



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Spring Edition, September 2019



Waiatarua Hall Spring Clean

The hall (both inside and out) plus its immediate surroundings are due for another annual spring clean and tidy up. Everyone is welcome, whether you can help or not. There will be free coffee, a fire engine to keep the kids entertained, and a BBQ to finish up at lunchtime. The morning is not just a great way to tidy up our valuable community hall, but also an opportunity for members of our community to connect with each other.

Where: Waiatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiatarua

When: Sunday 29th September at 10am



Council adopts changes for managing dogs

Auckland Council's Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw is changing, following consultation from 1 April to 10 May 2019, where more than 8000 submissions were made. The Governing Body decided to adopt the proposed changes to the policy and bylaw at their meeting on 25 July 2019.

The new Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw will come into effect from 1 November 2019 and the key changes are:

- removing duplications from the bylaw, simplifying future amendments to local dog access rules;
- reorganising Schedule 2 (list of local dog access rules);
- requiring dog owners to obtain a multiple dog ownership licence for more than two dogs in areas zoned as urban under the Unitary Plan;
- applying a standard time and season definition of 10am to 5pm from 1 December to 1 March (in places where there is already a time and season rule);
- extending Council's ability to protect vulnerable native plantlife from dogs;
- encouraging responsible dog ownership for owners with dogs classified as menacing because of their behaviour;
- applying a standard lambing season rule in regional parks with stock; and
- amending dog access rules at Glenfern Sanctuary, Muriwai, Long Bay and Whatipū to protect wildlife.

Cats eye installation at Piha Rd intersection

Residents may have noticed that, in an effort to improve road safety, in-road red flashing LED lights (cats eyes) have been installed in the road surface leading to the STOP sign on Piha Road where it meets Scenic Drive. These lights flash when drivers approach the STOP sign on Piha Road.

It is hoped the flashing cats eyes will raise drivers' awareness of the STOP sign. This is a New Zealand first at a STOP sign and AT say that, if successful, it will allow use in similar situations across the country.

In addition, yellow, non-flashing cats eyes have been installed in the road surface on Scenic Drive to highlight the centre line for road users. With a number of incidents involving drivers on the wrong side of the road at this location, highlighting the centre of the road will encourage drivers to stay on the correct side.

Although it is not the much needed roundabout, any improvement to this notorious intersection is beneficial. However, it begs the question: where was the consultation with the community on this matter?

Waiatarua Community Patrol needs you!



What are CPNZ (Community Patrols NZ)?

A community based volunteer organisation helping the Police make communities a safer environment in which to live – by providing extra “eyes and ears” patrolling local streets in a sign written vehicle, undertaking surveillance and observation. Our aim – to be a deterrent, to stop the crimes before they happen.

How can I help? Become a volunteer patroller for the Waiatarua CPNZ group (covering Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley)

Volunteers needed for both daytime and evening patrols (weekdays and weekends), ideally retirees. A flexible commitment of around 4 hours per month is required with full training and uniform supplied. A Police Security Clearance check is also required.



If you want to make a difference in our local community, get in touch and find out how you can help.

For more, see the CPNZ website: www.cpnz.org.nz or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/waiataruacommunitypatrol or contact Les Duffield on les.duffield@xtra.co.nz, tel 814 1130 or mob 021 720 100

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

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Library hours: Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm
Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm
website: www.waiatarua.org.nz

Environmental Corner

What a winter! So dry that I started worrying about the impending summer drought. But fingers crossed the last month has helped fill those dams. We had better get used to it though, climate change means more energy in the atmosphere, so extreme weather will be the norm.

Keep an eye out for the Puriri moth, the largest moth in NZ. They live in native trees and the caterpillars can live up to 5 years. As moths they live for only 48 hours and can be seen from now (September) through to March. If you do see them you may also notice more Ruru/Moreporks around as this is one of their favourite foods!

Be on the lookout for this nasty beauty. Taiwan Cherry Tree has been blossoming and is very pretty, but unfortunately one you should get rid of as it restricts new native growth. Cut down before it gets too large, and replace with a native shrub.

Also running rampant is the lovely smelling but very invasive climber, Jasmine. This will smother your established native trees, eventually killing them. It is also a very persistent weed. Cut at the base of any trees, hand pull runners and try and find the main stems which can then be dug out or poisoned. Keep an eye on new growth. A great smelling replacement is native star jasmine.

