



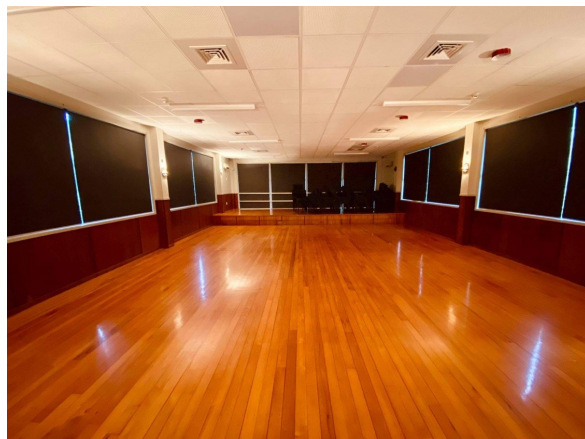
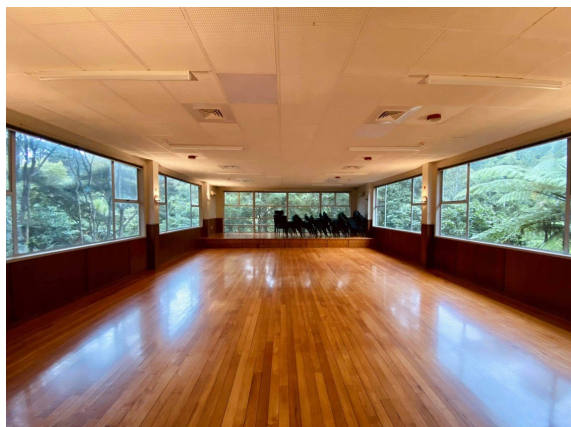
Waiaatarua Community News

850 copies

August 2021

Waiaatarua Community Hall undergoes interior facelift

The interior of the hall is looking very smart with the old, tatty curtains having been recently replaced with automatic blackout blinds, as can be seen in the two photographs. The WRRRA have also purchased a sound system which is portable with wheels, and comes with two cordless mics. It's a sturdy unit that has the ability to also do Bluetooth, SD card, radio, all built in. In addition we have a new projector screen installed. Everything has been tested in the hall and it all works well. Big thanks to Matt Smith who organised the ordering and installation of the blinds and Marq Holibar who sorted out the new sound system and projector.



Now that we have this new equipment in our hall we are in a better position to host community events — but we need YOUR input as to what you would like to see there. A few ideas might be quiz nights, movie nights (which can easily be held during the summer months now that we have blackout blinds), debates, or Bitchin' bingo. How about some fitness classes such as yoga or pilates? How about a brainstorming evening at the hall to discuss event ideas? We really need more community engagement so that we can host events at our hall which is at present very under-utilised. Contact Tom Hoey on president@waiaatarua.org.nz with all your brilliant ideas, of which there are sure to be many!

From the President

Hi all

Now that we have put the shortest day of the year behind us the good news is that we are heading out the other side of winter towards those warmer spring days.

We are still looking for a Committee secretary to help prepare the board agenda, minutes and other communication and also to take over the management of our membership database including the recording of new members and the printing and delivery of the new membership cards.

You will see from the environment updates in this issue that Rita Steel has done an excellent job of sourcing funding for the training of 8 volunteers who can then be available to help residents who have a wasp issue on their properties. So we need 8 volunteers who will be trained by the end of October with a view to starting work on this project on the 27th January 2022. If you are interested, please read the information and contact Rita who will explain what is required.

The great news about the community hall is that the old curtains have been replaced with very smart automatic blinds (see above) and we have a projector screen over the main stage. The sound system has also been upgraded and WRRRA Vice President Marq Holibar has once again been very generous in sourcing a commercial standard projector. We can now host more community events and the projector and sound system will add value, since we can make these available as part of the hall hire for an extra charge.

