



# Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

October 2018

## Scenic Drive slip-sliding away

Most of the community will already be aware of the large slip on Scenic Drive (between the top of West Coast Road and the Arataki Visitor Centre). Scenic Drive was closed as a result, and temporary traffic signals installed.

Recently it has worsened and this has Quinns Road resident, Stephen Kelpie concerned, particularly as the slip appears to be close to properties on Quinns Rd itself. The response from the Council regarding their ideas for mitigation and long term control of the slip, is that there are no plans at this stage for a permanent structure to prevent slips from occurring in the future. GHD Geotechnical Engineers have carried out investigations and have done testing, but their report on recommendations has not yet been received by the Council.



Photograph courtesy of Stephen Kelpie.

## Piha Rd intersection

A recent story in the NZ Herald reveals that this notorious intersection will get special attention from Auckland Transport, with a 50km/h speed limit around the intersection, flashing studs in the road and more “advanced directional signage” which means warning signs placed further away. The article does not state how soon these changes are likely to take place but it is encouraging to hear that they are at least on the horizon.

## WRRRA Membership

If you're thinking about becoming a member of the WRRRA, membership forms are available at the Waiatarua Library and Elevation. The form is also regularly printed in this newsletter. In addition, you can visit <http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrrra-annual-membership> and join from there. An absolute bargain at \$10 per household!

Use your card at **Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate, Elevation Brasserie and Blow Moulders Ltd.** Support these local businesses and receive a 10% discount (conditions may apply).

## From the Editor

Hello everyone

Well Spring is definitely in the air, especially with the warmer weather we have been enjoying recently. I've heard Californian quails calling at my place and our annual visitor the shining cuckoo has made its return, also evidenced by its calls. Spring also means a time to have a good clean up and get homes and gardens ready for summer. I'm not a fan of spring cleaning myself but so many things in my home are beckoning for my attention, I'm not going to be able to leave it much longer. Still, Christmas is a few months away yet, so plenty of time to get things done!

Speaking of Christmas, has anyone spotted stores prematurely putting out Christmas items for sale? A good friend recently discovered just that in a well known craft and fabric store in West Auckland. Christmas items for sale—in September! She was utterly gobsmacked and took to social media to share her thoughts. I for one totally agree with her. Don't get me wrong, I love the Christmas season, but I think it is ridiculous to be promoting it so early—Halloween would seem more appropriate, seeing as that's not far off. All too soon the Christmas rush will be upon us, and I think seeing festive items being sold in stores at this time of the year creates an unnecessary feeling of pressure to have everything done and organised months in advance. It's a bit like Easter eggs and hot cross buns being available for sale in January! Utterly absurd, but actually quite true, for I've seen it myself. And no, I didn't buy any. I refuse to until it's actually Easter!

Cheers, Erin



## Waiatarua Quiz Night Saturday 27 October

7.30pm, Waiatarua Hall, 911  
West Coast Road

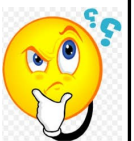
Pub quiz format...teams of around 6-8 (but we're not that strict). You can organise your own team or just turn up on the night and we can fit you in.

**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



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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**Community Hall and Library:** 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353  
**Hall hire bookings:** Phone 814 9353 Email: [hallhire@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:hallhire@waiatarua.org.nz)

**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)

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Most of us in Waiatarua are well aware of the possible demise of our iconic kauri trees and at the moment we are watching them slowly die over periods of months and years. Most of us are in desperation as to what we can do. There are a number of organisations that are supposedly dealing with this but there is little convergence of actions and, what's worse, there seems to be minimal *immediate action to the trees themselves*.

Having been to a few of these kauri dieback meetings now, and been part of the research program (I have injected 40 trees on our property alone, a time consuming task and still with indecisive results), it seems from the kauri team leader of the NZ Institute of Plant & Food Research that humans may well not be the *only* vector responsible for the transmission of the elusive and dreaded phytophthora pathogen.

It appears it is possible that it can also be carried by rats, stoats, possums, and pigs, that also prefer to use the convenient human-made paths. If this is so, there is something we should all do to minimise this right now! We must each of us be responsible for setting our own traps, at the very least to reduce the risk of further transmission. We should even be prepared to do this if we have no kauris on our particular properties. It needs doing now, before spring when this vermin is more likely to again multiply.

The up side is that this *might* slow the spread of the bacteria and we may even have more native birds as an added benefit.

Geoff Waller, West Coast Road

## Environmental Report

This month we are waging war on Climbing Asparagus. This is fast becoming our most destructive weed! You will find it quickly establishing itself on your property as it climbs up and around trees and across forest floors.

This weed has very fine, light green, fern-like leaves. Spring is an excellent time to spot it as it will feature white flowers, and later round berries as the summer approaches. Cut the weed back in the first instance and dig out as soon as possible. Herbicide treatments and further information on how to control Climbing Asparagus can be found on the Waiatarua Facebook page or the community website.

Speaking of the war on weeds, Ecomatters have defined a buffer zone in Waiatarua and have been working with locals to identify and eradicate weeds from key properties in the area. Their annual report is out and there is plenty of work to still be done, but there are some areas where we are winning. If you want to find out more about the report check out the Waiatarua Facebook page or the community website.

