



# Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

May 2020

## “Waiatarua bubble of the month”

Hi everyone!

You're invited to take part in the “Waiatarua bubble of the month” photo contest! Nothing can stop us from having a good time, so let us see your creative spirit in action.

Because no matter what happens, it's your outlook and perspective that determines how you overcome it. Just before the lockdown, someone shared with me a video of an 80 year old woman who can easily do a perfect split, runs 5 kilometres a day and does yoga like she's 17. This woman was inspired by a 91-year old, who was more than happy to train her.

So I thought to myself - heck, if this woman can learn to do a headstand in three days, I want to try too! And I did try, not really believing that I could do it in that time. But you know what? It only took two days. And I haven't even knocked anything over (yet).

So, how have you been entertaining yourself?

Of course, we do have a few rules so here's the fine print:

To enter, send the following to [wrra.contest@gmail.com](mailto:wrra.contest@gmail.com) before midnight on 15 May 2020:

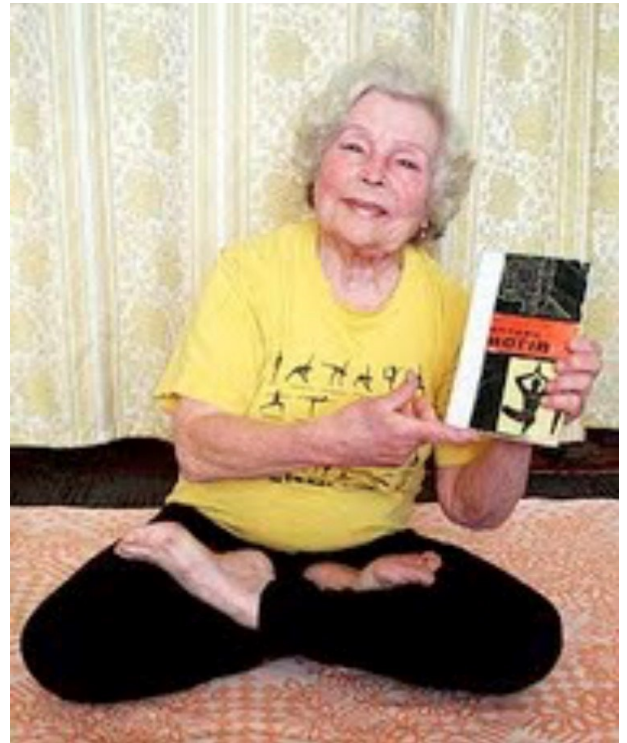
- Your first and last name, contact email (if different)
- A photo of you having fun in your bubble, taken in April 2020 (no more than 2MB)
- A short story behind it

The prize is a sense of satisfaction and the warm feeling you get inside! That's something we can safely deliver.

You may submit multiple entries. The photo must be of you or your bubble-mates, with their permission. By sending the photo you agree to let us publish it in the June newsletter. There is no reward and the judge's decision is final. No correspondence or discussion will be taken into account concerning the winner or selection process. Good luck!

Nina Zaporokha

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



Above: Anna Morozova - the woman who has inspired countless others.



Right: Nina in her bubble.

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

Contact  
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**WRRRA President:** Nina Zaporokha Phone: 021 731 456 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)

## Library News

We are closed at the moment, hopefully not for much longer. We certainly miss not being able to pop in and choose a book whenever we want.

I have had to resort to re-reading some of the books from our own shelves. So far I've read three Leon Donna mysteries set in Venice which I enjoyed again. I'm currently reading Elizabeth George's "For the Sake of Elena". I do like a good murder/mystery and working out, 'who did it'. Do you?

Hope to see you all soon.

Barbara Field

## Waitakere Ranges Community Self-Isolation Group

This is a group that has been set up on Facebook for local community support during extraordinary times. Please use this space to offer and ask for help for yourselves and others.

