

Waiatarua Community News

900 copies

October 2010



Meet Sam, our eight-year-old son. He was born with Down Syndrome but was also diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder shortly before he turned three. In addition to this, he has a long list of other medical conditions and it would be fair to say that life hasn't exactly been easy for him so far.

tion to this, he has a long list of other medical conditions and it would be fair to say that life hasn't exactly been easy for him so far.

Sam's love of animals and in particular dogs, led us to approach Assistance Dogs New Zealand to see if he might be a suitable candidate for one of their trained Assistance Dogs.

Having been accepted as a client, we now face the huge task of raising money for Assistance Dogs New Zealand, so that Sam can receive a dog which will hopefully enrich his life, provide him with companionship and perhaps make life outside of the home just that little bit easier.

To help us with our fundraising effort or find out more about Sam and Assistance Dogs New Zealand, go to <http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/Dog4Sam/>

If you would like to help but are unable to make an online donation, cheques made payable to Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust can be posted to ADNZ, c/o R & A Jackson, 24 Rimu Road, Oratia, Waitakere City 0604.

Since accepting the above article from Amanda and getting it out on the hotmail, we have received this response from her....

'We have had such a phenomenal response to our online fundraiser for Assistance Dogs New Zealand, that in one short week we have already passed our goal and the fundraising requirement in terms of our eligibility! Although we are still happy to keep fundraising for the Trust, we don't want to mislead anyone as Sam will definitely be getting an Assistance Dog just as soon as one is appropriately trained and is a suitable match.

We were completely surprised by the overwhelming support that we have received and obviously thought we would still be fundraising well in to the coming months.

Thanks again for offering your support.'

So, many thanks to the people who do read their mail (letterbox and online) and act upon it. Hopefully a few more people will donate to this worthy cause.



Waiatarua Performing Arts

in association with the Play Bureau NZ Ltd.

Presents

A farce by: David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Jnr.

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Murder at Checkmate Manor

Directed by Lindsay Nash

Tickets \$20 - Concession \$15

www.ezseats.co.nz or Phone: 814 1850



Waiatarua Community Hall 911 West Coast Road
6 - 16 October 2010

8.00pm, matinee 6.30pm Sunday. - No Performances Monday or Tuesday

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

EDITOR: All enquiries to Robyn O'Sullivan - Ph 814 1143, E-Mail: munster@ihug.co.nz • **WRRRA President:** Dave Pocock - Ph 814 9697, E-Mail: davepocock@xtra.co.nz

Community Hall & Library: 911 West Coast Road • **Hall hire (bookings)** John Goudge - Ph 814 9744

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 QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 30th October at 7.30pm

Waiatarua Hall, 911 West Coast Road....

Pub Quiz format - teams of around 6-8 (but we're not that strict). You can organise your own team or just turn up and we'll fit you in.

Entry is just \$5 per person. Please BYO drinks, and nibbles to share with your team (AND the quizmasters!)

- Commonwealth Games are over
- All Blacks aren't playing, nor are the Silver Ferns
- It's the weekend after Labour weekend
- And the one before the bonfire at the fire station (6 Nov, weather permitting...)

You will note this event has been planned around any excuses you may have come up with so we hope to see a good crowd...

For more info please call Ian or Cathie on 814 8871.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Games Night

Bring whatever games you have with you
And your own nibbles.

And let the games begin....

Friday 12th November at 6.30pm

At the WRRR Hall

Entry \$2 ea

Car Boot and Craft Sale

At the WRRR Hall

Saturday October 30th from 9-11am

\$5 per car space, payable on the day.

First in, first served, no advance bookings.

Tables in the hall for sellers of crafts...

\$10 to be booked in advance

Please contact Lynda Hogsden on 814 9869.

Garden Group

Eileen Powell

Our October 6 visit is to a local nursery which specialises in rare and unusual bulbs. Please ring Eileen on 8149 298 for further information. Our November 3 get together is a full day in the Whitford area visiting two large gardens.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by FRIDAY 15th OCTOBER 2010 - 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

Fire Brigade

I am writing the report this month for Louisa. I am pleased to announce that Louisa and Gareth are now proud parents. Caleb was born on the 8th September; both mother and baby doing well.

