

Koitiata Matters

A large flock of Canada geese is captured in flight against a pale blue sky with wispy clouds. The birds are scattered across the upper two-thirds of the frame, some in pairs and others in small groups. Below them, a dense line of green trees and shrubs forms a natural backdrop. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky, with numerous geese swimming or resting on the surface.

Newsletters 5

2009 - 2011

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 5 2009 - 2011

2009	March	2010	June
2009	April	2010	August
2009	May	2010	October
2009	June	2010	December
2009	August	2011	February
2009	September	2011	April
2009	October	2011	May
2009	November	2011	July
2009	December	2011	September
2010	March	2011	November
2010	May	2011	December

Highlights:

June 2009 'Rates Rip-off' and the Sunday afternoon community Mayoral Roast Meeting.

April to Dec 2010 Proposal, beginning, frustrating always waiting middle bit, and the beginning of the end for the first Wi-Fi broadband internet service scheme.

May 2011 Some very interesting information about Tunnel Hill's tunnel.

Koitiata Matters

February-March 2009

This year so far has been pretty hectic and it was only because I was getting pressure from residents that I thought it was about time I got back into gear and produced another newsletter.

In February the village put on a surprise 85th birthday party for Joan Shadbolt and this was combined with Tom Dooney receiving his gold star for services to the fire service. Keeping the surprise was pretty hard to do, but it was achieved and the recipients were pleasantly surprised.

We have had a golden wedding, births, illness, a fire, good sized snappers, masters games, lots of visitors and an assortment of other celebrations. Never a dull moment out here. 31lbs was the biggest catch!!!

Lots of thanks to those people who pitched in and helped with the fire (before and after) and a special thanks to our local fire brigade. I know there were a lot of expert arm chair spectators that night, but without having these resources available in the village – imagine what the damage could have really been. Anyone who thinks they could have done better, join the local brigade and share your knowledge. A timely reminder that if you see or have a fire, ring 111 first and then set the alarm off at the fire station asap. Also, wearing open footwear and summer clothing is not a good idea when around fire. Think safety first.

A timely reminder to maybe have a look at what you are storing in your sheds. We tend to store our bits and pieces that we have no more use for but haven't gotten around to ditching in a shed e.g. the last thing that was still burning the other night was an old kapok mattress. These are so hard to extinguish because they just smolder and smolder. Dangerous!

Pot Luck Dinner – the next one is 07 March and then the April one will be 11 April (Easter).

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 11 February and 04 March and the following items were discussed:-

- Street toilet signs to be redone – RDC to do
- H. Doughty to tidy up the green waste area
- The RDC Long Term Community Plan will be out on 10 March. You will have to request a copy or call in and pick one up if you want to see what they have planned and then any submissions will have to be in by 09 April. Would pay to have a look as it may mean a rates increase to you.

- Ongoing lawn mowing issues around the Hall discussed. Current lawn mower on leave so will wait for his return.

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 01 April, 7pm.

Newsletter Notices

- Department of Conservation will be giving a talk on their proposed 10 year vision and how it will affect us and our district. All interested people are welcome to attend this on April 08 at 7.30pm at the Hall.
- Restricted fire season began as of 11 Feb until further notice. This means that permits are required for all fires in the open air. There are a few exceptions and these can be viewed on the notice board at the Hall.
- Wanted – your grass clippings. Not it isn't a joke! Any unwanted grass clippings can be dropped off at Ian and Kelly's place on 54 Wainui Street - go through the gate and at the two logs just to your right you can drop off your load there.
- For Sale – old double bed and base. Free to Good home. Phone Steve 3273 949
- For Sale – water pod trailer (holds up to 1000 litres of water, 2 ton axle, hubs & coupling, new 5 ply, heavy duty tyres. Ideal for topping up domestic water tanks in the dry season. \$1000. Contact Betty Thorn on 06-879 5441 or 0276 078331.
- Be wary of poor visibility due to the maize height when driving down Beach Road and especially at the bridge.
- A tentative date of 6-9 April has been set for the Army to carry out exercises here at the beach. They will be also using the Hall. More info to follow.
- Coming event – Country & Western on 29 April. Anyone willing to help the committee run this (and will get free entertainment) to contact Robyn on 3273 909.
- Remember that tell felling is due to commence April.

The White Bait Awards

The recipients of this years awards were:

White Bait Fever – Kevin Dais and Hog Doughty

Best Equipped White Baiter – Keith Gray

Best White Baiters Shack – Mike Byers

Most Accurate Record of White Bait Kept – Wilson Rutherford

Beaten by Nature – Jeanette Jurgens

Smallest Catch Story – Ewen Johnston

Medal for Bravery – Sharon Rutherford

Going Soft Medal – Gay Hammond

Most of these prizes related to stories printed in previous newsletters. But if you want to know more, ask the award winners themselves.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 07 March & 11 April., 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Early February the Koitiata Rural Fire celebrated one of their members receiving their Gold Star for 25 years with the Fire Service. Tom Dooney didn't know he was getting this award so it came as a complete surprise to him. To give you bit of a background to Tom, read on:-

Tom joined the Fire Service back in the early 1970's as a volunteer to the Palmerston North Fire Brigade. He worked full time as a coach builder, did a milk run at night times and was on call for any fires. During this time he was also training hard on the water as Tom was a competitor in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games in the pairs K2000 canoe race – this was the first time New Zealand had ever entered a canoe team. They were placed 5th in their race.

In 1986 he left Palmerston North to set up home in Koitiata, building his own home (23 years on and he is still not finished says his wife) before joining the Koitiata Volunteer Rural Fire Force in 1989. Bill Wills was the Fire Chief back then and the brigade had around 15 members. They covered the area from Whangaehu down to Scotts Ferry from the main road back towards the coast.

One large fire that the crew got called out to was a bach fire at Whangaehu. The brigade loaded all their gear, pumps etc onto their farm bikes and trailers, crossed the river (it was at low tide) and raced down the beach from this end to the fire all dressed in their gear and helmets.

