



Waiaatarua Community News

900 copies

September 2017

Waitakere Forest & Bird

Talk by Ben Goodwin,
Keeper on the Ectotherms
section at Auckland Zoo.

**Thursday 21st September
7.30pm**

Kelston Community Centre
cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd

*The Wetapunga, NZ's
Largest Insect*

The Wetapunga once
inhabited forests from
Auckland northwards and the
islands of the Hauraki Gulf
but its range was hugely
reduced following the
introduction of rats.

This talk will cover the
species' natural (and
unnatural) history, its
discovery, its decline, the
complexities of its captive
breeding, its restoration and
what can be expected from it
in the future.

Non members welcome, join
us for supper afterwards.
Koha appreciated to cover
hall hire.

For further information:

phone Liz 0274 762732
lizanstey@hotmail.com

2017 General Election

**Saturday 23
September**

**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!**

From the Editor: Erin Kingsleigh-Smith

Hello from your new Editor!

I am very excited about my new role and I shall certainly do my best to live up to everyone's expectations!

From an early age I have had a huge interest in writing, grammar, spelling and the English language generally, so when the opportunity came up to take on this role, I jumped at the chance. It wasn't to be missed!

A bit about me. I've lived locally for nearly 8 years and have been married for 18 years. We have two boys aged 10 and 12. Next year they are moving on to Intermediate and High School respectively – they are growing up so fast.

I have been heavily involved with Oratia School over the years, particularly with the PTA. I was Treasurer for 2 years, followed by a three year tenure as Chairperson. During that time I led and co-ordinated all the fundraising events, something which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also enjoy wine, food, looking after my 7 chooks, spending time with my family and am a keen fashion follower.

We recently spent a month in the UK visiting my husband's family in the beautiful county of Northamptonshire. We had a fabulous time catching up with friends and family and the boys got to spend some precious time with their grandparents. The countryside there is just so beautiful and so very different from New Zealand. We were very lucky with the weather too, it was so nice to miss a month of the wet and cold! While it was very sad to say goodbye when the time came, it was also good to get back home.

I love this little part of the world – it's a very special place, and I feel lucky to be able to live here. As I write this I can see signs everywhere that Spring is on its way – our neighbours have young lambs, the first daffodils are appearing, magnolia trees are bursting into bloom and down West Coast Road the Taiwanese Cherry trees are adorned with crimson blossom.

I can't wait for the warmer weather after a very wet winter – can you?

From the President: Peter Casey

Hello Waiaatarua!

It's been a couple of months since I last wrote, partly because of some time away in Bali, a place I never thought I'd go. Just somewhere Kiwi and Aussie tourists flee winter for surf holidays. Partly true.

Also true and what's stayed with me is the care and consideration Balinese show towards each other. Bali is around 80-90% Hindu/Buddhist and the belief in karma is strong and pervasive. There is often little or no crime. Disadvantaged are cared for. Kindness is everywhere. To borrow words from a friend I made there, Jacqui O'Connor:

[The Balinese] "...are kind and smile often. They are generous and warm. They take time and care in all they do. They don't rush. They work hard. They do even the most mundane tasks, with pride, dedication and authentic connection with themselves, with others and with something beyond humanity."

And on scooter riding styles:

"...you can balance all your necessities at one time and taking risks without hesitation pays off. That it's ok to cross the line, break the rules and go the wrong way. That courtesy gets you places faster".

The proviso in all this is that you trust that those sharing the physical or meta-physical road with you to actually care about you and your journey as well. I watched fellow tourists become irate, frustrated, and even shouting, yet locals stayed relaxed and smiling, possibly empathising with the temper in front of them. It's all about Karma.

While away, I was reminded of how much DNA we share with trees. I returned to more news about the mighty Kauri dying horrible deaths in our neighbourhood and only in areas where we humans go to visit them, and after we chopped so many of them out for important things like railway sleepers and floor boards. Humans only recently discovered that stands of kauri send out and entangle their roots over distance and time to communicate with each other.

It's election time. Waiaatarua should be voting for commitment to preservation in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage area. Funding wise this could be a critical election for Kauri. Why not ask your politician what they are doing about it.

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

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WRRR President: Peter Casey – Ph 814 9386, EMAIL: PRESIDENT@WAIATARUA.ORG.NZ

Community Hall and Library: 911 West Coast Rd. **Hall Hire (Bookings)** John Goudge – Ph 814 9744

Library Hours: Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm; Friday 7.00pm – 8.00pm; Saturday and Sunday 11.00am – 12.00pm

Hall & Library: 814 9353 **Web Site:** www.waiaatarua.org.nz

From the Library:

Jeannette Ziesler

Have you ever wondered what life inside a prison is really like? Anna Leask, a crime and justice reporter, has written **“Behind Bars”**. This book tells it all. Arriving for the first ever time, learning to fit in, gangs, who to avoid and who might just be ok (applying to both Corrections Officers and prison inmates), filling in the time, and survival. Leask tells of life and work in a prison.

How threatening could life in a seemingly peaceful commune be? **“See You In September”** by Charity Norman explores this theme. Hitchhiking while on holiday in New Zealand, a young English woman is picked up by some commune members and taken to their remote location. It is tranquil and she soon willingly becomes part of the daily life there. Her parents in England fight this all the way. Read this thriller!

