



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Easter issue — April 2020



Hello Waiatarua!

One of the many wonderful benefits of living so close to the Waitakeres is getting to observe the native birds.

We have a regular Kererū visitor, who stops by to drink rain water from our little fish pond. Throughout the year we watched it find a partner and their baby bird growing up and we fell in love with them. It was as if they became part of our family.



I'm not sure what our feathered friend was thinking yesterday, but it flew into the glass in our window. It flew away when I went to check on it and disappeared into the bushes. We were so worried, but couldn't see any sign of it.

Today though, our Kererū friend was back at its usual post, to take a drink and ponderously flap away into the trees. I'm so happy the little (little?) womble is okay.

Where else could we experience things like this, other than Waiatarua?

Nina Zaporokha

president@waiatarua.org.nz

Waiatarua Weeding Day

We're continuing on from the great work everyone did at the hall clean-up day in February, by weeding out the masses of tradescantia and club moss from behind the hall. If you have a spare couple of hours, we'd love a hand. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided.

When: Sunday 29 March

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

Time: 10am — 12noon



Chocolate ice-cream baskets

200g dark chocolate melts, melted

6 flat-bottomed ice-cream cones

2 tablespoon chocolate sprinkles

6 scoops chocolate ice-cream

6 mini solid easter eggs, unwrapped

Using a palette knife or clean paintbrush, spread chocolate over outside of each cone. Dip rim of cone into chocolate sprinkles.

Place on a baking paper-lined tray at room temperature; leave until set.

To serve, fill cones with a scoop of ice-cream. Top with an easter egg.



Local Board news

Information recently received from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board advises that the Council project team are putting together a business case that is to go to Council for approval in September, regarding the Glen Eden town centre upgrade. The next phase will be design. It would seem nothing is happening quickly, but there is movement. There will be a stakeholder meeting on Tuesday 24 March, and more information will be available then.

Council are also currently seeking feedback on the possible changes to the septic tank pump out system, the increase in waste charges, and the CCO review, so this is an opportune time for people to have their say. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/Pages/default.aspx>

The regional review of parks begins in August with opportunities to provide feedback, but no further details are available just yet.

The Local Board is especially looking for ideas to incorporate into the new three year plan and encourages residents to share their thoughts on what is important for the board to focus on over this period. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/local-boards/all-local-boards/waitakere-ranges-local-board/Pages/default.aspx>



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: 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

Library News

Great news, we have now got the complete set of Lucinda Riley's "Seven Sisters" for you to enjoy.

Here is the latest list of some of the books that we have purchased.

Isabel Allende	<i>A Long Petal of the Sea</i>
Greg Hurwitz	<i>Into the Fire</i>
Jonathan Kellerman	<i>The Museum of Desire</i>
Danielle Steel	<i>Moral Compass</i>
Gerald Seymour	<i>Beyond Recall</i>
Marc Cameron	<i>Tom Clancy's "Code of Honour"</i>
James Patterson	<i>Blind Side</i>
James Patterson	<i>Lost</i>



As you can see, the Library is well stocked with plenty of reading material. It's a warm, friendly, inviting space and everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

Have an enjoyable reading month.

Barbara Field



Spragg Bush Track upgrade

If you've noticed a helicopter flying around the Scenic Drive area near Mountain Rd recently, it's due to the Spragg Bush track upgrade. The helicopter is required to bring further materials in and take some old timber and offcuts out. For further information please contact the Arataki Visitor Centre on 817 0077.

Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Hui

Arataki Visitor Centre, Sunday 29 March, 10am—12.30pm. For more information visit <https://www.ecomatters.org.nz/event/pest-free-waitakere-ranges-alliance-network-hui/>



From the Editor

Hello everyone

Well no sooner had last month's newsletter (which mentioned Waitarua's water issues) been delivered, than we had rain. Not an awful lot, but it was welcome nonetheless. Since then we've had a little more, and it feels considerably cooler. However Auckland is still experiencing a water shortage due to the prolonged dry weather and to help with this, Auckland Council have set up water stations to provide support for rural communities. One of these is located at Oratia Settlers Hall, 565 West Coast Rd, Oratia. Here, you can fill a water container from a tap (up to 20 litres per person in their household per day, in handheld containers). It will remain in place until the water shortage is over — check the Council's website for updates. www.ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2020/02/auckland-council-supporting-rural-communities-as-dry-weather-continues/



For the first time in many years the WRRRA is increasing its annual membership fee from \$10 to \$20 per household, although this will not take effect until 1 January 2021. It is still a great deal and of course you can use your card at a number of friendly local businesses — check out our website for a list of these, and for information about how to join. Membership currently stands at 60. <http://waitarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership>

Once again Easter is upon us, with thoughts of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns (although these have been available in the shops for months already!) Hopefully some of you will have a chance to re-connect with friends and family over the break. If you are going away, please travel safely, and keep well!

Happy Easter to one and all.

Cheers, Erin

Council-Controlled Organisations Review

At the WRRRA AGM, comment was made that the community want to hear more of what is discussed at the combined Ratepayers and Residents Associations meeting with the Council Local Board.

Auckland Council has appointed an independent panel to undertake a review of its Council-Controlled Organisations. You can find further information regarding the CCO Review here <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/council-controlled-organisations/Pages/review-of-council-controlled-organisations.aspx>

Wider engagement with the Auckland community is welcomed, and feedback can be provided by visiting <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/review-council-controlled-organisations/Pages/default.aspx>

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Is your property safe from fire?



✓ Here's a guide to help understand the risk in your area

During the fire season, there are some risks you need to know about to help keep you, your family and your property safe.

Throughout New Zealand, there are different levels of risk, depending on where you live and what the area around you is like. As we build more and more homes in previously rural areas, the level of risk is different to properties built in a more urban setting. It pays to make sure you check your property and are aware of your surroundings so you can be best prepared this fire season.

Steps you need to take to keep your property safe

1

Make sure you have a 'safe zone' around your property.

- Check the vegetation around your home. This could fuel a fire if one started. Choose plants with low flammability – native plants are often better.
- Keep your lawns mowed and green.
- Don't store firewood close to the house.
- Clear your gutters of dry leaves.



2

Have an escape plan and an agreed safe meeting place.

- Go to www.escapeplanner.co.nz to make a plan to get out of your home safely and agree a safe meeting place. Practise this regularly.
- Think about where you will meet if you need to evacuate the area.
- Have an emergency evacuation kit in case you need to leave quickly.
- If there is only one way in and out of where you live, you need to be prepared to leave early.



3

Good access for firefighter

- Fire trucks need a lot of space to manoeuvre. Make sure there are no overgrown trees or other obstacles that may prevent access to your property.
- We can connect to water supplies such as a pond, pool or tank; make sure they are not placed under power lines.
- Make sure your address or rapid number is clearly visible.



The fire risk applies to everyone, no matter where you live. For more information check, www.fireandemergency.nz

CHECK THE FIRE SEASON IN YOUR AREA
Go to www.checkitsalright.nz



Waitakere Forest & Bird

Lecture Series: AGM with update on all our projects and speaker John Staniland - Nature on The Wall

Thursday, 16 April at 7.30pm

Join us for our Annual General Meeting to hear all about our projects: Ark in the Park, Matuku Reserve, Habitat te Henga, Harbourview/Orangihina, Kiwi Conservation Club, Tai Haruru plus our activities at events and submissions made. The project

leaders will present a short overview of what has been achieved in the past year by all our volunteers. A great opportunity to get up to speed in just an hour!

Our speaker John Staniland will then show small charming scenes from nature on old and ancient walls and ceilings in Europe that he discovered while on his travels last year.

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

Concerned about Coronavirus?

For current Government official advice, visit the Ministry of Health's website for guidelines and further information. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

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

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: 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 or www.facebook.com/waiataruaplaycentre

Yovi's Topstitch: Alterations or sewing projects I can do at your budget, from cushions, squabs etc. Contact Yovi 021 084 36450 or yovistopstitch12@gmail.com

MAY NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

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