The newsletter has been revamped this year and is looking great. We do need more financial assistance with the upkeep of the hall and the library so if you are able to help through advertising your business in the newsletter, this would be much appreciated. We receive \$3000 in funding to help run the hall and the library so another \$6000 plus of income from newsletter advertising and hall hire is needed to make up the shortfall. For any of you who run small local businesses the newsletter is a great vehicle to promote your services and for those who may work for large corporates with retail focus, this is an opportunity to discuss promotions. We can also discuss using the newsletter, the web site and the hall as part of the deal.

We always need more local content. If you have any ideas for articles then please contact Erin, our Editor (contact details below) and she will discuss the best way forward. We have dedicated 4 pages to local news so please show your support and ensure that we have enough information to fill our monthly editions.

Have a great month and keep safe.

Tom Hoey

president@waiaatarua.org.nz

Contact
Us

Editor: Erin Kingsleigh-Smith Phone: 021 355 009 Email: editor@waiaatarua.org.nz

WRRRA President: Thomas Hoey Phone: 027 585 1486 Email: president@waiaatarua.org.nz

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

Library hours: Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm

Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm

website: www.waiaatarua.org.nz

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

Fire Brigade News

In June we held our Fire Brigade honours celebration, including a very special anniversary, our Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy's 25 Year Gold Star.

Kevin has been part of the Waiatarua Community since the 1990's. Over the years he has been a part of the Drama Group, Residents & Ratepayers and was an elected member of the Waitakere Community Board, but his involvement with the Fire Brigade started in 1995 when the Brigade was looking to put on a play, written by Tony Holt, to fundraise for the new Fire Station (still to be built at that point).

He had met Lyndsay Whittle and Tony Holt when out walking on the local tracks and they managed to convince him to direct the play 1125-J. On Anzac Day 1996 the Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade unleashed the first of its very successful plays into existence. At the conclusion of the extended 6-week season it seemed only natural that Kevin join the Fire Brigade. There were several plays over the next couple of years raising around \$50,000. Also as a result of the plays Kevin met Christine and 25 years and two children later, they are still involved with the Fire Brigade (and each other).

Kevin has progressed through the Fire Brigade becoming a Senior Fire Fighter, Station Officer and is now Chief Fire Officer.

Kevin's Gold Star is the 8,211th award since service honours began in 1878. At this same event Kevin was made a Life Honorary Member of the Brigade, with his son Jack, who is also a Fire Fighter, presenting him with the Life Honorary medal (see photo).

We also celebrated other significant service, including Deputy Chief Fire Officer Ian Ford, receiving two Gold Bar's for his 35 and 37 years service, Station Officer Steve Smith receiving two silver bars for 19 and 21 years service.

Each service honour represents a milestone, it signifies the volunteer time given in training and attending calls and we also acknowledge and thank the families of our members for their much appreciated support.

The full list of honours received is below.

Calls since 1 May 2021

5 Jun – Chimney Fire, Scenic Drive

5 Jun – Car Accident, West Coast Road

30 Jun – Car Accident, Piha Road

Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency.

To check if you need a permit to light a fire: checkitsalright.nz (or 0800 658 628)

For our Brigade

Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505)

Deputy Chief Officer Ian Ford (814 8871)

Volunteer Brigade Support Christine Healy
(Christine.healy@fireandemergency.nz)



CFO Kevin Healy receiving Life Honorary Membership from FF Jack Healy

Long Service & Good Conduct Bar 35 years

DCFO Ian Ford

Brigade Award - 20-year trophy

SO Steve Smith

3 Year Certificates:

FF Kieran Conroy

FF Jack Healy

FF John Hunter

FF Matt Smith

FF Jono Going

5 Year Medals

FF Jonathan Going

OSFF Richard Renata

SFF Matt Walkinshaw

2 Year Silver Bars

SFF Matt Walkinshaw for 7 years

SFF Jay Percival for 7 year

QFF Derek Renata 17 & 19 years

CFO Kevin Healy 23 years

SO Steve Smith 21 years

2 Year Gold bar

DCFO Ian Ford 35 & 37 years

Life Honorary Membership

CFO Kevin Healy presented by FF Jack Healy

Gold Star Award

Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy 25 years

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We are set up to support those in our community who have suffered from a neurological event to ensure:

They develop self-sufficiency, are living well and supporting themselves therefore reducing dependence on others in particular Whanau who are usually their primary care givers;

That they are learning problem solving skills and techniques to increase independence and mobility;

That there is improvement in their balance, breathing and co-ordination;

That they improve their gross and fine motor skills; and

That they establish security and self confidence.

If you, a family member or friend is suffering from a Neurological disorder or you know somebody who may require some support then please ask them to contact us. We offer a free, 30 minute assessment and you can also sit in on a class to see if it suits your needs. Please mention that you are a WRRRA resident.

Contact us by email on: admin@neuroconnection.org.nz

Visit the website at: www.neuroconnection.org.nz

Phone us on: 09 836 6830

Elevation Open Mic Night

Elevation Open Mic is held the 3rd Friday of every month at Elevation Brasserie, 473 Scenic Drive, Waiatarua, Auckland from 6.30 to 9.30pm.

Our next Open Mic night will be on **Friday 20 August**. Local original singer/songwriters, musicians, poets and bands. Come along for a great night of entertainment by a variety of artists.

Free entry - food and drinks specials, and a crackling open fire to keep you warm. Table bookings highly recommended - all tables have been booked out at our previous Open Mic Nights!

Contact Elevation Brasserie - email: info@elevationbrasserie.co.nz or phone: 0210 839 6288. For enquiries about booking a performance spot email elevationopenmic@hotmail.com - PA, stands, mics and leads provided.



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. 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 Cecilia: 814 9660

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.

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

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Copy needs to be with the Editor

by 5pm on FRIDAY 20 AUGUST



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Waitakere Forest and Bird 2021 Lecture series

Talk by Adam Weller - How can you use carbon footprinting to combat climate emergency?

Thursday 19th August 7.30 pm

Adam Weller is the sustainability manager of a large company. As a board member of SBN (Sustainable Business Network) he will talk about his experience of how this relatively new role of 'the sustainability professional' is working with businesses to address climate change. He'll discuss carbon footprinting and how they use it. As it is a tool we can all use ourselves as well as individuals, he will explain how this can help us make the best choices for the climate in our daily lives. He will also go through the new Climate Change Commission advice to the Government and cover the question; *is New Zealand ready for a low carbon economy supported by the circular economy?*

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

Library News

From the beginning of August, we will be extending the time you borrow library books **from two weeks to four weeks**, the same as other libraries, so you won't have to hurry to finish your books any more.

We have received some great new books for you to read these cold winter evenings. Here are a few of them:-

David Baldacci	<i>A Gambling Man</i>
Michael Connelly	<i>The Law of Innocence</i>
Kathy Reichs	<i>The Bone Code</i>
Paul Cleave	<i>The Quiet Man</i>
Anders Roslund	<i>Knock Knock</i>
Katie Fforde	<i>The Wedding in the Country</i>
Wilbur Smith	<i>Legacy of War</i>
Peter May	<i>The Night Gate</i>

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Barbara Field

Notorious Intersection Strikes Again

Our notorious Scenic Drive, Piha Road intersection has been unusually free of accidents and incidents over the recent 12 to 18 months. This may be attributed to Covid 19 and the resulting absence of overseas tourists who usually drive on the opposite side of the road to New Zealand. Due to the "confused" layout of this intersection these visitors have often found navigating through this intersection a challenge that has resulted in many incidents in previous years. Unfortunately on Thursday 15 July, a driver missed the roadway completely and smashed into the bush between the convergence of the Piha Rd and Quinns Rd. The police reported that the female driver has suffered serious but not life threatening injury.

