



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

December 2018



Waiatarua resident Alessandra Zecchini re- ceives state honour from Italy

Italian President Sergio Mattarella has awarded local resident Alessandra Zecchini the title of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia for services to Italian culture and foreign relations.



Alessandra Zecchini, Director of the Festival Italiano and Media Director of Oratia Media

The state honour — which translates as Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy — is bestowed on Italians and foreigners who have promoted relations between Italy and other countries. It also reflects on the promotion of Italian culture in the world.

His Excellency Fabrizio Marcelli, Italian Ambassador to New Zealand, awarded the honour at the annual Festival Italiano street festival in Newmarket, Auckland at the end of October.

Born in Milan and raised in the province of Modena, Alessandra emigrated to New Zealand in 1997 with her Kiwi husband. They settled in Oratia, Auckland, raising two children bilingually and founding publishing company Oratia Media.



Italian Ambassador Fabrizio Marcelli (right) awards the Cavaliere honour to Alessandra Zecchini

Alessandra has been widely active in the Italian community. She is a long-standing committee member and former President of the Società Dante Alighieri di Auckland, and a representative on the Com.It.Es Wellington.

Since 2006 she has been Director of the annual Festival Italiano Auckland, which is the country's largest Italian

cultural event, and among Auckland's busiest ethnic festivals.

As a writer and editor Alessandra has produced numerous articles about Italian food, culture and travel; written three recipe books; and helped publish Italian books in New Zealand. She has taught Italian language and culture at the Dante Society for over 20 years.

She has promoted Italian cuisine widely, and founded the Slow Food Auckland chapter, the country's most active group in the Italian-based food network.

"I am greatly honoured to receive this recognition and thank all the wonderful Italian and New Zealand friends and family who have helped to make it all possible," Zecchini said.

"The honour recognises the strong bonds between our countries, something we saw wonderfully at the recent street festival."

To arrange an interview with Alessandra, contact: Peter Dowling, 027 614 8993 or peter@oratia.co.nz.

Wanted: New Printer Sponsor for Waiatarua Community News



Our first newsletter of 2019 will be in February, and so that you can keep receiving a paper copy, a new printer sponsor will be required.

If you think you, or anyone you know, may be able to assist with printing approximately 850 4-page black and white copies (A3 folded into A4), then please contact Peter Casey on president@waiatarua.org.nz by mid-January 2019.

Ho Ho Ho...

The 4 stages of life: 1. You believe in Santa Claus 2. You don't believe in Santa Claus 3. You dress up as Santa Claus 4. You look like Santa Claus!



Why is Christmas just like your job? You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

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

Contact
Us

Editor: Erin Kingsleigh-Smith. Phone: 814 8856 Email: editor@waiatarua.org.nz

WRRRA President: Peter Casey. Phone: 814 9386 Email: president@waiatarua.org.nz

Community Hall and Library: 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353

Hall hire bookings: Matt Smith. Phone: 021 059 3467 Email: 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

Merry Christmas Waiatarua!

Still a few weeks to go, but my last chance in our great little newsletter to wish you a fantastic Christmas, a happy New Year and a replenishing and regenerative holiday season.

In particular I'd like to thank everyone that lent a hand in helping make Waiatarua a slightly better place. To Erin, our editor; thanks so much for your consistent effort on the Waiatarua News this year, and to Tony Bacon who provided some key support, and all our newsletter deliverers, and of course our advertisers. Thanks to our printer Direct Mail for your contribution. If anyone can help with printing in 2019 please get in touch (see the notice on the front page regarding this).

To all involved with our weeding group, renamed Pest Free Waiatarua, also a big shout out. Massive thanks to Rita Steel for piloting this group. We're really starting to get some momentum and once again got nominated for the Eco Matters **Love Your Place** community group award.

To all those involved in the library, thanks for your patience and help with the renovation. It's not over yet but we've made a great start and huge appreciation to Grant Longley for spending long hours doing some actual really heavy lifting. To the volunteers, thanks for your patience. We've now got a new supporter in Elaine from the Auckland City rural library service and it's really exciting to see the passion building.

Of course, in thanking people, I know there are many of you I have not got room for here. If you've helped out I hope to see you and thank you personally at our volunteers lunch on Sunday 16 December; if you think you should have received an invitation and

haven't got one by 10 December then please contact me personally and I'll make sure you get one!

A huge thanks is due to my fellow WRRRA committee members for your help and support this year. I'd especially like to call out the unfailing efforts of Sue Bowers and Ruth Gregory who are not likely to be standing again for election at our AGM in February 2019. Ruth has done an excellent job as our Secretary but is moving out of the area. And Sue, you never fail to amaze me at your attention to detail in managing and reporting on our finances. The WRRRA will miss you both.