A big thanks to the Landscape Yard in Glen Eden who are now offering WRRRA members 10% off all bulk supplies! Now is a great time to build a raised veg garden with some of the Landscape Yard's sleepers. Plant your summer veges now – you won't regret it!

Rita Steel

Fire Brigade

Last month's column proved eerily prophetic. About the same time you read about something that can never happen to "us" – a house fire – that's exactly what happened to a household in Karekare in the early hours of the morning.

By the time the first crew arrived the house was already well alight, and it was far too late for the firefighters to have saved anyone. But fortunately, everyone had already got out.

You can't smell smoke when you're asleep, and that's why working smoke alarms are an essential part of every home. They save your life, and they're cheap. Have you checked yours lately?

Recent calls

5:19 pm, Wed 24 July, Forest Hill Rd, False alarm

1:05 am, Wed 31 July, Car off road, West Coast Rd

5:40 am, Wed 31 July, House fire, Karekare

8:16 pm, Sun 11 Aug, Trees on road, West Coast Rd

6:21 am, Mon 12 Aug, Tree on road, Scenic Drive

5:45 pm, Tue 13 Aug, Car v pole, Scenic Drive

It's a great time to join us

If you've been thinking about answering our call to join your volunteer fire brigade, this is the perfect time to do so. A couple are going through the sign-on process now, and we would really welcome one or two more. It's much more effective – and fun – to go through the initial training as part of a group. So take the plunge, and give Kevin or Ian a call.

Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. But if you'd like to find out more about joining us, please call Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Acting Deputy Chief Officer Ian Ford (814 8871).

Library News

We have just received some more books on loan from Auckland Library. Come and have a browse through them, you're sure to find one to your liking.

We now have some lovely books for young children, and a couple of comfy chairs for Mum & Dad to sit on to read to them.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Barbara Field



Left: Puriri Moth



Taiwan Cherry



Jasmine



Waitakere Forest & Bird Public Meeting

Thursday 19th September
7.30pm

Election Special!

The Local Body elections are being held on 12 October both for Auckland Council's Governing Body and the Local Boards.

Forest & Bird invites you to listen to the candidates deal with our important questions on where they stand on environmental topics related to our area. You will then have the opportunity to ask them your own questions!

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 ph Liz 0274 762732 lizanstey@hotmail.com

October NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the
Editor

By FRIDAY 13th September @ 5pm

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Future of Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate

Andrew Duncan, Manager Financial Policy at Auckland Council has provided some clarification regarding the council's decisions on the future of the Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate.

The council has decided to retain the Waitakere rural sewerage targeted rate until June 2021. Decisions on the future of the service, and rate, will be made in May 2020 as part of development of the Annual Budget 2020/2021, to be implemented in June 2021. This will allow time to negotiate any changes to contracts that would come into effect from July 2021 and aligns with the pump-out cycle and the current service

provision contract timeframe.

Options that council will assess include:

- Reducing the pump out scheme to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board Area to streamline governance and in anticipation of a reticulated sewerage scheme going into the Whenuapai area as part of its redevelopment;
- Aligning the pump out service with compliance and monitoring of all onsite systems (to minimise disruption to land owners and hopefully be more efficient);
- Incorporating all onsite systems and all elements of the systems, not just septic tanks; and
- Reviewing the costs of the scheme and the targeted rate following renegotiation of the contracts for the service.

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.

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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: 814 9688.

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.

Waitakere Choir: we are looking for men and women aged 16+ to join our fabulous new all-comers choir, Monday nights from 7.15pm-9.15pm in the Titirangi area. Phone Mel 021 677 778 or visit www.thechoir.co.nz

Zumba With Grace: Thursday 7-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall. Ditch the workout, come join the party! Cost \$5 per class. Ph Grace 818 2046.



The first signs of Spring appear in Waiatarua. A spectacular local magnolia in full bloom (left and above) and below, daffodils and spring snowflakes in the editor's garden.



Misty morning view over Waiatarua. Photo courtesy Tony Cooke

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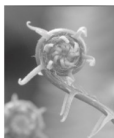
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