



# Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

March 2020

## Hello Waiaatarua!

As most of you know, Ryan has been promoted at work and on behalf of the community, I would like to congratulate him on his success. Unfortunately for us, this means he had to step down as WRRRA President.

I am Nina and I would like to introduce myself as the new President of the WRRRA and tell you a little about me and why I took the role.



Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I moved to New Zealand with our young son. While a big culture shock at first, we fell in love immediately. The country and the people were lovely and our daughter was born here.

But a year and a half ago, we moved to Waiaatarua and discovered what we were missing. It's not just the beautiful sights and wonderful native bush, we were met with a warm welcome and overwhelmed by the great community spirit. Lovely people make all the difference and that was something missing in our previous community - the community.

For over a year I've been reading the newsletters with great interest, following your wonderful achievements and admiring all the hard work you volunteer for to get things done. I haven't really had a chance to participate until now, but I've been thinking about ways to benefit the community and when the call for new committee members came, I raised my hand!

We are all neighbours and we all face the same problems (like a lack of public transport or entertainment) which might seem impossible to tackle, but as a community we have a lot of influence and can make great changes. I hope I can bring new ideas and inspire you all to make things even better, for everyone.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or potential improvements to take our great little community to the next level, or perhaps to discuss what the community could help you with, I very much look forward to hearing from you.

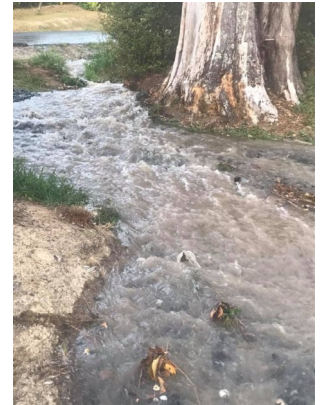
In future newsletters I'll write about these, and would love to hear your feedback!

Nina Zaporokha

wrra.community@gmail.com

## Water woes for beleaguered Waiaatarua

A raging torrent of water gushed across Rimu Rd and flooded properties on the morning of Thursday 20 February, the result of a burst water main. This meant the fourth water outage for those on town supply in almost as many weeks, causing inconvenience, frustration and irritation to many. According to local sources the water leak has made a considerable mess, burying a culvert. AT and ACC have said they will look at it by 26 March, which is several weeks away.



Meanwhile, Waiaataruans on the upper side of Bush Rd, and our neighbours in Piha, pray desperately for rain to fill their water tanks. Some face a wait of many weeks for water delivery as water tanker companies struggle to meet the high demand in this exceptionally hot weather.

Whether on mains or tank water, Waiaatarua is suffering and seemingly

neglected by ACC and Watercare. Most concerning of all in these extremely dry conditions is our vulnerability to fire. Let's hope we get some decent rain soon, and Watercare manage to sort out the seemingly ongoing issues with the town supply once and for all.



Photos of Rimu Rd's new water feature/river courtesy of Megan Burrows.

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

## Contact Us

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**WRRRA President:** Nina Zaporokha Phone: 021 731 456 Email: [wrra.community@gmail.com](mailto:wrra.community@gmail.com)

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

**Hall hire bookings:** Matt Smith Phone: 021 059 3467 Email: [hallhire@waiaatarua.org.nz](mailto:hallhire@waiaatarua.org.nz)

**Library hours:** Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm

Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm

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

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

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

## Waitakere Forest & Bird

**Lecture Series: The scientific dilemmas of climate change: where are we now, and what is a NET?**

**By Professor Roger Davies**

**Thursday, 19 March at 7.30pm**

Roger Davies, Professor of Climate Physics at the University of Auckland will start with an objective overview of climate change and where it appears to be heading. The goal will be to demystify the science behind climate change by answering the following questions:

What do we know for sure? Agreed to by most or all climate scientists.

What is plausible but not proven? ... but just as hard to disprove.

What is best-guess speculation? This is where the scientific discussion gets most heated.

He will also talk about unresolved climate science dilemmas that he finds interesting and will then look into the future and introduce the latest buzz word "NET".

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 762 732 [lizanstey@hotmail.com](mailto:lizanstey@hotmail.com)



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## Fire Brigade News

At the time of writing, the entire North Island is under a total fire ban - the only exceptions essentially being self-contained, spark-free barbecues or braziers in a safe place on your own property. The ban includes incinerators and fireworks.

Fire conditions are currently more extreme here than they were for the 2017 Port Hills or 2019 Nelson fires, so please take extra care!