The accident was attended by a number of police cars and the bottom right photo shows a police officer in the middle of the intersection taking measurements and photos. Above and to the left of him the camera on a pole has been installed by Auckland Transport to monitor accidents and incidents.



Pictures from the Deck

Left: A view from the Editor's deck on a sunny winters' day. Please send in your photos—they don't have to necessarily be of a view—taken from your decks or balconies to editor@waiatarua.org.nz for publication in the newsletter.

Environmental Corner

Wasp Blitz Weekend 2022 Funding Success

Off the back of increasing complaints about the wasps in summer, the Waiatarua R&R are very happy to announce the local board have given us funding for a joint project with Oratia R&R to decrease the wasp population out here.

The funding allows us to train up to 10 volunteers who will work together to place bait stations on up to 80 properties. The bait (Vespex, a low-toxicity insecticide, which targets the yellow jacket *Vespula vulgaris* species) is taken back to, and kills the queen, which collapses the colony. This blitz will be carried out over one weekend as it needs to be done all at once, so colonies don't simply "find another queen". In addition we are aiming for late summer as this is the best feeding time and means wasps won't have time to build up another colony before the cold weather sets in. Fingers crossed the blitz should allow more of us to head outdoors into our backyards and wander through the bush without coming under attack from yellow jackets.

If you'd like to volunteer for the training, see the details below. If you would like your property to be considered, keep an eye on the newsletter, website (www.waiatarua.org.nz) and the WRRRA, Waiatarua and Oratia Facebook pages. We will start calling for those in October.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WASP BLITZ

Do you want to help our local flora and fauna?

Are you physically capable?

Do you have a car/vehicle and license?

The Waiatarua (and Oratia) R&R are looking for 10 volunteers who can be trained up to carry out a weekend blitz of wasps in our community.

The project will require:

- some online training and a test to be done at your leisure but before 1st Dec 2021 (this is paid for)
- one weekend day of around 6 hours, either a Sat/Sun in late summer where you will be allocated up to 10 houses at which to place the bait station and bait.
- One day at your leisure, 2 weeks later, where you return to collect unused bait (this should only take 2 hours)

You will be provided lunch and a small stipend for petrol — plus the joy of knowing you're doing some great things for our community!



TRAP LIBRARY

If you have some library traps and are not using them, please contact me to arrange return. If you would like to borrow rat, mustelid or possum traps please contact me environment@waiatarua.org.nz or sciencemademedoit@gmail.com

Rita Steel

From the Editor

Did anyone notice the film crews in Oratia recently? Looks like our neighbouring suburb is going to be famous as Shortland St was being filmed at the Settlers Hall and Brokenwood Mysteries at the church on Parker Rd. Speaking of the latter, did anyone see the recent episode which was filmed on location at the Waitakere Resort and Spa? I recognised it immediately when I sat down to watch it. Now Waiatarua also has a claim to fame.

My husband and I attended a fun evening at the Oratia Bowling Club a few weeks ago. It was a 70's night complete with a 7 piece band. Although it wasn't compulsory many people dressed for the theme which added to the atmosphere. It was a very successful sell-out event which we thoroughly enjoyed. Now, if only we had a venue in Waiatarua where similar events could be held? Oh wait—

that's right, we already do—it's called the Waiatarua Community Hall. You can read more about the latest additions to our hall on the front page of this issue. The WRRRA Committee are hoping to get the Quiz nights up and running again as these were always popular. A "Bitchin' Bingo" evening would also be a lot of fun!

Our hall is a fantastic asset to our community and we all need to ensure it's utilised as much as possible. It helps bring us all together and maintain our community spirit, which is part of what makes this region such a great place to live.

The first signs of Spring are appearing and it's a good time to get out into the garden. Mine's a complete mess so I've started to tackle it and tidy it up a bit. I'm not a keen gardener but being outside is good for my health and wellbeing so I make myself do it!

Cheers, Erin