The only truck they had back then was a single cab one, so if you didn't get the drivers job or were the Fire Chief, then you had to ride up on top exposed to all elements. Hence Tom began to take his van loaded with the crew to the fires so they didn't have to freeze up on the truck.

Tom was once the youngest of the fire crew and now he is the oldest. Coming up to his 70th birthday in August, he states that he has no intention of retiring. He is a valuable member of the Koitiata fire team. He always turns up for practice, has many years experience to pass onto the younger members and can be relied upon to be one of the first responders to the call outs. He was one of the main personnel responsible for building the new fire shed and his skills and knowledge has been called upon many times to facilitate repairs to the gear.

So for his dedication and commitment to his community and the Fire Service, Tom is a worthy recipient of the Gold Star for his 25 years service.

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

- **Heard that the Butcher bought his wife a new computer. Got the neighbour over to install it and then to give him a bit of a run down on how to use it. Neighbour showed him how to "surf the net" and all those exciting sites including Trade Me etc and we have since heard that the wife is still waiting to have a go on her computer as the Butcher is now well and truly hooked!**
- **Someone here has a great sense of humour. A sign was erected at the pot hole along Beach Road just down from the church, stating "Welcome to the pot hole. Inspected weekly for safety. Signed Rangitikei District Council". Was only up for one week as the Deputy Mayor who was out for the surprise party presentations saw it and got the Council to fix it the very next week. Thanks Mike for bringing it to their attention.**

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

With the kind permission of Peter Hawes I am reproducing his article that appeared in the Manawatu Evening Standard recently. It is well worth the read though some of you may have already read it because Joan gave you a copy. The article is all about Koitiata and its residents...

The mystery of the wheelbarrow

Joan Shadbolt of Turakina Beach was 85 recently and there was to be a surprise birthday party in combination with the monthly potluck dinner.

Never, since the run-up to D Day, has so much effort gone into maintaining secrecy. Even in the privacy of your own home – the plotters would inform me of the developments in urgent whispers.

Near misses proliferated – for example, the monthly newsletter which was to be disseminated to every household except Joan's informing of the festivities and emblazoned with a banner headline urging total secrecy, was spotted by the potential party girl as it was being delivered in a street in which Joan was not expected to be. She had burst in upon an unsuspecting neighbour like a gentle Gestapo, with raffles to sell or news of a fresh supply of cow manure on Major's farm, or some such important thing. And from the window she had espied the covert newsletter-drop.

"Ah, the newsletter's arrived," she said. Yet on her return home there was no such bulletin in her mailbox.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 07 March & 11 April., 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

She immediately rang the editor, who, having been forewarned by locals almost as attentive to village events as Joan, placated her with fibs about it being an information pamphlet pertaining to events at "that end of town" and not the official newsletter at all. Knowing Joan would demand to read said pamphlet, such a one was devised and printed off.

All this effort and more was pumped into the mission to keep Joan ignorant of the party. It is fair to say there were those on the point of weeping with nervous tension as party-time approached. Another few days of the pressure and there could have been suicides.

But it somehow worked. The omniscient Joan ("You were home late." "Yes must have been one-thirty." "No, two-thirty.") arrived at the do unaware she was the guest of honour. President Jim made the speech and told some good stories about her. The one I liked concerned Jim coming across a wheelbarrow at least a kilometer into the forest, filled with pine cones. And no one to be seen. A mystery – which was subsequently solved when Joan pattered past his house pushing the barrow. It seems she had filled it, then feeling the need for a strengthener before the long haul, had popped home for a cup of tea. However, it was a splendid area for pine cones and she had filled a couple of sacks to take home with her.

She has that endurance, the product of physical work, characteristic of those Uzbekistanis who live to be 123-plus. So, as I see her ploughing past my window with her barrow laden with weeds, heading for the distant green-dump on the other side of the domain, I don't rush out to offer assistance. How could I? Who am I to shorten the life of a prodigious old woman?

The evening was also to celebrate the gold star presented to Tom for 25 years of service to the Turakina Fire Brigade.

It was bestowed by the deputy major, during whose speech Tom stooped in such humility he seemed rather like a fellow receiving sentence in the dock than one of "Turakina's Finest".

The deputy mayor, who is rather new to the town, hit us with what amounted almost to a homily: "There is often more to the people around us than we ever know. We think we know someone then we find out something about them that surprises us. Did you know, for example, that Tom represented NZ at the 1972 Olympics in Munich?"

There is a pause, a sign and then a corporate done of: "Yes." Of course everyone at Turakina Beach knew that, and if they didn't, Joan would have told them.

It takes the deepest equanimity not to laugh out loud at some of the "everyday events" about which you hear.

Roy, for example, who dresses up in luminous clothing, earning headphones, general wiring and a staff with an aerial on top giving the impression, as he healthily walks down the road to the marae each day, of a fully operational pirate radio station, is currently finding his progress painful due to an accident that hurt his back. He tripped on one of his dogs because there are so many of them.

They are stout, flat-faced little things with a short tail that curls up then back, overall giving them the semblance of toby jugs which you pick up by the tail-handle and pour from the orifice under the tail. They trot out in convoy and now even Roy knows what the rest of us have always known; they're impossible to avoid.

Or the farmer who drowned in a cow. But I'll say no more about that; I have bigger plans for that event.

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

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

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 07 March & 11 April., 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

April 2009

Well Easter has come and gone as has daylight saving, so while it may be brighter in the mornings, it means that walk with the dog after work now has to be a quick one before it gets too dark. The weather has definitely changed and I know many of the residents have succumbed to the elements and lit their fires. No doubt there will be the usual frenzy of fire wood gathering happening on the beach soon. Some of us don't have the time (or the resources) so resort to having it delivered already cut to size and you just have to stack it in the shed. Things may change after retirement...