Things are still very quiet at the brigade with only two fire calls since the last newsletter.

We are planning to have our usual Guy Fawkes bonfire at the fire station on November 5th, with a rain day Saturday 6th from 7pm onwards. If you have any doubt about the weather just phone the fire station on 814 9213.

Fire Safety – Smoke Alarms

Dust and spider webs can affect smoke alarms. Clean with the vacuum cleaner once a month, and while doing so, test the alarm by pushing the test button. Batteries must be changed once a year, time this to recur on a regular date (such as daylight saving or a family member's birthday). All smoke alarms will sound a short "beep" every so often indicating that the battery is going flat.

Smoke alarms have a life expectancy of 10 years. A smoke alarm constantly monitors the air 24 hours a day. At the end of 10 years, it has gone through over 3.5 million monitoring cycles. After this much use, components may become less reliable. This means that as the detector gets older, the potential of falling to detect a fire increases. Smoke alarms that are wired into an electrical system (or burglar alarm) also need to be replaced every 10 years.

If an alarm regularly responds to smoke from cooking, there are several options to handle this problem. One way is to replace it with one that has a button to silence for a few minutes. You could move the alarm further away, giving the smoke more time to dissipate.

If the detector is the ionization type, another option is to replace it with a photoelectric. This detector is less sensitive to the smaller particles so less affected by cooking smoke. The other option is to use a heat detector rather than a smoke alarm.

To stop an alarm sounding, you need to clear the air in the sensor chamber. Fanning the alarm with a piece of paper or a tea towel is the best method and the alarm will stop automatically. Do Not try and disable the alarm by removing the battery.

The Waitakere Licensing Trust has generously given us some smoke alarms for the community. Anyone that like to take up this opportunity please contact Helen Longley on 814 9855, helen@longley.co.nz, helen.longley@fire.org.nz or Karl Nuttall on 814 8777 knutts@clear.net.nz, karl.nuttall@fire.org.nz, Karl.Nuttall@waitakere.govt.nz

Fire Calls

22/08/10 - Car Fire, Piha Road.

25/08/10 - Privately Monitored Smoke Alarm, Scenic Drive.

Contacts: Phone 111 for any Fire or Emergency. Otherwise please call Helen Longley (814 9855), Karl Nuttall (814 8777), Ian Ford (814 8871), Kevin Healy (814 9505), Gareth Mullins (814 9402).

Hi and Greetings

Are you enjoying the spring so far?

After the wet winter, it would be grand to see the sun. We know that Waiatarua receives sixty percent more rain than Auckland, but this has been one very damp winter. Susanne, our vice-president, recorded over 400mm on her gauge in Bush Rd in August - the heaviest she has recorded - confirming our estimate of a winter to forget. We did enjoy a wonderful autumn so we shouldn't complain.

Even in winter, the ranges are a great place to be. Lynda and I came here thirteen years ago seeking quiet, green and pleasant surroundings and we have not been disappointed.

I knew what to expect coming from Christchurch in the early fifties and cycling from Parrs Park, down hill on West Coast Rd with the view of the Oratia Stream bridge and the trees around the little museum - an enchanting introduction to the leafy ranges. I have cycled much of the area from Orewa to Wellington via Taupo, but Waiatarua and the ranges generally have been dear to my heart. In later years, the charm of the Waiatarua Hall and the Fire Brigade plays put on there, plus all the other community functions have been a continuing delight.

Life is all about community and fellowship. The west has been a great place to be. If you are new to this region, we trust you will also reap the benefits we have enjoyed amongst the bush and fine folk of Waiatarua and the ranges.

- Frank Hogsden

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Library Report

Jeannette Ziesler

Busy times at the library. Here is a selection of just some of the recent additions.

You can rely on **Gerald Seymour** to write a good thriller, and "The Dealer and The Dead" is tough and tight. Eighteen years after the war with the Serbs, some Croatians find the identity of an Englishman who betrayed them on an arms deal. Retribution is not quite as straightforward as planned.

This is for all fans of **Phillipa Gregory**. The second in her Cousins at War trilogy is called "The Red Queen" and tells of Margaret Beaufort's life from a child bride, through the feuding with the Yorks, to the establishment of the Tudors as the ruling family. Gregory never lets her readers down – each book is a hit.

