



# Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

Winter issue — July 2020



## From the Editor

Hello everyone

How wonderful it was to finally reach Alert Level 1 which of course means things are relatively back to normal for most of us. I do miss the quieter roads around here though. Now that the traffic has built up again I wouldn't like to take my chances walking down West Coast Road to the Oratia Superette and back, something I did during lockdown.

My joy at reaching Level 1 was somewhat overshadowed by the loss of my mother who passed away in late May, a week before her 96th birthday. The last few weeks have been a rollercoaster of emotions—I'm finding it hard to believe she is no longer with us. We were lucky to be able to have up to 100 people at the funeral over Queens Birthday weekend. It certainly was a busy one with family members arriving from various parts of the country.

There are a lot of us!

While the reason for the extended family's visit was a sad one, it was also wonderful to see them all and spend time with them laughing, crying and reminiscing.

Mum spent the last 7 months of her life being cared for by the wonderful staff at Powley Care Home and Hospital in Blockhouse Bay. I don't think anybody ever really wants to go into a rest home—mum was determined that she wouldn't until circumstances dictated otherwise. However as these sorts of places go, I cannot recommend this one highly enough for the care that they took of mum and for their kindness and compassion.

I hope that I am privileged enough to live until I'm in my 90s. All I can do is try to keep myself healthy, eat well, exercise and find the joy in life. I'm grateful for each day that comes.

Cheers, Erin

## Spring Fling get-together!

In last month's newsletter we spoke of a post-lockdown party for the community. The WRRRA Committee have decided to make this more of a Spring event. We would really appreciate some feedback from the community and are open to suggestions as to what you would like to see there. Please send us an email at [committee@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:committee@waiatarua.org.nz) with all your brilliant ideas.

**When: Sunday 13 September 2020**

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

**Time: 1pm onwards**

Stay tuned for more details!

## Hello Waiatarua!

This month's column is about you.

The lockdown was pretty special for a lot of Waiatarua residents and ratepayers. We got to enjoy the beauty of our location, walk the roads, meet our neighbours and have large numbers of birds visit us. I found it amazing to be surrounded daily by huge flocks of pīwakawaka (fantail) and pihipihi or tauhou (waxeyes) on my deck or in my garden.

But now with the return of the traffic their visits are fewer and there are smaller numbers when they do come by.

And so, things are changing again for many New Zealanders as we come to terms with the economic impacts of COVID-19 and so many of us will know of, or be those, who no longer have the income or job that they did a few months ago.

Around the table as a committee member of the WRRRA it also feels that things have changed from the experiences or loss we've encountered over the past couple of months.

It certainly is a relief to have the hall and the library open again but we'd love to see more of you visiting or using the facilities.

This is more important than ever as a substantial chunk of Auckland Council funding could come into doubt.

Our president, Nina Zaporokha, has sadly resigned from the role so she can focus on her health. We thank her for her efforts and are thinking of her.

Therefore, the WRRRA is seeking a new President and would love also to hear from anyone who'd like to join the committee or help maintain our library. One of the benefits of being a librarian or helping out in the library is being able to access the collection whenever you need another book to read.

So please get in touch with me, or our Vice President, Marq, if you have any interest in becoming involved in putting together events, helping in the library, contributing or entertaining at our springtime post-lockdown celebration in September. We really need a celebration and we'd really love to hear your ideas or have you come on board.

Give us a shout at email us at [vice-president@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:vice-president@waiatarua.org.nz) or [secretary@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:secretary@waiatarua.org.nz). We're available for a chat or to answer questions; and we'd welcome you to join us at one of our meetings if you'd like to find out a little more about what is possible in our community.

Peter Casey

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



*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Waiatarua 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:** Position Currently Vacant

**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)

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To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waitakere, Auckland, or leave at the library, or email these details to:

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

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

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**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)

**Environmental Corner**

Trap library update for this month:

Traps: 63

Catches: 54

If you'd like to add your own trap to the catch total for the area, check out trap.nz, Waitakere trap library.

If you'd like to get a trap, email [sciencemademedoit@gmail.com](mailto:sciencemademedoit@gmail.com) and sign up. We do have traps being returned occasionally and our next big return date is Sunday 23 August at 10am at the Waitakere Hall. We will conduct a 30 minute training session. Put it in your diary and let us know if you'd like to come along and sign up!!

Rita Steel



**Waitakere Forest & Bird  
Winter Lecture Series**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30 pm**

**Speaker: Richard Gibson**

**From Archey's frogs to Asian elephants – a compendium of  
WildWork at Auckland Zoo**

Richard Gibson is Head of Life Sciences at Auckland Zoo and responsible for all aspects of animal care and welfare, veterinary services and the domestic and international field conservation programme. He has almost 30 years experience in a range of internationally renowned zoos and NGO's and has undertaken field conservation programmes in around a dozen countries including, most recently, New Zealand.

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](mailto:lizanstey@hotmail.com)

**Library News**

We are OPEN again - hooray!