Which brings me to you, especially our members. It looks like there will be vacancies at least for President, Secretary, and Treasurer come February 2019. If you care about this place, and/or, like me, just want to get to know more about Waiatarua and who lives here, then also, please get in touch with me. I'd be more than happy to talk to you about the issues the WRRRA represents on behalf of *all* our residents and ratepayers.

E noho ra

Peter Casey

president@waiatarua.org.nz



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor
By FRIDAY January 11th @ 5pm

HALL HIRE
911 WEST COAST ROAD
WAIATARUA
New hall hire fees document
available on our website:
www.waiatarua.org.nz
Contact Matt Smith on 021 059 3467



Environmental Corner

This is my favourite time of year. Our pohutukawa are in full bloom and there are many other natives are flowering too, making our forests much more colourful than usual! If you notice a sweet smell at night, look for a cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*) nearby, few people realise they produce such a pleasant aroma.



The weed of the month this month is Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). This vigorous climber starts to flower this time of year making it easy to spot, and smell, due to its sweet scent.

The tubular white flowers turn yellow over time. Although this plant doesn't climb too high, it does smother the next generation forest from growing and that causes lots of longtime problems. Check out the Waiatarua website (or FB page) for more details on this weed and what you can do about it.

Merry Christmas, and see you in the New Year.

Rita Steel

Library News

We are still in the process of updating the Library, but we are getting help soon from Auckland Library to dismantle and move some of the shelves as they are very heavy.

We will be closing over the Christmas and New Year. Our last day will be 20 December 2018, and will re-open on Thursday 10 January 2019. Come and get some books for your holiday reading.

We could really do with some more helpers on Thursday. We are there for 2 hours from 10.00am. Come in and see us if you are interested.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Barbara Field



Direct Mail Solutions are proud to support their community by fully sponsoring this publication.

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From the Editor

Hello everyone

Well the year is nearly over and the festive season is almost upon us once again. I don't know about you, but the older I get, the faster each year goes by.

A special word of thanks

Jeannette Zuidmeer, one of our long-serving newsletter deliverers, is finally hanging up her high-vis jacket after around 30 years of committed service.

On behalf of the WRRRA Committee, I would like to acknowledge Jeanette's efforts and service to our community during this time. Jeannette, you are a truly amazing lady to have delivered our small publication for so many years. Thank you for everything you have done, and all the very best for the future.

WRRRA membership

Membership currently stands at 97— it's growing! 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/wrrra-annual-membership> and join from there. A great deal at \$10 per household.

Advantages of being a WRRRA member

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

Festive Recipe

Beaujolais "soup"

This is an absolutely delicious drink, perfect for Christmas or any occasion.

2 soup ladles lemon juice

2 soup ladles sugar syrup

4 soup ladles Cointreau

2 x 750ml bottles of sparkling wine

Mix lemon juice and sugar syrup well in a large bowl. Stir in the Cointreau and top with the wine.

To make sugar syrup: Combine equal measures of sugar and water in a saucepan over a medium heat. Bring to the boil stirring and boil gently for a few minutes. Remove from heat, cool and refrigerate (keeps well).

Enjoy!



Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate

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Eden Ph: 818 7709 (cash and cheque sales only)

Elevation Brasserie 473 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9727

And finally...

Thanks must also go to all our regular contributors to the newsletter, our advertisers, to Peter Casey and the Committee, Direct Mail Solutions, and everyone involved with co-ordination and distribution.

The newsletter will take its annual break in January and our first issue of 2019 will be in February.

Until then, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. If you are heading away over Christmas, please travel safely. I hope you make time to recharge and relax if you have the chance. Have a fantastic break, wherever you are.

See you in 2019!

Cheers, Erin



Did you know...

The image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh began in 1819 and was created by Washington Irving, the same author who dreamt up the Headless Horseman.

The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is donated to the people of London every year by the people of Oslo, Norway in thanks for their assistance during World War II.

The three traditional colours of most Christmas decorations are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolized life and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.

In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness at Christmas. In fact, spiders and spider webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations. According to legend, a spider wove baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.

Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.

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 card making classes. Supplies available: 153 Solar Rd, Glen Eden. Ph Megan 818 2045

Doers Networks: local, fast internet providers 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

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. \$3 donation to CPNZ and WPAT. Ph Celia: 814 9660 or Liz: 914 9668.

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 \$5 per class. Ph Grace 818 2046.



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