



# Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

February 2019

## From the Editor

Hello everyone

Welcome to 2019! It's good to be back after a month off from editing our newsletter. I hope you've all had a fabulous Christmas and New Year, and most importantly enjoyed your summer break with friends and family.

Goodness it's been hot, hasn't it? I shouldn't complain, after all that rain at Christmas time. I've never seen anything like it! Unfortunately we had flooding at our place late on Christmas Eve. While it was quite a mess to clean up, it was nothing compared to the devastating fire at Nola's in neighbouring Oratia in the early hours of Boxing Day morning. I really feel for the family, how heartbreaking for them to lose their iconic store. Thank goodness nobody was hurt. I'm sure most readers will join me in sending condolences and the sincere hope that they can rebuild and start again.

My family and I have just returned from our annual summer break in Leigh which was great. We did little else except swim and enjoy long days at the beach. It's such a lovely spot and just far enough away from Auckland to feel like a proper getaway.

The WRRRA are kicking off 2019 with the AGM—see the notice about it in this issue. Come along and join us—even if you're just curious about who we are and what we do. Everyone is welcome. If you become a WRRRA member, you can enjoy discounts at the following local businesses:

**Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate** 573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622

**Blow Moulders Ltd** 8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden Ph: 818 7709 (cash and cheque sales only)

**Elevation Brasserie** 473 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9727

See you there!

Cheers, Erin

## Waiaatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 19 February 2019**

**Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua**

**6.30pm for a 7pm start**

Refreshments provided. Come and meet your neighbours—find out what's happening in your community—and join the WRRRA!

All welcome.

### Please accept my Membership to the Waiaatarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2019

Name:

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Address:

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I enclose \$10 for the household

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waiaatarua, Waitakere City, or leave at the library

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

## Oratia Crafting and Friendship Group

Are you a keen crafter? Or want to learn a craft? Or simply just looking for companionship with a friendly group of people?

The Oratia Crafting and Friendship Group meets every Monday from 10am—12 noon in the small hall next to Parker Road Church, commencing Monday 11 February. You can bring your own items to work on, or learn something new including spinning, crochet, tatting and knitting. This year, the 40 strong members' project is making teddy bears for the St John Ambulance.

There is a small \$2 fee, and bring a small plate of three morning tea items to share. Everyone is welcome.

To find out more, contact Bev Latimer on 835 3237.



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

Contact  
Us

**Editor:** Erin Kingsleigh-Smith. Phone: 814 8856 Email: [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz)

**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:** Matt Smith. Phone: 021 059 3467 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)

## Volunteers' Christmas Party

The Volunteers' Christmas party, held at the Waiatarua Hall on Sunday 16 December 2018, was a very happy occasion. This is an annual, invitation only event organised by the WRRRA Committee in recognition of the efforts of our many volunteers.

Guests enjoyed a light lunch (catered by local restaurant Marmaris, formerly The Refreshment Room) and pleasant conversation. These included Jeannette Zuidmeer who has recently retired as one of our newsletter deliverers after many years' dedicated service, and young Sophie Waller (aged 5) who already has two years' experience up her sleeve delivering our small publication, assisted by her grandfather, Geoff. Good on you Sophie!

If you're keen to become a volunteer, come along to our AGM on Tuesday 19 February to find out more.



*Left: Sophie Waller, our youngest newsletter deliverer, with grandfather Geoff.*

*Right: Jeannette Zuidmeer, with her thank you bouquet from the WRRRA.*



## Fire Brigade News

Two of Waiatarua's volunteer firefighters have recently completed training courses at Fire and Emergency training centres. Congratulations to Jack Healy, who passed his 6-day Recruit Firefighter and BA course in Auckland, and to Brent Duffy on the successful completion of his Qualified Firefighter and portable pump course in Rotorua.

If you're thinking of joining us then please get in touch. These courses aren't nearly as daunting as you might imagine - you'll be well prepared beforehand, and exceptionally well trained on the course.

### Recent calls

10:47 pm, Sat 22 Dec, West Coast Rd, Car in drain

9:47 pm, Sun 23 Dec, Piha Rd, Car fire

9:24 pm, Mon 24 Dec, Piha Rd, Car fire

7:39 am, Wed 26 Dec, Oratia, Shop fire Nola's

12:18 pm, Wed 26 Dec, Scenic Drive, Car crash

1:34 am, Tue 27 Dec, Opanuku Rd, Building fire

7:19 pm, Tue 27 Dec, Tui Cres, False alarm

7:26 pm, Wed 9 Jan, Whatipu Beach, Scrub fire in dunes

### Check it's alright to light

At the time of writing, it does appear that summer has actually arrived. Like all of rural Auckland, Waiatarua is in a "restricted fire season". This means ANY fire that's not for cooking needs a permit. No exceptions!

