



Koitiata

Matters

Newsletters 4

2005 - 2008

Koitiata Matters

Newsletters

This collection of community Newsletters spans the period from December 1981 until November 2017.

A total of 264 pages in 119 issues collected, divided into six volumes, spanning 39 years. Each volume has a contents page listing the issues included, by year and month. There is no page numbering system. There are gaps in years and/or months but it does not necessarily mean there was no newsletter. There may be some that have not yet surfaced for this collection.

On each volume content page there are a few topic highlights that *'popped up'* from that volume's content.

Koitiata Matters is a very apt community newsletter title, first applied by Joyce Smith, an avid village wordsmith on the April 2001 issue. A continuing use for close to a hundred issues over the next sixteen years, earns it the rightful place as the encompassing title for this collection of records for Koitiata's history.

Differing formats and many authors over a period of 39 years. A quote from a resident: *"It is tempting to rate the content to help you to avoid reading some which are possibly a waste of time, paper, and space. But if the rating system was for effort on the part of the numerous 'Newsletter Editors' then they would probably all be 5-star. And if all the content, styles, and formats were rated as to their usefulness they would collectively rate 10 out of 10 for being an integral building block of the Koitiata community."*

Newsletters 1	1981 - 1999	20 Issues, 57 pages
Newsletters 2	2000 - 2002	22 issues, 31 pages
Newsletters 3	2003 - 2004	21 issues, 30 pages
Newsletters 4	2005 - 2008	20 issues, 45 pages
Newsletters 5	2009 - 2011	22 issues, 72 pages
Newsletters 6	2012 - 2017	14 issues, 29 pages

Koitiata Matters

Newsletters 4 2005 – 2008

2005	January	2006	October
2005	February	2007	January
2005	March	2007	March
2005	April	2007	May
2005	August	2007	September
2005	October	2007	December
2005	December	2008	March
2006	March	2008	May
2006	May	2008	November
2006	June	2008	December

Highlights:

April 2005 (a) It was again reported that the first Pot Luck Dinner would be held, and this time it was.

Koitiata Matters

by

January 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors. Open committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Rubbish Collection - Our contractor Lance Barker would like to remind all residents that rubbish is collected at about 8 am on Wednesdays. Please try and arrange for your rubbish bags to be off the street or at least off the ground at other times, to prevent them from being ravaged by animals.

~o0o~

Ford Subcommittee - Thanks to Jim Mant for the marker posts, to John Webb for post hole driving, to Arnold Nation for paint and Wes Greenhorn and family for painting the posts. Excellent result!

~o0o~

Petanque - On Wednesday Feb 23rd there will be a pétanque evening at the pétanque court. If you would like to learn or improve, come along at 6.30 pm. There will be plenty of boules (silver balls) to share. BYO food and drink.

~o0o~

Happy Hour - the next one will be on Feb 4th from 6 pm. BYO drink and some nibbles to share. Enjoy indoor games, have a sing song or just a chat with friends.

~o0o~

RDC meet the people day - On Monday Feb 14th, about 20 members of the new Rangitikei District Council and management will visit Koitiata some time between 2 and 4 pm. They are providing eats - we are providing hot and cold drinks in the Community Centre. This is open to all - a good opportunity to come along and meet new councillors and staff and renew acquaintance with those you know already.

~o0o~

Message from the Fire Chief - In case of fire remember to phone 111 before contacting the local fire party.

Empty aluminium cans can be donated to the fire party. Ph Peter Bamford 327 3644

~o0o~

This is your monthly newsletter - if you have anything to put in it, contact Joyce Smith, 50 Rapaki Street, phone 327 3883.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 20th AT 2 PM

Why should you attend?

This is the meeting at which we set our objectives for the year. It is also the time when we appoint a new committee. It is very important that we keep a turn over of residents on the committee to ensure that all interests are represented - and to give those who keep volunteering a rest! The secretary/treasurer position will become vacant this year.

What does the Koitiata Residents Committee do?

The Committee is sanctioned by the local authorities to be the means of communication with Koitiata. While all residents have the right to approach Council at any time, experience shows that we make very little progress in this way. Council is more inclined to engage in discussion with groups who present a collective case. They also find it more economical of time and money to deliver information and advice through Community Groups.

How does it work?

Under instruction from the residents, **the main committee** liases directly with the Rangitikei District Council, Horizons, Department of Conservation and other similar bodies. It manages the Community Centre and the financial account.

The ford subcommittee is responsible for the maintenance of the ford and its approaches. It maintains the surface, markers and drainage ditches. It has no dedicated funds. Peter Fraser is the signatory to the Resource Consent on our behalf.

The social subcommittee organises greetings cards and gifts as appropriate, Market Day, the Christmas Party, happy hours, and those little extra things which make life pleasant. It has a petty cash allowance.

The Community Centre Caretaker is paid a small sum by the Council for general maintenance. The Caretaker is responsible for cleaning the Centre after it has been hired out, for replenishing soap, towels and toilet paper. It is up to all of us who use the hall for general purposes (without payment) to clean up after ourselves. The current Caretaker (Tom Dooney) also liaises with the lawn mowing contractor.

If you have any questions please contact Joyce Smith ph 327 3883

Koitiata Matters

10

February 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors. Open committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

IMPORTANT DATES!

Petanque.....*Feb 23*
Civil Defence Meeting.....*Feb 24*
Happy Hour.....*Mar 4*
Annual General Meeting.....*Mar 20*
Rang. Rec. Festival.....*all of Mar*

Petanque - On Wednesday Feb 23rd there will be a pétanque evening at the pétanque court (weather permitting). If you would like to learn or improve, come along at 6.30 pm. There will be plenty of boules (silver balls) to share. BYO food and drink.

~o0o~

Civil Defence – a general meeting will be held in the Community Centre on Thursday 24th February at 7 pm . Please attend this important meeting to hear about the new CD procedures as they apply to us,

and to elect a new Emergency Management Officer.

We acknowledge the good work Bruce Attwell had done for us and all agree that he has earned his retirement from this position.

Annual General Meeting.

All residents are urged to attend at

2 pm on Sunday March 20th in the Community Centre. The future of this settlement is in your hands!

~o0o~

Happy Hour - the next one will be on March 4th from 6 pm. BYO drink and some nibbles to share. Enjoy indoor games, have a sing song or just a chat with friends.

~o0o~

RDC meet the people day – On Monday Feb 14th, about 20 members of the new Rangitikei District Council met with eleven residents and answered questions about local matters.

~o0o~

Message from the Fire Chief – There is a total fire ban. No ifs or buts!

~o0o~

Ford Subcommittee –

The drains have been sprayed but they may need digging out before winter sets in. Be prepared for a working bee in the next month or so.

~o0o~

Rangitikei Recreation Festival

-

Details on the flyer on the noticeboard.

There will be organised activities for all interests and abilities. Treat yourself- extend yourself - Support this worthwhile local endeavour!

~o0o~

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Koitiata Matters

10

March 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors.

~o0o~

Twenty one residents attended the AGM last Sunday. There appeared to be no burning issues at the moment. The election of officers was as follows:

Committee – Richard Corcoran, John Davidson, Peter Smith, Joyce Smith.

Ford Subcommittee – Peter Fraser, Arnold Nation.

Social Subcommittee – Wes Greenhorn, Veronica Hodges, Arnold Nation, Joan Nation.

~o0o~

Committee Meetings – These are currently held on the third Wednesday of each month, but this is likely to be changed. Details will be in the next newsletter.

~o0o~

REGULAR DATES

Petanque – Sundays at 2 pm (starting April 4th and weather permitting).

Craft – Mondays 2-4 pm in the Community Centre.

Happy Hour – first Friday of the month at 6 pm in the Community Centre.

Ladies Keep Fit - Reinforcements are needed to keep the Turakina keep fit class going. It is an informal session for all ages and abilities and is held on Mondays from 7-8 pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Turakina. Transport from Koitiata can be arranged. Contact Joyce Smith.

~o0o~

John Elliott - There will be a collection and presentation for John, our rural delivery man who is taking early retirement after serving us well for over 17 years. If you would like to contribute or be involved in the presentation, please contact Joyce Smith or Joan Nation.

~o0o~

Fire Siren Testing - Those of you who like to lie in on Saturday mornings will be pleased to know that the 9 am fire siren is no more. The siren will now be tested on alternate Tuesdays at 4 pm.

~o0o~

The Rangitikei District Council has sent us details of the ten year plan and notification to introduce bylaws regarding the consumption of liquor and

skateboarding. Information and forms to make submissions are with Joyce Smith.

~o0o~

**This is your monthly newsletter -
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contact Joyce Smith, 50 Rapaki
Street,
phone 327 3883
email joyceandpeter@xtra.co.nz**

Koitiata Matters

by

April 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors.

~o0o~

Committee Meetings -

Normally these will be held on the last Sunday of alternate months at 7 pm in the Community Centre. Extraordinary meetings can be called as required. The next meeting will be on June 26th.

~o0o~

John Elliott's farewell - A good number gathered to farewell our retiring postie, including John's wife and our new postie, Nick. The collection resulted in a \$100 gift voucher. Thanks to all for a successful afternoon.

~o0o~

Thanks also to Veronica and Wes for giving the Community Centre a spring clean.

~o0o~

There have been some instances of dangerous driving and vandalism in and around the village. If these persist the police will have to be notified. If you are offending in this way or have

any influence over those who are, please take positive action before this results in tragedy and/or prosecution.

REGULAR DATES

Craft – Mondays 2-4 pm in the Community Centre.

Happy Hour – first Friday of the month at 6 pm in the Community Centre.

The Country Music group will be having another country session on Sunday May 29th from 2 pm. For details contact Trish on 327 3770 or Joan on 327 3841.

~o0o~

The pétanque sessions on Sunday afternoons didn't seem to work out. Don't forget the pitch is there to be used at any time. Keep practising through the winter so that we can get back to the evening sessions next summer.

~o0o~

Fed up with the TV? How about a games evening once a week? In the Community Centre we have indoor bowls, darts, snooker and pool, the Dutch board game and a variety of card and board games. Contact Joan on 327

3841 or Joyce on 327 3883 if you are interested.

~o0o~

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Koitiata Matters

In
August 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors.

~o0o~

Firewood from the Forest –

The forest will close for firewood collection on Aug 9th. After that date, anyone wanting to take a vehicle into the forest will have to approach the forest manager, Pat McCarthy. Pinecones can still be collected - (on foot!) .

~o0o~

REGULAR DATES

Craft –Bring your own project - Mondays 2-4 pm in the Community Centre.

Happy Hour – first Friday of the month at 6 pm in the Community Centre.

Committee Meeting – The next one will be held on Sunday August 7th at 4.30 pm in the

community centre. This is a public meeting.

~o0o~

Fire Service – Volunteers (male and female) are required for the Koitiata Fire Service - phone Peter Bamford ph 327 3644.

~o0o~

Ford Maintenance - Continuance of our Resort Consent depends on the ford being left as described in that consent document. Please do not alter the ford in any way. Any questions about this please contact our coastal care coordinator, Peter Fraser ph 327 3754.

~o0o~

Neighbourhood Watch - Richard Corcoran would like to step down as co-ordinator. If you would like to take over this very important role, please contact Richard, ph. 327 3909.

