



Waiatarua Community News

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November 2015

Insurance Question:

A number of residents in Waiatarua are on fixed/ limited incomes.

Insurance can be expensive. What are some of the ways we can take some of the risk ourselves to reduce the premium?

Increasing the excess is an example. But also, rather than cover the house completely for a total loss what about insuring for a slightly lower value? For example... excluding the cost to reinstate the driveway or a garage/shed on the property that is some distance from the house?

In the event of the total destruction of your house, the insurance company will have two options; to either rebuild it up to the sum insured or make a cash settlement - again up to the sum insured. If your valuation is lower than the rebuilding cost, then the maximum spent by the insurance company is as above. So you choose what value you want to place on your house.

For one thing, who can estimate exactly what the replacement cost will be now,

never mind in 12 months time?

You can use this tool to estimate the replacement value of your house: cost2rebuild.co.nz. You can choose to leave out the value of sheds and driveways etc.

As stated in your email, you can select a number of excesses, but the reductions in total premiums are not dramatic as a lot of the cost is for government earthquake and fire levies and they cannot be discounted by increased excesses.

Hope this helps. John Scarr

Opportunity - WRRRA Committee

Do you like the idea of being local? Would you like to be more in touch with the community around you? Do you, like me, wonder who your neighbours actually are in Waiatarua? Would you like to meet some of them and hear some of the amazing stories of this place? Like the guy who used to live in a packing crate on the top of a hill and roll boulders down on his neighbours and nearly killed one of them while he was minding his own business in his own crapper? And what happened next!?

The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association Incorporated (WRRRA) are currently seeking new members for the Executive Committee.

The WRRRA was initially formed to fend off spectacularly unfair rates rises from a very young and ambitious Auckland City Council. Several decades later, in 1975, the WRRRA successfully had the Council build the Community Centre and library at 911 West Coast Road. The WRRRA still hold the lease of this council property and maintain it for you to use for your meeting, party, table tennis, meditation, yoga, dance, or concert.

Now the WRRRA needs you!

We have up to four vacant positions that would suit people who are capable or even passionate about:

Control of the weeds and/or pests that destroy the local native flora and fauna.

Transport - in Waiatarua our roads are our lifeline, and we'd like better connection to bus and train services. We know who to talk to at Auckland Transport. We just need someone to write the letters and make the phone calls.

The Community Centre and Library needs someone to be the contact/liason for maintenance and repairs. You don't have to do the work; just cause it to happen. Pretty sweet role this one.

Our website is in desperate need of a refresh! We have ideas, wire-frames and funds but need someone to drive the project. Even a student might want to do this so they could add it to their CV.

And lastly, but not least, we need someone to help progress some of our ideas around how to get fast internet connections to any part of Waiatarua. We've got some leads on some smart wireless technology that can do the job and 2 committee members who have experience in this area. Ability to drive Google Maps an advantage.

Or you just might want to help a little bit with all the above or be involved in planning the several events we hold each year, which include The Great Waiatarua Debate, The Great Waiatarua Spring Clean, Community Breakfasts, Quiz nights and more.

You will not be left on your own but will join a supportive, active and experienced bunch who like to get things done rather than talk about them all day. We have up to 12 meetings a year which are only about an hour long and outside this you would be invited to spend at least 3-4 hours a month on projects or initiatives; that's only 1 hour a week! We understand that life gets in the way sometimes and if it does we can cover for you.

And if you choose a specific issue to lead, we won't sit back and watch you do all the work. We'll help find ways to share the load and back you up or find additional resources. Convinced? Sort of interested? Might like to know more but not really sure? Can you do a month or two before you make up your mind?

Whichever it is, please get in touch with Peter at president@waiatarua.org.nz and ask me a question.

The Great Waiatarua Spring Clean

Despite the tough timing up against a breakfast time All Blacks match against Georgia, an enthusiastic few turned out and we cleaned and scrubbed the Rose Hellaby steps, overhauled the Community Centre gardens, removed a dead tree over the play centre driveway, gave the hall kitchen a fantastic clean and collected a bunch of roadside rubbish; no TVs this year.

The rubbish removal was sponsored by Eco Matters Trust in New Lynn.

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, EMAIL: MUNSTER@IHUG.CO.NZ WRRRA PRESIDENT: PETER CASEY - PH 814 9386, EMAIL: PRESIDENT@WAIATARUA.ORG.NZ