It is great to be back and choosing lots of books again, and meeting people for a chat and catching up with all the news.

We will be ordering some more books in the next couple of weeks, let us know if there are any you would like us to order, and we will see what we can do.

We look forward to seeing you all again.

Barbara Field



**Waitakere Hall Hire**

Congratulations - we have reached Alert Level 1! This means no restrictions on public gatherings. To our community, it means that we can open our hall for hire to the public and all existing hall activities such as indoor bowls and table tennis can resume (see the Advertising and Community Notices section on page 3 for further details).

Contact Matt Smith on 021 059 3467 or email [hall-hire@waitakere.org.nz](mailto:hall-hire@waitakere.org.nz) to make your booking.

**Possible weka sighting in Oratia**

Reports have been made by some residents in Carter Rd, Oratia of a weka sighting. Lisa Carnie was extremely surprised to spot one, something which she says she has never seen in the 9 years she has lived there. Other residents also claim to have seen one on a couple of occasions. Unfortunately we have no photographic evidence of these sightings. If anyone is lucky enough to capture an image of this elusive creature please email them to [editor@waitakere.org.nz](mailto:editor@waitakere.org.nz) for publication in the newsletter.

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## Mini Caramel & Pistachio Nut Tarts

Makes 24 mini tarts

### Ingredients

#### Pastry

1 ¼ cups flour  
½ cup icing sugar  
½ tsp ground ginger  
150g cold butter, cubed

#### Filling

50g butter  
1 cup brown sugar  
¼ cup cream  
1 egg, whisked

#### Caramel Nuts

¼ cup runny honey  
¼ cup caster sugar

50g butter  
½ cup chopped toasted peanuts  
¾ cup chopped toasted pistachios

### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

To make the pastry, into a food processor place the flour, icing sugar, ginger and cold butter. Blitz until it forms a dough ball. Place on to a lightly floured bench and roll to 5mm thick. Using a cutter make 24 rounds and press carefully into 2 x 12 mini muffin tins. Place into the fridge until ready to bake.

For the filling, into a small saucepan place the butter,

sugar and cream, warming through until the sugar has dissolved. Cool, then add the egg. Divide the mixture between tart cases, then bake for 20 minutes. Allow to cool before removing the tarts from the tins.

To make the caramel nuts, into a small saucepan place the honey, sugar and butter. Melt slowly then bring to a simmer, stirring until it turns a light caramel colour. Remove from the heat and stir through the nuts. Place teaspoonsful on to the top of the tarts and allow to harden before enjoying. Store in an airtight container.

*Recipe courtesy Tony Bacon*

## Lessons from my internet home fibre installation May 2020

1. You really do need to be there for the entire time when the installation occurs.
2. Having taken a half day off work to meet the Chorus contractors at home, unsurprisingly the confirmed appointment time passed with no sign of a workman appearing. Some 90 minutes later I spotted a van driving up and down the road, so flagged it down and yes — it's my contractor.
3. Two years ago I had an underground conduit and pull wire installed while replacing my concrete drive (due to an unfortunate combination of a full water tanker and a previous house owner skimping with no steel reinforcing mesh and too thin concrete in the driveway) in preparation for fibre arriving. While proudly pointing out to the (by now 3) contractors, my conduit preparations for them, they announce that as the existing telephone cable runs aerially through the bush, they will only install the new fibre cable the same way. No amount of discussion would change this. They use the existing telephone wire to pull the new fibre cable to the house.
4. Make sure you know your entitlements. You are entitled to say where you want the cable and resulting equipment to be installed in your house. Be prepared for pushback from the contractors on this as they want a quick installation job. Stick to your decision and say no politely but firmly if where they want to mount the equipment does not suit you. In my case I wanted the cable to terminate with the new equipment inside a cupboard on the second storey, not on the wall of a downstairs room where they wanted. The

equipment needs to have a power point close by.

5. Do hang around the contractors so you can answer questions on where the cable runs should go to ensure a tidy installation. Move furniture or pot plants etc for them or, in my case, yell stop when the drill bit is coming through the wall in the wrong location.
6. Do check that everything works before they leave. They were packing up to leave when I pointed out that they had not reconnected the existing phone, which entailed running another cable and another hole through the wall.
7. If you have a use for the old copper wire cable connection from the roadside then they will leave the cable with you - just ask. They also gave me the neighbour's copper cable.
8. Unusually for tradesmen, they will stay until the job is finished. In my case it was 6pm and dark when completed.
9. The lead technician left me his personal mobile number and said if any problems occurred to ring him direct and he would come back and rectify, not having to go through a Spark Helpdesk, which these days is a rare level of service.
10. Overall I'm happy with the job, working alongside with the contractors got me a better result. My internet speed is great and doesn't slow down at peak times anymore, and the installation plus equipment was free.

Lastly, do remember to thank them for a good job.

*Marq Holibar*



## 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)

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