Link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228490675006381/?ref=share>

## Waiatarua Community Patrol

In these difficult times, the Community Patrol are on Stand Down. The CPNZ National HQ made that decision with approval from the Police, after considering that a majority of Patrollers are in retirement and come within the category of 'Those at Risk Age Group'.

However, some of us thought we might be tasked with Road Patrols and Checkpoints but here in Henderson Valley, Oratia and Waiatarua we can see a vast amount of the residents are complying with the lockdown rules. This is very encouraging and these actions will be rewarded with a healthy existence and well-being.

There are a few who are breaking the rules; I am getting reports of illegal dumping increasing whilst we are in lockdown. I would imagine this because a lot of people have increased activities in the DIY mode but that is no excuse for this vandalism. The cost to us the Ratepayers is enormous. In the Auckland area a figure of a million dollars a year is spent by the Council to clear this rubbish up.

I for one do not miss the sound of cars racing down West Coast Road at commuting times.

Stay safe, stay home and look out for your neighbours.

Les Duffield

## Oratia Mailbox Seed Swap

Hello Fellow Seed Hunters

In light of the nationwide shortage of seeds at the moment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 'Oratia Mailbox Seed Swap' group has been set up on Facebook group so that people in Oratia and Waiatarua can arrange mailbox seed swaps whilst committing to the 'social distancing' guidelines.

It seems a bit silly to be buying packets of seeds every year when there are enough avid gardeners out here to save and share or swap or even purchase seeds, seedlings, cuttings or plants from each other that are already in our gardens.

If you are looking for some seeds etc. that you do not have, request it on the group page. If you have an excess of seeds etc. let us all know and we can arrange with each other on the group page or by direct messaging to make local mail box drop offs.

Seeds can be exchanged without contact from mailbox to mailbox. Group members are encouraged to take all necessary precautions including hand washing and even wearing gloves before and after collecting and depositing seeds into our communities' letter boxes. Furthermore, we believe that swapping seeds in this way, without contact in our small communities enables us to gather these items without having to go into shopping centres, stores etc. where the level of potential contamination is increased. Operating in this way contact with others is minimised, cutting out secondary and tertiary contacts with mail delivery couriers and eftpos machines etc., making it a safer way to exchange seeds and seedlings during this pandemic.

Seed retailers nationwide are still operating as an 'essential service'. Seeds are difficult to procure at present however due to panic buying and specific varieties are currently unavailable. We are operating under similar guidelines as online exchange site TradeMe, where you can see that seeds are still being traded during the alert level 4 restrictions.

Seed saving is a time honoured tradition, particularly in Oratia. Swapping our seeds and seedlings in this way during our daily exercise walks, we continue the neighbourly camaraderie that Oratia and Waiatarua are long known for and can continue our passion of growing our own food and uplift our community spirit in these difficult times.

Save money by sharing, swapping and selling seeds, seedlings, cuttings and plants on the Oratia Mailbox Seed Swap Facebook group! Link to the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/704897713583238/>

Stay safe and keep growing!



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# The WRRRA — who we are and what we do

People ask, why would you hand over your hard earned cash to become a member of the WRRRA?

Membership of the Waiatarua Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRRA) currently costs \$10 per household per year. If there are two people in your house this amounts to 41 cents a month each. In truth this is not really a money earner for the WRRRA; it is more of a sign of your support of the WRRRA.

## Why support the WRRRA?

We will represent you to government or any other organisation on things that affect Waiatarua.

Did you know that the WRRRA helped cause Auckland Council to enforce the rahui to help protect the last 1% of kauri that are still alive from kauri dieback?

Did you know WRRRA helped keep Watercare out of Oratia?

Did you know WRRRA helped cause the level of non-ionising electromagnetic radiation from the tower to be decreased by up to 100 times?

Membership allows you to vote at the AGM and have a say at any of the monthly meetings. It also allows you to become a member of the Executive Committee.

You can use the local library.

You can hire the hall.

We can arrange to help remove the invasive weeds on your property.

You can borrow ferret, rat and possum traps from us.

There's some free stuff.

