

Jane - FYI

Just to let you know what one of our groups  
is up to

Nigel.



# WAITOHU NEWS

ISSUE3 November2001

## A Productive Year

### Greetings!

This is our third and last newsletter for the year. Thanks for your contributions and the positive feedback. I feel my job as editor is relatively easy compared with the hours of effort put in by many members who do most of "the dirty work".

Fay delivers some copies of the newsletter by hand (thanks Fay) and others are posted out. If you would like to add any active, dormant or potential members to the mailing list, please advise Nigel Clarke of their name and address. You can email Nigel at [nigel.clarke@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:nigel.clarke@wrc.govt.nz) or telephone him on 04 3845 708 or send the information to me and I will pass it on to him. (Nigel handles the copying of the newsletter).

For me, the Waitohu Streamcare Group makes the Otaki Beach neighbourhood special. It's wonderful to see community spirit working so well – it's the sap that makes our plants rise! Looking back over the calendar year a lot has been achieved, with the opening of the Reeves Nursery being the highlight. It's certainly a well-used facility and also provides a focal point for gatherings (see Xmas do). Thanks to Geoff for spear heading the Group so well, to everyone who has lent a hand in any way, to the Wellington Regional Council for their ongoing support and especially to Nigel Clarke for his personal interest in our work.

**Thanks for the fun everyone!**

**Ann K-P**

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## Calendar of Events

December 1 ..... Next Waitohu Stream Care Group meeting, Mohekey Household  
16 Moana Street.

The topic will be flood protection and a group from the WRC will be talking about proposed measures relating to the Waitohu Stream. They would like our input so there will be time for discussion. Eric Mathews, one of our local councillors, may also be there to talk to us about vehicles on the beach and the protection of the beach area.

December 16 ..... Sunday 4.00pm WSCG Christmas Party at the Reeves Nursery.

Come and celebrate a great year with a great group. The plan is to start with nibbles and drinks and then move on to a barbecue for those who want to stay on. Geoff and Richard will set up the BBQ and tables. We're all hosting this do as far as catering and clearing up goes. Please bring a plate of nibbles and a bottle to share.

BYO food for the barbie (a communal salad would be appreciated) and a chair if you want to sit down. New recruits, visitors and neighbours are welcome to join the party.

February 28 2002 ..... Material deadline for next newsletter

## **Report** from the Chair

**Nursery News:** The Reeves Nursery has been a real focus for our efforts. Local group members and their out of town visitors have been trooping down the right of way track to view it and to work individually and in teams to prick out and pot up the plants which have been grown from locally sourced seed. Carex, coastal flax and pingao have been our best successes so far. It has been very satisfying to gather seed, propagate and grow on the plants. Some of these plants will be ready for the 2002 planting season. I have a tray of Toi Toi plants – the seeds were collected from the Arcus Dam track – which are coming on well and will eventually replace the pampas at the end of Moana Street. There is a whiteboard at the end of the nursery with a list of tasks needing to be done in order of priority. Anyone prepared to spend a little time there -just go down and work on these tasks, the nursery is not locked.

The larger plants have been moved into the standing out area to make room for the large amount of plants potted on by our volunteers. We could have a problem with a shortage of space in the not too distant future! We have had problems with the timers on the sprinkler system which have stopped functioning. They have been returned to the suppliers and hopefully they will be repaired. Fortunately, it has happened at a time when we are getting plenty of rain

**Planting:** Unfortunately, a short time after our last planting on the riverbank we had an unusually high tide which went over a lot of the plants and deposited driftwood on them. Quite a few have died but, surprisingly; most of the rest look healthy. Weed clearing around the plants needs doing with the spring growth going on at present. A work party is needed to clear the area.

**Water Monitoring:** The water monitoring still continues with two new additions to the group. The new members reported they enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to future expeditions. Pollution of the Mangapouri Stream is still a prime concern and we are looking forward to a solution soon.

**Members hip:** Our group has grown in number with over 60 individuals on our list at present and others continually showing interest in becoming involved. Please keep mentioning the project to others and recruit new members (*so grab the next good looking guy you see by the collar and coerce him gently to join! -Ed*)

*Geoff Monk*

## The Hungry Heron

(This is not an ad for a new seafood restaurant – Ed)

**If YOU read** the Evening Post recently you may have seen the report of the White Heron visiting local gardens with fishponds and gobbling up the entire stock of goldfish. At our last WSCG meeting, Joy Peel spoke of this same White Heron visiting Mountainview Terrace where she lives and eating the goldfish. She has had to cover her pond to prevent the bird eating her fish. The heron is a regular visitor to the wetlands on the banks of the Lower Waitohu and it can be observed feeding in the open water from the houses overlooking the area. On one occasion it was seen to fly up to join the shags in the macrocarpa tree in the adjacent camping ground. I wonder how they viewed this visitor? There are also reports of this heron moving north up the Kapiti Coast, visiting the many small lakes on the way up to Horowhenua Lake. Could this make a best selling children's book...any budding authors out there?

*Margarette Treader*

## Vehicles on the Beach

**Maybe this s hou ld read** “Vehicles Off the Beach” because, at last, real progress has been made with signage made to order and shortly to be erected. (*Richard Heedergen reported spotting a sign on the post down at the vehicle accessway a few weeks ago – Ed*) In exasperation, I wrote to former Mayor, Iride McCloy in that sensitive period prior to local body elections and was referred to Mike Cardiff – Manager, Parks and Recreation for KCDC. I met him at his council office in July and, skipping many conversations and several meetings with various Council staff, can now announce that four very smart, sturdy and hopefully authoritative signs are to be put up. Well, that is the promise and I give them regular friendly

reminders! During October I walked the person delegated to do the actual job to the four places thought most appropriate for the signs: two at the main entry points for vehicles (which includes motorbikes) and two in the dunes – one at the north end of Marine Parade and one by the Waitohu Stream. Patrolling is another matter – more on that next time.. . . .

**Elaine Browning**

*(This is absolutely fantastic news Elaine. Persistence overcomes resistance as they say! Thanks for all your tremendous work and for your tenacity and seeing a job through from beginning to end. Now at least when we request petrolhead nincompoops to head west (yes, out to sea) we can direct them to a sign to back us up – Ed)*

## News of Alec Thompson

**Alec is one of our inaugural members** and, as most of you will be aware, has been in hospital over the last couple of months spending periods in Palmerston North Hospital and Levin Hospital. He spends a great deal of time in bed but is able to get into a wheelchair now and move around at times. It is his dearest wish to return to Otaki and we would love to see him back here again. We would like to thank him for the bench seat he donated to our group *(It is in residence at the Reeves Nursery – Ed)*. This has been put to good use many times already. The area next to the nursery is very sheltered and it certainly lends itself to relaxed potting sessions. Our very best wishes go to Alec – we miss him at our meetings and potting sessions.

## Funny Business

A guy goes to visit his grandmother and he brings his friend with him.

While he's talking to his grandmother, his friend starts eating peanuts on the coffee table, and finishes them off.

As they are leaving, his friend says to his grandmother, "Thanks for the peanuts"

She says, "Yeah, since I lost my dentures I can only suck the chocolate off em".