For those of you who don't live in the village, the Army was here for the week prior to Easter carrying out exercises utilizing the whole village and forest areas. They used the Hall and erected their tents behind it. They even erected a massive satellite dish up beside the fire station. Big booms and rat-a-tat-tat noises were prevalent throughout the day. It was a good thing that they were only training as on one of the days the whole "war" came to a standstill while all the soldiers were detailed with finding the Lieutenant's hand gun that she had dropped. Good thing it wasn't a real war as you can just imagine it – all firing at the war zone ceases and everyone crawls around on their hands and knees looking for a missing gun! Oops, found it – you can continue with the war now. However, they were a nice friendly lot – always ready with a big smile and a wave.

Pot Luck Dinner – one was held over Easter with 35 people attending and even some of the new owners came along to join in. Welcome to you and hope that you enjoyed it enough to come back next month on 02 May. The raffle winners were: Kim Jurgens 1st, Robin Mant 2nd, and Sam Tremaine 3rd. Thanks to Barbara and Terry who provided free Frosty Boy ice creams on the night. One person even managed three all by herself.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 01 April and the following items were discussed:-

- You have until the 20 April to put in any submissions to the RDC Long Term Community Plan. Seems incredible that our rates will increase.

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 06 May, 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – quite busy

Community Hall – available for hire

Fire Station – membership now at 10

Ford – either wet shoes or cold bare feet needed to cross it now. Lagoon has plenty of water which suits all the various fowl who fly in to visit Forest – Ernslaw have advised that logging will continue in the Santoft Forest adjacent to the village for about 6 months. It is closed to the public between 8am and 5pm Monday - Friday. Care is also needed outside these times.

Newsletter Notices

- For Sale – brand new ladies push bike and helmet. \$150 – contact Jaime 3273 830
- For Sale – nearly new blue iPod player \$300, plus charger \$50. Text Elana on 0276 000377
- People using our unofficial green waste area are asked that they only use it for their green waste. Someone has been dumping sand, old wood and even concrete there. This is not what this designated area was intended for.

A message from the owners of the garage fire the other month:-

We would like to take the opportunity this month to say a very big thank you to everyone who assisted us in any way what-so-ever when our garage and shed burned down at the end of February. There is clearly nothing quite like the support of a small community and we are immensely grateful for everyone's concern and offers of help. To Jeanette Jurgens who provided us with beds for the night (not that we did a lot of sleeping) and meals the next day, and to the wonderful volunteer fire brigade, along with everyone who pitched in (we don't know who you all are), our heartfelt thanks. We lost our sheds and a number of prized beach possessions (including our landy which was a bit of an icon around the place!), but we were so very lucky that no one was hurt and that our Bach was spared from all except a little superficial damage.

As Jackie has so rightly pointed out, now would be a good time to check what you are storing in out-buildings as it's so easy to stuff them full of anything and everything that doesn't fit inside the house. In particular we would urge you to get rid of any multi-boxes that don't have auto turn-off function when overloaded or overheated as we are pretty sure that this is what caused our fire.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 02 May, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

We hope to have our new shed up in the not too distant future. Then the fun of filling it will begin!

Kind regards

Claire Hinton, William Hurley and Georgia

Village Tit Bits – once again, not too much has been forthcoming...

- One resident has earned herself a new nick name – 30cm short-of-a-curtain. It seems that when she took the measurements for her new roman blind, she wrote down the wrong number. Collected the said item from the curtain maker and when hubby was trying to hang it, he couldn't quite work out where he was meant to position the blind. To the left with a large gap at the right, or in the middle with gaps both sides? Hmm, was this a new style of blind? Turns out it should have been 280cm wide and not 250cm!
- Heard that one resident was just about to lift a pan of hot fat off the stove when one of Army's big booms was let off outside her house. (The exercises always seemed to start at the end of that road.) Well, the fat ended up the walls, over the floor and herself included. She was not "gay" anymore, far from it. When rung to see if she was still alive, she feigned a heart attack due to the fright she had received.
- The neighbour's cat who had just moved to reside permanently into the village with her owners that week also got a massive fright and it took a long time to coax it back out from deep underneath the house. Lucky she didn't end up back in Taihape!
- When a local bought his new 4 wheeled motor bike, the rule was that no teenager was to ride it because of what they did to his last one. Well Dad took Mum for a Sunday drive down the beach the other day complete with the two dogs in the trailer behind. He went along the beach until Turning In Creek and then planned to follow that track back to the village. Went through the first puddle okay but when he struck the second puddle it was deeper than first looked and they became waist high in muddy water. Lucky for them the bike just made it through but the dogs had to do a bit of dog paddle before the trailer emptied itself of the water. Dad later on discovered the track to the side of the puddle that other, wiser drivers use.
- Same Dad was checking out the daughter's new car and looked under the bonnet (as men seem to do). Went to close it like he does with his Falcon only to remember that this one has a

bonnet strut holding it up and he hadn't unhooked it, but with the good pull he had used, it ended up costing him \$400 for the panel and paint to fix the big dent in the bonnet. Highly embarrassed.

- Resident whose wife is still off fruit picking is contemplating applying for a Living Alone Allowance. Do not worry Ewen, the fruit season must be coming to an end soon.

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

Tips from the Fire Service

In a fire emergency most people believe they will have enough time to save; family pets, jewelry and valuables, cheque books, credit cards, photographs, photo albums, furniture, important documents, clothes and irreplaceable items of personal value.

You only have time to save yourself.

Fireplace and Chimney Winter Safety Tips

- **Sweep chimneys and flues at least once a year**
- **Always use a fire-guard or spark-guard with open fires**
- **Ashes can take up to five days to cool-empty fire [place ashes and ashtrays into a metal bin to get cold before disposal]**
- **Stub out all cigarettes in an appropriate solid ashtray and never smoke in bed**

Electric Blanket Winter Fire Safety Tips

- **Have your electric blankets checked annually by a competent service person or registered electrician**
- **Turn electric blankets off before getting into bed**
- **Do a night fire check before going to bed**

Emergency Fire Sirens

1 long siren = Fire crew only call out

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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 next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 02 May, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

May 2009

Well duck shooting season started with a bang – excuse the pun! I feel sorry for all the large amount of fowl that have congregated on the now extended lagoon. One minute they are happy roosting on the water and the next minute they are up in the air looking for somewhere safe to land after being blasted from their quiet habitats by our avid hunters. 6.30am wake up calls at the weekend by these guys. Good thing I am already awake, but I know some of my neighbours are trying to keep to their usual 9.30am sleep in time! Things have changed a lot out here at the moment; houses are selling, the forest is disappearing and due to the large volume of water in the lagoon, beach access via the ford is non-existent. The white baiters must be starting to panic a bit, hoping for some dry weather so it can drain out and dry up to allow them easy access to the river mouth.