~o0o~

Labour Weekend (Sat Oct 22)

- time to start thinking about our annual Market Day. Donate items for the community or sell on your own behalf – crafts, produce, pre-loved items etc. For

more information contact Joan
Nation ph 327 3841.

~o0o~

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ph 327 3883

email joyceandpeter@xtra.co.nz

Koitiata Matters

October 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors.

~o0o~

Committee Meeting – The next one will be held on Sunday December 11th at 4.30 pm in the Community Centre.

~o0o~

Questionnaire re beach access. With this newsletter you will receive a questionnaire regarding beach access. It is important that you read this carefully, complete and return it. Otherwise a decision will be made on your behalf. RDC, DOC and Horizons require the views of the village before they proceed. The next step will be a public meeting in Marton so that other beach users can have their say.

~o0o~

Fire Service – Volunteers (male and female) are required for the Koitiata Fire Service - phone Peter Bamford ph 327 3644.

Petanque – now that we have put the clocks forward we could start again. Think about it and we'll have a discussion on Market Day to organise a regular weekly time slot.

Important December dates – There will be no happy hour or church service in December as the hall is booked for a private function.

~o0o~

Market Day (Sat Oct 22nd 8 am to 2 pm)

There will be all the usuals plus some new sales tables this year. Sausages, scones, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Note that we will be starting and finishing an hour earlier this year.

Your Social Committee has made a great start with the organisation. We could use some more supermarket bags and ice cream containers. The hall will be open to receive items on Thursday 20th and Fri 21st from 6-8 pm. For more information, contact Joan Nation ph 327 3841.

~o0o~

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Matters

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December 2005

Welcome to all new residents and visitors.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Happy Hour The next one will be Feb 3rd at 6 pm.

~o0o~

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Koitiata Community Centre

**Saturday 10th Dec
2 pm**

–This is a party for all ages and everyone in the village is welcome. Afternoon tea and children's party food will be provided, but to help us we will need an indication of numbers attending.

If you would like your children to receive a present (value no more than \$5) these should be named and left with Joan or Veronica before the day (morning of 10th at the latest).

Petanque will start up again after Christmas – Is Wed

evening still OK with everyone?

Ford Survey results – details are posted in the porch of the Community Centre.

Option 1– 16 votes

Option 2 – 1 vote

Option 3– 15 votes

Option 4 – 21 votes

The results are now with Council for further action.

~o0o~

Market Day – Once again we had a very successful day, making an overall profit of \$732.89. Thanks to all who helped.

~o0o~

Koitiata Calendar . Colin Boswell has produced a 2006 Calendar of Koitiata photographs. The cost is \$30, \$5 of which will be donated to the community. These are available from Joyce Smith.

~o0o~

Committee Secretary Treasurer. After six years, Joyce will definitely be retiring from this position in March, so we are looking for another. This only requires a commitment of a few hours a month. A good system has been established which is very easy to maintain.

~o0o~

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Koitiata Matters

In
March 2006

Welcome to all new
residents and
visitors.

Annual General Meeting

*All Koitiata Residents
are urged to attend!*

**Koitiata Community
Centre**

**Sunday 2nd April
2 pm**

Annual General Meeting. What do we want for Koitiata?

How do you want to liaise
with the Rangitikei District
Council?

Do you want to keep the
village phone directory?
Market Day?

The Christmas Party? Any
other social functions? Do
you want to spend more
funds? Raise more funds?

The chair, secretary,
treasurer,

social secretary positions will
all be vacated. And the Ford
sub-committee want to
review their terms of
reference.

It may well be time for us to
re-assess the size and shape
of this community's
representation and channels
of communication with the
Rangitikei District Council.
That is why it is really
important for everyone to
come along on April 2nd and
have their say.

~o0o~

**Fishing Rules and
Regulations.** The Ministry
of Fisheries has been
approached for a
representative to come and
talk to us about the current
do's and don'ts. A member
of staff is designated for this
kind of work. We are waiting
to finalise a date.

~o0o~

The District Plan. It's
coming up to that time when
we are invited to make
submissions to the Rangitikei

District Council. RDC will be having a preliminary presentation next month, and a representation from Koitiata will be invited to attend.

~o0o~

I have really enjoyed putting the newsletter together for the last six years. This is Joyce Smith wishing all the best to my successor.

~o0o~

Koitiata Matters

May 2006

Welcome to my second newsletter for Koitiata. I will attempt to get these out as soon after our committee meetings as possible to keep you up to date with any news. We had a good turn out to our May Pot Luck Dinner – 22 people turned up. A great time was had by all and I look forward to the next one in June.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee meeting was held on 07 May and the following issues were discussed:-

- Letter written to the Council about the correct spelling of *Rapaki* Street.
- Concerns expressed for safety of both children riding mini motorized bikes on Koitiata roads and the safety of pedestrians
- Concerns over the speed at which some people enter the village. Coming straight out of a open road speed into a 50km area takes time for motorists to remember to slow down
- BBQ chimney from the play area is currently away being repaired
- Local councilor attended and a submission will be forwarded to RDC concerning the Ford expressing their short and long term needs. \$500 per annum for ongoing maintenance and that if the RDC ever constructed a permanent crossing that it be levied over all Rangitikei District ratepayers. Any other submissions over rates etc will have to be by individual submission.
- Letter to be sent to RDC over the need to fix up the paint work on the hall.

- A new fire vehicle is to be purchased in the near future.

The Residents' Committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 2pm in the hall. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Next meeting is on 04 June.

Our May raffle was drawn at the Pot Luck Dinner and the lucky winners were Nu Winterburn and Wes Greenhorn. Lots of luck with those scratchies!

Our next Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday 4 June (Queen's Birthday) in the Hall at 6pm. This will give all our semi permanent residents who are visiting that weekend a chance to come along and meet the rest of their neighbourhood. Everyone is invited to bring along some food to share and BYO. The social committee will be running a raffle again month so don't forget your \$2. So if you see your neighbour in town for the weekend, invite them along.

Neighbourhood Support groups are in operation again and currently we are just finalizing a list of all houses and contact phone numbers in the village. Not an easy task with many people living out of town. You will then get a list of the coordinators and the houses they will have on their lists to manage.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – still getting loads of visitors

Community Hall – Remember \$10 to hire
Fire Station – 3 new residents have expressed their interest to join since last month. They could still do with some more volunteers.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday 04 June

Ford – please travel Dead Slow when crossing the Ford as fast driving damages the base that has already been built up. Parking is around the playground and not on the causeway.

Forest – absolutely no vehicle access is allowed unless you have received a permit from Pat at the Forestry, even for pine cones. Foot traffic OK. Ph 3221 558.

We are in the process of getting the phone list updated. Hopefully this will be distributed to all permanent residents by end of May and to the semi permanent residents soon after that. There is still time to add your name or if you want to be listed as an emergency driver to be used by residents only if they need a ride to the doctor or hospital and have no transport or are unable to drive themselves. This is not for social trips (e.g. shopping, etc).

Monthly Profile

Every month I will endeavor to profile someone from the village. This month we have 15 year old Catherine Bowness who is the daughter of Barbara and Terry – our village “gypsies” who is a very accomplished banjo player and who will be going far in the music world with her talent...

I was first inspired to play the banjo when I saw Mark Warren from Marton play the Beverly Hillbillies 3 years ago. I bought my first banjo off Mark & got lessons from him.

Mum & Dad are very supportive of me & as we travel around NZ it's a great chance to meet a lot of people in different parts of the country. We came across Jacko & Karen Jackson “Fiddlesticks” & their two boys George & Mackenzie who were buying a house in Marton. They came to the Gypsy Fair for a season & as we traveled

together, we kids got to play a lot. George (the eldest son) who already played the fiddle, started learning the banjo & Mackenzie, who play Bodhran & Djembe, brought a mandolin as we got into some bluegrass. We entered the Gore Country Music Awards together calling ourselves “Pick it Fence” & we won the Intermediate Band Section. George & I were runners up in the Intermediate Instrumental section playing a double banjo tune & Karen, George, Mackenzie & I won the busking competition.

At the end of the season – 6mths ago – the Jackson's sadly moved to Australia to tour schools over there, but since then I've been to the Wellington Folk Festival, Tahora Music Festival & most recently, the Auckland Folk Festival where I won the 15-18 yr old Martin Blackman Young Performers Award & the Frank Winter Memorial Award for \$1000 which I'll be spending on a trip to America in June. There, mum and I will be going to 2 bluegrass festivals & 3 schools/camps where I'll be learning from some of the best musicians in the world, including Tony Trischka, Alan Munde, Bill Erens & Alison Brown.

We will be visiting 14 states in a nine week time period. The next festival we are going to is the Waharau Music Festival on Queen's Birthday weekend, the day before we fly out to San Francisco. What a great start to our trip!

Boy, what an exciting life for someone so young. We will watch Catherine's future with interest.

If anyone would like their newsletters sent via email – especially if you live out of town - let me know and I will send you one. If anyone has any suggestions or wishes to contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday 04 June

Koitiata Matters

June 2006

Well, so far I have managed to find enough new items to full this newsletter. Hopefully this will continue. The June Pot Luck Dinner held on Queen's Birthday weekend was a great success with 35+ people attending. It was very nice to meet a lot of new people who were in the village for the weekend and to put faces to names.

Well with the colder weather settling in, you have probably noticed that there aren't so many people visiting the beach now, just the occasional duck shooters and weekend visitors. We had our fair share over the summer months – but then again we were famous with the washed up whales and the mysterious piano appearing up on the sand dune. Several people have been heard to say that they have looked for the piano but can't find it. Well all I can say to that is that you haven't walked far enough down the beach yet. So put on those walking shoes and if you can manage it, go about 2-3 kms down the beach. Keep looking up on the higher sand dunes and honestly, you can't miss it. And it can still pump out a bit of a tune if you want to give it a try.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee meeting was held on 04 June and the following issues were discussed:-

- **Replies had been received from RDC with regards to our letters to them and our various requests are being actioned.**
- **At long last, the correctly spelt "Rapaki" street sign has been erected.**

- **Concerns over our rubbish collection being held on a Wednesday as the rubbish bags being left out by the weekend visitors are being attacked by cats etc. It was decided that we would check this out and see if we can revert back to a Monday collection.**

The Residents' Committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 2pm in the hall. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Next meeting is on 02 July.

Our June meat pack raffles were drawn at the Pot Luck Dinner and the lucky winners were Jim Mant and Stephen McKnight.

Due to popular demand and the feedback received, it has been decided that our next Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Saturday 08 July and this will enable the weekenders to join in with us.

By the time you get this newsletter, we would have finished getting the Neighbourhood Support list of all dwellings and owners for our Koitiata Village. All residents will get a list of their street coordinators put in their letter boxes. There now only a few names and phone numbers missing, but we will catch up with these as and when they turn up. There is also a few Neighbour Support information packs available. Phone Jackie on 3273 654 if you would like one.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – slowed down of late, probably at the soccer!

Community Hall – Great venue to hire for those family get togethers.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday 01 July 5.30-6pm

Fire Station – training for the 4 new recruits continues and the helicopter course was fantastic – the free ride at the end of the day was a bonus!

