



Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

March 2021

From the President

Hello all! We had a great turn out for our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd February. We are very pleased that the Chair and two other members of the Local Board were in attendance which shows that they are interested in what we are doing and are willing to assist.

Our two speakers did an excellent job and in both cases there was plenty of interaction from the members. There is a piece from Sue Dell of the Waiatarua Community Patrol in the newsletter with details on what they do and some contacts should you wish to volunteer or need to report an incident.

Most of you will have now met Rita Steel who leads our Environmental portfolio. Rita delivered an excellent presentation full of passion and knowledge. This is an area where we need some organised support, so please contact me or Rita if you want to get involved. Remember that any time you can give is fine and we will find a job for you.

The War on Weeds programme will be run from **Monday 22nd February - Wednesday 31st March** with weed bins at the Waiatarua Hall car park during this time for local residents to use. Details below.

To support this we will also run a Pest Plant Roadshow at the Waiatarua Hall between **10.00 am and 1.00 pm** on **Saturday 20th March**. This will be an open drop-in type roadshow - residents can come along, bring their weeds to the bin, bring their questions, ask advice and be given information about weeds, the weed bin and the challenges we have with this going forward, Kauri dieback information and lots more. We will have free weed bags to give away (limited number) and our EcoMatters team will be onsite. Rita will also run a Trap Library day at the same time where you can return and receive traps and get advice on how to use them. Further details on page 5 and in the Environmental section on page 6. We will have the hall open during this time and will provide morning tea, coffee and some treats. Do please all come along.

Tom Hoey

president@waiatarua.org.nz

AGM Election Results

The new elected Executive Committee are:

Thomas Hoey, President
Marq Holibar, Vice President and Hall Custodian
Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, Newsletter Editor
Matt Smith, Treasurer and Hall Hire Manager
Ryan Robertson, Committee Member and Technology Portfolio Head
Peter Casey, Committee Member and War on Weeds Lead for the Environmental Portfolio

Your Appointed Executive Committee members are:

Grant Longley, Librarian
Rita Steel, Environment Portfolio Head

We have two key roles to fill, being the Board Secretary and another Committee member. The elected Executive can appoint the Board Secretary as a non Committee member and also second someone onto the Executive for the year. Don't be shy! Call Tom Hoey on 027 585 1486 to discuss. He will also be at the hall on 20th March between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm so come along and ask any questions you might have. All the new committee members and their roles will be updated for reference on the website.

War On Weeds

22nd February - 31st March 2021

The War on Weeds programme is traditionally run for the month of March with weed bins located around the Waitākere Ranges and Henderson Massey local board areas to encourage residents to remove their environmental weeds. This year the dates have been extended as it was cut short due to Covid-19 last year.

There will be a weed bin at the Waiatarua Hall carpark (911 West Coast Rd) during this time for local residents to use - it would be great to see as many environmental weeds as possible filling the bin.

Thanks to the Waitākere Ranges and Henderson Massey local boards for funding this initiative.

For more information please visit <https://www.ecomatters.org.nz/war-on-weeds/>



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: 021 355 009 Email: editor@waiatarua.org.nz
WRRRA President: Thomas Hoey Phone: 027 585 1486 Email: 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

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

President's Report from the AGM

2020 was a very different year. Plans were interrupted worldwide and all of our lives were affected in some way. For the Association it has meant less opportunity to hire out the hall resulting in less revenue to fund the upkeep and running of it. The Executive managed the situation well as the results clearly show.

The newsletter under Erin's stewardship was a main contributor in 2020 as was the receipt of the \$3000 funding from Council.

We did of course have a general election in 2020 and we at Waiaatarua were the only association to hold a "Meet The Candidates" evening. This was a major success given the restrictions of level 2 and we had in total close to 70 people in attendance. As an outcome of this we have had ongoing contact with Dr Deborah Russell, our sitting MP for New Lynn. These relationships are important as we move forward.

We also hosted a successful Volunteer's Lunch prior to Christmas and again had the MP in attendance along with Linda Cooper, a Local Councillor.

We have clarified the role requirements for membership of working committees or the Executive and these are now live on the website.

Erin has revamped the newsletter to allow more space for local businesses to advertise whilst keeping its true intention, which is to publish locally contributed articles. This needs your support. So, if you have a business to advertise or know anyone that has, then please get in touch with her at editor@waiatarua.org.nz. Equally if you have something you think would be of interest to the community and would like it printed in the newsletter, again please get in touch with her. She is always looking for good local content to publish.

