



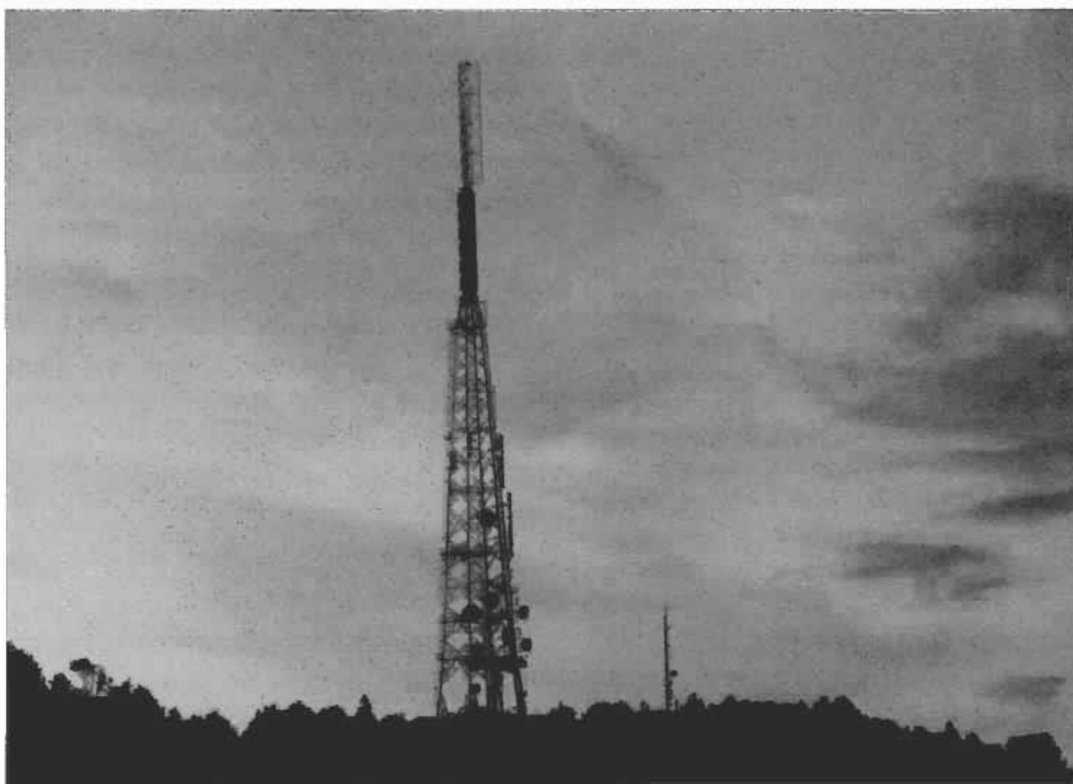
Waīatarua Community News

900 copies

November 2010

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all our readers.*

*We wish you a safe and
happy holiday season
and look forward to
hearing from you in
the new year.*



EARLIER TIMES IN WAIATARUA

By John Isaachsen

The below are sober facts;

My age is 77. I have spent all my home life in what is now 831 West Coast Road and since 1964, residential at 833 West Coast Road. It helps me to be perky and cheerful and local. I'd rather wear out than rust out!

My parents and grandparents worked hard, at study and labour, with their ornamental and edible gardens, since they settled on a leased 86 acres from present road number 817 to about 853 (almost to Tui Crescent) (They arrived in 1921 to behind 853.)

My father milked 26 Jersey cows amongst the scrub between 1925 and 1935.

There were 13 kauri stumps on about 4000 square metres on the slight knob in the mid-valley between Forest Hill Road and 831-833 West Coast Road - our place. According to a thoroughly researched book "Quest for the Kauri" by E.V. Sale, some (not now considered scrupulous) men in the timber trade used to "set the bush on fire" to kill the kauri and then to insist on milling them.

In 1915 and 1917, there were two fires in our area. At least one started near Otimai, starting the process I believe. We still have parts of the biggest stump which was two metres in diameter. We burned out the rotten middle, used it for storage and added a little roof and it therefore didn't rot as quickly as it was dry. It showed ancient charcoal before 1938.