Ford – the water levels are increasing, but still remember “dead slow” when crossing the ford

Forest – nothing new to report

Monthly Profile

This month we are profiling Peter Bamford who is the Controller of our Koitiata Volunteer Rural Fire Service:-

When asked to do a profile on my life, it set me thinking on what I had achieved in 69 years.

I was born in Christchurch in 1937, and later moved to a farm in Balfour. Due to ill health, my parents moved to Temuka. There, I joined the Boy Scouts and played rugby and tennis. Later we shifted to Kaiapoi where I continued to play sport, including taking up rowing.

When I left school I joined the Post and Telegraph Office in Kaiapoi, but when I found the office environment didn't suit me, I transferred to the Christchurch construction branch of the Post Office, later to become part of Telecom. During my 36 years at the Post Office/Telecom, I took up positions in Fielding, Motueka, Wanganui and finally in Marton, where I was Supervising Overseer.

Due to Post Office restructuring, I was made redundant in 1988. I shifted back to Wanganui, working at Wanganui Power Tool Centre for six years, before retiring in 1994 to Koitiata.

At Koitiata, fishing and white baiting became part of my interests.

I joined the Koitiata Rural Fire in 1994, and was nominated to the position of Controller in 1998. This involved taking fire fighting courses and passing unit standards. I was also appointed Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer for the Rangitikei District, a position I held for four years.

Jeanette and I have enjoyed our life at the beach, but with a few health problems, have decided it is time to move on.

Peter and Jeanette move away from the village mid July. They will both be missed and Peter's expertise and experience with the Rural Fire Service will be hard to replace.

When this newsletter is delivered to your letterbox, the Village Phone Directory will also be included. Sorry if you have been missed off the list – we will endeavor to get you on the next one. If you didn't receive a copy, phone Jackie at the number below.

If anyone would like their newsletters sent via email – especially if you live out of town - let me know and I will send you one. You may still get one put into your letterbox as well. If anyone has any suggestions or wishes to contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654.

Koitiata Matters

October 2006

Welcome back to the many people who have been tripping around the countryside or overseas lately. The ones I know about were Jules, Veronica, Peter & Nola, Annette, Joy & Zara, and Arnold. But I am sure there have been more. Lucky you! I am busy working and you are busy enjoying life. Maybe my turn will come one day...

I have recently had the experience of the being part of the birth of my first grandchild and I must say, it was an experience and a half. You don't like seeing your own child going through all that, but the feeling afterwards when you see the end product was awesome! A big bouncing 9lb 3½ oz girl later and it was all worth while (from my point of view anyway). Congratulations to Liz who also experienced her first grandson the same week.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee meeting was held on 01 October and the following issues were discussed:-

- **RDC will be presenting a model of the proposed footbridge across the ford to Koitiata residents at a date soon to be advised. (May be at the Market Day on 21 October.) This project is envisaged to be completed before the 06-07 summer season and residents will have a chance to give feedback.**
- **As requested by residents, speed humps to be trailed. These to be placed inside the village and outside the community hall. A survey will be sent out after the trial period to see what residents think.**
- **Rubbish day has been changed to Mondays as from 09 October.**

- **A wooden boat has been donated to the playground and will be installed after OSH requirements have been completed. A working Bee may be required to bring it up to scratch. Many thanks Wes.**
- **Stalls are still available for the 21st October Market Day. Ring Annette on 3273 939 if you need one**
- **If you have any aluminum cans for recycling, contact any member of the fire brigade to facilitate pick up of same (marked with an * on the phone list)**
- **Still waiting to hear back from the council on the disbanded cars etc for removal.**

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings and the next one is 05 November, 2pm at the hall and our local councilor (Steve Fouhy) is hoping to attend this one as well.

Our monthly raffle drawn at the October Pot Luck Dinner was won by Trish Dooney.

A good turn out at the dinner with 25 people attending. If you are new to the village, we have our next Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Saturday 04 November from 5.30pm onwards. Come along and join in and contrary to what you may have read in a local newspaper, the food isn't poisonous and it varies each month and no, the owners don't look like their dishes! You have to get over your paranoia Peter!

My husband and I have become involved in the Trivial Pursuit evenings held at the Railway Hotel on Wednesday nights at 7pm. We have found these evenings very enlightening and very enjoyable. There are some things that we didn't know and our marks have reflected this. A good night's entertainment and I encourage you to give it a try one night. Koitiata residents often

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday 04 November from 5.30pm

bring home first prize, or the raffle, so a beneficial evening's entertainment all round. Home by 9.30pm, so not a late night for those of you who need their beauty sleep. The hotel even put on a courtesy bus if needed. This can be for any night of the week and they can also come and pick you up.

I know the Residents Committee (at the request from residents) put in an application to the Council for speed bumps because of the speed motorists were traveling through the village. The Council replied that they would trial these and after all residents were surveyed, a final decision would be made. Well, coming home from work the other night I just about went driving over one of these bumps before realizing that they were there and managed to slow right down just in time. The Council had acted fast but it was disappointing that no signage had been erected to warn us, or even a painted line on top of them. Anyway, these comments and I am sure you have more, can be put on the survey form when they come out in about a month's time, so please be patient and give this trial a fair go.

White baiting – what's that I ask? I haven't heard of anyone having any good hauls. Or maybe they are keeping this information to themselves so they don't have to share them? The white baiters even turn up in disguise, all dressed up in their gear they are very hard to recognise and can't be badgered for a taste from others. I did hear about a 5lb catch on the other side of the river though.

**Local reports –
Camping Grounds – Slow
Community Hall – Slow
Fire Station – Still searching for replacement fire truck**

**Ford – water levels have dropped.
Spraying and other repairs to be carried out before the summer season begins
Forest – no report this month**

Newsletter Notices

- For the Labour Day market there is going to be a grocery raffle. The organising committee still needs donated items to include in their raffle. Please drop any donations off to 7 Wainui St or ring Annette and she will pick it up.
- Don't plan on cooking breakfast on Market Day – sausages and chips will be available from 8am and judging by last year, you had better get in quick as they are a popular item.
- Koitiata Village will celebrate its centennial in 2013. We need volunteers to co-ordinate obtaining and collecting photos, memorabilia, memories, researching archives etc. Please contact Peter Smith if you are interested and have a bit of spare time. 3273 883
- The Fisheries Inspector will be giving a presentation to anyone interested on Saturday 18 November at 2pm at the Hall. Be a good time to get all your fishing mates together and come and hear what this guy has to say. Learn all about the legal dos and don'ts about fishing.
- The Country Music Club has its last performance for 2006 on 29 October at the Hall. All welcome to attend – gold coin donation.
- If you are interested in being part of a walking group, either weekdays or at the weekend, give Veronica 3273- 934 a call.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday 04 November from 5.30pm

- Koitiata Church Services – these are held the first Sunday of each month at 10am in the Hall. These services are undenominational and are held in a relaxed atmosphere. Praying for the sick or troubled can be undertaken. Visiting speakers are used from time to time. All people welcome. Any enquiries to R.C. Major 3273 708.
- For Sale – 12ft aluminum bottom pontoon boat and trailer, 15 h.p. Johnston motor. Good condition. \$5,500. Contact Tom on 3273 770.

I hear one resident (our local well known personality) was bragging that he was a bit of a gun at running 50 yds (back in the olden days) and he challenged another fellow drinker from the Railway Hotel to a 50 yd dash on his birthday anniversary. Well training commenced prior to the big date with “Peter” having to go on ACC because of pulled a ligament or two (any excuse tactics accepted), and finally the grand finale date arrived. Well, the younger man won by a belly (as was expected) with the older man (Peter) vowing to do better the next time and as any beaten man would, put in another challenge for 6mths time. Can’t he just admit that he is passed it? Anyway, if you see this “old” man hobbling his way through the forest at any time, just smile and amuse him with your positive comments that maybe next time he will do better. Yeah right!

Village Tit Bits (the writer would love to hear any “stories” you may have...)

- I heard about this very keen white baiter whose name means “happy” (and it isn’t “Joy”) had a call of nature while down at the river so climbed up the 5 steps cut into the bank, removes layers 1, 2 & 3, completes the job in hand and returns

down the steps only to have the wind grab at her from the top step and carry her down to the bottom of the bank with a crash breaking her glasses. Moral of the story – what goes up, must come down (somehow!)

- The Fire Siren was heard the other night at 1.50am. Wife nudges her husband and he scrambles out of bed, struggles into his gear and races off to the fire station only to find he is the only one there. That Ratana fire siren can be heard clear as anything on a still night. The problem of responding to their siren should be solved now as all the new fire fighters have finally received a beeper so they can wait for that to go off first. News flash – just found out that another fireman also raced down to the station, to no avail. Didn’t think you would get away with no-one knowing that did you Stephen?
- Watch out on Rapaki St because there is a massive mosquito out there somewhere – according to a bite I seen on someone’s neck at the dinner!
- Now that one of our ladies of the village has had her eyes fixed, she can finally see what her partner that she has been living with for several years looks like. She is so impressed with his looks, that there is talk that there may be a wedding in the future...

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday 04 November from 5.30pm

Koitiata Matters

January 2007

Well, one big blink and whoosh it is all over – Xmas that is. It is now back to the grindstone at work. Some lucky people are still on holiday, so I hope the weather is kind to you. I trust you all had a good festive season with your friends and families, and didn't drink or eat too much. I hope you all stick to your New Year's resolutions. I have given up making them because I never could.

The newsletter this month will be a bit on the light side and will just be full of tit bits. I did attend the village wedding and after a rough start in the morning, the weather decided to be kind to Wes and Veronica and turned the sunshine on for them. The hidden garden of Fiona and Lance was immaculate and the bride looked beautiful in her dress (yes a dress!) Wes didn't look too bad all spruced up – though you could tell he was a nervous wreck. Trevor Jurgens conducted the ceremony and it was his first time at doing a wedding. I thought he did a fine job and I am sure we can drum up some more business for him around the village.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee will meet again on 04 February at 2pm. All welcome. Survey results on humps to be discussed then.

There was a really great turn out to the New Year's Eve party in the hall with lots of groups partying at home prior to coming down to the hall by about 10.30pm to see the New Year in. Around 80 it was estimated. Lots of music and food and plenty of left over hangi from the wedding to pick through. Heard that Eddy got his first New Year's kiss from Peter! It finally wound up about 2am. Thanks to the social committee for organising this. The Pot Luck Dinner the following weekend was on a lower

key but is still a popular event. Next dinner is on 03 February from 5.30pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – busy season now

Community Hall – had plenty of use

Fire Station – still looking for that elusive replacement fire truck

Ford – people can't help themselves and have to remove signs erected for their own good

Forest – getting to be very dry so the fire risk increases. Vehicles are still not permitted in there without a permit.

Newsletter Notices

- An update on Laura is that she is settling into her unit at the rest home and is feeling much better.
- For those of you who weren't aware, Basil Greig didn't have a very good Xmas being laid up after having a major operation and is only just getting back on his feet again. Good to have you back Basil.
- Wes and Veronica Greenhorn would like to formally thank all those who joined in with them to help celebrate their wedding. They were overwhelmed with the generosity and help they received from the villagers and were very humbled with their presents. Thank you everyone.