If we get time after all that we also do some fun stuff.

## Why does the WRRRA even exist?

The WRRRA was born in 1964 "Because of bad temper and that's the truth of it." This was uttered by a guy called Pat Cole, who went on to say "We had all received our rates notices and we were furious!" The Auckland City Council had hiked rates and in an unfair way that meant rural areas like Waiatarua were massively over-charged.

So the initial reason was to have a combined organisation that is able to represent the needs of our local community to local government. This has not changed in over 50 years.

Along with the nine other Resident and Ratepayer associations of the Waitakere Ranges the WRRRA we keep an eye on and co-operate with the Waitakere Ranges Local Board so that we can provide representation on your behalf on issues that affect Waiatarua. The situation of so many R&R associations in such a small is unique in New Zealand and it arises because of the unique nature of the Waitakere Ranges and proximity to a major city.

The WRRRA became even more important when Auckland became a 'Super City' and again the relevance of our semi-rural community started to become overlooked by Auckland City Council planners and some of the politicians, just like in 1964 when the city was also going through a growth phase.

In case you didn't realise, the way Auckland City Council was set up by a National Government, you and I can't easily directly represent ourselves to the Auckland City Council. Instead we have to ask the Waitakere Ranges Local Board to do it on our behalf.

The WRRRA get on well with the local board and they help us maintain vigilance on budget and responsibility changes within Council.

## What is the WRRRA?

The WRRRA is a incorporated society with the lawful obligations to:

Encourage and organise combined efforts to achieve the objects of the Association.

Co-operate with the Statutory Bodies in looking after the affairs of the District and to secure the maximum fair expenditure of the rates and levies made by such Bodies within the District for the benefit of ratepayers, residents and visitors.

Present a community voice to local and national statutory bodies, and other organisations where matters arise of concern to the general community or an individual association member.

Encourage community participation in local and national democratic processes.

Pursue and undertake any activity with the object of establishing, improving or preserving social, cultural or sporting activities or amenities, and the unique natural environment of the area.

Co-operate with or act in support of any person or organisation in or towards the achievements of the objects of the Association.

## What does that mean?

What all those words mean is that if there is an issue or event that is important to Waiatarua then the WRRRA:

understands you,

will represent you, and;

if you want to do something for the benefit of Waiatarua we will help you, and your neighbours.

## But what does the WRRRA actually do?

We organise these local events.

Own and maintain the website [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

Arrange to put eleven newsletters in your mailbox every year.

Support events such as three quiz nights a year at the hall.

Send members direct emails about important issues and events around Waiatarua.

## But what's the free stuff?

Currently there are a number of organisations who give discounts to members. Check our website at [waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership](http://waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership) for details.

## And what about the fun stuff?

Become a member and we'll email you directly about what's happening.

Here's the link: [waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership](http://waiatarua.org.nz/about-us/wrra-annual-membership)

Peter Casey

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



## Busy girls discover buried treasure

Budding archaeologists Amber and Olivia-Jane Carnie (aged 12 and 7, pictured with their dog Honey) have been very busy in their



Carter Rd garden during lockdown. They have unearthed this fine array of old and interesting bottles seen here in the photo. The large one on the left is reminiscent of the flagons of sherry that were available for purchase at the cellar door of the many wineries located in Oratia and Henderson during the 70s and 80s.

The bottle fourth from the right has the inscription "Bonningtons Irish Moss Coughs and Colds". Can anyone identify any of the others?

The girls' mum says her daughters are really enjoying finding the bottles and washing them, but that it is a shame that they aren't as keen to wash ordinary pots and saucepans!

## Every litter bit helps

Sabine Harvey (aged 9) has been spending time during lockdown walking down West Coast Road and Tui Crescent collecting rubbish, as part of her "random acts of kindness" badge for Girl Guides. Not only that, but she sorted everything into separate recycling and rubbish piles. It was no surprise unfortunately that a lot of the items were coffee cups and cans.



