



# Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

July 2018

## No Public Transport for Waiatarua

In the last year our community has gone backwards rather than forwards in terms of public transport. To zero in fact. This loss of essential service is more frustrating when we have a "carbon zero" focused Council and an aging community with no footpath access here.

WRRRA have recently corresponding with the Local Board and Council regarding the removal of the 156 bus service and its school bus replacement. We are determined to restore public transport to Waiatarua.

### Status Quo

The 156 route, had which operated three trips a day on weekdays and on which many were dependent, had apparently experienced 10 or fewer passengers per trip.

Following 2014 consultation for a 'New Network' of bus services across Auckland, AT removed the 156 bus service and replace it with an amended school service to cater for the student demand in June 2017.

A new dedicated school bus, route number 056, is now operating on school days. This bus has a morning trip from Forest Hill Road and West Coast Road to Avondale College.

The 156 in the afternoon which starts at Avondale College and travels directly to Glen Eden, but does not make it to Waiatarua at all.

We await a response from Avondale college to confirm whether other students can catch either service.

### Future possible developments

Due to the current implementation of the bus New Network for Auckland's urban areas, AT will start to look at additional services for the outer areas of Auckland, including the Waitakere Ranges, after the New Network's completion this year.

In March/April 2016, AT held a survey for residents of the Ranges and beaches.

Two possible scheduled services were identified which could be viable and "warrant further investigation":

- Potential route 1 – Piha to Glen Eden, via Waiatarua and Oratia. This is supported by WRRRA.
- Potential route 2 – Huia / Parau to New Lynn.

While two potential new services have been identified, budget is unavailable in this financial year, as AT has been focused on delivering the New Network across Auckland for 2018. They see risk that patronage could not be as high as people expressed in the survey, and that the long journey time from Piha to the City could mean that the service is not attractive enough compared to driving.

These services may have to be fully funded by Auckland Council. However, AT will also be seeking direction from NZTA in the next few months on options to access potential additional Central Government funding for public transport and will recommend that this in part be channelled into additional services, which if agreed may permit earlier implementation in 2019 of a solution.

Waiatarua must make its wishes known to Council and if possible find ways to help or motivate AT to apply pressure to NZTA to fund the additional service or trial.

Councillor Penny Hulse stated that she is in support of a response to this ongoing issue stating "We are aware that funding has been constrained and that the focus has been on higher use areas, but I agree that a longer term plan to have some choices for people to use public transport in our Ranges is needed."

Some pressure and political inclination may result in the restoration of a basic service to our wonderful, but often neglected, neck of the woods.

Any correspondence or comments that you would like to send to AT and Council in support of urgent restoration of public transport to Waiatarua will be gratefully received and forwarded by Ruth Gregory at [ruth@halcyonchambers.co.nz](mailto:ruth@halcyonchambers.co.nz).

Ruth Gregory



## Waiatarua Quiz Night Saturday 14 July



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

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

Contact  
Us

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**WRRRA President:** Peter Casey. Phone: 814 9386 Email: [president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz)  
**Community Hall and Library:** 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353  
**Hall hire bookings:** John Goudge. Phone 021 232 9822

**Library hours:** Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm  
Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm  
**website:** [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## From the Editor

Hello everyone

Last month I celebrated a milestone birthday and was lucky enough to spend it with my family and some good friends in Surfers Paradise and Noosa. We had a fabulous week away. Everywhere we went we were impressed by the amazing food and exceptional service, not to mention the balmy weather (a lot nicer than here, I can tell you!). There was so much to do and see, but we managed to tick most of our chosen activities off our list. Of course one of the most important was a girls' shopping trip to Pacific Fair (we ditched the men and boys at the Wet N Wild water park—needless to say, they had a fantastic time there).

The highlight of the trip (apart from celebrating my actual birthday in Noosa) was visiting a koala sanctuary. Here we got to cuddle koalas (see photo), hold a python, see a cute platypus, hand feed kangaroos and check out all the other Aussie wildlife there. In fact we saw plenty of wildlife everywhere we went, including rainbow lorikeets, sulphur crested cockatoos, kookaburras and the ubiquitous ibis with its bald, black skinned head and neck.

The holiday passed by all too quickly and before we knew it we were heading home to NZ and back to reality—with a bump, as it turned out.

We were thrown into turmoil the day after we arrived home with my elderly mum falling and fracturing her hip, which required urgent surgery and a period in rehab at Waitakere Hospital. She received wonderful care from the team of people looking after her and I cannot thank them enough, they are truly worth their weight in gold. We are fortunate indeed that in this country we have these services available to us at no cost. She is thankfully OK and back at home now, recovering remarkably well for someone of her age, but it's been a very stressful and worrying time for us. I am so lucky that in the middle of all this two sets of very special friends held separate birthday dinners/parties for me, something which I never expected but absolutely loved. It helped to alleviate my concerns for my mum, even if only for a short while.

### WRRRA membership

As at 31 May, the WRRRA had 54 members plus 8 out of the area subscribers. As you can clearly see, membership numbers are low. Out of the 800+ households that receive the newsletter, that's not very many. We desperately need more of you to join—and this is easily done. Membership forms are available at the Waiatarua Library and Elevation, and the form is regularly printed in this newsletter. You can also visit <http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership> and join from there. At \$10 per household, I think that's a bargain.