Village Tit Bits – heard lots of tittle tattle as follows:

- **The Gremlin who goes around the village and doing his pranks had the tides turned on him on New Year's Eve when he tried to open his own front gate only to find that it was well and truly wired up. Went around the back gate only to find that was wired shut as well. Went through all his tools trying to cut the No. 8 wire. Good on ya Jim!**
- **I heard of some very kind neighbours who assisted mending a letterbox that had been knocked over before the**

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 03 February from 5.30pm at the Hall

owners got back from their weekend away and found it on the ground. Bet that young chap in charge of the house was pleased for the help and I am sure the culprits didn't mean for it to happen. Looks like new again so no harm done.

- Ever tried taking a car load of very drunk people home from the pub when you are a totally sober driver and they are all trying to out sing each other (all with a different song)? Don't do it if you value your ears.
- Now that Wes and Veronica have given in to village pressure and tied the knot, who will be next? Ewen and Annette? Kevin and Judith? The pressure is now on you guys.
- It must be pretty bad when you get up in the morning and are asked "where is the car dear"? *"It must be outside as I remember driving it home."* "No, it isn't there." *"Oh well, it will turn up."* Later on the neighbour comes over and asks why their car is parked down his driveway. Seems the driver overshot her driveway and took the next available gateway. I think the GPS system needs looking at.
- Imagine being asked around to a house for drinks pre Xmas and turning up with a bottle of wine and a courgette. Don't know what sort of party they thought they were going to...
- The Grumpy Old Men (and Man) of the neighbourhood have been on duty over the Xmas period. They told off one lot of youths hooning around the roads on their quad bike (trying to impress his granddaughter I expect) and confronted another lot of two wheeled motor cyclists who thought one end of Rapaki Street was a good area to do some drag racing on. Don't people realise that this village is our home – not some race track. Makes it dangerous for other folk too.
- Apparently another member of the village got married lately too. Congratulations to you if this info is correct. Nirvana to you both.
- Ever want to punish your car for not performing well? Just take it down the beach, get it stuck in the sand, tie it to a big log and wait for the tide to come in and drown it. I reckon that no car deserves that sort of treatment and if I was that car, I would even refuse to run again! It's true, it happened last weekend at around the end of the lake. Poor car, I could never hate mine that much...
- There have been lots of sore heads around the village from various social functions over the festive season. For those of you who were affected, I hope it was all worth it.
- Heard about one sister who was talking on the phone to her son across the ditch and was asking him to speak up as she couldn't hear him and he was having trouble hearing her as well. Big sister visits while this was going on, took one look at little sis and asks – why have you got the phone upside down? I know they say we are down under, but upside down as well...

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 03 February from 5.30pm at the Hall

Koitiata Matters

March 2007

What a cracker of a month February was! We had fine weather the whole month. A few residents are taking on the mammoth task of painting their houses, so they will all be thankful of the fine days. We should all pool our labour and resources and go around and do all our houses together. We also finally received a nice drop of rain this week to full up those water tanks that were getting pretty low and to put a bit of green back into the brown lawns.

It is sad to think that by the time you read this newsletter, daylight saving is about to end. It seems that once day light savings reverts back to the old time, we shut ourselves inside earlier and start thinking about whether we have enough firewood for the winter. Another month of daylight saving time would have been nice.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee held their AGM on 04 March and the following people are your new committee:-

Chairman - Peter Smith

Secretary/Treasurer - Liz Hawes

Committee – Jackie Sheehy, Eddy Mason, Steve McKnight, Jim Mant, Wes Greenhorn, Glennis Watson

Social Committee – Joy Mason, Joyce Smith, Glennis Watson

Ford Committee – Peter Fraser, Arnold Nation, Steve McKnight.

Many thanks to last year's committee and social committee members for your contributions to making things happen. Ewen, Annette, Joan and Hermiss you will be missed.

Issues discussed included the following:

- **Metal has been ordered for summer maintenance to the Ford**
- **A meeting was held with the RDC and at this point in time, a paraplegic toilet is not a viable option to add to the community hall.**
- **A driftwood sculpting competition for next year is to be looked at**

- **Liz to check with RDC regarding outstanding correspondence that hasn't been answered (probably due to the incumbent leaving).**
- **A list of the Hall assets and hireage procedures for the hall are to be prepared, with insurance aspects to be considered.**

The next meeting is on 01 April, 2pm at the Hall and anyone is welcome to come along.

The next Pot Luck dinner will be held on 07 April which is Easter weekend. There will be an Easter raffle so bring along your \$1 for a ticket. If you see that your neighbour is in town for the weekend, personally go along and invite them to the dinner and then pick them up on your way down so they have someone to walk in with. This will be a good chance to meet the weekenders.

March's dinner saw 17 attending with both the Mason's winning the raffles. I also hear that everyone turned up on time, but the person tasked with bringing the key, forgot it and had to go back home for it. Lucky someone else could let the keen diners in via the fire station so by the time Eddy got back with the key, everyone were all seated and underway.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – still plenty of campers

Community Hall – slow

Fire Station – needs some new members to help protect our village is ever there was a fire in the forest.

Ford – summer maintenance completed
Forest – is now a serious fire risk.

Newsletter Notices

- Petanque is proving to be quite popular and due to daylight saving ending, the time has been moved to Saturday afternoons from 2pm
- Trivial Pursuit at the Railway Hotel on Wednesdays from 7pm is proving to be a popular night for the locals. Prizes and supper is provided. This evening is great fun so encourage you all to give it a go.
- Your Neighbourhood Watch support team will be out and about gathering up-to-date info about you all in the next couple of

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 07 April from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring \$1 for the raffle.

weeks. Please give them your details as this may prove to be very useful in cases of emergencies. If requested, this information will be kept confidential.

- A joint Neighbourhood Watch meeting with Turakina Township will be held in the hall on 17 April at 7pm. All residents are encouraged to attend and bring along any concerns, questions etc. There will be a guest speaker as well.
- After the Neighbourhood Watch information is collected and collated, a 2007 resident's phone directory will be done. If you want anything amended, added etc to the list, please contact the editor
- If anyone wishes to purchase an emergency torch/radio/cell phone charger/alarm which is powered by a wind up system and ideal if ever we have a power cut or are in an emergency situation, the editor has two for sale at a price of \$21 each.
- The Fire Brigade is in urgent need of new members and encourages all you new residents to the village to come along and join in. Male or female welcome. You never know when a fire may hit this area and it is satisfying to know that you have trained personnel in the village who can respond to it. On 02 April at 7pm you are invited along to the station to see what is involved. Or you can contact Steve McKnight on 3273-949.
- The Social committee is looking for ideas to make more use of our hall. Suggestions that have come forward so far are – international film evenings and housie. Let the social committee know if you have any suggestions.

Village Tit Bits –The editor has been minding her own business this month with painting the house and all, but has had her roving reporter on the job and the following tit bits have been reported:

- **Pity that Aussie lady isn't still visiting as we could be having her on about her Aussie cricket team...**
- **I heard this person caught this humongous fish the other day and was gutting and cleaning it down on the beach, when all of a sudden, a wave**

came and washed the whole fish away. We will never now know how big it was Jim – it may just go down as another fishy tale.

- **The editor's conservationist fisherman husband is still trying hard for the elusive snapper and has only caught one or two of late. Many thanks to the neighbour and their boat for a lovely feed of fish and flounder the other day! I had forgotten what fish tasted like. The hubby is now insisting that we need a boat...**
- **Now that our marriage celebrant is a permanent resident here, he is looking for more business from within the village. Any takers? He does a good job and comes highly recommended.**

The following is an extract from a 1934 AA magazine "Motorists" on how to get to Turakina Beach...

WANGANUI TO TURAKINA BEACH. 19 miles –
Take the Main South Road passing through Whangaehu (9½ miles) to Turakina (3 miles). Proceed past Railway Hotel passing Turakina Valley Road on left, and turning right about 100 yards further on, stone water trough. Continue on for about 3 miles until a gate is reached. The road now passes through private property and the motorist is request to close all gates. The track now crosses paddocks for about 3 miles terminating about 100 yards short of the river (19 miles). A sandhill is crossed and then it is necessary to wade across the river to reach the beach. The river at the mouth runs south along the beach for about 1½ miles before it reaches the sea.

Aren't we glad times have changed?

There must be some other news out there about what is happening in Koitiata besides what has already been gathered. Please contact the editor if you have anything you would like to see put into this newsletter – news items, for sale, tit bits etc.

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jshiehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 07 April from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring \$1 for the raffle.

Koitiata Matters

May 2007

May already – the year is flying by. Hope you have all started saving up for next Xmas as it isn't far away. The weather is still pretty mild for this time of year and the gentle bits of rain that we have had, has replenished our water tanks. Farm mushrooms are plentiful at the moment and taste so much better than the bought ones. Duck shooting season has begun, so watch yourselves when walking along the lagoon – would hate for you to be caught by any stray pellets intended for the ducks/swans/geese etc. A big welcome is extended to the new residents who have recently moved into the village. I am sure you will enjoy living here as much as we do.

We had another great turn out at the Pot Luck dinner. These evenings are becoming quite popular and it is good to see new faces joining in. The next one is on 02 June and this coincides with Queen's Birthday Weekend. Come along and bring your neighbour. The fire wood raffle was won by Max Sheehy and 2nd prize of pine cones was won by Bruce Attwell. Many thanks to Steve McKnight who donated these prizes.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee had their meeting on 06 May and the following items were discussed:-

- **Claire Scrimgeour from RDC attended and gave a progress report on the footbridge. Resource consent due to be lodged by July, submissions will then be called for and a decision probably by October. Cost of the bridge to be levied across all Rangitikei District ratepayers**
- **RDC advised that there are funds available for further playground modules**
- **A sample of a plaque for the memorial trees to be presented at the next meeting.**

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. The next meeting will be on 10 June, 2pm and anyone is welcome to come along.

There has been a bit of interest shown in collecting information on the history of Koitiata. Don't be shy in coming forward and telling your stories of the days gone by. There must be heaps of old photos out there that we could copy for our records. If you are loathe letting these leave your possession, Eddy Mason could come to your place and scan these into his computer. Someone out there must have plenty of old photos of the raft races, Xmas parades etc. (Sounds like a load of fun back then.) Contact Eddy on 3273 676

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – the campers just keep coming

Community Hall – don't forget you can use this for your own functions. Bookings to Tom Dooney 3273 770

Fire Station – keep an eye out for the new replacement fire vehicle

Ford – beginning to get more water in it.

Forest – still plenty of pine cones around to start those fires at home with

Newsletter Notices

- Joyce Smith is the Welfare Officer for the village, so contact her if you know of anyone who is sick, leaving, celebrating a special occasion etc and she will send a card on behalf of the village. Ph 3273 883.
- As can be seen by recent tyre tracks, people are turning off just prior to crossing the ford and driving onto the old swamp area. This is damaging the wetland, nesting areas, the drain walls and there is the high probability of becoming stuck now that we have experienced some rain. Could people please think twice before venturing into this area – there are plenty of other cross country areas to drive on.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 02 June from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring your neighbour.