To apply online, go to <http://checkitalright.nz/> - or google "check it's alright"

### Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For fire permits go to the website above; we don't issue them.

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

## Hello Waiatarua!

I've enjoyed thinking back over the past 5 years writing to you each month in this newsletter.

Some of the highlights of my tenure as President are:

The lifelong friends I've made;

The things I've learned about the heritage of Waiatarua and the Waitakere ranges;

A deep appreciation of the interconnected nature of our environment;

Helping get a weed action group up and running;

The establishment the great website that is [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz);

Supporting neighbours through tough times, like Parker Road versus Watercare and days or weeks of no power and internet;

Supporting the rahui and pressuring Auckland City Council to get serious about Kauri dieback disease;

Beginning an update of the Waiatarua community library;

Hosting The Great Waiatarua Debate and the mad Winnit in a Minnit; great fun!

And all the other Great Waiatarua events we've supported or hosted.

This is a special place but quite a challenging 'suburb' to get your head around.

Spread along the main routes, the space our homes take up is dwarfed by the forest around us.

When it was built in 1975 our hall was essential as a place to meet and connect. These days we connect in so many other ways and have so much demanding our attention that it is sometimes challenging to find volunteers.

But make no mistake, the 10 Ratepayer and Resident Associations around here still play an essential role.

Please seriously consider if you, or a neighbour or friend could play a role on the WRRRA committee. We need a leader, a secretary, a treasurer and a library representative. Someone who loves to arrange events would also help.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Peter Casey

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



## Carnage continues at notorious Waiatarua intersection

Several incidents and accidents have recently occurred on or near this trouble spot and it seems these have involved visitors to NZ. When Quinns Rd resident Wayne Edwards contacted the media in June about the intersection, he believed the temporary work completed by AT was superficial and inadequate, but he hoped it would reduce the chances of more head on collisions. Unfortunately it appears this has not been the case, with the latest accident occurring on Boxing Day morning. Once again a vehicle from Piha Rd entered Scenic Drive into the right hand lane and collided with an oncoming vehicle on the kerb in front of Elevation Brasserie. Both drivers involved were overseas tourists.

Fortunately, no one was injured, but three police cars, three fire engines and an ambulance attended. Traffic was diverted through the adjacent carpark area while damaged vehicles were removed and the roadway cleared.



The photo on the left is what drivers see when they leave the compulsory stop on Piha Rd to enter Scenic Drive if going towards Titirangi or Glen Eden. It is difficult to show here, but drivers are required to swing to their left and then turn right to correctly align with the Scenic Drive.

Drivers also face difficulty in safely turning from Piha Rd into Quinns Rd. The options are to proceed onto Scenic Drive on the wrong side until past the markers and turn into Quinns Rd, or alternatively when coming out of Piha Rd to swing hard left onto the correct side of Scenic Drive and immediately turn right into Quinns Rd. The situation becomes dangerous if the vehicle trying to turn

into Quinns Rd is caught in the intersection by vehicles coming towards them on Scenic Drive.

Precisely this situation occurred while Wayne was taking photos at the intersection. Two vehicles travelling on Scenic Drive performed right hand turns from that road into Piha Rd. One turned in the space between the road markers provided to enable this turn, but the other driver was confused and went round all the markers to complete the turn. There are many issues with the layout of this intersection and the photo on the right is one example of how unsatisfactory and dangerous it is (note the position of the two vehicles).



This intersection is a challenge for local drivers. However, with summer here, as the volume of visitors increases, so do the risks.

When contacted regarding the above, Greg Presland advised that he has emailed AT to ascertain where they are with the redesign plans. We hope to hear more in due course.

### An acknowledgement

I was the recent recipient of excellent service from a local resident, Yovi, of Yovi's Topstitch. Recommended to me through my post on the Waiatarua Facebook page, I took a few items to her for alteration. I was delighted with the professional job she did,

the very quick turnaround and her very reasonable prices. I highly recommend her for any alterations you may need. Yovi can be contacted on 814 9359, mobile 021 084 36450, email: yovitopstitch12@gmail.com and is conveniently located at 12 Raroa Tce, Waiatarua.

- Ed.

## 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.*

**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.

### MARCH NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY February 15th @ 5pm



## Valentines Day

Thursday, 14th February 2019  
Are you doing something special  
for your loved one?

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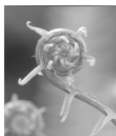
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