During January 2021 we had the library decorated with new carpet and a paint job. Thanks to Grant Longley for arranging and supervising this project. This was funded from an old council fund, set aside for, and used specifically for this purpose in all rural libraries.

We are also about to have major changes to the Executive with four members, Sue Smith, Treasurer, Peter Casey, Secretary and Committee members Brett Whyte and Sue Bowers not standing for the coming year. So we have **4 vacancies to fill** and opportunities for some new young residents to get involved in the community.

Time availability is a key factor in joining a volunteer group. If you really do not have the time to devote then it is best not to say yes. Knowing how much time is also key which is why we are creating the new roles. There will also be more roles in the future which means we can have more volunteers achieving more in less time.

We need closer relationships with our key stakeholders but the first step is to clearly identify who they are and what relationships we require. One of these groups are you, the members. Many of you were in attendance at the AGM. That must mean that you have an interest, but unfortunately there were not enough of you there. So, how can we fix this? It would help if everyone was to speak with two neighbours who were not present and ask them if they are members and, if not, why not. That would be a great start.

I want you, the Ratepayers and Residents to tell us what you want from the Association. From that we can create a Charter or Mandate upon which to operate. Then we can in the next few weeks develop a plan to deliver a few outcomes in 2021. We will then report our success (or not) at delivering on the plan at the next AGM.

I would also like to mention the Locals Nights at Elevation Brasserie. Carol Longley is the lead here and in my opinion has created an incredible venue for locals to meet and get to know each other. They are getting larger each time and Carol also managed to get the sitting MP along last time. More about this in this issue. Well done Carol and keep up the good work.

I want to thank Sue Smith, Sue Bowers and Brett Whyte for their enormous contribution. Also a big thank you to Sue Bowers for organising the food on the night.

Waitakere Forest & Bird—AGM and Project Updates

Thursday 18th March, 7.30pm

Here in West Auckland we have a very active Forest & Bird branch involved in a wide range of projects and activities. This is an opportunity to support our AGM and hear about what's been happening over the past year.

Speakers: Ark in the Park (Sam Lincoln), Habitat Te Henga (John Sumich), Matuku Reserve (John Staniland), Orangahina-Harbourview (Raewyn Michael/Janette Fawcette), Tai Haruru (Chris Bindon) and our other activities like KCC, communication, membership and aligned project Matuku Link.

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

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Locals Night at Elevation Brasserie

473 Scenic Drive, Waikarua Second Friday of each month at 6.15pm

What better way to get together and get to know your neighbours than over dinner and a few drinks? Everyone pays for themselves, but the good folk at Elevation can offer great prices.

The next dinner will be held on **Friday 12 March**. To RSVP, and for more information, please phone Carol Longley on 814 9855 or 0274 814 500. Hope to see you there!



Advantages of being a WRRRA member?

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

Waitakere Resort & Spa Ph: 814 9622 573 Scenic Drive www.waitakereresort.co.nz

Blow Moulders Ltd (cash & online banking) with 10% discount off retail Ph: 818 7709
8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden www.bml.co.nz

The Landscape Yard (bulk product sales only) Ph: 818 6129 293 West Coast Rd, Glen Eden www.thelandscapeyard.co.nz

Henderson Hire Ph: 838 8879 Cnr Rainside Ave & View Rd, Henderson www.hendersonhire.co.nz

Other special rates for WRRRA members at:

Elevation Brasserie Ph: 814 8727 473 Scenic Drive www.elevationbrasserie.co.nz

Plyman/Timberman Ph: 021 738420 70 The Concourse, Henderson www.plyman.co.nz

Please accept my Membership to the Waikarua Ratepayers & Residents Association 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I ENCLOSE:
\$20 household.

Email: _____

To: Treasurer, WRRRA, 911 West Coast Road, Waikarua, Auckland, or leave at the library, or email these details to: treasurer@waikarua.org.nz

Bank details: 12 3051 0278313 00 WRRRA

Library News

The Library is open again. What a difference new carpet, curtains and paint do to a place! It looks so bright and clean, I don't think we realised how badly it was in need of re-decorating.

We hope you and your friends will come along to see us soon, we will be ordering some new books shortly.