- Petanque has now finished for the winter.
- As of 16 May from 7.00-9.00pm there will be a games evening held each week at the Hall. Bowls, pool, darts, cards etc is available. Everyone is welcome to come along for a bit of a laugh. Many thanks to Jim Mant for offering to run these.
- Every Wednesday morning between 10.00am – 12 midday there will be a working bee held at Wes Greenhorne's place to work on the boat he donated for the playground. 43 Rapaki St. The more the merrier and the sooner we get the boat ready for the children to play on.
- The village phone list is currently in the process of being updated. If you would like your number added/amended/deleted please contact the editor before the end of May.
- Our thoughts are with Mike Cunningham who is unwell at the moment and we wish him a speedy recovery.
- It has been suggested that if you are doing a bit of walking along the Beach Road (good on you if you are!), it would be safer if you were to purchase a Hi Viz jacket (\$30 from the Warehouse) so that motorists can see you much easier. Be safe; be seen, as the saying goes.
- Have heard that Laura Wills has settled into her new environment and is kept up to date with what is happening around the village by her visitors for here.
- Did you know that it was 1998 that the river changed its course?
- The beach area has a total fire ban. If you are spending an evening down there fishing etc, please do not have any naked flames or bonfires to keep you warm or to cook your meals on. The risk of these fires not being put out properly, smoldering for ages, then embers being caught by a gust of wind, could end up with a major forest fire. Please think first of the consequences.
- Fire practice times have been changed for the winter period, so if you hear the siren go off on Mondays at either 5.30 or 7pm or a Sunday at 10.00am, don't panic, it will only be the volunteers having their practice. Any interested people in joining, contact Steve McKnight 3273 949.
- To give away – corner shower base 900mm, white fibreglass/plastic; with or without aluminum & glass screen & door frame; plus mixer & fittings (no wall liner or soap). Phone Eddy 3273 676.

Village Tit Bits – The editor has some notes written down from the last Pot luck dinner that she is having trouble deciphering, so if the facts are slightly wrong, apologies to you:

- **You can tell when the weather gets colder as the mice try to come indoors. One resident found a mouse in their header tank and came to the following conclusions – mice can't swim, and they double their size when left floating. Wonder what mice flavoured water tastes like?**
- **One couple had a parcel delivered to their door the other day but was very wary of opening it. It was ticking! Just before they called in the bomb squad, they thought long and hard and guessed it was from their neighbour whom they had "narked" on in the last newsletter. Even the editor was threatened of being run down by that very same person. The risks we take to get items for the newsletter. Still it is worth it, as it makes entertaining reading for the rest of you.**
- **A couple of neighbours were fishing down the beach, having a cuppa and feeding the dog her dog biscuits. The dog (as most dogs do) wasn't hungry so buried hers in the sand for later. On leaving and packing up the fishing gear,**

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 02 June from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring your neighbour.

the kind gentleman went to all the trouble and started to dig up the biscuits to take home for the dog. What a thoughtful and kind man you are Bob!

- Some one was talking to the editor about dancing around naked, but the rest of the story is a blur. Could that person remind the editor next time you see her as it sounds interesting ...
- Haven't seen it yet, but it appears that a new musical instrument has appeared down by the piano. Will make the trip and let you know in the next newsletter.
- Heard that a new cat in town was settling in and marking out its territory. Got through someone's cat door, gave the owner a heck of a fright, shredded curtains plus to top it off, it had a nervous disposition!
- Heard that one of the committee members who went to all that trouble to organise the working bee on the boat forgot to even go on the Wednesday. Silly old man's syndrome he calls it!
- Two local ladies turned up at the Pot Luck dinner with no plate to share, only their bottle of wine. One was heard to say that she will bring double the food next month. It is okay girls; there is always plenty to go around. Same goes for anyone else who finds themselves in the same position.
- Have you seen the new garage that has recently been erected but is yet to have some doors attached? Secret squirrel tells me that the doors arrived but before they could be hung, the owner inadvertently ran over them – flattened them beyond repair! Wonder how he explained that to the insurance company – “I ran over my garage doors”.
- Also heard through the grapevine is that a resident who has recently shifted into the village and is now part of the local

fire brigade was entertaining his guests he had over for dinner. Steak was on the menu and said fireman was responsible for the cooking. Very soon, there was much coughing and spluttering coming from the kitchen – why? “Because I am allergic to smoke” cries the cook. Bet he never told his fire crew this fact before he joined!

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jshreehy@xtra.co.nz

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Koitiata Matters

September 2007

Life in the Village is like living amongst one big happy family and this was reinforced lately when one household were literally up to their knees in sewerage. They were so wrapped at the amount of advice, offers of help, the lending of tools, manual labour and all sorts of other help in order for them to remedy their problem. This goes to show how we all look out for each other and you never know when something unfortunately may happen to you. You wouldn't get this sort of help if you lived in the big cities – it would be lucky if you even got to speak to your neighbour. Life is great at the village!

The river continues with its new course and the hump (or what is left of it) directly in front of the ford crossing still continues to reduce in size with the elements. The big 3 metre tides we have had, took all the big bits of timber further down the beach. It is great to watch how nature works.

The September Pot Luck dinner was a pretty full night with 32 people attending. Eddy Mason won the raffle. The next Pot Luck dinner is to be held on the Sunday of Labour Weekend (21 October) so that all visitors to the village can come along and join in. There will be no dinner in November.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee meeting on 02 September discussed the following items:-

- Agreed that the Residents Committee will pay for the engraving and erecting of plaques for memorial trees only.
- Another letter to be written to RDC re mowing around the hall
- The new windows erected in the toilets are not glazed and will require curtains.
- Microwave to be checked out as not currently operational.
- Wiring of the Hall has been upgraded and louver windows replaced.
- Progress on the boat is steady with weekly working bees.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. The next meeting will be on 07 October, 2pm and anyone is welcome to come along.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – just a dribble of campers

Community Hall – bookings have slowed down
Fire Station – a couple of new members
Ford – pretty shallow at the moment
Forest – Samba deer hunting still in force until end of October. Ernslaw advise that harvesting will commence by us at the northern end around October and will be ongoing until after Xmas. People walking through the forest are asked to keep away from the harvesting areas. When asked, the harvesting is in the middle of the northern end on the farm side. Probably why the Middle Road has been graded lately?

Newsletter Notices

- Don't forget to suss out those bottoms of cupboards – your junk is someone else's treasure. Donate your unwanted goods to the Residents Committee to sell at the Labour weekend market day. Contact Joyce Smith if you have anything to donate or if you want to hire a stall for the day.
- Eddy and his team have so far collected quite a few memorabilia (photos and newspaper articles) about Koitiata. Still looking for more. Contact him on 3273 676.
- Have heard that the whitebait is pretty slow so far – so slow in fact that the whitebait are actually being named and taken home as pets!
- Just a reminder that there are bowls at the Hall every Wednesday night from 6.45pm.
- And that there is a church service every first Sunday of each month at 10am.

Village Tit Bits – still a couple of things happening around the place...

- **If your male dogs are looking a bit woeful lately, it is because Jess has now been fixed so her parents can now rest easy with no constant visitors for this lady. It is stressed that it was only Jess that has been fixed!**
- **What do you do with your old stainless steel hip when it is replaced for the 2nd time? You use it for a door stop!**
- **Ray also tells us that the Doctor said that the old hip hadn't knitted. The Doctor was then overheard to say to another patient with a broken rib – “are you in any pain?” “No” replied the patient, “it just feels like a little stitch”. “Oh” said the Doctor, “it is just the bones knitting together”. Bet he can knit one, pearl one too.**
- **One local tried out some of Basil's home brew the other day, then proceeded to rinse out the bottle. Not sure if it was the hot water or the potency of the brew, but the bottle disintegrated. Imagine what happens to your insides.**

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 21 October from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring your neighbour.

- **Heard that a couple of keen white baiters went fishing for the first time this season only to have their nets facing up the river instead of down. No wonder they weren't catching anything. The white bait probably wondered what was going on as well!**

Councillor's Corner

Hello from your friendly councillor.

Well as you know the election candidates have put their names forward for a seat on the council. We have three candidates contesting for the Turakina ward which is the ward where Koitiata is.

I have put my name forward for a second term and would like to get the chance to put into practice what I have learnt in the past three years. Believe me the next three years is going to be a very important time for the Rangitikei district, as I believe we will be under increased pressure to merge with neighbouring councils. It will not be a time for new councillors to be learning. I believe experience is going to be very important as we will have a new mayor and a new chief executive officer.

Another very important situation arising is the presentation of the Horizons Regional Council "One Plan".

This plan will have serious affects on the way we run our lives. Did you know that under this new one plan (if it goes ahead):

1. You will have to control the smoke, dust, odour, or water vapour so as not to go beyond the boundary of the source of the fire, i.e. rubbish fires
2. The burning of tyres is prohibited even for a heat source or lighting source for rubbish fires. Resource consent must be applied for this activity.
3. If the council wants to take a corner off a road it has to get resource consent from Horizons
4. There will be lots of rules governing the coastal marine area which includes the beaches and the seabed. If you can get a copy of the coast part of the plan I urge you to read it. I can print you a copy off my computer if you want.
5. Farmers will be not allowed to plough the ground within 10 meters of a waterway which has a bank waterway of less than 15 degrees.

6. Farmers and contractors will not be allowed to get fertilizer into waterways (not sure how topdressing aircraft and spreader trucks are going to prevent this)

Most of the plan is very good and is designed to protect our environment. There are some parts as mentioned above that need our input. Please if you have a question or want to submit anything please give me a call. 063426741

The One Plan is open to submissions until the end of September. The submissions will be considered and voted on by your regional councillors. It will have to be passed through the voting process and is planned to come into law about end of 2008. The Rangitikei District Council is putting together a very extensive submission which addresses most of the issues in contention.

Well until the next newsletter all the best and maybe will see you at the met the candidates evening on the 14th September at 7.30 at the church hall Turakina.

P.S. Have you seen the new bus shelter being built beside the Tennis Club (this is a Turakina Community Committee project)?

Emergency Fire Sirens

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emergency. All villagers to report to fire shed to hear what the emergency is

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 21 October from 5.30pm at the Hall. Bring your neighbour.

Koitiata Matters

December 2007

Well, if the past month is anything to go by, the summer is going to be a long, hot, dry one. We will have to watch those water tanks and when your city visitors come out, training them in not flushing the loo or not running the tap to clean their teeth, will have to take place (even though as I write this, it is raining!).

It is amusing to watch the visitors to the beach. They can't read signs where it says 4WD vehicle access and they cross the ford only to become stuck in the soft sand. Then they want to be pulled out! What about the ones who go investigating over by the lagoon where all winter it was totally immersed in water? They get extremely stuck in the soft quick sand and it takes a brave person to go near them with their own vehicle to pull them out. One person even tried it twice – think they would have learnt the first time wouldn't have you?

One thing that would be nice, is that if you have visitors in over Xmas with their motor bikes, that you suggest they go have their fun around the beach or forest and not on the grassed areas around the housing. With them churning up what grass is left, it exposes the sand and then when the winds come, it blows everywhere. Also they are so noisy and a danger to kids or people walking about. Thank you for your assistance with this.

At this stage, there will not be a newsletter out in January – the editor is taking a break. But then again, if there is enough to full one up, who knows?

