



Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

May 2016

The Battle Against Waiaatarua Mosquitos

We all know how annoying mosquitos are. While only some of us suffer from a week long itchy bite reaction, who doesn't dread that whining noise just as you are drifting off to sleep.

One of the recommendations for mosquito control by the World Health Organisation is the removal of sources of standing water.

We can make a big difference by:

removing or piercing old containers and tyres;
clearing gutters and drains;
removing or treating plants that hold water.

The Bromeliad is a prime example of a plant with a perfect breeding ground for the mossie. They look nice and give tropical flair to our gardens but are they worth it?

We recently removed what turned out to be several hundred plants from our property. The effect was immediate with a huge drop in mossie numbers and bites. What a relief!

If you can't bear to remove your bromeliads and have the required patience perhaps you could try this recipe as listed on the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand website:

Len Trotman's recipe for mosquitoes:

500ml of Sunlight Liquid (dish washing)
200ml of Household Cloudy Ammonia.
100ml of Citronella or Pine-O-Cleen disinfectant.
Pour the contents into 5ltrs of cold water.

As this mixture is very concentrated use only at 2 to 4 tablespoons per litre of water in your watering cans. It can also be mixed with your liquid fertilizer, and can be used weekly if desired. It is not detrimental to your bromeliads even at the seedling stage. You will notice when spraying, that foam is generated, but this is not a problem as each of the stages in the life cycle of the mosquito is dependent upon the surface tension of the water.

I hope this has provided some useful ammunition for your battle against mosquitos.

Naomi Hosted

Local News...

... For Local People

Congratulations to Carol and Grant Longley! It was announced at the AGM in February, that they were to be honorary lifetime members of the WRRRA. We appreciate their many years of generosity through which we are able to provide you with a newsletter each month.

Another superb Quiz Night will be coming up soon with our quiz masters extraordinaire. Keep free the 2nd of July. Notice to follow in the June issue.

Membership payments:

Can you please remember to give more details when paying on-line?

Just your name is not sufficient...please supply a phone number so that we can contact you.

If you have joined on-line but don't receive our hotmail, then please get in contact with me.

For the 2016 membership, if you have not paid by the end of April, then hotmail will no longer be sent to you.

(Here endeth the reprimand)

Please don't forget to do the Auckland Transport survey. If you haven't received a form in the mail, then you can do it on-line.

(tinyurl.com/h2yujbd)

It will shape what happens in your future so be prepared.

From The Editor

Robyn O'Sullivan

Autumn is upon us! This is my most favourite time of the year. It does mean though, that a healthy crop of weeds seems to flourish in the cooler wetter atmosphere but I shall refrain from mentioning anything about the 'w' word as, if you hop over the page...go on, I'll wait...there is a plethora of information on that very subject for you to consume over a hot cuppa.

This summer has also left us with a water shortage ie. loads more people staying over the dry spell and we have only a couple of thousand litres of water to our name. Each time it rains, we barely make up the amount we used the day before. And you know as soon as you order water, a deluge will arrive as the tanker pulls into your driveway. So, that's what Autumn is to me, the space between a rock and a hard place. At least, it occupies my husband who is out early checking the tank to see if we can have showers and a morning coffee and later in the day, busting his moves in a rain dance!

And this is the last time I will mention the speeds on the Scenic Drive! There are still no new signs with the lower speed limits; but just remember, they could appear at any given moment so don't take any chances.

Have a great month!

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

Auckland has more exotic plant species than any other city in the world and while many are beautiful and harmless, some pose a serious risk to our native flora, which we are so lucky to be surrounded by here in the Waitakere Ranges. Recently we have been hearing from you about the ongoing and increasing threat to that flora – weeds. We held our first Waitakere Weed Action Group meeting in March where many of you told us you feel overwhelmed by the weeds on your property and just not sure where to start.