And finally, don't forget the Great Kereru count Friday 21st—Sunday 30th September. For more info visit: [greatkererucount.nz](http://greatkererucount.nz)

Rita Steel



## Tēnā koutou Waiatarua!

It was great to see around 20 of you at the Great Waiatarua Spring Clean. Altogether we achieved more than 40 hours of work. The gardens, the hall, store room, kitchen, toilets and library all got close attention.

Thank you to all those that could make it and also thanks to all those who couldn't be there on the day but helped by dropping off boxes or offering assistance on another day. The support from those who happened to be emotionally, physically or situationally impaired on the day was also so much appreciated.

The library, librarians and those who love our library deserve a special mention. There have been hundreds of kilograms of books shifted so far and there is a LOT more book and shelf wrangling to go before we finish our re-organisation.

The goal is to make the library a more usable space and to make the collection more attractive to you.

Personally I'd love to see a doubling of the library hours for borrowing and also be able to let you hire the space for small meetings, or to come along for book clubs. My vision may be hard to achieve, but I feel it is worthwhile. If it did not already exist, to try and create the Waiatarua library today would be really hard, if not impossible.

Libraries have become so much more than just being about books. This week I heard some quite moving stories about people who have credited libraries with providing unique and safe spaces for them and their thoughts; and even potentially saved their lives.

Like democracy, libraries might not seem important when things are good in our society. But when you need a library, you really, really need one.

If you've ever enjoyed being in a library or even just needed to pop into one to grab some free WiFi, please would you spend 10 minutes to complete our online survey about the future of the Waiatarua Library.

And if you don't use computers, guess what? You can also complete the survey at the Waiatarua Library until Sunday 21 October.

Haere rā

Peter Casey

[president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:president@waiatarua.org.nz)

## Library News

We are very sorry to say goodbye to three of our Thursday volunteers. They are June Elliott, who has moved into Selwyn Village, Jeanette Howie and Jeannette Ziesler who did our Library Report. We will miss them, and thank them for all the hard work and especially their cheerful faces and chats over a cup of coffee.

We are having a big re-organisation and clear out at the Library at the moment, but don't let that stop you from coming in! There are still heaps of books to choose from, and we can always do with more volunteers to help us.

Barbara Field



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## Waitakere Forest & Bird

### Post-pest eradication reptile recovery on Rangitoto-Motutapu

Talk by Dr Art Polkonov, School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland

Thursday 18 October, 7.30pm

The presentation is based on results of the 10th annual reptile survey, conducted on Rangitoto and Motutapu Island Reserves and the sixth one after the official declaration of pest-free status of both islands in 2011. The survey involves the use of pitfall traps, artificial refuges and lizard houses at 22 monitoring stations, and active day and night searches which resulted in detection/capture/processing of 1483 lizards of six species in 2017 alone. The trends that were found, lizard population growth and range expansion, are related to positive effects of the multi-species pest eradication. Reptiles have become the best indicators of the ecosystem health.

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 on 0274 762732 [li-zanstey@hotmail.com](mailto:li-zanstey@hotmail.com)

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY October 12th @ 5pm

## The Great Waiatarua Library Survey

There are some important changes going on in the Waiatarua Library. We would like you to be a part of the change to make the library the best it can be and so we are running a survey until midnight Sunday 21 October.

There are three ways you can tell us what you think:

1. Go direct to:

<http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/community/waiatarua-library/waiatarua-library-survey> or <https://tinyurl.com/yd6r3cb3> and complete the survey online;

2. Go to our website, [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz) and check the News section; there is a link you can click to find the survey;

3. Go to the library at 911 West Coast Road where you can complete a paper copy of the survey, and put it in the box provided.

Rita Steel

## Fire Brigade News

The newest "recruit" for the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade has taken the place of a 27-year veteran.

In the last week of August the Brigade received a new 2018 Iveco fire appliance, replacing the 1991 Mitsubishi that we inherited from Morrinsville a decade or so ago.

We're very impressed with thought that has gone into the design and layout of our new truck, and look forward to it serving our community for years to come.

All pump operators and drivers have been through some training to get comfortable with it - although it was a pretty short learning curve, with pretty much everything much more user-friendly.

### Recent Calls

2.26pm, Sun 1 July Car crash, Piha Rd

10.15am, Sat 14 July False alarm, Piha

8.25am, Sun 15 July Slip across road, Scenic Drive

7.51pm, Sat 11 Aug Chimney fire, West Coast Rd

4.20pm, Sun 19 Aug False alarm, Piha

### A chance to give back

If you've thought about giving back to your community and wondered if the volunteer fire brigade was for you, why not check us out? There's more to it than just fire-fighting, and we're just ordinary people who have been given the training - and now new, state of the art equipment! We'd love to hear from you. Please give Kevin or Ian a call - numbers below.

### 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).

## Advertising & Community Notices

*Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:info@doers.net.nz)

**For Sale:** New Samsung colour laser printer. Only use has been to set up and test. Retail price is \$300-350, I'm asking \$195. Phone Tony Bacon 814 9860 or email to- [ny.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:ny.bacon@sthw.co.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.

**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 \$5 per class. Ph Grace 818 2046

# Elevation

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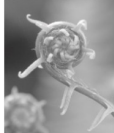
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