It is humbling to me as a human to see trees, we knew as new while we grew and now they are enormous; one poplar nearing 40 metres tall or more and giant tree ferns almost half as high as that. A low hedge in Rimu Rd in 1935 was recently cut down and measured almost two metres thick across the stumps.

About 15 years after the fires and milling, in 1929, there were 14 landslips in one week in which rain seemed steadily to continue. I believe too many roots had rotted, in the 86 acres, after the fires.

In 1940, my father cut a careful firebreak round 4 hectares of scrub and set it alight, to aid in land clearing. A dead rata tree totaling over 30 metres began smouldering near the top, so Harald Isaachsen spent much of the rest of the day, having brought only a heavy slasher, in felling the tall, almost branchless old rata. What amazed him was, that a possum, asleep in a group of astelia (which perches on trees and looks rather like a small flax) fell a measured 900 feet, with the tree. That was one tough animal! It scampered off almost as fast as typical cars of 1940 could go. One kauri stump had an old sweet stinging wild bees' nest in it. This was just above the waterfalls through which the drive to 833 passes.

Many thanks to John Isaachsen for this example of life in early Waīatarua. It is much appreciated. Part 2 will appear in a later edition.

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

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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.waīatarua.org.nz

From the Editor Robyn O'Sullivan

The end of year arrives more quickly the older I get and this year has simply flown by.

I wish you well with all your end of year festivities and look forward to February next year when we start all over again.

Many thanks to all our contributors who managed each month to get their copy in on time and to all our advertisers who paid their bills on time. We couldn't manage without you so have a great xmas and keep well and healthy over summer.

Garden Group Eileen Powell

Next month we are visiting the Dragonfly garden which is a 10 year old prize winning garden near Muriwai featuring roses, ponds and a wetland area. The date is 1 December and entry fee \$10. For further information ring Eileen on 8149 298.

We wish everyone a summer of rest and relaxation in your own garden.

A Plea from Oratia Kindergarten

A little boy was knocked down by a car outside Oratia kindy back in early September. Thankfully he was ok, but he did have to go to hospital.

The council has recently done a traffic survey to see whether the speed limit might be reduced over the lunch time period and we are awaiting the outcome.

In the meantime, could we remind people that many children are crossing the road outside the Oratia kindy over the **lunchtime** period and would ask if you could please slow down between 11.30am and 12.30pm. Thank you.

Waitakere Local Board

The new Waitakere Ranges Local Board members have been sworn in and have had their Inaugural Meeting. Denise Yates has been elected as Chairperson, Janet Clews is Deputy Chair, and the other Board members are Greg Presland, Judy Lawley, Neil Henderson and Mark Brickell. Board meetings are open to the public, and a list of meeting dates and venues will be available soon. Meanwhile if you have any queries or want something done, phone Denise on 021 2857999.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
by **FRIDAY 14th JANUARY 2011** - 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143
munster@ihug.co.nz

Please note there will be no January issue

Traffic Survey

Following a meeting between the newly elected Board and Councillors and representatives of local Rate Payers and Residents Associations, a common theme seemed to be problems with traffic in the Waitakere area. Therefore we would like to gauge the feeling of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents on the state of our intersections and traffic in general. We would greatly appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to answer our questions by e-mail to paul@attwood.co.nz or drop them into the library in an envelope marked for the attention of Paul Osborne. We will draft a letter to the board following your responses in the New Year. All responses will be kept entirely confidential.

Imagine if we had the opportunity to address the state of our intersections and improve them... let's have our say on what we would like to have done.

- 1..What do you feel is the worst intersection in Waiatarua?
- 2..Are there other intersections (In the greater area that includes the Waitakere Ranges, Glen Eden and Titirangi) that should be looked at, that you consider a high priority in addition to the one above?
- 3.. Can you briefly describe what happens at these intersections that make them so dangerous?
- 4..Are there certain times of the day where these intersections appear to be worse than others?
- 5..What would you like to see done to improve our intersections, in particular, the ones you suggested under the first two questions?
- 6..What other concerns do you have in relation to the roads in Waiatarua (speed limits /conditions etc.)?
- 7..What do you feel needs to be done to address these additional concerns?

Thank you once again for taking the time to complete this survey. We will keep you updated with any progress through our monthly newsletter.