The December Pot Luck dinner was a good night with some fun awards being presented on the evening. A full list of recipients is at the end of the newsletter. Thanks to those who decorated the hall, cleaned the hall, plus did all the extra Xmas baking. The Xmas Hamper raffle was won by K. Richards 1st prize and S. Bryant 2nd prize. J. Mant won the evening's raffle.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee meeting on 09 December discussed the following items:-

- Custodial duties of the hall are to be shared with the committee. The roster will be posted on the notice board.
- Unfortunately due to an oversight of the Hall being booked over Xmas, there will be no church service held there this year.
- Due to the Secretary's change of employment, Peter Smith to take over her secretary role and Eddy Mason to cover off the finance until the AGM.
- AGM put back until later in the year.
- Boat very near to being installed at the playground. Now awaiting inspection.
- A drive to be made for photographs etc of past village residents and events to hang from the walls in the hall to give character to the place and to preserve our past. Contact Peter Smith for this.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. The next meeting will be on 06 January 2008, 2pm and anyone is welcome to come along.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – steady bookings

Community Hall – New Years Eve party

Fire Station – looking for new members

Ford – practically dried up now

Forest – very dry so be careful!

Newsletter Notices

- Welcome to our new residents who have recently bought or moved into the village. You are invited to join in the New Year activities – it will be a good chance to meet your neighbours etc.
- Get well soon to those of you who are ailing at present. Hopefully things will soon be on the mend.
- The Beach Bach is available for holiday rental. Phone Diana on 027 3349137 or Hamish on 027 3149044.

See you all at the New Year's Eve bash on 31 December (of course) from 6.00pm at the Hall.

- Congratulations to the Wilson and Arnold who have recently become engaged to be married. Never too old aye guys?
- WANTED – men, women and youth. Do you want to experience an adrenalin rush, have fun, comradeship and learn new skills? Help protect your village and community by joining the Koitiata Rural Fire team. Even if it is for the day shift on the smoke chaser within the village with Tom and Wes until other help arrives. Phone Steve McKnight 3273 949 if interested.
- This fire season seems to have started early with the fire crew been called to two railway line vegetation fires already. Things are very dry so we all need to be very careful. There is a **TOTAL** fire ban on in the area, so no naked flames are allowed. If you see people on the beach with fires, please explain the danger of this. If you don't have much luck, contact one of your fire crew – they are on the phone list indicated with an asterisk.
- A wheelie bin has been located beside the fire station for you to dispose of any aluminum cans over the next few months. Not for any other items please!
- WANTED TO RENT – long term rental required by careful tenant with a young child. Excellent references available. Contact the editor on 3273 654.
- New Year's Eve event:-
 - 6.30pm Hall open
 - 7.00pm BBQ lit, light music
 - 8.00pm Karaoke begins
 - 10.00am Rock'n'roll music until midnight
 - BYO meat for BBQ
 - BYO liquid refreshments
 - BYO salad/desert to share
 - Enjoy!

Village Tit Bits – This has been replaced by the Awards this month.

Councillor's Corner

Hi Everyone,

Wow! The Christmas Season is well and truly upon us and I'm sure everyone is run off their feet in preparation for the season.

The month of November and early December has been extremely busy preparing for the term. My congratulations to the newly established Turakina Reserve Management Committee and Turakina Community Committee. On the 5th December Turakina Reserve Management Committee had their very first meeting I look forward to working with Chair, Bob Major and his team over the next three years. In addition to meeting regularly with the above Committees I will also meet with Whangaehu Community Hall Committee, Ratana Community Board and of course Koitiata Residence Committee. If you would like me to attend any group meetings you are involved with please do not hesitate to give me a call. Plenty of notice would be good.

The Turakina Community Committee will meet for the first time sometime late January. The Ratana Community Board is currently calling nominations for the Bi-election.

To each and everyone of you my family and I extend our very best wishes for a Christmas Season full of blessings of peace and happiness for Christmas and a 2008 Year full of prosperity.

Kindest regards

Soraya Peke-Mason J.P.

Koitiata Xmas Cracker Awards

(Most of the recipients have been subjects of past newsletters and the awards were put together by Joyce Smith)

Puka Prize for Literature – Bruce Attwell for his amazing and nationally acclaimed *Wharves of Wanganui*, for his dedication and the painstaking research to produce a well written unfolding story including wonderful photos

See you all at the New Year's Eve bash on 31 December (of course) from 6.00pm at the Hall.

Cock-eyed Optimist Award – Claire Gibney and friend who expected to catch whitebait with a net facing the wrong way

Visual Symphony Award – Gay Hammond for her beautiful garden

Recycling Award - Ray Gilchrist for using his used stainless steel hip as a door stop

Extra Mile Awards –

Joan Shadbolt who single handedly raised \$200 selling raffle tickets

Jim Mant who came out in all winds and weather to organise summer boules and winter bowls

Liz Hawes for being a great secretary and writing such great letters

Jackie Sheehy for without her extra mile efforts with the newsletter, these awards would not have been possible.

Get on with it Award - goes to Jim Mant for the commemorative plaques on the trees in the play area – something that had been talked about for years.

Senior Moment Award – Peter Hawes, not only for being a cock-eyed optimist with his sheets on the roof; not only for losing his specs (we all do that) but then after getting a replacement set from the optician, only to come home and find the lost ones; but especially for the incident involving 144 meat patties which he will now recall in 200 words or less!

We also had The White Bait Awards with the scoop plaques made and donated by Steve McKnight. Thanks to Gay Hammond who presented these:-

The Most Patient White Baiter – Hermis Voss who day after day could be found on the river banks patiently waiting, waiting, waiting – with her hubby dropping her off and passing comments like her being crazy!

The Keenest White Baiter - Sharon (Wilson's fiancé) who while being very new to the sport,

will be found down there before the crack of dawn waiting for kick off time.

The Most Organised White Baiters – Annette Housley and Ewen Johnston who always turn up with all the comforts of home, deck chairs, radio etc and because of the number of white bait they caught, could personally name each and every one of the little blighters! (They probably logged them into their diary as well...)

The Most Dedicated White Baiter – Gay Hammond (she didn't know this award was coming) who through rain, hail, wind, beating sun and floods, would be found sitting on the river bank at Waipu waiting for those little white fish. Her mates took pity on her and built a little shelter now known as the White Bait Motel.

Merry Xmas everyone



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If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the New Year's Eve bash on 31 December (of course) from 6.00pm at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

March 2008

Someone mentioned the other day that it is now officially the autumn season. Oh darn, doesn't winter come after that? Surely this spot of rough weather will pass and we will have some more sunny and warm weather. It is noted that the mornings are darker now and the sun set happens around 8.20pm. Remember daylight saving does end 06 April. Most people have taken advantage of the extended period and with the river on its current course, many have enjoyed taking a dip this summer. Guess we shall have to wait and see what Mother Nature brings us.

There has been a bottle neck of drift wood down at the river mouth and one big log even serves as a bridge across the river for those of you wanting to venture over to the other side. It is now quite a hike if you want to walk along the actual beach and the river meanders quite a way across the front of where the beach once was.

The village continues to get new owners purchasing houses and a big welcome is extended to you all. Easter is just about upon us, so it is anticipated that many visitors or owners will be visiting the village as well. We will do our best to put on some decent weather for you all.

The Pot Luck dinner had 27 attending and the raffle was won (again) by Eddy Mason. The next Pot Luck dinner will be held at Easter weekend on Saturday 22nd. Bring along your visitors and have some fun. Remember to bring along some money for the Easter raffle.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee had their meeting on 02 March and the following items were discussed:-

- A survey is to be sent out to all residents asking for their ideas of what submissions we need to make to RDC this year e.g. speedsters on the beach and road;

recycling; hall stewardship; green waste etc.

- Coat hooks in the toilets and outside the hall to be erected
- Thanks to Steve McKnight for weed spraying and removal from around the hall
- A request to be made to RDC to have the yellow No Parking signs re done outside the fire station

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. The next meeting will be on 06 April 2008, 2pm and anyone is welcome to come along.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – slowing down

Community Hall – available for bookings

Fire Station – still looking for recruits

Ford – has now been graded

Forest – still an extreme fire risk. DOC have been in there spraying of late.

Newsletter Notices

- Good response received for additions or amendments to the neighbourhood support data base and telephone directory. It is still not too late if you want to be included. Contact the editor with your details.
- Congratulations to Bruce Atwell who recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Bruce and his son from Melbourne joined in at the March Pot Luck Dinner and shared his birthday cake. In his short speech, Bruce stated that due to his ill health, he didn't think he would make it this far, but thanked all for their support and that he just loves living here and the lifestyle that goes with it.
- Congratulations to Arnold and Isobel who are "tying the knot" shortly.
- If you have noticed that your favourite dishes or oven trays are missing from your cupboards, try looking in the Hall through the great mound of plates etc left over from the Pot Luck Dinners.
- If you see a very skinny man walking down Beach Road, it is none other than our very own Roy Ward who has lost absolutely heaps of weight and is now quite pleased at his new wardrobe. Good on you Roy, you have proved that determination and perseverance does pay off.

See you all at the Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 22 March from 5.30pm at the Hall.

- The village continues to have power surges but the power company still denies that they are happening and that nothing is registering on their machines. Well, this has been ongoing for some time now and with lots of different people ringing and telling them, maybe they will finally get the message. Oh, they did say, why didn't you ring us when the power went off – ah silly – for those with cordless phones, the phone doesn't work when the power is off!

Village Tit Bits – still looking for some items to help out here:

- **Ewen is still looking for someone to take him in and feed him while his partner is off on her big OE. Contact Ewen if you have any spare food going or a spot at your table for him to join you.**
- **Heard one lady say the other night – keep smiling it will work in a minute. Apparently her partner says that to her all the time!**
- **One frustrated fisherman has been on to wife for ages that the only way to catch a fish now days is to buy a boat and go off shore. Imagine the wife's delight when hubby proved himself wrong and caught quite a large snapper off the beach the other week. Say good bye to the boat idea dear...**
- **The neighbours were rather suspicious when suddenly on a confirmed bachelor's clothesline there appeared some bras. When approached, the bachelor confirmed that they were actually training bras. Training for what – cross dressing?**
- **Quite an interesting conversation was overheard at the dinner over whether a particular person was a recluse, a hermit, an introvert or just a plain old grumpy old man. Appears that this may be a topic of a regular newspaper gossip column out soon.**
- **A hitchhiker was seen walking down Beach road, and after it was ascertained that he was aiming for the camp ground, he was offered a ride. He refused saying that he was walking the length of NZ and needed to do just that. Apparently, he had previously accepted**

a ride for 22kms and then felt so guilty, he went back and rewalked the whole route. Good on ya mate!

As mentioned in previous newsletters, what do you do if you hear a siren that rises and falls and is different from the fire siren which is continuous? If you hear this siren, it means there is a civil defence emergency and you are required to go down to the fire station/community hall to see that the emergency is. There isn't time to contact you all individually in these situations.

And just another reminder to you all, that in the event of a fire in a Koitiata house or surrounding area, the local Fire Force or other Brigades called on must use whatever water supply is available. There is no water reticulation in the village and water carried by appliances is limited. In the urgency of a fire situation, the nearest household water tank will be drawn from, whether the house is occupied or vacant. Speed being essential – there is no time to consult with the owners. Water used from a household tank will be replaced at the earliest opportunity – this is a policy of the Fire Service. People will not be left without water. However, in the race to set up pumps, there is little time to discuss the matter. Fire control must take precedence over all else.

