, of both the man and the vehicle, although the number plates were false.

I wish this neighbour was your and my neighbour, because we need more people to investigate unusual circumstances.

Well help may be at hand. We already have our Community Constable – Theresa McCabe – and now a new Neighbourhood Support Scheme is being sponsored by the Government and supported by the Council.

This organisation is being set up with Street coordinators, area coordinators and supervisory administration. The previous scheme apparently failed due to lack of funds and participants, although at a recent meeting on the subject, there was an individual who spoke about continuing the scheme in his road to great effect, with arrests made and crime reduced by 95%. I am trying to emphasise the need for us to be aware and alert. Get descriptions, get registration numbers and report them.

Very soon we will be looking for individuals to act as street coordinators. I know from the telephone calls I have received from residents, that there is interest in Bush Road, West Coast Road and on Scenic Drive.

These thieves probably live within our own community so be aware and watch this space – **Les Duffield, ph 814 1130**

ATTENTION WAIATARUA RESIDENTS

A meeting is to be held regarding the recent spate of burglaries in Waiatarua.

13 July – 7pm • Waiatarua Hall – 911 West Coast Road

Everyone welcome for an open discussion about what we can do as a community, and the concerns about burglaries in Waiatarua. It would be great to see a representative from every street attend.

For further details phone Les Duffield 814 1130

WILD PIGS IN WAIATARUA

Those of you whose properties adjoin reserve or ARC parkland may have experienced your lawn being transformed into a ploughed field. There are big black hairy monsters out there which are also causing severe damage in the bush.

The man to contact is John Rule who is employed by the ARC to eliminate wild pigs. Telephone him on 811 8604 or 027 474 5354 as soon as you notice damage as this problem seems to be increasing. The more people who report it, the better it will be for the environment.

Susanne Timms (WRRRA Environmental Officer)

WAIATARUA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

EDITOR:

Jenny Bebbington - Ph 814 9665
E-Mail: bizart@xtra.co.nz

WRRRA 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

From the Editor

Jenny Bebbington

Is it really colder at the moment than it was this time last year? I've had comments from a few residents proclaiming that "I have never been so cold in all my life" and I have certainly wondered if, yes indeed, it was going to be the coldest winter on record. But, as Dave Pocock has pointed out to me; the weather has been very mild of late, and the contrast has put a lot of us in shock, and reaching for blankets and hot water bottles.

We have a couple of advertising spaces available on the back page. It is a fabulous opportunity to promote your business, as the newsletter reaches 900 homes. A couple of our advertisers rely solely on these adverts, with great success. Please give me a call if you are interested - 814 9665.

Take care and until next time... **Jenny Bebbington**

Library Report

Jeanette Ziesler

Come on in & get a good read for the colder evenings.

NEW THIS MONTH: The Lollipop Shoes - Joanne Harris. This is her long awaited follow up to *Chocolat*. **Engleby** - Sebastian Faulkes. A whodunit which explores addiction, evil, obsession and mental illness. **The Post Birthday World** - Lionel Shriver. Moral dilemmas, great book club stuff. **Roar of the Lion** - Frank Coates. Another one for Coates' many fans. **Waitakere Ranges**. This is a special book for us. Please borrow it but treat it with the care it deserves. Everything you need to know and a great browsing book.

Remember you can reserve books; call in or email jawz@clear.net.nz.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our July visit is to the UNITEC Horticulture Department, to check out the gardeners of tomorrow. The address is 139 Carrington Rd, Mt Albert, on Wednesday 4 July at 1 pm. Ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information or to arrange car pooling. Our August visit is to Peter Brady's subtropical garden at 56 Marsden Ave, Mt Eden, followed by lunch at Eden Gardens.

All Waitaruanas are invited to join us. Ring Eileen on 814 9298 or email etpowe@clear.net.nz for further information or to arrange car pooling.

HALL HIRE

911 WEST COAST ROAD, WAIATARUA

1-2 hour sessions \$20. Half day hire \$60
Half day & evening function (deposit required) \$150
Contact Les on 814 1130 or Dave on 814 9697

BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

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

We have just had a member of Waitarua Playcentre leave - Jenny McGee.