Paul Osborne
Committee Member
Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents' Association

Children's Christmas Gift making

Christmas gift making is a FREE event where children can come and make gifts for their families. It is organised and funded by Auckland Council (previously Waitakere City Council) and is open to any children from the West area to register.

Every year local businesses generously donate resources and volunteers come along to help children and a wide variety of gifts are made. It is a chance for children to give a little back to their families and to learn that Christmas doesn't have to come out of a store.

Christmas gift making 2010 will be on Saturday 11 December 2010 at West Wave Recreation Centre, 20 Alderman Drive, Henderson. Children can ph 301 0101 to register to attend the morning session (9am - 11.30) or the afternoon session (12.30 - 3pm). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Donations of items are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to assist on gift stations during both sessions.

To register, donate items or volunteer phone the Call Centre 301 0101

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Fire Brigade

Things are still very quiet with 1 fire call since my last report. While the fire service in general was kept relatively busy with Guy Fawkes it was a quiet one for us at Waiatarua with the callout below.

We did have a very successful bonfire night on Friday the 5th. There was a good turnout of visitors to the station and I think that a good time was had by all. Hopefully we will have some good photos for the next newsletter.

Fire Calls

05/11/2010, 11:24pm - Vegetation Fire, Seaview Road, Piha

A small area of vegetation was on fire. This was put out by the Piha brigade.

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 from Lynda Hogsden

My first connections with this beautiful area began in the 1960s when, with my former husband and three children under 5, I moved just 'over the hill' into Henderson Valley Road (near the now gone Barney's Bargain Centre).

My children attended Oratia School and Bruce McLaren Intermediate.

I taught Piano and Theory to a number of Oratia and Waiataruan children and this gave me a means of support when my marriage failed.

My great love is singing. The 'Albyn Singers', conducted by my singing teacher, the late Patricia McLeod, gave me 20 years of professional singing in concerts and several broadcasts every year.

Frank and I married over 25 years ago and our home here was built over 13 years ago.

Our connection to the Oratia Church had begun long before this and is very important in our lives.

I joined Frank on the WRRRA several years ago and have enjoyed having input into the local community.

What else do I do? I sing with the 'Oratia Singers', am a voluntary worker at the Glen Eden Methodist Op Shop, Treasurer of the Girl Guides Trefoil Guild (Blockhouse Bay), a member of the Henderson Garden Club, Church Fellowship and have an interest in the Bethell's Beach Surf Life Saving Club. I am very involved with my 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Frank and I hope to move into the Greenview Park Retirement Village when our house sells but will miss our lovely bush setting with the tuis and the wood pigeons etc.

We hope to retain some connections with the folks up here.

Subscription Reminder

Subs are due by January 1st 2011 \$10 per family

Your WRRRA subscriptions run from Jan through to December. Anyone joining earlier gets the benefit of a couple of extra months. Don't miss out! There are many savings to be had. Get in quickly and knock that off your list of things to before Xmas!

Please accept my Membership to the Waiatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

I ENCLOSE:

\$10 household

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

Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

Glen Eden Landscape Supplies 293 West Coast Rd. Ph: 818 6129

Elevation Licensed Cafe & Restaurant 471 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 1919

Colourplus Paint & Wallpaper Glenmall, Glen Eden. Ph: 818 8263

Auckland's Waitakere Estate 573 Scenic Dr. Ph: 814 9622

Awakenings Massage Therapy 834 West Coast Rd. Ph: 814 1199

AGM

AGM is to be held on Wednesday 2 March 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Denise Yates, the Chair of our new Waitakere Ranges Board, will be the guest speaker. Think about joining the committee as two of our members are leaving.

More details in February newsletter.

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.

Happy Pawes - Positive Pet Training

If you are heading away on holiday over the festive season then let Kelly from Happy Pawes feed your cat, with over 14 years experience as a veterinary nurse and pet trainer it's peace of mind when you are away. Call Kelly on 444 0698 or email kelly@happypawes.co.nz

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 Buy - Home in Waiatarua

- We would like to buy a 3-4 bedroom home in Waiatarua. We are keen on 1970's architecture but would consider all well maintained properties with some lawn. We would love to talk directly to anyone considering selling their property - and help you avoid paying commission! Please contact Stephanie on 021 747140.

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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