Barbara Field

Quote of the Month

"The most convincing sign that someone is truly living their best life, is their lack of desire to show the world that they're living their best life. Your best life won't seek validation" - *Stephen Bartlett*

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor
by 5pm on FRIDAY 19 MARCH

Advertising & Community Notices

Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, editor@waikarua.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. Ph Mike 814 9708

Indoor Bowls: every Thursday at the Hall 7pm for 7.15pm start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided. \$3 donation to CPNZ. Ph Celia: 814 9660 or Liz: 814 9688

Lawn mowing, ride on work only: Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 814 9493 mob 021 024 75610

Oratia Community Church: On the corner of Parker & West Coast Rds. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

Plants, crafts etc: Various plants, shrubs and bromeliads. Assorted crafts, scarves, net fruit bags \$2, occasional cards, knitting, sewing, second hand books. All proceeds to Nepalese Educ Trust for Tertiary Scholarships. 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

Tiler / Stone layer: 21 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021 610 408.

Waikarua 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 waiata-rua@playcentre.org.nz or www.facebook.com/waikaruauplaycentre

We are Loud: modern music lessons — vocals, piano, guitar, bass, drums & songwriting. Group & private lessons for all ages and levels. Visit www.weareloud.co.nz or contact jo@weareloud.co.nz 0274 707 042.

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



Friday Night is Locals Night (after 5pm)

25% discount on our handmade pizzas,
and a reduced price on beers and wines

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Auckland Council consultations on draft 10 year plan

Auckland Council is consulting on its draft 10 year plan and given the need to rebuild from Covid this will be an important consultation.

For Auckland Council, last year was the year of Covid disruption. This year will hopefully be the start of the repair job as well as the year of getting ready for climate change. For the City to meet its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050 we will need to start getting ready now.

One of the major effects for the local board caused by the Covid disruption was the loss of our Transport Capital Fund. We had planned to use this money to advance our Greenways Plan as well as complete Glen Eden's town square and a major point of our advocacy will be to persuade Council to return this fund.

Of the consultation document itself there will be some topics that attract attention. Lifting Council's debt to income ratio to 290%

for three years is I believe a necessary measure. Interest rates have never been lower and the city needs a lot of infrastructure to be built given recent and anticipated growth rates.

Our transport network is under considerable stress and climate as well as cost considerations demand that we solve the problem through regular efficient public transport. Particularly for the west the North Western Motorway is heading towards becoming a car park. We really must do better.

The local board has aspirations for our greenways plan. We believe this can contribute significantly to sustainability but we will need budget to build it.

Because of the need for Council to help with the recovery and to get ready for a carbon neutral future this consultation is more important than any Council has previously held. Please have your say and let Council and the local board know what you think of the proposals and what can be done to make Waitakere better.

Greg Presland, Local Board Chair

email: Greg.presland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Pest Plant Roadshow

Saturday 20th March 2021, Waiaatarua Community Hall, 911 West Coast Rd, Waiaatarua, 10.00am - 1.00pm

This will be an open drop in type Roadshow - residents can come along, bring their weeds to the bin, bring their questions, ask advice and be given information about weeds, the weed bin and the challenges we have with this going forward, Kauri die-back information and lots more.

There will be free weed bags to give away (limited number) and the EcoMatters team will be onsite. The Trap Library will also be open from 10-11am. Refreshments provided.

PEST PLANT ROADSHOW

Community conversations about invasive weeds

- TITIRANGI
- WAIATARUA
- PIHA
- HUIA

- Get to know your pest plants
- Find out which weeds you should bin, bag or put in a barrel
- Tips for keeping kauri safe
- Free services to support weeders

Venues and dates at ecomatters.org.nz/weedbins

FREE WEED BAG*

*Local residents only, T's & C's apply, stock limited.

EcoMatters Nature Waitakere Ranges Local Board Auckland Council



Native Gecko pays a visit

What an awesome area we live in. Waiaatarua resident Brent Ericksen was lucky enough to be visited recently by this little guy who allowed Brent to hold him before being released on a rimu tree.

This delightful creature is a native Pacific Gecko (*Dactylocnemis pacificus*). Pacific geckos are found from around the Bay of Islands down to the Bay of Plenty/East Cape in the east and to Taranaki in the west. These days they are very uncommon over much of their mainland range; they are much more abundant on islands in the Bay of Plenty and Hauraki Gulf and a few places in Northland.

Thanks to Brent for the photos.



From the Editor

Hello everyone

The AGM is over, elections held and I am happy to say that I will be your newsletter Editor once again. We also have a new Executive Committee. I think it is always helpful to put a face to a name, and so over the coming months I am hoping to do a small feature on each of the Committee, so look out for that.