Jenny has been president for 3 years and a very enthusiastic education officer. We will miss Jenny's timely advice and friendly face, and the experienced parental modelling that she has contributed for well over 10 years. Jenny's unfailing participation in Playcentre has always been dependable and a huge support to everyone involved. Of course, Jenny is still supporting us in other ways. We would like to acknowledge Jenny and all the McGee family with a nomination for the bouquet.

Waitarua Playcentre.

There have been no nominations for the brickbat this month.

From the President

Dave Pocock

Hi! Last month I started with the burglaries and with one of our members being hit three times. Well I have heard from the gentleman concerned: he contacted Theresa McCabe (818 8295) who, he tells me, offered great support. I know she has been a little difficult to contact recently due to an accident, but I think all is back to normal now.

You know how we all get annoyed and ignore those blasted burglar alarms? I know I do. Well I have been told by an ex burglar that they rely on us doing that, as this is what they do.

1. Deliberately set off the alarm and wait to see if anyone comes
2. Repeat step one
3. Set it off again, don't earmuffs and proceed to rob the house at their leisure

I know that I will be checking the neighbours' alarm more stringently from now on.

Also take a note of any suspicious vehicles around your neck of the woods and remember to lock the house up tight when going out. The Police do respond, as has been confirmed by correspondence I receive from locals, but you need to provide as much descriptive information as possible and as soon as possible, preferably while the culprits are still there.

In the same vein a meeting was held recently to establish Neighbourhood Support Waitakere which is the replacement for Neighbourhood Watch/Support, which ceased due to lack of funds. Committee member Les Duffield was at the meeting which he says was well attended. We will keep you informed as to its progress.

In the meantime I strongly recommend that you join W.R.R.A. and receive our email Hotmail where information on burglar activity is shared, plus up to the minute information including WCC press releases. It only costs \$10 per annum and you can join by sending the money plus name, address, phone number (or fill in the form at the bottom of the next page) and mail to 911 West Coast Rd or drop in my box at 792 West Coast Rd. Membership now stands at 80 so the magic 100 is getting closer.

By the time you read this our mid-winter Xmas dinner/debate will have been and gone with a SOLD OUT house. Robin Essex and her partner Korstiaan Prins were largely responsible for organising this so big thanks to them and also to the impressive array of talent who have freely given their time to entertain us. We will seriously consider making this an annual event.

Our Quiz nights and Table Tennis continue to draw an enthusiastic group of participants, so do not forget Table Tennis at the Hall 7pm every Tuesday for the princely sum of \$2 each. You do not need to be a gun player to join in, in fact if you have never played before it is a good way to start. Bats are available.

It is the same for Quiz night - you do not need to be a master mind to have a great time and even win a prize. These are held about every six weeks so keep your eye on this publication for the next one.

Well that's me for another month; I was reminded of life in the hills as I had a power cut in the middle of writing this, fortunately with no loss of script - Dave

Fire Brigade

Ian Ford

Kevin Healy, Gareth Mullins and Aaron Offenbaker completed a 4-day scenario based Officer Training course at Hopuhopu late last month. This follows a comprehensive theory programme, and means that our Brigade is now the strongest it has ever been in terms of leadership and succession for the future.

Recent Calls

5:57am, 20 May - Car fire, Anawhata Road.

7:30am, 23 May - Diesel spill, Piha Road. This was one of our largest ever incidents - more than 15km from Piha store down to Forest Hill Road. Fire crews warned traffic until the Council contractors could spread absorbent material on the worst areas.

10:14 pm, 24 May - Car crash, Piha Road. We assume there was no-one hurt; the scene was deserted when we got there.

7:33 pm, Sun 3 June - Rubbish fire, corner Piha and Anawhata Roads.

Your Safety

Cold winter nights are the peak time of year for house fires. Nobody can guarantee that it won't happen to them! If it does, the speed of fire means you'll have to save yourself because no Fire Brigade can get to you in time. Please ensure you have smoke alarms that work and an escape plan for your home (a real plan that you've practised, not just one you've given 5 seconds thought to). Doors and windows must be easy to open - keep keys in deadlocks when you're at home.