Emergency Fire Sirens

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All villagers to report to fire shed to hear what the emergency is.

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jshreehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 22 March from 5.30pm at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

May 2008

Well after a bit of a break, I thought it was time to get into gear and produce another newsletter. I had a good break and enjoyed an interesting holiday. I haven't had time to get out and about, so this newsletter may be a bit on the light side.

I remember when the river first cut in across the front of the sand dunes the residents were rife with speculation about whether the river would eventually come up over into the lagoon area. One local quite rightly stated that "water doesn't travel up hill". Well, nature has now proved to one and all that it does and it did! After a summer of the river gradually getting higher and higher, last week with the heavy rain, rough seas and extremely high 3m tides, the river finally broke through and flowed into the lagoon. The whole area was awash with water and only the brave (or mad) ventured across the ford and even then, they didn't (or couldn't) go far – it was too deep!

Today I went for a walk along the beach to inspect the lie of the land and can report that the river is now back to just running across in front of the dunes, but you can definitely see where it had been and the grooves it has cut when it was there. A lot of the other water has drained away, but there is still plenty of mud around where it was sitting.

I think that is one of the things I enjoy about living here. Everyday can bring something different and you just take it as it comes. Mother Nature is in command so expect the unexpected. One day we will wake up and the river will be miles down the other way!

Duck shooting season got off to a pretty quiet start, with only a minimal amount of shooting to be heard both weekends. Guess the ducks etc are well and truly into hiding now, so it may be a quite season? Still, watch yourselves when walking around any water areas where there

may be ducks hiding as there could be some shooters lurking nearby!

The Pot Luck dinner still proves to be a popular spot to go and have a chin wag and to taste some of the interesting dishes produced by the locals or those visiting for the weekend. The next Pot Luck dinner will be held on Saturday 31 May which is also Queen's Birthday weekend. Remember to bring along some money for the raffle.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee has had two meetings since the last newsletter and the following items were discussed:-

- A survey sent out to all residents resulted in two submissions being sent to the RDC about a dedicated area for green waste and a blanket speed limit within the village.
- Letter to RDC requesting the repair of the BBQ chimney again
- Met with RDC re custodianship of the Hall
- Letter sent to RDC re concerns about grass growing into the asphalt on the roads and the rough metal area at north end of Rapaki Street.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings, survey results and RDC submissions can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Sunday 01 June 2008, 2pm and everyone is encouraged to come along and have their say. The committee will be looking for new members this year so how about you put your hand up and become involved in your community.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – tenders have been called for the management of this
Community Hall – available for bookings
Fire Station – had a busy summer season
Ford – access way posts replaced
Forest – be aware of hunters and motor cross bikes at the weekends!

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 31 May, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Newsletter Notices

- The new phone list will be out shortly.
- If anyone has a fridge in good working order and would like to donate it to the community hall, please contact Joyce Smith on 3273 883 (old one has had it).
- Indoor bowls will be held again during the winter months on Wednesday nights starting on 20 May, 7pm. They are also considering having a housie (bingo) evening on alternative weeks. More about this later.
- AGM of Residents Committee will be held on Sunday 01 June from 2pm. New members are required for the committee.
- Motorists are asked to watch their driving when traveling along Turakina Beach Road. We now have a lot of motorists, walkers, joggers and cyclists who use this road and there have been several instances of late where motorists have been seen cutting corners, speeding and just plain driving on the wrong side of the road. Slow down, stay in your lane and especially watch the last couple of corners before you hit the village, they are quite deceiving!
- Wanted to rent or borrow. Scaffolding for 1-2 storied house so the owners can carry out repairs and painting. Contact Nicole or Richard on 3273 721.
- Peter Hawes has written a play "The Gods of Warm Beer" which could end up being nominated for the best play of the year. This is playing in Palmerston North for the next 6 weeks and is well worth a look. If people from the village would like to travel as a group to see this, contact Glenis on 3273 757. Good time to see what the "Big Fat Goat" (his words) does before his curtains are pulled open each day...

Village Tit Bits – nothing to report because no-one is ratting on anyone!!!

Some frequently asked questions about village raffles

Why do we have raffles?

The social club holds regular raffles to cover the cost of the following:

1. A stock of amenities for the Community Hall – eg salt, pepper, tea, coffee, sugar, dish washing liquid, serviettes.
2. Pre and post dinner nibbles for pot luck dinners – nuts, chippies, chocolates etc.
3. An assortment of greetings cards for residents' highs and lows.
4. Any items or projects according to the elected social sub-committee's policy (the last one was New Year's Eve entertainment)

How are raffles organised?

Raffles are currently held every month at pot luck dinners. Tickets are sold and the raffle is drawn at the dinner. We usually hold extra raffles at public holidays. For these, tickets may be sold door-to-door.

How much are raffle tickets?

Tickets are currently one dollar each.

Do ticket holders have to be present at the draw to win prizes?

No. Just leave contact details.

What proportion of the raffle money is spent on prizes?

Over the year it will be approximately half, although this may vary from one raffle to the next as we never know how many tickets will be sold.

Are extra numbers added to a raffle once it has commenced?

No.

How do I know who has won the raffle?

Winners are published on the Hall notice board and in the next newsletter.

What happens to the money if there is a build up of funds over time?

The social subcommittee keeps a petty cash float of up to \$100. Any surplus goes to the main committee fund to be used as the committee decides.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 31 May, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Can I have a say in raffle policy?

Yes you can stand for election to the main or social-sub committee in June.

One of the village home owners sent me the following email which I thought I would share with you all:-

Hi from Fliss

I always love coming to the Bach – as soon as I get in the car all the stress drops off me. My place is half finished and very 'bachy' and we love it. Having a place to go and let go is just a wonderful privilege.

People sometimes think because I am not there often that I am open to selling – no way! Over Easter I went to a couple of open homes as I was thinking maybe it would be better to cut my losses and buy somewhere that has had the work done. They were both really gorgeous with their own charm – but mine is the best.

Although is has leaky building syndrome and a rusty roof (hopefully to be replaced this year), it has a wonderful atmosphere and outlook. Even without a sea view (mine has the best) outlook is important. I love to look out across the grasslands and reserve as well as over the Village. The forest has its own charm too. Many a walk with a pine cone back pack. I remember taking my kids and nieces in there and set a competition to see who could collect the most pine cones. The brightest gave up early and didn't rise to the challenge. They realized the most was also the heaviest. One niece kept going until she had 78 – then couldn't carry them. Then it was my challenge to get them back!

I am hoping to live out there for a few months sometime possibly at the end of the year so I will be looking for car pooling if anyone else travel to Wanganui daily??

*See ya all there sometime soon
Cheers Fliss (24 Omanu)*

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See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 31 May, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

November 2008

By the time you get this newsletter, there will only be 6 weeks to Xmas. It creeps up on you fast doesn't it?

I was looking back at last year's November newsletter where I publicly thanked those who helped me when I got stuck down the beach, well guess what? It happened again. October is normally a windy month and the sand in many places is very soft and yes I became stuck once again. After my fruitless attempts to free myself, I had to admit defeat and called upon my friendly neighbour (and his brother-in-law) to help me out once again. The first thing he did when he arrived at the scene was to stop and take a photo! Only he would think of taking a camera when going to the rescue of someone who gets stranded. I believe he did spread the picture around, but now that I have paid him back in Speights, it should never have to resurface again. One rescue a year isn't a bad record.

I was rather bewildered last month, to hear that a contractor was down at the beach with his digger burying dead animals. When questioned, the contractor actually stated that there were 135 to do, and that he was contracted by the Council to do this. I knew the location of at least 4 or 5 dead animals, but 135? Who can verify this? The animals don't last long at the beach – the birds have their bit and then they usually either get washed away or covered up in sand. Part of beach life I would have thought. It is not as though it is Bondi beach where we have swimmers swarming the shores. Have always wondered where our rates went! You have to just shake your head in amazement.

Pot Luck Dinner at Labour weekend had a record number of 50 attendees. Because of the large number, not all food dishes were able to be washed due to the zip running out of hot water. Apologies to those who had to take home dirty dishes. This may happen from time to time depending on crowd numbers. Don't forget the coming dates for the next dinners:
22 November
20 December – Xmas theme
31 December – New Years Eve with music
17 January – Wellington Anniversary

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 05 November and the following items were discussed:-

- A new Department of Conservation sign is to be erected at the entrance to the ford.
- Request to RDC for public toilet signs to be erected.
- Letter to RDC querying why a contractor was hired to bury dead animals on the beach.
- Agreed to fund raise for a defibrillator for the village. Quote to be obtained.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be Wednesday 03 December 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – picking up

Community Hall – available for hire

Fire Station – getting ready for the summer season

Ford – spraying of drains done

Forest – the loggers have now finished (logs still to be removed). Were only doing skids at present and will be back in April 2009.

Newsletter Notices

- Congratulations to Basil Greig on his engagement to Heather. Basil is helping Heather recover from an operation at the moment and expected back in the village in a few weeks.
- Welcome back to the bionic man. Peter Smith has had wires implanted in his heart and a pacemaker the size of a large watch in his chest muscle, all the surgeon left was a tiny scar with one stitch used. Modern surgery is great nowadays isn't it?
- Our friendly mailman Nick just happened to get his timing right again on our Market Day and scored himself morning tea. He has asked that his thanks to the village be recorded here. Thanks for your good work yourself Nick.
- As we have quite a few absentee property owners in the village, if ever you are doing work that may affect your neighbour's property or you need to contact a resident for whatever reason and don't know their details, contact the editor as she maintains the neighbourhood support database and will be able to assist you. Rather than just going ahead, it would be nice to communicate your intentions first.
- Stolen – one whitebait trap net. Last seen at Turning In Creek. Has a home made green wing attached. Phone Shane or Jill 3273 833

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 22 November, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

- Our village has another budding artist. This time it is Shane Wyatt who is a bit of a dab hand at wood carving. He recently entered a competition in Wanganui and while he didn't win, his two pieces consisting of a boat with wooden sails and a shark were selected to be on display at the Sarjeant Gallery in Wanganui for several weeks. You may have seen his photo in the paper a while back. Shane is now working on a shag for his next show in February.

Message from the Social Committee

October was a really good month with 2 Pot Luck Dinners both having exceptional attendance.

The Market Day went well due to all the help from committee members and other residents. Special thanks go to Arnold and Isobel; Wes and his helpers; Wendy, Veronica and Joan in the kitchen; and Trish on the white elephant. Many thanks to those of you who donated items for this. The raffles went well and both sold out. The stall holders all seemed happy on the day.

A total of \$1093.50 was made and there could possibly be a little more to come. Any unsold items will be taken to a thrift shop.

Raffle winners were:

**Market Day Raffle – 1st Tom Dooney; 2nd Ian & Debbie; 3rd Ian & Debbie
Labour Weekend Raffle – 1st Kath Boswell; 2nd Kath Boswell; 3rd Robin Mant.**

Proceeds from these raffles are for the benefit of the community.

Village Tit Bits – a lot has been volunteered this month...