It may rain again one day (those of us on tank supply are looking forward to that!) and once it's safe enough, Rural Fire will change us back to a Restricted Fire Season. That means you'll need to get a permit before lighting any fire, and it takes a few days. Check and start the permit process at <http://checkitsalright.nz>

### Recent calls

10:54 pm, Sat 25 Jan	Car fire	Scenic Drive
5:46 pm, Wed 29 Jan	Car crash	West Coast Rd
9:45 pm, Wed 5 Feb	Beach campfire	Piha
2:53 pm, Sat 8 Feb	Rubbish fire	Kauri Loop Rd
6:08 am, Thu 13 Feb	House fire	Henderson
2:53 pm, Thu 13 Feb	False alarm	Henderson

### Welcome to the team!

We're delighted to welcome Lorna Biggam, Gareth Wilson and Dave Anderson to our team. But don't worry if you haven't got around to enquiring yet, there's room for more new firefighters and support crew. Please give us a call.

### Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency. For anything else, please call Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Deputy Chief Officer Ian Ford (814 8871).

*Ian Ford*

### Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

**Show your membership card at these friendly local businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)**

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**Henderson Hire** Ph: 838 8879 Cnr Railside Ave & View Rd, Henderson [www.hendersonhire.co.nz](http://www.hendersonhire.co.nz)

### Other special rates for WRRRA members at:

**Plyman/Timberman** Ph: 021 738420 70 The Concourse, Henderson [www.plyman.co.nz](http://www.plyman.co.nz)

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## From the Editor

Three words this month — hot, hot, hot! I love the summer but I don't recall it being this dry and warm for quite such a long period, in the 10 years I have lived in Waiatarua. Let's hope we get some much needed rain soon, to give us some relief from this sweltering heat. Having said that, it won't be long before we are all complaining about the cold and rain and wishing for the dog days of summer again!

The WRRRA AGM was held on Tuesday 19 February at the Waiatarua Hall and I am happy to be able to give you the results of the elections for the WRRRA Committee.

We were sorry to lose Ryan Robertson who stepped down as President due to work commitments, but are pleased to welcome our new President, Nina Zaporokha, with Marq Holibar standing again as Vice President. Jacqueline Hinchliffe stepped down as Secretary, with Peter Casey (past WRRRA President) taking up the role. The very capable Sue Smith was re-elected as Treasurer. Rita Steel will continue as Environmental Representative and Grant Longley as Li-

brary Representative. Lastly, I will continue as your newsletter editor.

We have at least five other members on the general Committee who include Ryan Robertson, Sue Bowers and Brett Whyte. During the evening a presentation was given on the elevated fire danger at Waiatarua right now and simple things you can do around your property to help make it more resilient to the fire danger.

If you're keen to join the WRRRA, the membership form is often printed in this newsletter and can be found on page 2 of this issue, along with a list of local businesses who offer discounts to members. You can also pay online by following this link to our website, [www.waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrrra-annual-membership](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrrra-annual-membership). Or, come to one of our monthly meetings at the hall (7pm on the second Tuesday of every month) and we can help you out. Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see you there.

In the meantime, hopefully rain will come and there will be no more water outages!

*Cheers, Erin*

## Letter to the Editor

How many people in the Waiatarua, Oratia and Titirangi areas who are on town water are getting sick of the WEEKLY water outages. Having two or three outages a year is acceptable but this has been ongoing since the beginning of the year. We need to make our voices heard with every single household that is affected ringing Watercare every time there is an outage (during office hours is best). I have made phone calls every time that this has happened, so please

bombard them with your phone calls and let them know that this is unacceptable. This could also be a conspiracy so that they can build their new pumping station instead of updating the old one which, as we have been led to believe, will be a cheaper option. So don't get sucked in by the lies of their overpaid and bonus incentive CEO. Stand up for what is right! We supposedly pay for a professional service which we are definitely not getting. One person cannot make any difference, but hundreds can.

*Paul Patel, Waiatarua*

## Environmental News — Trap Library Reminder

Following on from the announcement in last month's newsletter.

**How it works:** You will need to attend a 30 minute training session to learn effective tools for traps placement and how to set the traps.

**Bring along:** One form of photo ID and proof of address (a bill or similar).

You will then be able to borrow traps for a period of 3 months (or more — see below).

You will need to record your catches either on paper or via the app (training provided). If you continue to catch pests after your initial 3 months, you can extend your borrowing period!

**When: Saturday 22nd March**

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

**Time: 10am — midday**

Please register your interest for catering purposes at [sciencemademedoit@gmail.com](mailto:sciencemademedoit@gmail.com)

Thanks to Auckland City Council and the Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

*Rita Steel*



## 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.*

**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. \$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](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:** Come and have 3 free visits at our bush nestled Playcentre. We are child led, parent run and full of fun! Open 9:30am - 12:30pm Mon and Weds. Contact Ronni O'Brien 09 814 8835 or [waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:waiatarua@playcentre.org.nz) or [www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre](http://www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre)

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

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