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

Waitarua Rainfall (May 2007)

	Rain Days	Wettest Day	Mth Total	Year to Date
Mountain Road	13	2nd - 15mm	49 mm	409 mm
Brabant Road	16	25th - 11mm	41 mm	426 mm
Quinns Road	21	1st - 24mm	74 mm	363 mm
Forest Hill Road	14	2nd - 13mm	43 mm	434 mm
Auckland City	-	-	19 mm	301 mm

Focus on Business

Picking macadamia nuts and washing cars – a fairly inauspicious and unlikely beginning for a successful veterinary practice! When Zoran and Suncica opened their doors in 1999 from their rented house in Raroa Tce, they had only a few clients. Today, they have 3,500 and operate from their own home in West Coast Road, where the ground floor is entirely dedicated to an extremely spacious and well-appointed clinic. The story of West Coast Veterinary Clinic is one of strength, commitment and determination, and also one of local support. Zoran and Suncica arrived in New Zealand from Croatia in 1996, owning nothing, and with few work prospects. Although a qualified vet in Croatia, Zoran was well aware that his qualification wasn't recognised here, so the couple started the long, hard haul to realise their dream of having a great life in their new country. Suncica obtained work in early childhood education, but there wasn't the money to pay for Zoran's exams at Massey, needed to obtain his New Zealand registration as a vet (which is where the macadamia nut picking and car washing came in!). As Zoran speaks of those days, it's clear that he simply saw this as a rite of passage – there's not a hint of resentment that he was not automatically accepted as a vet in New Zealand.

Zoran and Suncica's move to Waiatarua/Orotia was at the suggestion of a friend and colleague, Bryan Moore, who knew of a vet who was retiring. He convinced the couple that Zoran should take over the practice and that they should move into the friendly community. As Suncica says, "We thought, why not? We had no other plans!" Starting off with only a few clients meant that there was a huge amount of work to be done to build a viable practice; it wasn't until the move to the current premises in West Coast Rd in 2001 that the clinic really started to come into its own. Finally, in 2004, the last major building block was put in place – Suncica was able to move into the business full-time as Practice Manager. Zoran is quick to point out that Bryan's support over a long period of time has been invaluable (Bryan works in the practice one day a week, and as needed) – and that Bryan was right – ours is indeed a friendly, supportive community.

Zoran has focused his post-graduate studies in small animal medicine, in line with the clinic's chosen area of specialisation. He's committed to ongoing education. In addition to his original veterinary qualification and subsequent New Zealand registration, Zoran has also completed Massey University courses in oncology and ophthalmology, and a course in Small Animal Medicine through the University of Sydney. Last year he passed the exam required for Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Small Animal Medicine. Fairly impressive, I thought, but wait – there's more – next year he's undertaking a course in Small Animal Dermatology through the University of Sydney. (I do hope Suncica's not under any illusion about having her husband back any time soon, because I sense he'll keep studying forever!)

I have to say, I'd really like to work for these two, given the way they rave about their staff! On the team is our own Annie Whittle – she was one of the 'original' few clients, and, when the time was right, offered her services as a vet nurse. I can tell how much Zoran and Suncica value her, both as an employee and a friend. Then there's Terri-Kaye Tallentire, a full-time qualified vet nurse who joined the practice in January this year. Zoran and Suncica said they certainly had plenty to choose from, but Terri was the standout candidate, and they're thrilled with her (they also love the fact that she's a 'local'). Then there's Dr Bryan Moore (who works in the practice on a part-time basis); reading between the lines, Bryan seems to have acted as a mentor over the years – the couple credit him with much of their success, and he forms part of what sounds like a very well balanced team.

Before I leave our interview, I'm given a tour of the clinic – the spacious premises incorporate several dedicated special-purpose areas, including a huge, well-appointed surgery, where the profits from the practice are clearly being heavily invested straight back into the latest in equipment and technology. There's a gorgeous cat-client who's obviously going to be staying overnight – he seems perfectly content, and is getting plenty of attention – Suncica left our interview a couple of times to check on him. This couple clearly deserves the success they have achieved; they have a real commitment to the community and we are fortunate to have such a wonderful team right on our doorstep, dedicated to the care of our animal companions. West Coast Vet Clinic, 546 West Coast Rd. Ph 818 4104 or 0274 852 728 – **Jan Haine**

The Arataki Rangers' Roundup

The Planting Days have had a great turnout. Thirty students from Waitakere Primary School joined local rangers in planting around the margin of Lake Wainamu, while local residents and members of Coast Care planted at the Tasman View Lookout, Piha. Thanks to all who have supported these days, and the opportunity they provide to enrich the local area. Early June saw a Minke whale washed up at Piha beach. There was little opportunity for concerned locals and agencies to respond as the whale died prior to washing up. Those of you who have not visited Whatipu recently will be in for a surprise. The start of June saw a large slab of Cutter Rock separate and collapse to the sand. It is a significant chunk of rock and has changed the profile of this well known landmark. It has been another reminder of the dynamic and evolving environment that is our Park.