I'm a fan of local history and discovered that the area where I live, between Raroa Tce and Rimu Rd, was once going to be a sub-division called "Prospect Heights". The excerpt below is taken from the book *Song of Two Waters* by Jeanne Wade in 1979.

"At almost the same time as C.F. Bennett [estate agent of Auckland] was busy with the Bushy park sub-division, William Potter [after whom the Potter Stream is named] whose land adjoined Bushy Park, and lay along West Coast Rd to Raroa Tce and down to Oratia stream, also decided to sub-divide.

Using the same surveyor and land agent as Captain Theet, a similar elaborate brochure [as the one for Bushy Park] was produced, calling the new sub-division Prospect Heights. In this brochure verse abounded.

*"Contentment walks the sunny glade
And feels an inward bliss
Spring o'er his mind beyond
The power of Kings to purchase" - Thompson*

Despite the verse and attractive photographs, the sections were slow to sell. The great depression of the 30s was deepening, money was scarce and land sales dwindled.

The sections along West Coast Rd sold as did some in Rimu Rd and Raroa Tce, but those sections along the Oratia stream finally lapsed and the land still remains undeveloped"

I don't know about you, but I found that really interesting!

Cheers, Erin

Waiatarua Community Patrol - Summer News

Firstly we welcome our new Patrol Co-ordinator/Chairman, Sue Dell, who has been with the group for 8 years (previously as Training Co-ordinator). We also extend a huge thank you to Les Duffield (outgoing Co-ordinator/Chairman) for his leadership over the past 8 years (founding the group in 2013). We are grateful that Les is remaining as an active patroller, Trustee and interim Training Co-ordinator.

Our Activities

Completed 29 patrols from November to January

Reported incidents including dumped rubbish (which we note has increased again in the area).

Assisted NZ Police at the Henderson Christmas Festival

Welcomed two new members, both now fully trained and operational

Acknowledging reports on social media of house burglaries in our area - ensuring that our patrols target these areas and times, whenever we can

Do remember that all incidents of theft, damage or anti-social behaviour should be reported directly to the Police – no matter how big or small. This information helps the Police (and us) recognise patterns and trends in the area and assists with the effective allocation of resources.

Some important Police contacts to note:

111 – Emergency

105 - non-emergency (incident already happened & don't need urgent assistance). Or online 105.police.govt.nz

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 – Report crime anonymously, or online crimestoppers-nz.org/report

***555 (from mobile phone)** – urgent but not life-threatening driving incidents

We Need You!

We are always looking for new recruits. The more patrollers we have, the more we can get our patrol vehicle out there actively being a deterrent of crime. We cover the areas of Waiatarua, Oratia and Henderson Valley and have a mixture of ages and backgrounds, retired and working, couples and singles.

Your commitment:

Only 4 hours a month – one two hour patrol a fortnight. Daytime or evening, weekdays or weekends.

Passing a Police Security Clearance check on joining

Current Drivers Licence

We provide:

Uniform and training

Patrol vehicle and safety equipment

The fun of getting to know your local area and community.

Patrolling not your thing? Perhaps you can help us in other ways. Contact us to chat. We are still recruiting for a Training Co-ordinator so let us know if you would like further details on this volunteer role.

We *love* getting feedback from our community – so please let us know if you see us around or would like to pass on a message of support to our volunteers.

Contacts

Waiatarua@cpnz.org.nz www.facebook.com/waiataruacommunitypatrol Phone: 021 681 207 (Sue Dell)



Environmental Corner

March is "War on Weeds" month, but as I like to say, every month is war on weeds month! However, in March, we celebrate it by going extra hard.

Jasmine, wild ginger, climbing asparagus and tradescantia are my absolute enemies. In fact I've been waging a war against the jasmine on our property for 14 years!! What I have learnt is that that you won't win the war unless you replant where you have taken out weeds, otherwise you're just making space for other weeds to take their place. Also if weeds are holding up banks (often the case with ginger) replant first then remove in stages so the wanted plants can do the job of stopping erosion.

This month a weed roadshow of sorts will be hosted up at the community hall, details on page 5. Please join us for some tea, coffee, cakes and find out about the resources available to help you with your property. We will also have the trap library open. For more info email me on sciencemademedoit@gmail.com.

Good luck, remember you don't have to do it all at once!

Rita Steel