"Howards End Is On the Landing" is a literary memoir from a superb author. **Susan Hill** spends a year rediscovering and reading books from her many bookshelves. This takes the reader on a journey of "must reads" and recollections of much enjoyed books as well as new ones to find. Great.

A harsh northern winter is the setting for this winner of the 2010 International Dagger award. **Johan Theorin** is rapidly gaining fans for "The Darkest Room", a mystery with a great plot and brilliant writing. A drowning may not be all that it seems on an island where many things in the past have odd explanations.

Many prominent New Zealanders have contributed to "Loving All Of It", edited by **Gordon McLauchlan**. This wonderful collection of essays is a reflection on life and the refusal to grow old. Contributors are Bob Harvey, Fiona Kidman, Wilson Whineray, Kate Harcourt, Ranginui Walker and so many more well respected folks.

Take care and read a book.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Waiatarua residents from the street where I live gathered not so long ago in the Waiatarua Community Hall for a 'body-corporate' type business meeting. After adjournment, and over a cuppa, I confronted them in regard to their seemingly low interest in any of the local theatre productions held in the very hall where we stood. They responded with quizzical expressions, so I took the opportunity to enlighten my neighbours about the Waiatarua Performing Arts Trust. This then led on to me enquiring if they were aware of the Waiatarua Book Library housed under the hall. Again I was faced with puzzled, bordering on vacant, faces. So I informed the people of what lay beneath; and also proceeded to spout forth about the WRRRA's Annual Debates, which was news to them too. I bit my tongue in regard to Table Tennis nights, for fear of being perceived as too much of a "try-hard".

I am not out to offend anyone, however the moral of my story raises a question. "How many locals have never checked out events held at the community hall, nor visited their very own handy library?" An even more pertinent question would be "How many of us actually read the Waiatarua Community News?", considering most hall events are promoted within its pages.

I challenge any theatre virgins to come along and enjoy the next fabulous community play, which opens on October 6th. You will definitely be entertained. For more information visit the drama group's website www.wpat.org.nz.

- Robin

From the Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Robin, you've raised a very good point. We've lead the horses to the water but obviously they don't want to drink!

Car-loads of non-reading passers-by must wonder what exactly goes on in the hall.

Yet in the newsletter, it is well spelt out.

It is the only newspaper I get delivered to my door and I read it even though I know word for word what's in it. How sad am I?

It can be read as you are peeling the spuds for dinner. Once-read, it can be shred and put into the compost or feed the worms. There is a myriad of good uses it can be put to! It's short. It's informative. It's short. Nobody waffles. It's short.

Are we casting pearls before swine? Maybe so.

What can we do to make the denizens of this here parish read the words lovingly crafted by a few noble souls? Would the five people I know regularly read this piece, have any suggestions?

Bouquets & Brickbats



Sponsored by the Fairy Flower Shop,
423 Titirangi Rd, Titirangi. Ph 817 3780

A large bouquet goes out to Brian Riley from Oratia Plumbing. Brian has repaired the vandalised pump at the playcentre free of charge. We all appreciate it. Thanks.

.....

And a brickbat to the irresponsible local dog owners who are allowing their pets to roam the streets. One very nearly caused an accident on Scenic Drive on a recent morning - not to mention the mess they make on rubbish day, tearing open bags and scattering the contents everywhere.

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Contact Robyn O'Sullivan, munster@ihug.co.nz, ph 814 1143.

Community Notices are free to financial members 2009, January to December.

Handyman Out West. Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation and decoration eg gutter cleaning, water blasting, deck building, tree felling, painting etc. Reliable and no GST charge. Phone Mike 814 9708.

Household Items For Sale: Folding table tennis set, size 7 ladies intermediate ski boots and poles, car bike rack, new shower 3 door slider, a moped and a holiday timeshare. Ring Nadine Fletcher on 0272 942 344.

Otimai: Events and training centre is available for hire (Guides Auckland) and is open to view by appointment. Phone Bruce 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.

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship (trips, meetings etc.): 2nd Thursday of each month.

Wanted to Rent: Professional couple looking for 2-3 bedroom home in Waiatarua. Close proximity to the fire station is desired. Can provide references. Lock up garage also preferred. Please contact Kerry 027 272 9312.

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