What a great way to tidy up our community and keep it the beautiful place that it is. Well done Sabine, great work!

## Young Easter bakers develop skills

Sisters Skyla (aged 8) and Eva (aged 5) have been busy bakers during lockdown. Here they are at their Bush Rd home with a batch of chocolate hot cross buns they made for Easter. And don't they look delicious! Their mum Paula says they have been really enjoying developing their baking skills. Girls, you can come and do some baking at my place, anytime! (after lockdown, of course) - Ed.



## Waiatarua Trap Library

The Waiatarua Trap Library was to open in March but the lockdown prevented this.



However, the lockdown has not slowed down the rats, mice, ferrets and possums with increased reported sightings over this quiet period.

Peter Casey (pictured) was lucky enough to already have a couple of traps on loan from the WRRRA Trap Library and in the first week of lockdown he took 4 rats out of circulation and he's logged these kills on the trap.nz website.

If you've noticed any activity, or you'd just like to

make sure there is no activity around your property just email Rita Steel at [environment@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:environment@waiatarua.org.nz) to find out how you can borrow some of these modern, safe and humane traps.

Rita Steel

## Local crafter knits for charity

Waiatarua resident Deirdre Stewart has knitted these cute little Healthcare Essential Services people to donate to charity, when appropriate. Aren't they gorgeous?



## Recipes to try

Aprons on Waatarua! A delicious apple (or any fruit) crumble which is so easy, the kids can do most of it. It smells wonderful and tastes great. Serve with cream, ice cream or custard. Tweak the recipe, make it your own, add lemon zest, raisins, sprinkle flaked almonds on top. Use whatever fruit you have and spice it up as desired (ginger is good with pears). No coconut? Double the oats instead.

### Humble Crumble

1/2 cup plain flour  
1/4 cup rolled oats  
1/4 cup coconut  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/2 tsp mixed spice  
75g melted butter

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Melt butter and stir in. Spread on top of fruit. Bake at 190 degrees C for 40-45 mins.

*Thanks to Lorna Painter for this recipe.*

*Editor's note: I made this delicious crumble using Gala apples from our own trees. Of course beautiful Oratia apples are on sale at the Oratia Superette fresh from Dragicevich's orchard, and feijoas also work well, which are in abundance right now.*



### Pink Marshmallow Slice

#### Ingredients

##### Base

125g butter  
3/4 cup icing sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp vanilla essence/extract  
1 1/4 cups self raising flour

##### Marshmallow

1 cup water  
3 drops food colouring  
1 tbsp gelatine  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 cup icing sugar

##### Method

Heat oven to 160°C (fan bake).

Grease a 17x27cm slice tin (or anything that is about 460 sq cm.)

Place butter and icing sugar in a bowl and beat together until pale and creamy.

Beat in egg and vanilla, then the flour.

Press this shortcake mixture into the base of the prepared slice tin and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.



Remove to cool.

Place the cold water and food colouring in a saucepan and sprinkle over the gelatin powder. Add sugar then bring to the boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Boil gently for eight minutes, and then remove from the heat to cool a little.

Place the egg white (not the yolk) in a clean bowl and beat until soft peaks form. Beat in the icing sugar and then slowly add the warm gelatin mixture. Continue beating until marshmallow is thick and fluffy. Spread marshmallow topping over shortcake base and leave to set. Cut into slices when cold.

*Thanks to Tony Bacon for this recipe.*

## One for the kids — Squishy Soap

1/2 cup cornflour  
4 tablespoons liquid soap  
4 teaspoons cooking oil  
1/2 teaspoon food colouring

Combine all ingredients and have fun playing with the soap!

*Thanks to Emma Baker for the recipe.*



## From the Editor

Hello everyone

A slightly different newsletter this month—for obvious reasons you won't be receiving a printed version since I am unable to get it printed, let alone delivered. So it's in an electronic format this time round, and I've had such an overwhelming response from the community for content (I was struggling to find any!) that your newsletter is much bigger this month. And because things are a bit grim right now I wanted to make it as positive and cheerful an issue as I could.

