

From the Editor

Hello everyone

Who invited Winter back? I thought Spring was definitely underway a couple of weeks ago, but it seems the cold weather is back with a vengeance. I don't think I have ever seen so much rain and hail! That said, we've also had some glorious sunny days here and there.

On one such day I decided to take a walk down to Kauri Loop Rd and back. One thing that really struck me was the speed at which some traffic hurtled past, especially on the straight between Rimu Rd and Raroa Tce - the "racetrack" as I call it. I'd dearly love to see a proper footpath built between Bendalls Lane and Raroa Tce! What do other readers think? It is no secret that safety is compromised where footpaths are absent. I suppose, until that day eventually comes (and I live in hope that it will), walkers must be aware of what they are wearing in relation to their visibility to drivers. Take care when out walking on our roads - it could save your life.

While I was out for my walk I had a think about our newsletter and wondered what you would like to see more or less of. I encourage you to have your say. Letters to the Editor, share some local history, tell a story. We are always looking for interesting content. Your input is eagerly received!

Cheers, Erin

Waiatarua Community News

850 copies October 2017

Piha Road intersection raises concerns once again

These photos show two incidents which a resident has witnessed involving vehicles turning from Piha at the intersection of Scenic Drive. Quinns Rd and Piha Rd.

The first incident shows a school bus attempting the turn. According to the witness this was only cleared with the assistance of police and a tow truck.



The second incident shows a truck with trailer turning from Piha Road to head

north on Scenic Drive. According to the witnessing resident, "Traffic flow was delayed for about 10 minutes while the truck attempted the turn. In the end the driver went onto the right hand side of Piha Rd in order to get a wide enough arc to make the turn. At one stage eight or nine other vehicles from Piha actually passed the truck while it was on the right hand side of Piha Road. When the turn was made the front of the truck went into Scenic Drive onto the right hand side of that road also, facing traffic coming from the north/ Swanson. Traffic was stopped coming from Piha, coming from Swanson end of Scenic Drive and coming from Scenic Drive from the Titirangi direction"

He goes on to say "More often long wheel

base vehicles like trucks and buses coming through the intersection from Piha to head north on Scenic Drive cross the intersection, swing left into the carpark in front of Elevation and do a U-turn back towards Piha, but proceed on the Scenic Drive north towards Swanson. This procedure is also dangerous because of vehicles coming around the corner on Scenic Drive from Titirangi"

> A longtime resident of Quinns Rd, this person has witnessed several accidents. These include two head on crashes when vehicles from Piha have gone straight ahead from the stop on Piha Rd into the right hand lane, and collided on the kerb with traffic coming from Titirangi. He believes the situation has become worse as more and more visitors to Auckland visit Piha, or travel the Coast to Coast route on Scenic Drive. As the central point in the Waitakere Ranges and the park, he feels that a roundabout with a feature similar to that on the Titirangi one, would enhance the visitor experience, and

Waiatarua, but the priority is a well-designed and safe roundabout.



Editor's Note: Auckland Transport have been notified and are currently investigating these matters. Comments and ideas from residents are invited.

Hello Waiatarua!

Travel. What is it good for?

I've noticed a lot of us travelling recently. Rita and her young family have toured South America properly, taking a few months to soak it in. John Goudge, a well-deserved month to tour Europe. Tric Andersen has been on a journey of Lower Hutt to support her daughter Ginny in an epic election race (the result of which, as I write this, I can only guess).

Kiwis travel a lot. Along with Australia and the UK the proportion of New Zealanders that hold a passport is around 75%. You probably already knew that. I've just returned from the US and there it is around 36%, although I'd love to see a state by state breakdown.

But why do we do it when air travel is one of top two most harmful things we can do in respect of global warming, second only to having another child? We journey to 'get away' but ultimately we come back.

Being 'on the road' gives us a sense we are going somewhere, but, if we're paying attention, the journey is often deeper within ourselves. I remember a (senior) friend explaining this to me when I was much younger. I wondered what the frack he was talking about, having recently been through India and seeing so much yet arriving home to realise the biggest journey was within himself and who he was in his NZ community.

Unexpectedly, I've done two trips this year and have just returned from Black Rock City. If you need to Google where that is, then try not to form an impression from the first 5 things that pop up, which will invariably be about someone dying, drop dead gorgeous naked babes, and some other strange thing.

Maybe instead search on the thing you love most and add the words "black rock city". That city took me on an insane tour of myself that I wouldn't have dared do alone.

But now I'm back in the Waiatarua bush; lush where Black Rock is dry and barren.

An aspect that both have in common are the boundaries. A lot of us don't know where the frack the line is between us and our neighbours. I challenge you all to embrace this and join in the weed and pest eradication efforts we have on the go. Even if you just send us an email of support.