Pot Luck Dinner held 02 May – a fairly low key evening, but lots of nice things to share for the dinner. The raffle winners were: 1st J. Sheehy and 2nd Greenhorne (Yes Jill, I know I owe you \$5...). The next Pot Luck will be held on 06 June @ 5.30pm

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

- Resolution to support the local petition for the proposed increased in rates
- Agreed to pay a contractor to keep the green waste area tidy – those dumping concrete etc in this area are asked to desist from same.
- A meeting has been requested with the Mayor and RDC over the proposed rates increase.

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 June, 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – So busy one weekend in May that they had to turn people away!

Community Hall – Steady bookings

Fire Station – only 1 call out all summer

Ford – forget even trying to cross this, it is very tidal at the moment!

Forest – logging continues. Surveyors have been seen in the vicinity mapping out something for the local iwi for when they “take over” the cleared land.

Newsletter Notices

- For those of you interested in having a go at indoor bowling, be at the Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm (until further notice).
- If you like Country Music, go to the Hall on 31 May for an afternoon of entertainment. \$2.00 entry fee.
- ***Celebrating Claire Atkins' 95th birthday***
*Those of you who know our Mum, Claire (formerly of 36 Wainui St), are warmly invited to celebrate her birthday. We're having lunch in the hall on **Sunday 24th May** at 12.30pm. No presents please, but we're asking all those who come to bring a plate of something savoury. Please ring us on 04 389 9856 or email Kath at kath@boswellconsulting.co.nz if you are able to come to the celebration. Kath and Colin Boswell*
- Condolences to those of you who have lost family/friends in the past month. We are thinking of you in these hard times.
- If you have received a notice from Genesis Energy notifying you of a change in your electricity prices, you may have noticed that on your statement it said your street address, ... Ratana. One resident lately had an electrical problem and rung Genesis to come out and fix the problem. After hours of waiting, he rung back to see where they were only to be informed that the electrician spent ¾ hour searching around for .. Wainui Street, Ratana and when he couldn't find it, he went home. It is encouraged that **you** all ring Genesis and insist that your billing instructions read ... Street, Koitiata. Phone 0800-531212.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 06 June, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

- Welcome to those of you who have recently bought out here and trust you will get as much enjoyment out of your new place as we do living here.

Village Tit Bits – once again, not too much has been forthcoming...

- We have one “sublimely daft” beach person who is temporarily living in Wellington to complete her thesis and is going to contribute a monthly update of what she has been up to - thanks Liz the village has been very quiet without you...:-

Have not been to beach for longest time. Believe chooks have moved in... They might as well! Have had bad run here in Wellington lately. Jammed my bathroom door and couldn't get in, but clever Lizzy knows the bathroom window open!! So took ladder to back stairs, built a level platform with books (that idea would return to haunt me!), climbed to third rung, secured left arm over window sill, and books gave way taking ladder with them! I'm left hanging staring down very steep staircase to concrete below, with my not inconsiderable weight hanging loose, secured by the strength of one arm! Ultimately a very badly bruised arm and with a heavily bruised leg to match. Survived by swinging precariously toward drainpipe and lowering self on to step from it! Rang Peter who said "Lizzie, did you give the door a kick?" I later did and the goddam thing opened!! Friday of Anzac weekend, had two tyres slashed, so that stuffed coming home. Changed worst one and had to keep pumping the other. Decided to go to Briscoe's sale since I was in Wellington. While walking to shop entrance was hit by a car! Still have very sore foot where the back tyre ran over it! Monday, having paid for two new tyres, thought would check bank balance in ATM machine! Amazed there was still some cash so ordered \$20 from machine which then ate my card and wouldn't give me money! That required paying for new card because I'm with Kiwibank

and machine was National Bank! Next weekend, had wing mirror ripped off driver's side, which also meant not coming home. Mirror hanging on wires and wasn't sure what else the wires were for so didn't want to cut them off. WOF due on car and can't get a wing mirror which I need to pass WOF. Just waiting now for parking Nazis to do me for no warrant!

So, go on, tell me about your week!!

- Thanks Liz, look forward to hearing from you next month!...
- A note from a reader who was subject to last month's Tit Bit column... *It has been brought to our attention that recently four of our articles have been published in your newspaper. We wish to ensure that all royalties are paid. And any outstanding or future royalties can be paid to our Painter/panel beater or curtain maker. This would be much appreciated. Yours insincerely, Mr and Mrs D A Smith (aka The Butcher and 30cm Short of a Curtain).* It has been decided that this couple will receive a monthly complimentary copy of Koitiata Matters for their contribution to the newsletter.
- Remember when you are fixing your car that you leave it in park or out of gear. One resident recently had his vehicle drive off with him underneath while he was fixing it only to end up with a big gaping hole in his fairly new garage and it was only thanks to the neighbour's fence that stopped the car from traveling any further!
- One resident had a birthday coming up so the lovely wife decided that she would surprise him and get a Seahorse (long line) as his present. Had all but bought it when hubby came home and declared to wife that he had gone and bought himself a long line for his birthday. Luckily the wife hadn't finalised the details and saved herself lots of \$\$\$. Hubby obviously ended up with no pressie from the wife – if only he had waited...
- Anyway, the editor hears that the kontiki has since paid for itself twofold with the

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amount of snapper caught on it so far!
Their neighbour is very jealous and
saving hard out for his own!