COMMUNITY HALL & HIRE: 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

Karekare Surf Club turns 80 and searches for old Lifeguards

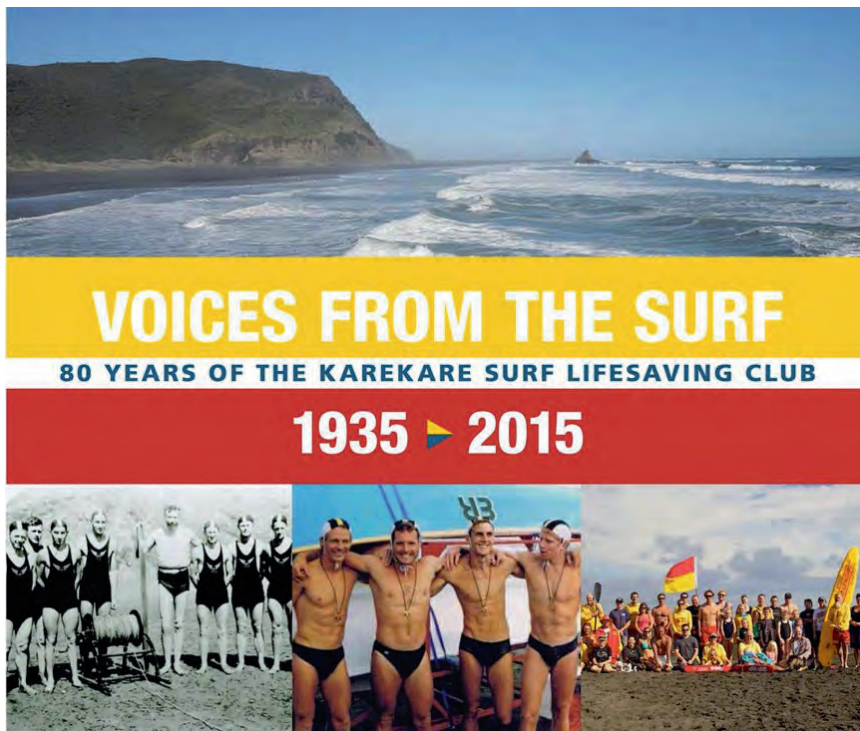
This year starting in October the Karekare Surf Club will celebrate 80 dramatic years of saving life on one of the most beautiful but often dangerous beaches in New Zealand. The Club is looking to find all former members to do a few hours again over the summer. They have found outstanding former champion 97 year old and original member George Kelsel and 80 year New Zealand breast stroke swimmer Kay Callan. Although the old reel and line rescues are long gone the club will host former members and their families in the new art of lifesaving.

The club believe over 5000 people have been saved or prevented from drowning over the years. The club has won the prestigious Rescue of the Year four times and Ray Baillie and Odo Streve won Royal Humane Society Medal for bravery.

The club will host a grand Black Sand Dinner at the Maritime Museum Voyager Room on 14 November to share the history of amazing

courage and rescues. A book and the clubs rich history with a DVD of interviews will go on sale for summer reading. A big Surf Carnival with Auckland Clubs will be held in February and a full Anzac Service to honour all the clubs members who enlisted together in 1940 at the plaque on the rock at Karekare on Anzac Day in 2016.

For further information on the clubs programme contact Club Administrator Teresa Harvey at secretary@karekaresurfclub.org.nz



New Books At The Library This Month.

“Redemption Cove” – David Calder. Written by a local resident (and one of our library volunteers) this is a fast moving thriller and adventure story. Ben, a talented computer programmer, has a past that dominates his life. He is in a battle with governments, killers and thugs when all he seeks is redemption and a new start.

“Early One Morning” – Virginia Baily. In wartime Rome a woman rescues a child from a Nazi roundup. Though not his mother, she brings up the boy as her own. However, as a young man he gets involved in drugs and disappears from her life. Life moves on until 30 years later when a young woman appears claiming to be his daughter.

“The Hunter” – Tom Wood. A violent man, a professional killer is unexpectedly betrayed. Working in Paris, the job goes wrong and the killer becomes the hunted. Action filled with thrills, spills, spies and shooting this is apparently better than Bond, Bourne and Bauer.

“Wild Roads” – Bruce Ansley. Planning a road trip this summer? Here then is a selection of 60 roads in NZ that you may wish to try out. Or just read this for the history and description of our many challenging, beautiful and remote roads.

Also we have new books by all the favourite authors – Bernard Cornwell, Sebastian Faulks, James Patterson, Lynda La Plante, J.D Robb, & Wilbur Smith.

Good reading.

Dear Ratepayers,

Check your rates bill, you may have been overcharged.

On our recent rates bill we discovered a rather obscure “surprise”. In the fine print on the “Rates Assessment and Invoice” there are four columns headed Type of rate, Description of Rate, Rate Calculation, and Total Rate . The third column has a little number at the right hand corner that’s a “1”, “2” or whatever. That’s a multiplier according to how many dwellings you have on your property. We have only one house, but what showed up on the bill was a 2.

We have never applied for a second dwelling, so this seems to be the council (for whatever reason) deciding on its own that we have two dwellings. We built our house 25 years ago, so it’s not like there has been a change of ownership or anything that would have confused the issue. The only thing we can think of is that one of our sheds was thought by somebody in city hall (looking at an aerial photo?) to be another house. No checking...just billed for another house. When I called city hall they were very polite about it and said they would take off the extra house charges. The amount was \$780.00, so it’s certainly worth your while checking.

If you find that you have been similarly overcharged I would hope that this warning has helped and that you will use a portion of the refund to give as a donation to the Ratepayers Association and possibly a little to your favourite charity. It’s a shame that we need to double check our bills, but obviously a necessity in today’s world.