Cheers, Erin



## Fire Brigade News

Congratulations to Kieran Conroy and John Hunter, who have just traded their recruit helmets in for firefighter helmets after completing their 6-day recruit's course in June.

Other Brigade members have also been busy upskilling, and have passed several advanced Fire and Emergency courses recently - Steve Smith and Jason Mann (Senior Firefighter), Jay Percival (Qualified Firefighter and Emergency Response Driver), Carl Adams and Matt Walkinshaw (both ERD and Pump Operator). Well done guys!

### Recent Calls

11:55 pm, Wed 9 May	Car rolled	Scenic Drive
6:34 pm, Thu 17 May	Car in ditch	West Coast Rd
12:20 am, Sun 20 May	Van fire	Scenic Drive
5:49 am, Wed 23 May	Tree on road	Scenic Drive
8:42 pm, Tue 19 May	Car rolled	Scenic Drive
10:58 pm, Fri 1 Jun	Vegetation fire	Piha
12:58 pm, Mon 4 Jun	Slip across road	Scenic Drive

### Keeping your family safe

There's a rise in house fires at this time of year, but you can do something about it by good housekeeping and practices.

Putting fireplace ashes in a metal container away from the house until they cool down, which can take days. Not in a rubbish bag next to the house!

Ensuring your fireplace has a screen with a proper fireguard, and the chimney has been checked and/or swept in the last year.

Not overloading power points or multi-boards with appliances that use a lot of power, like heaters.

Cleaning the lint from clothes dryers after every use.

### 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

## Newsletter Deliverer Needed

Mike Robinson has given great service as a newsletter deliverer, but he is unable to continue. You've guessed it, we are looking for a volunteer to take his place. The job is to deliver newsletters once a month in Forest Hill Road, from Kelly's Road up to number 284 (about 60 newsletters). So if you would like a bit of monthly exercise and that warm glow that comes from helping your community, contact Tony Bacon on 814 9860 or [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz) and I'll add you to the list.

Tony Bacon

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653 Rosebank Rd, Avondale. Phone 308 1510, email [sales@dmail.co.nz](mailto:sales@dmail.co.nz). Check us out online at [www.dmail.co.nz](http://www.dmail.co.nz)

## Weed of the Month

### Wild Ginger

Weed of the month is wild ginger. Check out how to easily control it, get rid of it or simply keep it at bay. Check out the Waiaatarua website at [www.waiaatarua.org](http://www.waiaatarua.org) or the Waiaatarua Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Waiaatarua/> for more. Rita Steel



## Let's Get the Tracks Open

Are you a local resident who misses being able to walk on the tracks in the Waitakere Ranges?

Are you interested in helping the Waitakere Ranger Team on upgrading tracks so they can be reopened? The more resources we have the quicker the tracks can be opened.

There will be weekday and weekend opportunities to get involved.

As well as upgrading tracks the Rangers are looking for people to help with ongoing checks and maintenance of open tracks.

The local community are a key component in getting tracks open again.

If you are interested please email [kauri@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:kauri@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or phone local resident Ross Jackson on 814 8857 or 021 996 707.

## Waiaatarua Performing Arts Trust

Present to Waiaatarua on Wednesday  
11<sup>th</sup> August

**A mystery...Karaoke night??**

Gold Coin entry fee per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Entertainment between songs that has never been seen before! (at least in Waiaatarua)

Doors open 7:30pm for 8.00pm start - should finish around 10.00pm

## Waitakere Forest & Bird

**Talk by Brian Shields**  
**Biosecurity Advisor from**  
**Auckland Council**

**Thursday 19 July, 7.30pm**

*'The Million Dollar Mouse Project—  
Mouse Eradication on The Antipodes'*

Brian has just come back from the Antipodes Islands where he and his team were checking on the results of the mouse eradication programme "Million Dollar Mouse" where they work with specialised dogs Piri and Tui to sniff out the pesky rodents. Get up close and personal with this important conservation project with tons of colourful pictures and videos.



Venue: Kelston Community Centre, cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd.

Non members welcome, join us for supper afterwards. Koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information phone Liz 0274 762732 [lizanzstey@hotmail.com](mailto:lizanzstey@hotmail.com)

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**[www.waiaatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiaatarua.org.nz)**

**Contact John Goudge on 021 232 9822**

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

**Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor**

**By FRIDAY July 13th @ 5pm**

## Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, [editor@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiaatarua.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Titirangi Theatre acting classes for adults, teens, and children** with tutor John Goudge, at Titirangi Theatre, Lopdell House, 418 Titirangi Rd. Classes on Monday afternoon or evenings beginning 23 July.

Children (9—12 yrs) 4.30—5.45pm (\$100)  
Teens (13—17 yrs) 5.50—7.30pm (\$120)  
Adults 7.35—9.45 pm (\$200)

To enrol or for information contact tutor John Goudge on [goudgedrama@gmail.com](mailto:goudgedrama@gmail.com) or 021 232 9822.

**Waiaatarua Playcentre:** 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua. 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 \$5 per class. Ph Grace 818 2046



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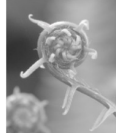
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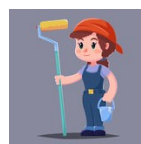
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