- For those of you who were present when Jim Mant gave his speech prior to Joan Shadbolt receiving her 85th birthday presentation, he announced to all that he had inadvertently used his TV remote to try and dial out thinking it was the telephone. Well his lovely wife reports that the other night, Jim was trying to dial the phone again only to realise that he had the TV remote in his hand! Don't you ever learn Jim???

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

Tips from Civil Defence

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Many disasters will affect essential services and possibly disrupt your ability to travel or communicate with each other. Get your family together and agree on a plan. You should work out:

- Where to shelter in an earthquake, flood or storm
- How and where you will meet up during and after a disaster
- The best place to store Emergency Survival items and know who is responsible for checking essential items
- Where each person's Getaway kit will be
- How to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home or business
- How to contact your local civil defence organization during an emergency

You can download your family plan from the website getthru.govt.nz.

Know what your local Civil Defence warning system is and find out the location of Civil Defence or Community Emergency Centre. It is also useful to learn First Aid, how to deal with small fires and how to evacuate your house in event of fire.

PLAN TO RECOVER AFTER A DISASTER

Make sure your insurance cover is adequate and up to date and that important documents can easily be gathered if you have to evacuate. In most emergencies you should be able to stay at home or at your workplace. In this situation, you may have to rely on your Emergency Survival Kit. This kit should include;

EMERGENCY ITEMS

- Torch with spare batteries
- Radio with spare batteries (check the batteries every three months)
- A change of clothes for all family members (wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, and strong outdoor shoes)
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Pet supplies
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and large rubbish bags for your emergency toilet
- Face and dust masks

FOOD AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS

- Non perishable food (canned or dried food)
- Bottled water (at least 3 litre per person, per day for drinking)
- Plan how to get water for washing and cooking (check your hot water cylinder, pond, toilet cistern if it is free of chemicals)
- A primus or barbeque to cook on
- A can opener
- Check and replace food and water every twelve months

SUPPLIES FOR BABIES AND SMALL CHILDREN

- Food, formula and drink
- Change of clothing and nappies
- Toys or favourite activity

Place your emergency kit somewhere that is easy to get to in an emergency and make sure everyone knows where it is kept. If you keep some of your Emergency Kit items in the house for everyday use, make sure you know where to find them quickly when an emergency occurs.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 06 June, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

A FEW TIPS FROM THE FIRE SERVICE

The Fire Service recommends that you install a combination of fire safety systems in your home. A sprinkler system and smoke alarms will provide the highest level of protection if a fire occurs.

- Smoke alarms detect fire, give early warning and save lives
- Sprinkler systems stop the spread of fire and save valuable property
- Home escape plans ensure a quick and efficient evacuation of a house

COOKING

A lack of care when cooking causes many winter house fires. Always watch the pan or pot when you are cooking and never leave cooking unattended. Late night cook ups after a night of drinking also causes fires and fire fatalities- usually because a person has fallen asleep while cooking.

Most fire victims die from inhaling smoke and toxic fumes not being burned.

Don't cook when you have been drinking because alcohol and cooking do not mix. Drinkers should buy takeaways on their way home after a night out or prepare food in advance.

REMEMBER

- Work out an escape plan to suit your home
- Practice your escape plan every six months
- Have working smoke alarms
- Know two ways out of every room
- Make sure that doors/windows needed for escaping are clear
- Make sure there is a safe way to reach the ground
- Have an outside meeting place e.g. the letterbox
- Make special plans for the young and elderly
- Once outside, stay out, never go back inside
- Phone the Fire Service from a safe phone

Never, never underestimate the speed of fire. Get out, call the Fire Service and whatever you do, stay out.

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 a continuous long siren is heard, that means that an emergency has occurred in the Village and that the siren has been left on. All residents are to report to the fire shed for further instruction.

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

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 06 June, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

June 2009

Winter has well and truly settled in now and the wood piles are getting a bit of a pounding. There are also plenty of people taking advantage of all the surplus logs etc in the forest for next year's fires. The lagoon is full of water and there is only one beach access now.

Close to 80 people turned out to hear our Mayor talk to us about the proposed 31% rates increase. A good response, but I can't help but remember two statements – "bad luck" and "it's too late". There is a summary of what took place at the meeting further in this newsletter and the Peter Hawes article he wrote on the same subject. Makes for some interesting reading as long as you have a dictionary beside you as you read it!

Pot Luck Dinner held 06 June and 34 people brave the elements of our winter to join others for a yarn and a shared dinner. The raffle winners were Joyce Smith and Annette Jurgens. The next Pot Luck will be held on 04 July @ 5.30pm

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

- The stove elements have been repaired and toilet signs done.
- AGM set down for July 05 at 2pm in the Hall. All welcome to attend and new committee members are eagerly sought after.
- Committee to re-look at purchasing 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 the AGM on 07 July, 2pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – steady still

Community Hall – Booking through Wes Greenhorn on 3273 934

Fire Station – Quiet this time of year

Ford – Maximum water levels at the moment

Forest – Logging continues and caution advised when in there.

Newsletter Notices

- Claire Atkins' 95th birthday - Family and friends helped former Koitiata resident, Claire, celebrate her birthday on 24 May. 60 guests attended lunch, including daughter Rose from Shell Harbour, Australia, granddaughter Anny from London, and 9 of Claire's 16 great grandchildren. Grandson Chris made the cake and granddaughter Sarah decorated it with fresh orchids. Claire has been connected with "the beach" since she and her late husband, Norman, bought 36 Wainui St in 1977. A number of the pohutukawa in the play area were given to her by the community for her 80th birthday. Thank you to those who sent birthday wishes to Mum. We'd also like to thank the community for the use of the hall: Claire has celebrated her 80th, 90th and now 95th birthdays there.
- Thanks to Jim for removing our "speed bumps" down the track (all the exposed roots).
- For anyone interested, there is a Department of Statistics web site where it gives all the publicly available details for Koitiata from the last 2006 census <http://www.stats.govt.nz/census/census-outputs/quickstats/default.htm> and then follow the links.
- We are looking for a house to rent over the Xmas period from the 20th December for about 2 weeks. If anyone has something please email Nigel Paranihi at nig.debs@clear.net.nz or ph 021 427099
- Some good news from a far. NZ Post has reconsidered their decision to terminate postal services at Turakina.

