



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

March 2018

Latest News on Piha Road Intersection

Update from Auckland Transport

Wayne Edwards has received the following from Auckland Transport regarding this dangerous intersection. Their plans appear to be in three stages, but most importantly they do now acknowledge the need for a correctly designed and engineered roundabout.

As a first stage they have added the intersection into their "minor improvements" schedule. This will include additional signage for heavy or long wheel based vehicles advising them not to attempt to turn from the Piha Rd onto Scenic Drive heading north. It will also include on roadway directional arrows to warn and remind drivers entering the Scenic Drive from Piha Rd to stay on the left hand side. They have assured Wayne that this will happen within 20 to 30 days.

As a second stage they are studying the creation of a turning bay on Scenic Drive for long wheel base vehicles turning from Piha Rd to go north on Scenic Drive. They recognise it is not practical to warn drivers not to attempt the turn while offering no safe alternative. They acknowledge that these vehicles turning in the adjacent car park area (in front of Elevation Brasserie), create another hazard. This is especially dangerous when the car park is full and busy, as it often is at weekends. They have no timetable beyond the study for completion of this.

As the final solution they advise they presently have no funding for the roundabout which, due to the local topography, is an expensive challenge. This will also necessitate the removal of several native trees which will likely be opposed by environmental groups. A figure of \$2 million was mentioned as the possible cost, although this would seem to your editor not a huge cost when injury or worse are at risk. However, the good news is that location/intersection is now on their radar and destined for eventual resolution.

Since the article published in last month's newsletter, Wayne says he has had responses from a number of people adding their own experiences at this intersection and supporting the need to make it safe and functional. Stage one is under way but ongoing public pressure may be necessary to achieve stage three—the roundabout.

From the Editor

Hello everyone

It's good to be back after a month off! I hope everyone is coping in this hot sticky weather. I've never known humidity like it. Thank goodness for air conditioning!

My family and I have recently returned from a weekend away in lovely Cambridge. The traffic, getting out of Auckland on Friday afternoon, was dreadful. We made sure we got there and back again safely and in one piece – we witnessed some pretty hair raising driving on the journey. The Piha Rd intersection is no exception. A friend recently had a surreal and frightening experience here, being hit head on by a foreign tourist – thankfully she, her children and their friend are all OK, albeit a bit shaken. Please see the latest story above on this dangerous intersection.

On a happier note, don't forget the upcoming Quiz Night at the hall on Saturday 24 March. This should be a fun evening – get your thinking caps on! Details on page 2.

Cheers, Erin

Hello Waiatarua!

With this newsletter expected to land in your letterbox just a few days after the 2018 WRRRA AGM I'm now either past or current president of the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association.

I'm proud of what the WRRRA achieved in 2018 and thank my fellow committee members for their help in locking in fibre by 2020 and continuing to do our part in taking care of this place.

In 2018 we are going to need new members and new committee. Management of pests, both flora and fauna seems to be a rising concern and one that we are doing something about through our Pest Free Waiatarua group.

If you want to know why the WRRRA exists or who to talk to about it check out our website at www.waiatarua.org.nz, or give me an email or just call.

Peter Casey

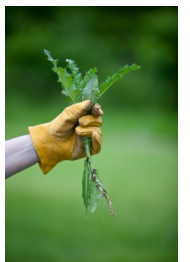
president@waiatarua.org.nz 0274 32 32 49

Pest Free (formerly Weed Free) Waiatarua group

The first proposed weeding date for 2018 is Saturday 17 March from 11.30am to 1.30pm, address to be confirmed (for details please email Ruth Gregory on secretary@waiatarua.org.nz). We enjoy a light lunch together afterwards with our hosts.

Hope lots of you can make it!

Ruth Gregory



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

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WRRRA President: Peter Casey. Phone: 814 9353 Email: president@waiatarua.org.nz

Community Hall and Library: 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353 Hall hire bookings: John Goudge. Phone 814 9744

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

website: www.waiatarua.org.nz

Join Kauri Rescue and Save Your Kauri Trees from Dieback Disease

Landowners wanting to join the Kauri Rescue project and treat their sick kauri trees can do so on the website at www.kaurirescue.org.nz

A project team comprising scientists, social scientists, iwi and community groups which gained two-year funding from the Government's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge www.biologicalheritage.nz is half way through the project. The project **Kauri Rescue** seeks to engage the public in refining a new citizen science tool for the treatment of Kauri Dieback Disease, which is decimating kauri forests in northern New Zealand.

From February to May 2017 the Kauri Rescue project team worked with a small pilot group of private landowners to test and refine the methodology and instructions to be given to project participants. This group has treated their sick kauri trees with phosphite and provided feedback and guidance so that the manual and procedures can be improved.



The second phase of the project is working with a much larger group of landowners based across northern New Zealand. This group is working alongside scientists to treat their own trees with a chemical called phosphite, which has shown great promise in Kauri Dieback Programme-funded scientific trials, by enabling kauri to fight back against the *Phytophthora agathidicida* pathogen that causes the disease.

The project also encourages landowners to test other treatment techniques, encouraging both western science and mātauranga Māori methods. One of the requirements of landowners joining the project is that they agree to rigorously collect monitoring results and data on all treatments so that their efficacy can be determined.