What would you have been doing had we not gone into lockdown? We would have had some close friends from the UK staying with us for a few nights on their first ever trip to NZ in early April. They had taken a whole year out of their working lives to travel with their young son before he turns 5 and starts school. On Easter Saturday I was due to fly out to Bali for an 8 day, girls only holiday to celebrate one of the ladies' 50th birthdays, something I was really looking forward to, never having been there before. I'm certain I won't be the only one who had exciting things planned!

We all manage stressful times in different ways. I have to be honest and say I am really struggling with this lockdown. To be able to get outside and get some fresh air and exercise is helping a little, and I am grateful for that. I've been on many a run and walk around Oratia and Waatarua recently. It is so beautiful to see all the autumn colours and the trees laden with apples in the orchard at the bottom of the hill—I could smell them as I ran past on one of my outings. I could also be imagining it, but it does seem like there is a lot more bird life around. We are lucky in that we get an abundance of birds visiting our property most of the time, but we've had kereru feasting on the berries on our cabbage trees, and a morepork right outside our kitchen window. We get Californian quail as well, but never an entire covey which were outside in the back garden just recently. Such a delight to see. I did try and get a photo but as soon as I opened the back door, they were off. They look so comical hurtling along on their little legs and then taking flight on whirring wings.

I am also lucky that my husband is able to work from home, and my teenage sons aren't too bothered about not being able to go out. They seem to be getting on with their online learning without too much trouble as well. I do feel for more vulnerable people out there who aren't as fortunate, and that does make me sad. Let's hope we all come out of this with our mental health intact.

Until next month, please look after yourselves and others, be kind, and stay strong. This too, shall pass.

*Cheers, Erin*

# We're going on a bear hunt...

Hope you all enjoy this photo gallery of some of the cheerful teddies, soft toys, Easter wishes, and messages of strength and kindness which locals have been putting out on their letterboxes, in their windows and at their front gates for children (and adults) to spot while out walking. Huge thanks to all the lovely people who sent in photos to be included in this month's newsletter, it was much appreciated!



# What do you love about your bubble?

**Recently we asked residents what things they are enjoying during lockdown. We had a great response, and would like to share a few of these with you below.**

"I've met more neighbours that I've never seen before in the previous 10 years on walks around Waiatarua"

"Receiving gifts of wild flowers from my daughter, my bubble mate, when she returns from her regular walks. That's never happened before!"

"Walking the roads of Waiatarua: A couple of days ago just before sunset with occasional rain went for a quick walk (from the Community Centre). Heading down Forest Hill Road with no traffic the light and the koekoe (bird song) were so vibrant I just kept on walking until I got to Kelly's Road! By then it was almost dark. I did the loop and came back up West Coast Road and made it back in just under 2 hours, a descent and ascent of 230m. I've never dreamed of doing that before now and it made me feel great to experience how beautiful the forest along those roads is, which we never get to appreciate because of being inside a car at speed most times we go that way"

"Each day, we'd go ride our bikes ..and take the dog for a run. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who slowed down and looked out for us! The kids ( 6 & 8 ) have now learned to cycle, semi - safely on Scenic Drive (listening out for the odd car...) up & down hills & no doubt the highlight of their day, so cool to see. We wouldn't usually go, due to the speed and volume of traffic. Thanks again, totally appreciate people looking out for one another".

"Getting to know my kids better and how we function as a family"

"Our kids and my husband biked from the top of West Coast Rd where we live to Oratia School. Something they have dreamed of but have never dared. They loved it! It's been so peaceful on West Coast Road—no noisy traffic"

"I'm still working, but I've pulled out a Wasgij jigsaw puzzle as a treat and am loving doing that"

"I loved making my own natural soaps, dishwasher tablets, body wash and foods from scratch such as gluten free tortillas"

"Heading into the bush and discovering a water hole with an eel!"