Village Tit Bits – once again, not too much has been forthcoming...

- **We have has one reply in regards to last months update from Liz down in Wellington as follows:** *Couldn't help but think that Liz's escapades would make a great play for Peter.*

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

But what outrageous things one thinks up as an excuse for not coming home! I have visions that the bruises were probably caused from swinging from someone's chandeliers. The wife or (if she is really lucky) wives, have found out - thus the slashed tyres, the wing mirror and the nearly getting run over - it usually is toes first and knees next!

As for the money problems, she's got to charge more than \$2. Can't wait for the next episode.

- **Liz's reply is as follows:**

Letter from Wellington

First, to Eddy, the unidentified Rapaki Street dweller, who passed on my Wellington news to the esteemed editor of our Village Newsletter: You have started more than a rumour my friend! You have given me a whole new identity!! I believe anonymous notes have appeared in our editor's mail box, notes prompted by the publication of one innocent week in Wellington, but fuelled by fertile fantasies which could only emanate from a ruminating retiree! The prospect that I might have incurred my injuries not from climbing in my own bathroom window but rather from 'chandelier swinging' – a game designed for the entertainment of MPs, where topless, mini skirted, stilettoed participants are paid by appointment to 'Positions on Boards' and guaranteed 'advisory jobs' – did initially surprise me! But in the true tradition of parliamentary protocol, I can neither confirm nor deny the veracity of my seemingly (or unseemly) liberated behaviour! I can confirm however, that my tyres were definitely not slashed by the jealous Mrs Dr Worth. She was already fully occupied with a demanding schedule of 'avenging activities' that week!

Meanwhile, I am told that major riots are imminent. 'Civil disobedience brewing in Koitiata' is the word on the street here in Wellington! Journalists are lining up to get the scoop on the defiant villagers who from all accounts 'are standing united' against Mayor Chalky (renamed Flakey by the villagers) and his proposal to increase rates by 31%. Apparently it is the first time in the Rangitikei's history that an entire

community has collectively refused to pay their rates!

I also hear Peter Fraser and Eddy Mason have drawn the attention of the PM. Mr Key was heard saying the other day that 'he could do with some logical minds like Peter's and Eddy's in Bill's Office right now', but before inviting them to take up positions as Bill's financial advisors, he was checking out whether his advisory staff numbers already exceeded the total number of MPs, which is a benchmark he won't exceed, at least for the first term. All good wishes from The not-all- that-distant villager

- **The white baiters are busy getting their nets ready for the white baiting season. One even has her lounge full of her new nets so she can just sit and look at them and dream of big catches. She is now getting a new hut built on the river bank so she has somewhere to spend her hours waiting for tides etc. What a fanatic! Mind you, she always remembers the editor and ensures that she gets a taste of the delicacy.**
- **One of our new full time residents has turned all domestic and decided to make some buttermilk bread. Has to seek advice on how to and then borrow some scales, only to find that all they were good for was chucking them at the seagulls. Anyone wanting lessons on how to make low flying bread, ring Annette.**
- **Not sure what part of "Danger – Road Closed" that people don't understand. Someone recently was looking for the beach and decided to venture down the old beach road, ignoring the warning signs, only to become stuck on the last big puddle. Thankfully a kind resident with a tractor and after a lot of hassles managed to free him and I am sure let the driver know where the access to the beach is.**
- **One resident visited their neighbour the other day only to find they had fallen off their ladder and was lying on the floor unconscious. Six stitches later, all he**

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

was worried about was the incident getting into the newsletter. Not sure if he did want it to get in or he didn't, but decided to let you all know anyway. Oops a Daisy!

- **Last month's newsletter reminded you of making sure your vehicles are in park when not in use. One local who has a red Toyota Surf got out of his vehicle to check where his dogs were only to have it move away from him and it meant a quick dash to jump in before it left him behind. No-one gets away with anything out here...**

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

The Koitiata Rates Rip-off, from Eddy Mason

First, thanks Koitiata for the great turnout and your support at the Rates Meeting on Sunday afternoon!

The meeting was the third step of our campaign, following on from the submissions made to the RDC plan, and then the very well supported petition. All of the activities have been aimed towards ensuring that RDC is left in no doubt that we are seriously concerned at our treatment via their planned 31% rates increase.

Addressing our concerns at a community meeting in Koitiata was requested in our letter to the Mayor with the petition, and Mayor Chalky Leary agreed!

But that was only half the story! Getting the community to turn out was the other half. Many would not have realised that it was going to be the size of our community's turnout that would determine the success or failure of this element of our campaign.

The meeting was an achievement for Koitiata because we set the stage, and then we collectively arose and confronted the mayor and Koitiata village won this engagement because nobody from RDC would now have any doubts about our community's concerns!

I won't go on about the what's and wherefores of the meeting's content; suffice to say that what we saw and heard from the Mayor is all that we were going to get. There never was going to be anything else!

The meeting itself has been reported by our village scribe, Peter Hawes, in his Manawatu Standard column of Tuesday 9th June. The report is in Peter's usual humorous, insightful and eloquent style, and with his kind permission has been reprinted in this issue of Koitiata Matters.

Some may query the use of humour on such a serious issue; but for those who sat through Mayor Chalky Leary's patronising attempts to convince 'the unenlightened beach dwellers' to accept that "it is just bad luck that our rates are increasing by 31%", the conclusion is that humour and ridicule are the most pertinent vehicle for any subsequent response!

So what's our next step in this campaign? In spite of all the rumours, and wishful thinking, and suggested candidates, we won't be having a human sacrifice on the beach to draw attention to our cause. But we will be keeping up the fight. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please contribute.