The aim of the project is to develop a suite of tools effective at controlling kauri dieback disease that can ultimately be released to the public.

Anyone who suspects they have kauri dieback but has not yet had it confirmed should contact Kauri Rescue and book in for free soil testing to confirm the disease, which will be provided by Auckland Council's Biosecurity Department. They will then be able to join the second phase of the project. Anyone who already has had kauri dieback confirmed on their property can join and should contact the team immediately.

Team member Dr Mels Barton has been recruiting local Kauri Rescue Ambassadors to help spread the word about the project by doorknocking streets with infected kauri and hosting stalls at local markets and events. "It's really inspiring to be able to offer help to people with sick kauri" says Mels. "Most home owners are delighted to hear there is something they can do to save the trees they love and are really worried about. It's the easiest sales pitch ever!"

Contact Mels on 021 213 779 if you'd like to help with this work.

However the Kauri Rescue team wants to make it clear that the use of phosphite or other treatment techniques is not a cure for kauri dieback, and nor does it immunise trees against future re-infection. The most important message that the team is promoting is that we must stop the continued spread of the disease to new areas and protect healthy kauri.



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Contact Kauri Rescue™: <http://www.KauriRescue.org.nz/contact.html>

Photo credits: Thanks to Mels Barton for the Kauri injection photo and Ian Horner for the dead Kauri photo.



Waiatarua Quiz Night Saturday 24 March



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.

FREE entry for WRRR members (Non-members or lapsed members can join up on the night)

Please BYO drinks and nibbles to share with your team (AND the quizmasters!). There will also be prizes.

For more information please call Ian or Cathie on 814 8871

The Great Waiatarua Debate 2018

The WRRR committee would absolutely love to bring back the debate in 2018, which had a hiatus in 2017; we ran the Winnit in a Minnit instead.

The debate is a great tradition and a great event. It's also a lot of fun to help organise and to be a part of.

We hope to run the debate around July to August but want to begin searching for teams very soon. Without your help we may not have the resources to run the debate in 2018.

If you'd like to join the WRRR committee this year in being on one of the teams, playing a part in the running of or even leading the planning for this auspicious event then please get in touch with me, Peter, at president@waiatarua.org.nz or Ruth at secretary@waiatarua.org.nz before the end of March.

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New At The Library

This month we feature five books written by authors resident in NZ. Our writers reflect our environment, our culture and us. These books are now at the library and well worth reading.

"Marlborough Man" – Alan Carter. A mystery/thriller set in Havelock in the Marlborough Sounds. Formerly working undercover in England, a police officer is now working in this small town. Several young children are murdered and our man investigates. However, his past and the reason he left comes back to haunt him. Gripping.

"The Cage" – Lloyd Jones. Two strangers arrive in a small town. It is obvious they are fleeing from some sort of a catastrophe but they are unable to articulate what happened. The locals at first are hospitable but this soon moves to suspicion, fear and then cruelty. Jones explores the indifference of locals to others most desperate needs.

"Gabriel's Bay" – Catherine Robertson. A young Englishman jilts his bride at the altar and moves to a small, isolated seaside town in NZ. He quickly gets involved in life in the town and its wide variety of residents. There is very poor road access, no jobs and no tourists. He aims to change that.

"Differently Normal" – Tammy Robinson. Life in the household must be calm and without any changes so Maddy's autistic sister remains settled. She needs care 24/7. While at Riding For The Disabled with her sister, Maddy meets a young man. Slowly a friendship develops. He comes from an entirely different home and is drawn to the routine of an ordered home.

Jeannette Ziesler

Waitakere Forest & Bird

Talk by Michelle Impey, Executive Director, "Kiwis for Kiwi"

Thursday 15th March 7:30pm

Kelston Community Centre

Cnr Awaroa/Great North Road

"Saving our national icon - an ambitious plan to grow the kiwi population"

Amidst the constant barrage of doom and gloom news around the environment, there is a positive story in the making with kiwi conservation. Kiwi for Kiwis is a national charity that protects kiwi and the places they live by supporting community conservation projects. It has recently launched an ambitious strategy to grow kiwi by harnessing this network of community and Māori-led conservation projects. Michelle's talk will focus on this strategy, including informative background and information about kiwi.

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

For further information ph Liz 0274 762732 lizanstey@hotmail.com



Recent Calls

If you thought you'd been hearing the fire siren more often lately, you're not mistaken. In the two months after the serious house fire in Piha in early December, the Brigade went to 26 incidents.

These included two vehicle fires, nine car crashes, and four calls in two hours at the tragic flash floods in Bethells Valley.

Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency.

Otherwise please contact Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Acting Deputy CFO Ian Ford (814 8871).

Ian Ford

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.

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

Fire Brigade News

Congratulations to those Waiatarua volunteer firefighters who received service honours at our recent dinner. Derek Renata was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal for 14 years service, and Kevin Healy a 7 year bar to his LSGC for 21 years service.

United Fire Brigade Association 5 year silver medals were awarded to Jason Mann, Jay Percival and Sam Denny, and 2 year silver bars went to Kevin Healy (21 years), Steve Smith (17 years) and Derek Renata (15 years). Ian Ford received an additional 2 year bar to his Gold Star (33 years).

UFBA Certificates for 3 years service were presented to Grayson McGee, Richard Renata, Tarquin Slater and Matt Walkinshaw.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

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