Wade Cornell Forest Hill Road.

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Why are you here?

What drew you to Waiatarua?

Why do you enjoy living in this lush bush? What is your favourite bird? Where is your favourite local Kauri tree?

This evening Gary and I attended presentations and discussion on the activities and initiatives that Waitakere Ranges Local Board are supporting and coordinating on your behalf to look after and enhance the natural environment that we live in.

You may or may not know that the ranges we live in are protected by a purposeful and unique piece of legislation, the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act.

Early settlers set about completely removing the Kauri and Rimu from this place to build Auckland, just after they removed all the native bush that once covered all of Auckland City. There were dams and roads to be built.

However, as I learned tonight, as early as 1891 the first attempt to preserve the flora and fauna of area was made. It has taken over a hundred years, but slowly 17,000 hectares of public land has been collected as part of the heritage area and protected by an act of parliament.

We learned that while the Auckland Council has a legal obligation to not only maintain this area, but to enhance it, they continue to allocate less and less money to it.

Waiatarua is one of only five defined areas in the Heritage area that has a specific Local Area Plan, maintained by the Local Board. And for good reason.

At a Transport meeting last week hosted by Len Brown at the Glen Eden RSA we heard how Len's transport initiatives are about getting Auckland moving, to cope with more residents, more visitors and more economic growth. Len and I agreed that this would mean we can bring more and more visitors through Waiatarua, the only access road to the amazing Karekare, Piha and Anawhata. This place is one of the only parts of Auckland left where you can experience the dense rain forest we know and love.

But how to we do this; retain and enhance the natural aspects of the area.

If you want to do something really local, and really meaningful, you can help with the control of weeds and pests on or around your property.

I have begun discussing with members of the Local Board some ideas on how we can help each other and you to get the weeds and pests around you under control in a sustainable and humane way.

If you would like me to personally keep you up to date with what we are doing, and the help we can offer you to help with your weeds, possums or rats, then please email me today at.....president@waiatarua.org.nz

Transport Update:

As the letter advising us of the AT decision to eliminate the public bus service from Waiatarua was settling in our mailbox Len Brown bravely addressed us on the transport initiatives for Auckland

Len talked about his vision for the future of Auckland transport and the visitor growth that will impact the West. And yes, he does love the trains.

We had the opportunity to explain that Waiatarua is both highly dependent on roading and highly impacted by roading decisions. Several safety issues were raised and WRRRA sought advice about how to best engage with Auckland Transport. Very encouragingly the AT representatives and councillors present enthusiastically offered to assist Waiatarua with resolving roading issues.

And I finally got to see between the lines and understand that we are not so much as losing the bus service, but, because it is being used mostly by school children, the conversion to school buses means that the Department of Education pays, instead of AT.

And there was good news. Once the public bus goes sometime in late 2016 there is a grant available from AT that could fund you up to \$40 per trip towards taxis or other types of transport.

3 Ingredient Cheese Scones Even A Bloke Like Gary Could Make:

(courtesy of Annabel Langbein)

- 1 x 500gm tub of plain Greek Yogurt
- 2 ½ cups tasty grated cheese
- 2 ½ cups sifted self raising flour

Combine all ingredients in bowl

Using an ice cream scoop, place onto baking tray lined with baking paper and bake in oven at 200 deg for 15-20 minutes until golden. Enjoy!!!

Margaret Wood...*Many thanks, Margaret - Ed.*

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 current financial members.

Better Scrapbooking Ltd: Paper crafting and scrapbooking supplies. Great children's classes. Mondays 3:45pm - 4:45pm 7yrs - 13yrs \$15 each Phone Megan 818-2045

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 friendly. Phone Mike 814 9708.

Lawn mowing and section clean ups. Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 8149493 mob 02102475610

Otimai: Girl Guiding. Would you like your daughter to have new adventures and develop life and leadership skills through new, fun and exciting programmes? We have places for girls aged 5 to 12 years in Pippins, Brownie and Guide Units. For more info contact Angela Westerman at aratakidistrict@gmail.com or ph 021 511 575

Plants: Bromeliads \$5 - \$6; Taros, cannas and various shrubs \$4 - \$5. All sales to Nepalese Educ Trust. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

Table Tennis every Wednesday at the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week. Contact Tony 8149860 or email tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship meets on second Thursday of the month at 1pm in the Church Hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

Tiler/Stone Layer: 21 years experience in the trade, available for indoor or outdoor projects, large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021 610 408.

Waiatarua Playcentre: 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Phone 09 814 8835. Sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Yoga/Chi Kung/Meditation, Waiatarua Hall. Monday Evenings 7pm - 8pm No experience necessary. Enq: Kath Ph. 814 1108

Zumba with Grace... Party yourself into Shape. The Latin-inspired easy-to-follow, calorie-burning, dance-fitness party. Feel the music and let loose. Oratia Settlers Hall, Tuesdays 6:30pm - 7:30pm (toning) Thursdays 7pm - 8pm Adults \$10 Students \$5 (with ID) For more information phone Grace 021 081 12610

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the
Editor

By FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13th @ 5PM
Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143