Thanks again for your support,
Eddy Mason
(06) 327 3676
eddym@xtra.co.nz

Eloquent display of righteous anger

By Peter Hawes

On a mission, the masses gather to get answers
Oh the majesty of a gathering of angry folk.

Granite faced, they trudge with wrathful purpose towards the Turakina Beach Community Hall-cum-fire station-cum-new toilet block (glazed with controversial one-way mirror glass: "You can see out, Hortense, but they can't see in." "Who can't?" "Men." "How do you know?" "Reg said when he put it in." "He's a man!")

In small narrow groups they tersely converse in gaps between parked 4X4s: "Council's already made up its mind. There's bugga all Chalky can offer." Or lean on the state-house inspired weatherboard architecture of the hall; or the mouldering noticeboard advertising a Heart-Foundation-free pot-luck dinner from yesteryear.

Mayor Chalky arrives. His surname is not White as it should be to earn the appellation, but the colour's right; chalky against his smart black suit. "Ashy" would probably be a more suitable moniker right now.

Inside the hall the audience bulges across spare seating and into alcoves and corners.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Mayor Chalky makes his way through the crowd, a Hallensteins' Moses amid waves of parting swandri's.

He sits, with Soraya, a councillor, on his right, Jeanette the secretary on his left. He gazes imperturbably at his audience, the imperturbability disguising his disdain beneath indifference, which disguises his perturbation.

President Jim arises - a fine man, incapable of seeing the interestingly negative sides of anyone's nature; a man with the manners, if not the chain-mail of Sir Galahad: "Mayor Chalky has kindly come here today..." Kindly? Sheesh. Mayor Chalky has been dragged here by the throat!

He has come here to forestall a riot; to explain to the retired burghers of Turakina Beach why their rates are about to rise 31 per cent.

Visualise those scenes in the Astrix comics wherein the entire village - pumped on mystery super-serum - charge out, wielding swords, clubs, wooden stools and teddy bears to lay waste to the surrounding Romanised civilisation of Gaul. Thus must Turakina Beach seem to the Rangitikei District Council, hunkered down in fair Marton.

To say Chalky has "kindly come here today" is to suggest the ancient Christians of Asterix's day used to accept, with joy, parchment invitations to "participate in a friendly free-for-all with lions at the Colosseum next circus day".

No, Mayor Chalky is here at the hall on sufferance, and for the shortest period possible; he has a subsequent appointment: ". . . er . . . airport daughter leaving for [I think he said Cuba] to which a crowd member riposted: "No wonder."

Jim, in his introduction does all a gentleman can do, then flees the battlefield.

Soraya rises and tells us what wonderful people and committed denizens we are. We fervently believe her every word because - let's face it - she's a damned attractive woman. We are, she opines "a unique community".

Mayor Chalky would sourly agree: We are as unique as was that community of Astrix, Oberlix, the little dog, the bard that always got gagged at the orgy on the final page, the wizard who made the five-ball punch and the chief who thundered into battle on his shield, portered by four perspiring Gauls.

And who, rasps Mayor Chalky, inwardly, needs that sort of bloody uniqueness!

Mayor Chalky then makes himself uprisen and explains to us at great length why our rate rise has set a record in the country, on the planet, in the solar system and probably the Milky Way. It's all a matter of what, in technical parlance, is known as

"bad luck". It seems Quotable Value had made valuation estimates based, last December, on dairy farmers getting \$7.90 a litre for their milk and a farm somewhere near Tangimoana selling for \$22 million. These were the benchmarks upon which valuation of local rates - my rates - were based.

"Nothing," he sighed in what he prayed was conclusion, "can be done."

Oh yes, alas for him, it could.

What rich sport. How gloriously like a Roger Hall play it was to watch ex-freezingworks manager Peter Fraser take to Mayor Chalky's moribund figures with a boning knife as sharp as his mind. And then to witness ex-engineer Eddy Mason wittily consigning the limp illogical carcass to the hogger.

Emboldened, other locals entered the fraying. Death by a thousand quips.

The dogs had all but de-pelted the council's statistical fox before gentleman Jim could decorously shield the reeling Mayor Chalky behind a cup of tea.

The system had been torn open by a gathering of earnest, outraged troubled folk to reveal its putrid guts - its stupidity, laziness, the bureaucratic intransigence it engenders, its defence from the shithouse cunning of professionalism behind the pusillanimous adhesion to form and forms ...

A triumph!

Yeah right.

The rates will go up 31 per cent.

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 a continuous long siren is heard, that means that an emergency has occurred in the Village and that the siren has been left on. All residents are to report to the fire shed for further instruction.

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 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

July/August 2009

Well, I don't know how the white baiters did it, but the lagoon, as a result of one particularly stormy night, has now all but drained away and has made the ford crossing accessible again. Maybe one of our white baiter's whose husband has connections from "high above" did some serious asking just to keep the wife happy? Anyway, access is now easy and there is plenty of foot and vehicle traffic taking advantage of being able to cross again. The sea is a marvelous thing and the beach changes from one week to the next. I have overheard many armchair experts predicting where the river is going to go next, but we shall just have to wait and see what Mother Nature decides to do.

This has now also opened it up to those who are part of the ardent log collectors group as I hear that this has now been rejuvenated and it is a race to see who can get the biggest and best logs first. Have heard of 5m and 8m logs being retrieved – but not without the aid of many hands and tractors. So anyone who wants to view these log collecting exercises, just look for the excess exhaust smoke on the beach as the poor tractors work overtime to haul these logs back.

Talking about logs, it is very strange looking towards the forest and seeing great gaps of sky. The forest has all but been felled and the whole area is empty of tall trees on the skyline. Wonder how that will affect the village when the next lot of winds comes from that direction now that the shelter had gone?

Some may have noticed, but then again you may not have as only two people mentioned it, but I didn't get round to putting out a newsletter last month. Just too busy, so this month may seem a bit lengthy, but I am just catching up.