- Heard that the two lorikeets that escaped (not rozellas as reported last month) (fancy escaping from a policeman!) have been recaptured. One came back home that same night and the other was caught by neighbours down the road. And they didn't even have to borrow the butterfly net to catch it!
- Now that the boat is sold, the long line was finally put to use. Still have to get the hang of operating it because the hopeful fisherman had to come back home twice – once to get his spare battery, then again for some petrol. Come on, you have to be more organised than that.
- Same person was clearing out his flat and had to saw the lounge suite in half to get it out the door. Wonder how they got the new one in?
- If you are out walking and see a very crooked potato patch in the garden, this was the result of someone trying to plant her spuds while under the influence of something she drank. Moral of the story – don't drink and plant.
- Wife went walking with her friend the other day leaving hubby at home doing chores. She returned from the walk only to find the house locked up and no hubby and she left with no key to get inside. Apparently after searching the whole village, he was found having a cup of tea and a chat at the neighbours. Think she will be taking her own house key next time – just in case.
- Heard that the whitebait haven't been too plentiful this season, but plenty of other things have been caught e.g. draughters (?), herrings, eels, smelt etc. One resident couldn't get enough for a decent whitebait meal, so he tried pickling his herrings. Waste not, want not they say. Others just say yuk!
- Same person was seen on a howling windy day struggling up on the top of his roof with a 6 meter length of PVC pipe trying to unblock his chimney so he could have a fire. Most others would have put on some extra clothing and waited for the wind to stop before they tried mountain climbing.
- 2 men went out fishing early one morning taking with them a small BBQ and gas bottle to cook themselves a meal later in the day. When that time came they went to crank up the Barbie only to find that it was the wrong gas bottle as it had a different fitting for the BBQ. They tried to last the distance, but 4 hours later their empty tummies drove them home as they were still catching fish, but couldn't last anymore. Still, the editor isn't complaining as her neighbour shared some of his catch with her.

Emergency Fire Sirens

1 long siren = Fire crew only call out

2 long sirens = Local fire

3 long sirens = Civil Defence emergency. All villagers to report to fire shed to hear what the emergency is.

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please feel free to contact the writer Jackie Sheehy on 3273 654 or email jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 22 November, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

December 2008

Xmas is just around the corner, so I hope you are all prepared. My husband decided that it would be a good idea if all my side of the family got together for a change and volunteered that we host it. Great, thanks hubby! Good thing our daughter now lives in the village as with 19 people here for Xmas, her place will certainly be needed. Hope the weather is kind to us.

Reflecting over the past year in the village, we had our usual highs and lows, deaths and major medical operations. The river changed course, the beach changed, two new houses were added to the village, old baches have been done up, our 135 stinking dead animals on the beach were buried, a couple of engagements and weddings, some major "0" birthdays, pronunciation lessons for street names, people have left, new ones have joined us. Oh, and a new government! Life just moves on and one day rolls over into the next.

Disappointing to see that in our "unofficial" green waste dump that some lazy people have been dumping items other than green waste – i.e. wire mesh on wooden frames, concrete and loose metal. Shame on you! Defeats the whole purpose of what it was intended for and the efforts of others to keep it contained and managed in one area. There are other places for this sort of rubbish and the closest is up at Ratana. Make the effort wont you?

I remember when we first came to live here some three and a half years ago, we took advantage of the hill at the southern end of Rapaki Street and placed a viewing seat up on top so that all those people who often stop there to admire the view or watch the sunsets, could do so in comfort. Took bit of a effort to carry up the big wooden rings, scout the beach for a big sturdy plank, cart it up there where it sat for all this time. Went up there the other day and some b..... had flogged the plank! Boy was I angry. Go and find your own plank you lazy sods. Anyway, have now found another suitable plank and this time nailed it down hard. Will take a bit of effort for anyone to flog this piece of wood. So if you do see anyone struggling to carry a piece of wood mounted over two wooden rings, you have my permission to approach them and "persuade" them to put it back. You will be able to tell if it is from the hill because it has about 5 x 6" nails in each end and the people carrying it will be

red faced, looking guilty and it will probably be late at night.

There will be no newsletter in January – the Editor will be recovering from her family Xmas get together and I also have the granddaughter to mind for a whole week, so no time. Still the ear will be to the ground for any tit bits happening around the place.

Merry Xmas to you all, enjoy the festive season and lets hope 2009 brings you all a big Lotto win – yeah right!

Pot Luck Dinner in November was attended by 21 people and Wes won the raffle with Glennis 2nd. Events still to come are:
20 December – Xmas dinner & Whitebait awards
31 December – New Years Eve with music
17 January – Wellington Anniversary Pot Luck

The Xmas raffle (copper crayfish) is out doing the rounds. This will be drawn at the Xmas Pot Luck with the proceeds going towards the New Year's Eve get together. If you are wanting a ticket, contact Jill, Robyn or Joy. Phone numbers are on the new phone list you all should have received by now (on the bright pink paper or emailed). Then again, the Editor is going to win the raffle, so don't bother!

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 03 December and the following items were discussed:-

- The Department of Conservation sign has been erected at the entrance to the ford and a concrete pad laid. Thanks to Peter F, Arnold and Jim.
- The Residents Committee has taken over running the 3-4 Country & Western events held each year in the Hall. Good fundraiser. Next meet is March 2009
- Further research required into the benefits of having a defibrillator for the village.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be Wednesday 04 February 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – steady flow of campers

Community Hall – if you hire the hall for private functions, ensure it is left clean and tidy and wet mopped afterwards

Fire Station – still looking for volunteers

Ford – crossing has been made and access much easier. Thanks to our digger operator and his helpers

Forest – beginning to dry up again, so the fire risk increases.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 20 December, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Newsletter Notices

- Congratulations to Ian and Kelly on their wedding. Thought they could keep it quite, but one resident was seen announcing it to the world with her sign and balloons on their new fence.
- The Editor would like to thank her newsletter deliverers for each month, braving all elements, to get these newsletters out to you. Many thanks Eddy and Joy.
- The Xmas church service will be held in the Hall at 10.00am on Xmas Day. All welcome to attend.
- The Xmas Pot Luck will incorporate the White Bait Awards, so come along for a night of laughs. Wear something Xmassie (decorations or tinsel) and get into the spirit of things.
- New Years Eve will commence from 7.30pm at the Hall. BYO and a plate for supper. Music provided and karaoke available.
- As Xmas and New Year approaches, this is the time to be very careful around the village with open fires, BBQ's or fireworks as it is getting quite dry now. Bonfires are not permitted anywhere. If unsure, contact Fire Controller Stephen McKnight on 3273 949.
- 48 Wainui Street is available for rent if any one is wanting a place over summer or longer. Email Diana on beach.bach@yahoo.co.nz.

This next piece (in case you missed it) was the speech that Trevor Jurgens gave about communities at the blessing of the boat when it was "launched" at the playground recently:-

What makes "Community" community

Talk community and we think of important words like friendship, recreation, like loyalty, security and hospitality.

The people gone before us from this community valued the very same things that you and I value. They were mentors to us and especially our children. The role has changed for a lot of us – now it's us as members of this amazing community who must be mindful of our elderly, young people, new parents and their children.

Being community will require of us all a commitment of our time, talents and it may require of us real sacrifices for our neighbours, but most of all being community requires stickability even when sometimes things may not go as we would like.

The key – Community works together to achieve the aims all have agreed on.

Village Tit Bits – not a lot has been volunteered this month – come on folks give me a hand here...

- Heard that the couple who left us to go and work in Fiji are complaining that it is too hot over there. Can't have their cake and eat it too can they?
- What about the keen fisherman that after being tipped out of his boat wasn't so keen to go fishing that day? He was going out over the sand bar, had his motor slightly tilted, but didn't have enough revs so when he hit the bar, the boat reared up and tipped him out the back. He had to chase all his gear, got soaked and the only thing that got hurt was his pride.
- One resident's hot water cylinder has just clapped out on her (just what you need before Xmas) so she is having to cadge off the neighbours for her ablutions etc. She has her eye on using the Taihape's couple new shower they just installed – just got to work out how to get into their house now...
- The White Baiters Club attendance at the meetings over the past few months has been zilch! All too busy white baiting maybe? Attendance is bound to pick up again now that the season has finished.
- Which brings up the next question? What do white baiters do now that the season has ended? Asked the question of one avid white baiter and the first response was that they cry, then they went on to say that their garden was pleased so that it could get some TLC, life could be taken stock off, the long line gets the cobwebs wet and the nets are repaired ready for next season. Then they went on to say – only many sleeps until the next season starts. They have got the bug really bad.
- Did anyone try out the new service in town. Just at the entrance to the village, one house was offering back rubs for only \$10. Contact Ewen if you are interested. So cheap because he couldn't get any takers for his price of \$100 for full body massages.
- It has been proven that the neighbourhood support network does work. One resident was driving down Beach Road when they met a police car with 2 officers heading towards the village. Then came a dog handler heading in the same direction. Strange they thought, trouble at the Beach? They got out to the main road and just before the top of the Ratana Hill at Reynolds Road, there was a Traffic Officer sitting there – not a usual spot for him. Then when heading on towards Wanganui they met a police car with its lights flashing racing towards the direction of Turakina. The immediate thought was that it must be heading to the

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beach as well. The resident then had the dilemma of whether they continue on with their shopping in Wanganui or turn around and go back home to see what the trouble was. Common sense prevailed, so instead they rung someone in the Village to let them know that something was amiss. We were so efficient that we (well, not quite but more or less) met the police as they arrived. Turns out they were looking for someone who had stated that he was coming out to the beach to shoot himself. So the police, armed with their guns, checked out the village (bit like you see in the movies!). Nothing (or nobody) found, but am sure they were impressed with our networking system in place.

- This next story may take a while, but if you sit back and envisage the event, it makes for a good laugh. Two female residents were tidying up the section and had the use of the neighbour's trailer to dispose of the rubbish etc. It was just a small trailer that didn't show up in the side mirrors of the truck towing it. The girls loaded up the trailer, put it on the truck, loaded the kid, called the dogs and away they went to the "unofficial" green waste dump. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way there, **X** looks out the window and asks if the puppy was there. **Z** replies yes he is but the trailer isn't. Looked back across the domain and there it was, sitting just outside the back gate. Fits of laughter and tears from **X** & **Z**. Poor kid was wondering what on earth was going on. Back they go to get the trailer, pop it on the tow ball and away they went. Got to the dump and was about to back the trailer up to unload it when low and behold, it wasn't there! More laughs. Went to search for it and this time found it at the beginning of the track off the domain. Stupid tow ball. Reattached it and off they went yet again. Got to the dump and went to back the truck up, only to again find that they had lost the ruddy thing again! What a hoot – what useless females – can't even tow a blooming trailer.

Back again and they found it just at the foot of the rise into the dump. The pair were really in hysterics now and the kid was well into the swing of things by then – this was fun. They tried to pull it up over the rise for the last 20 meters, but were too exhausted by all the laughing. Got the truck, attached the trailer and this time they were successful - they had made it to the dump at last.

Moral of the story – if you haven't got a man around to get rid of your rubbish, make sure you work out how to attach the trailer using the split

pin to prevent the pin that locks the bar from falling out. Bet you didn't get a photo of that Eddy!!!

If anyone has a funny story to share in the newsletter, please feel free to contact the editor.



Merry Xmas to you all

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Please turn over for a notice on the coming events.

If you receive this by email, see other attachment.

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