Do you like to listen to your music on vinyl? This novel is set in London in the 80's and Rachel Joyce's new book **“The Music Shop”** centres around an area where life is changing and that includes CDs. instead of records. Most people in the area do not want change to happen and fight to cling to their familiar environment and way of life. Tear down the shops and build houses. Never!

Can you imagine the effect of seeing your mother carried screaming to an ambulance and off to an asylum? In **“The Woman in the Wood”** by Lesley Pearce, fifteen year old twins Maisy and Duncan Mitcham experience just that. They are then sent to live with their grandmother in the New Forest. In the course of exploring their new home they come across a strange woman living rough in a shack. Then Duncan disappears and it seems other boys have also met the same fate, but their bodies have been found. Not so in Duncan's case. Maisy takes it upon herself to solve the mystery.

Good reading.

From the Fire Brigade:

Ian Ford

We are delighted to welcome John Hunter and Kieran Conroy to our ranks. They are quickly getting up to speed with the skills they will need for their introductory course in a few months. If you would like to join them and you live within 3km of the Fire Station then we would love to hear from you. Please give Ian or Kevin a call - their numbers are below.

Thanks must go to Auckland Transport for installing road edge markings and a chevron for downhill traffic outside the Fire Station. We hope this will put a stop to the recent disturbing trend of cars driving into the building in the middle of the night!

Recent Calls:

1:05 pm, Sat 15 July	West Coast Rd	Power line down
7:46 pm, Sun 16 July	Anawhata Rd	Car fire
3:21 am, Mon 17 July	Scenic Drive	Car down bank
12:13 am, Thu 20 July	Scenic Drive	Car fire
5:30pm, Sun 23 July	South Piha	False alarm

Survivor Waiaatarua:

Home safety is about more than just fires. Aucklanders are apparently among the least prepared in the country to look after themselves in an extended emergency. You should be able to support your household for at least 3 days, and also have a portable getaway kit. Be honest – do you? Go to www.aucklandcivildéfence.org.nz and click “get ready” for a checklist.

Contacts:

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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

by FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH @ 5PM

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

Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate
573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622

Blow Moulders Ltd
8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden Ph: 818 7709
(cash and cheque sales only)

Elevation Brasserie
473 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9727

Please accept my membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2017

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

I ENCLOSE: \$10 household.....

Phone No./Email:.....

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua, Waitakere City, or leave at the Library

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

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Waiatarua Playcentre News



Playcentre is a parent led organisation that allows you to grow and learn alongside your child with weekly play sessions. We are open Mon, Wed & Friday mornings from 9:30 – 12:30 (term time) and have room for some new families. We offer three free visits and do a wicked coffee and scone. Come along and check out our friendly little centre in the bush. 911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua (down the drive from the library).

Here's what we got up to this week:



On Monday the children got their worm farm up and running. The children transferred the worms into the worm farm in little pinches or big handfuls! Next we went inside and cut up some vegetables for our pasta sauce (for one of our expectant mums). The food scraps went to feed our hungry worms. These experiences provide opportunities for the children to explore science and nature, trying something new (taking a risk holding worms!), team work, taking turns, a sense of community and supporting others.



On Wednesday the children spent a rainy morning mixing potions on the deck. Lots of messy play with ice, flour, shaving foam, glitter and paint! Children learnt about texture, mixing colours, science concepts – chemical reactions, cause & effect and working together.

Waiatarua Weed Action Group

Our fearless leader Rita Steel is now back from international environmental adventures and we are looking forward to our next weeding challenge. A community project for the spring is likely to be Old Forest Hill Road which needs some serious love and protection.

At your own place, a good weed to focus on at the moment is our number one enemy, climbing asparagus. See www.weedbusters.org.nz for some great advice on how to identify and handle this environmental hazard. Remember that Spring is a great time to get weeds out while the ground is wet!



This is the work of the Waiatarua Weed Group, one of 4 bags we filled on our last day out, this one at Sandy's place. The black bag will suffocate the invasive weeds we put in it and those that drive down West Coast Road will notice that as the weeks and months go by it will continue to shrink until it only contains a few barrow loads of rich soil.

If you would like to join us, nominate your property or another's for a good group weed, then please email ruth@halcyonchambers.co.nz

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting:

Erin Kingsleigh-Smith,
editor@waiatarua.org.nz, ph 814 8856. Community Notices are free to current financial members.

Art Classes: Pathway Studio & Gallery, West Coast Rd, Oratia. 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 Rd, Glen Eden. Ph Megan 818 2045

Doers Networks: local, fast internet providers info@doers.net.nz

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.

Indoor Bowls: every Thursday at the Hall 7pm for 7.15 start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided, BYO nibbles and other drinks if wanted. \$3 donation to CPNZ and WPAT. Ph Celia: 814 9660

Lawn mowing and section clean ups: Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 814 9493 mob 021 024 75610

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 in the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week Contact Tony 814 9860, email tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz

The Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

Tiler / Stone layer: 21 years' experience in the trade available for indoor and 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.

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

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