"It turns out I can make bread—just found out!"

"I have been making traditional Ukranian foods from my childhood"

"I suffer from depression and I've got closer to my 18 month old boy during the lockdown which I have loved"

"I love not having to deal with the commute to the city every day"

"The peace and quiet and the birds have been coming closer"

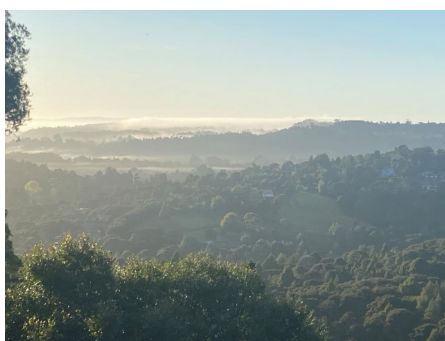
"I'm loving all the photos from around the world of clear smog free skies"

"The absence of "FOMO!"

"Peaceful mornings—meditation, yoga and walk"

"Time!"

"Less traffic, more time with partner and children and a slower pace"



*Early morning views over Waiatarua.  
Photos courtesy Tracey Guy.*

## 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)

**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](mailto:yovistopstitch12@gmail.com)

### JUNE NEWSLETTER

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

**by FRIDAY 15 MAY @ 5pm**

## A witty little ditty

*My PC and mouse are my friends  
When I'm following social media trends  
And Facebook and Twitter  
Will greatly help fritter  
The time until Level 4 ends.*

*Covid-19 is just nothing but trouble  
As we all sit around in our bubble  
Our patience is fraying  
And we are all praying  
We'll soon be out of our struggle.*

*I'm sitting alone on the sofa  
And feeling a bit of a loafer  
I'm in self-isolation  
With the rest of the nation  
And can't find a good rhyme to end with.*

*The lockdown's a bit of a PITA  
As we all stay at home and just sit a  
-round on our lonesome  
And sinfully binge on  
Ice cream and cold margaritas  
- Tony Bacon*



View of West Coast Rd and Bendalls Lane  
from Forest Hill Rd. Photo courtesy Tricia  
Woolliscroft.

## Anzac Day — Saturday 25 April 2020

Anzac Day is one of the most important national occasions for both New Zealanders and Australians. In 2020, for the first time in history, Anzac Day Services across New Zealand have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Even though public Anzac Services are unable to go ahead, it does not mean that the tradition of remembering and commemorating our veterans and service personnel should be cancelled too.

The RSA and New Zealand Defence Force are asking that you join them at 6am, but here in Waiaatarua, the siren at the Waiaatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade will sound at 11am. You are invited at that time to

stand at your letterbox, at the front door, in your lounge rooms, balconies, in your driveway and take a moment to remember our fallen.

You are also encouraged to decorate your window, letterbox, deck or whatever is manageable. Some homes in Waiaatarua already have a poppy at their front gate.

This link will show you how to make a poppy wreath from an egg tray/carton:

<https://www.craftymorning.com/category/memorial-day/>

And this link provides some ideas about how to observe Anzac Day at home.

<https://ouraukland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2020/04/commemorating-anzac-day-at-home/>



**We are all in the same boat.  
We are not all in the same storm.**

**For some people it's sprinkling. This is a break.  
It's a breather. It's a pause in the "normal".  
It's a time to reconnect with family and slow  
down. Honestly, it's kind of peaceful.**

**For some it's a storm. It's a bit scary.  
It's disruptive. It's enough to make you  
stay up and watch the news and worry.**

**For some it's a hurricane. It's tearing at the  
boards and pulling off the roof. It's washing  
them out to sea. It's dark and unknown.  
It's life-changing.**

**It's not wrong to be enjoying the sprinkles or  
enduring the storm, but please don't negate  
the difference. Rest with family, but don't  
minimize the hurricane engulfing your neighbor.  
Laugh at a meme, but get on your knees for  
your friends. Get in someone else's storm.**

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