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

Letters to the Editor

I note in your recent newsletters you mentioned the issue of burglars in the Waiatarua area. We only moved into the mid 800 numbers of West Coast Rd about 2 years ago. Fortunately we work from a home based office and have negated 2 or 3 burglaries in our short time already in the area.

Only this morning I noted an individual coming out of our neighbour's property who then met up with a cohort. Unfortunately for them I spent 13 years as a member of the NZ Police and got a gut feeling which said that they just don't fit the area. I just knew straight away they were up to no good and watched them walk in and out of our neighbours' properties between Bush Rd and Rimu St whilst I was talking with the Police communications centre. It only took about 3–4 minutes before the arrival of the first Police unit. The offenders were quickly apprehended and one of the Police members advised that these two had been mentioned only the day before in staff briefings: that they were permanent burglars as an occupation. They would be interviewed for a large number of similar offences.

Only a year ago our neighbours were burgled and I had to apologise to them for ignoring their house alarm, as many of us do! The 'crims' just did enough to set off the alarm and when they got a poor response from neighbours they went back and burgled the house about 2 hours later, taking a notebook computer and small items.

Geoff Knight

The Editor has received a letter from John Isaachsen of West Coast Rd. John notes that the road surface near Rimu Rd has become horribly bumpy and no longer effectively meets the needs of residents, public transport and visitors for driving, parking, turning safely etc. He asks whether someone else – younger and better qualified – might be prepared to focus the Council's attention on the immediate need for a smoother surface and a longer term design for the multiple needs of the area.

This letter has been passed to the committee, who have since contacted the Council. But if you would like to volunteer to champion this issue, or offer your support for it, please let the committee know. Contact details are on the front of this newsletter.

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

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

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

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)

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name _____ I ENCLOSE:

Address _____ \$10 household

Phone No _____ \$5 single occupant

Email _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua, Waitakere City or leave at the library

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.

CLEANER REQUIRED: On a regular basis for or a small 3 bedroom cottage on Scenic Drive. Vehicle required. Phone 836 3929

FOUND BLACK CAT: Black, longish hair with white patch on chest. No collar. For further information please phone 814 9434.

GARDENER REQUIRED: On a casual basis for general gardening work. Phone 836 3929

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

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 & Walter on 814 9992 for bookings.

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.

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

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.

WAIATARUA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Tuesday night, 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.

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

Elevation Licenced Café & Restaurant

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

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper

Glennall, Glen Eden Ph: 818 8263

Elkes Wine and Food Market

113 Sturges Rd. (Sat 10.00am-5.00pm)

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FROM THE HANDYMAN

Due an impending hip replacement operation, I have decided to withdraw my advert and not take on any new clients, or any new work. I will continue to service existing clients and see all their projects through. I must add that this role only came about from helping friends who insisted I should do it 'for real'. It was only supposed to be part time, so that I could fish and play golf regularly: but there have been no exciting fish to brag about for some time and my handicap has gone haywire. I have enjoyed the projects that we have completed, particularly the decks, roofs and conversions, even the small jobs that no one wants to do. So I thank you all for your custom and wish you all well for the future. **Les Duffield**



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NEW TIMES FOR ELEVATION... ELEVATION NEWS

Sunday Roast - Out of the oven at 6pm and is now so popular you will need to book. Choose from lamb, pork or turkey served with traditional roast vegetables. Only \$16.50 per person!

Winter Menu. Warming seafood chowder, great burger, lamb shanks and other winter treats are on the new menu. Check the web site and see for yourself.

Free Coffee with breakfast (Dine in only, sorry) Saturday & Sunday until 12 noon!

The fire is blazing every day and the restaurant is warm and cosy.
Live music Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons
Waiatarua Ratepayers Association members 10% discount (on two diners).

Come along for casual relaxed dining.

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AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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