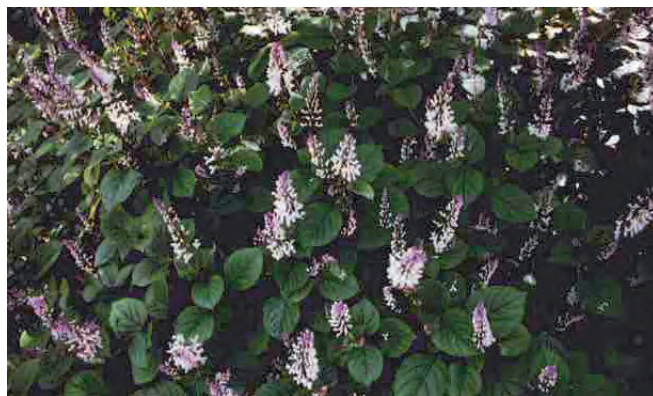
Off the back of that meeting we will be creating a tool kit on the new website to help you deal with the weeds on your property, and will also be launching a regular feature on here “weed window” where we will highlight a weed that is currently in growth mode, for you to understand a bit better and also tackle – so it doesn't get worse.

Feeling really overwhelmed? Announcing the creation of the Task Force! We are calling for volunteers to sign up to help out on properties in the community to get their weeds back to manageable level. By being part of this taskforce your property will also be on the list of properties for the task force to tackle. We would like to hold our first task in Late May but are creating a list of volunteers and some dates they can do and this will form a roster. So if you are willing to put in a few hours work over a

Saturday or Sunday once in a while and would like to have your property be on the list for this service, please email me at: sciencemademedoit@gmail.com

Currently showing off its flowers you will have noticed *Plectranthus* along the roadside (and possible on your property) – the stand out feature is the slightly furry leaves are purple underneath. It reproduces by runners that creep along the ground forming thick mats, which prevents new native seedlings from establishing, and will eventually thin out our forests.

Getting rid of it isn't too difficult, but the key is persistence! Hand pulling is easy, burn bury or securely dispose of the waste (be careful not to drop little bits of the plant as this can reproduce). If it is totally out of control or difficult to reach then herbicide may be an option, roundup will work on this one but you will have to add a penetrant to your sprayer. This weed is likely to come back so you will need to do a follow up every 3 months to keep on top of it.



Plectranthus:

The best long-term solution to preventing it coming back is to plant out the area with something else. Being that it likes moist soil look for plants that like moist soils. Also weed matting in the short term can also give you a bit of a breather!

Weed Tip of the month: One easy step to ensuring you don't get new weeds on your property is to have a strict quarantine process for any new material on to your property. Wash down any borrowed wheel borrows, spades etc. down before they come on to your property as they can house seeds. Other contaminated materials may be: mulch, soil and hay, so make sure you know the property these come from and ensure they're weed free or at least aren't sources of weeds that you currently don't have!

Hello Waiatarua!

It was fantastic to meet so many of you last month at the *Waiatarua get-together to talk about Weeds BBQ*.

Apart from enjoying some fine locally sourced kai with you, highlights of the event for me were:
Learning that there are a lot more invasive weeds than I thought (perhaps not so exciting);
Setting our priorities; based on research and 'down-in-the-dirt' experiences we agreed the priority weeds to attack in Waiatarua at this time are (worst first):

Climbing asparagus - because of informed research, alarming spread rate and complete devastation of other species.

Jasmine - because of its great difficulty to remove and #8 wire like tendencies.

Wild Ginger - because of its rapid spread below ground and seed spread by birds over long distances.

Wandering Jew - again, because of the total suppression of native ground cover and difficulty of permanent removal.

The major project for me over the next month is working towards our website relaunch. This is going to be a real team effort, with the layout being done by Lisa Phillips from Kauri Loop (@lisa_digital).

So if you have any history, photos or other Waiatarua related content you would like to be featured; please send it to me now!

Peter Casey president@waiatarua.org.nz



The purpose of CPNZ is to empower communities to prevent crime and create safer environments through the utilisation of trained and equipped volunteer patrols.