Hei konā mai

Nā Peter Casey president@waiatarua.org.nz



Thanks to Auckland City Council for their ongoing financial support for the running of the Community Hall.

Fire Brigade News

Congratulations to Jay Percival, who successfully completed his 5-day Qualified Firefighter practical course at Fire and Emergency's National Training Centre in Rotorua last month.

Recent Calls

8:52 am, Sat 19 Aug	Karekare	Hot ashes in wheelie bin
9:32 am, Sat 19 Aug	Scenic Drive	Car down bank
1:23 pm, Sat 19 Aug	Titirangi	3rd alarm, fire in hall roof
10:50 pm, Wed 23 Aug	Anawhata Rd	Car fire

Scenic Drive Car off road

Confused about Smoke Alarms?

1:04 am, Sat 9 Sep

With ionisation, photo-electric and heat alarms all on the market, there's a bit of confusion about what's best. For optimum smoke detection, long-life photoelectric smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, living area and hallway in the house. They may cost a little more but the main benefit is that they provide up to 10 years protection without the hassle and ongoing cost of replacing batteries.

At a minimum, a long-life photoelectric alarm should be installed in the hallway closest to the bedrooms. This should be supplemented with other alarms as soon as possible. But don't install a smoke alarm in your kitchen, bathroom or laundry, as these rooms will be prone to false alarms. Use a heat alarm there instead.

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).

Ian Ford

Waiatarua Library

WAIATARUA'S BEST DROP IN SPOT

We are located in the lower level of the Community Hall (911 West Coast Rd).

Your local library is run by locals for you. We are here for the serious or casual reader. Our volunteers put in a total of 70 hours per month to ensure the library is open for you. We buy and process round about 350 new books every year covering a wide range of genres and interests.

Hours: Thursday 10am – 12pm; Friday 7pm – 8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am – 12pm

Come along, meet some locals, browse and borrow.

Jeannette Ziesler

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Orange Rubbish Bags still OK for Waiatarua

There's been plenty of talk recently about Auckland Council's new rubbish bin service for West Auckland, which starts on 2 October.

Auckland Council General Manager, Waste Solutions, Parul Sood has confirmed that for Waiatarua residents, orange rubbish bags will remain an option for the foreseeable future. Please refer to the link for further information.

http://www.makethemostofwaste.co.nz/north-west-bin-service/payt-included-

Waiatarua Quiz Night Saturday 7 October

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 on the night and we can fit you in.

Entry \$5 per person

Please BYO drinks and nibbles to share with your team (AND the quizmasters!)

For more information please call Ian or Cathie on 814 8871

Oratia Bowling Club Have a Go and Opening Day

When: Sunday 1 October at 1.30pm

Where: Oratia Bowling Club

515 West Coast Road, Oratia

Tel: 818 3109

Weather and green permitting, there might be a roll up. Casual dress.

All welcome.

Waiatarua Weed and Pest Action Group

BBQ - Sunday 29 October 2017 3-5pm at the Hall

Bring a plate, come to connect with your neighbours and discuss where things are at with the weeds and pests of Waiatarua!

There is, frankly, only hope for our forests, flora and fauna if grassroots action can happen in all communities. So, the successful Weed Action group has decided to expand to pests. We have an ambitious plan to make our area pest free.

Come for a korero and find out important information for your home and how you can be involved.

Weed of the Month: Climbing Asparagus

Keep an eye out for this public enemy number one. This slender bright green weed climbs and scrambles forming dense patches that smother out our natives. Between now and December this weed will have small white flowers. Late summer it will feature berries, these are often spread by birds (black birds in particular) it must be stopped. You can dig it out the tuberous roots and dispose of carefully, and herbicides can be used very carefully. For more information see:



http://pestplants.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plant-search/Aspsca

Rita Steel, Ruth Gregory and Lhara Waby

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, erin@kingsleighsmith.com, 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

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY OCTOBER 13TH @ 5PM

Waitakere Forest & Bird

Talk by Karen Baird, renowned conservationist and Forest & Bird's seabird advocate

> Thursday 19th October 7:30pm **Kelston Community Centre** cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd

New Zealand Penguins Major Conservation Concerns

Karen will summarise major issues facing New Zealand's penguins and identify gaps in the conservation effort that can be supported by Forest & Bird.

Non members welcome, koha appreciated to cover hall hire.

For further information:

phone Liz Anstey, 0274 762732

lizanstey@hotmail.com

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911 WEST COAST ROAD

WAIATARUA

New hall hire fees document available on our website:

www.waiatarua.org.nz

Contact John Goudge on 021 232 9822