Our priorities are to:

- Free up Police resources
- Increase community awareness and resilience
- Develop relationships with local government, civil defence and emergency management agencies and schools

If you want to help make your community safer then contact Les Duffield on 814 1130 / 021 720 100 or email at les.duffield@xtra.co.nz

Longley Print and Packaging Ltd. is proud to support their community by fully sponsoring this publication.

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Fire Brigade Report:

Ian Ford

With cooler autumn days many of us are getting our firewood supplies ready for winter. We prepare for what goes into our fireplace or woodburner, and we should also consider what comes out. Getting your chimney checked and/or cleaned annually should be a part of the routine.

The Fire Service attends about 500 chimney fires a year. These are usually caused by a build-up of unburnt material, and the high temperatures (sometimes over 1000°C) have the potential to damage the chimney or ignite surrounding materials. You can't always see them, but signs include a loud cracking and popping noise, a lot of dense smoke, or an intense, hot smell.

If you have a chimney fire you should ALWAYS call 111 and ask for the Fire Service, even if it goes out. We will always check the roof void to make sure that there's no immediate danger of it spreading, and will strongly recommend you get the chimney checked by a professional to make sure there's no lasting damage.

Recent calls:

12:49 am, Sun 13 Mar	Parkinson's Lookout	Rubbish fire in carpark
6:20 am, Thu 23 Mar	Scenic Drive	Tree across road
7:15 am, Thu 23 Mar	Rimu Rd	Tree across road
5:56pm, Fri 1 Apr	Lone Kauri Rd	Car crash - no action required
3:42am, Wed 6 Apr	Piha	Fire on deck - stood down
5:26pm, Fri 8 Apr	Piha Rd	Car crash - no action required

Contacts: Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency.
Otherwise please contact Station Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871).

Library Report

Jeanette Ziesler

"Red Notice" – Bill Browder. This is Browder's true story of the political and financial corruption he encountered while working in Eastern Russia. While working as a trader and financier he found himself on the wrong side of some very powerful people and set out to expose the corruption. However, his lawyer was arrested and then killed, leaving Browder seeking revenge. He believes that he is still on Putin's hit list.

"The Orpheus Clock" – Simon Goodman. Again a true story. When his father died, Goodman found papers amongst his effects that took him on a hunt and recovery mission. The papers listed all the items in the family's art collection that had been plundered by the Nazis. It took him 20 hard years but he succeeded in retrieving the collection.

"The Expatriates" – Janice Y.K. Lee. Set in the American expat community in Hong Kong, this tells the story of 3 very different women struggling to learn about and live in this unusual environment. They also find out what is normal and what defines them as women in the country they now live in. Their lives overlap and they get entangled in a complicated web of lies and betrayal.

"Six Four" – Yokoyana Hideo. This book sold 1 million copies in its first week in Japan. The police bungled the investigation of the kidnapping, then murder of a 7 year old girl. The public never forgave them and every year the police have apologised. Then, after 14 years, a police press officer finds an anomaly in the case notes. It all starts again. More than a just a crime novel this is also about politics, police processes and the Japanese culture.

"Half the World Away" – Cath Staincliffe. A young woman chooses to go to China to teach English at the end of her university studies. In the beginning all is great, she keeps her parents and friends up to date with everything. Then silence. The Chinese authorities aren't helpful. Her frantic parents go to China hoping to find her themselves. Why does no-one want to help them?

Good Reading.

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 current financial members.

Art Classes: Pathway Studio & Gallery, 786 West Coast Road Oratia. Starting February 2016

Ph Carol 814 9438/021 033 0055

Better Scrapbooking Ltd: Regular Scrapbooking workshops as well as other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes. Supplies available. 153 Solar Road, Glen Eden. Megan ph: 818-2045

Handyman Out West. Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation 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: otimai@girlguidingnz.org.nz and 09 814 9992, re venue to hire. GirlGuiding NZ opportunities... www.girlguidingnz.org.nz or 0800 484 331 or 09 638 9076

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... Thursday 7pm-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall. Ditch the workout, come join the party! Cost \$10 per class Grace ph: 818-2046

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY MAY 13th @ 5PM

Robyn O'Sullivan Ph 814 1143

munster@ihug.co.nz