The Pot Luck dinners still continue to be a popular venue for the first Saturday night of the month. Come along and try it. Next

dinner is on 05 September from 5.30pm. Bring along a meal to share and your own refreshments. We will provide the company, plenty of good food and some very nice people to meet and talk with.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee has recently discussed the following items:-

- The AGM saw the following residents elected to the committee –
Chairperson – Jim Mant
Secretary – Jeanette Jurgens
Treasurer – Eddy Mason
Committee – Wes Greenhorn, Jackie Sheehy, Hog Doughty & Keith Gray
Social Committee – Joy Mason, Annette George, Robyn Mant, Jill Doughty & Glenis Watson
Ford Committee – Peter Fraser, Arnold Nation, Steve McKnight & Hog Doughty
- A sign has been erected indicating where the green waste site is and arrangements made to get the waste compacted down.
- P. Smith volunteered to collect historical memorabilia to display at the hall.
- New Year's Eve celebrations discussed
- Date to be researched on exactly when the Village's 100 year anniversary is and once confirmed (between 1914 and 1918), a date to be set and planning to commence on celebrating this centenary.
- Contact made with the RDC over the condition of the roads (moss etc) and Roading Manager has since come out.
- Agreed to fundraise for a defibrillator for the community.
- Floor in the Hall to be painted and professional advice to be sought for same.

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 02 September, 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – only 4 in last month
Community Hall – bookings to hire through Wes on 3273 934

Fire Station – now have 11 members and are expecting their new trailer any day
Ford – accessible again

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 05 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Forest – Harvesting should be finished by early August. Firewood collection will be available after that. Permits are required if using a chainsaw in the area. Also Sambar deer hunting starts in August till December so people will need to be careful where they go when walking in the weekends.

Newsletter Notices

- Was it just a co-incidence, but when the school holidays were on in July, several village letter boxes were either tampered with or removed...? May have been fun for the ones doing it, but it wasn't fun for the victims.
- If anyone has any old souvenirs, memorabilia, photos etc that they would like to donate to be displayed in the hall, contact Peter Smith on 3273 883
- If anyone has any ideas on how the community can celebrate New Year's Eve, contact Robyn Mant 3273 909 or Joy Mason 3273 626
- Congratulations to those who have or are celebrating their birthdays especially if they have a big "0" at the end.
- Get well soon to those residents who have recently had or are about to have, big operations. One good thing about living here out in the fresh sea air, it is a great place to recoup.
- Apologies in the last newsletter I quoted one of the raffle winners as being Annette Jurgens. Trevor says that he now has one new hip and about to get the other done, so may as well have a new name for the wife as well. Jeanette states that she knew Trevor was recovering from his first operation when he could "cock his leg" again!
- White baiting season starts on the 15 August so watch for extra traffic on the beach.
- **URGENT - WANTED TO RENT:**
Wanting to rent a 2 or 3 bedroom house or beach batch in the Village. Preferable with garage but anything considered. Can pay rental \$100-\$150.00 per week negotiable. Please contact Vanessa Ph 327 3778 or 0274 800 218 or at 2 Wainui Street.

- There is a bit of a book exchange at the camping grounds if anyone wants to borrow, swap or contribute to.
- Free to a good home – double bed and mattress. Phone Veronica 3273 934.

Village Tit Bits – just a few bits and pieces...

- **Heard about the lady who while out with her mate shopping the other week had her Morris Minor break down. So this very self sufficient lady slid underneath the vehicle, removed the broken clutch thingee, took it to the garage to get fixed, then got back under the vehicle, fixed it up and Bob's your uncle - they then continued on their excursion.**
- **Don't be surprised if late at night you see some strange lights low to the ground moving along the road. Some of the local small pooches that go walking at nights have now got hi viz jackets!**
- **One enterprising person thought she had found a way to keep her dog safe when it was on heat. She got an old hat and cut holes in it for the back legs, then tied it up around the waist. Didn't mean anything to the local Romeo (dog) about town though, he soon found a way to get it off her (it is believed that the young promiscuous lady dog may have helped him...)**
- **It is heard that some of the local home brew is that potent at 72% proof that it has the potential to short circuit hearing aids, singe the eye brows and curl the hair. Beware if you are ever offered a drink from a bottle with a clear label that says "Nectar of the Gods".**
- **One resident who had his wife away fruit picking, had to bribe the neighbours with apples so that they would feel sorry for him and do some home baking for him. Apple pies, apple sponge, apple crumble, etc. Wife is back now, so guess we won't be seeing him walking around with his bag of apples anymore.**
- **On white baiter was taking her recently acquired vehicle to the garage to get a WOF the other day. Hadn't ventured out in it much since she had gotten the**

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thing and it showed when she traveled the whole 30 meters of her street in third gear wondering why she wasn't getting anywhere fast to then have the bonnet fly up. She went to get out to close it only to become all tangled up in the seat belt and was there hanging out the door, hoping like heck none of the neighbours were watching!

- Seems like we have a mini Mitre 10 in the village. So if you want to borrow any sort of tool or contraction, odds are that Tom has it in his workshop.

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

Healthy Hints

Thought it would be good to have a bit on healthy hints every now and then. Who knows, you may be able to chuck away all those pills and medication and rely on more real food. See what you think:

- Berries are rich in flavonoids and are thought to cut the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease by as much as half. And just half a cup a day of blueberries could prevent memory loss.
- Linseeds are the secret ingredient! Grind them, and add them to muffin recipes, cereal or blend them into a smoothie to treat constipation, depression, arthritis and other ailments.
- Pineapple, rich in bromelain, is surprisingly good at bringing down inflammation. (Take it in this form to combat arthritis pain).
- Apples are rich in antioxidants called flavonoids, and studies show that the more of these nutrients a person eats, the lower the likelihood of developing dementia.
- Eat 3 servings daily of low-fat-yogurt, and lose more waist weight – a vital step in curbing diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure.
- Order a spinach salad, rich in lutein, to help ward off macular degeneration – the key cause of blindness in the over 65 sect.
- Breathe easy, relieve asthma attacks with two daily cups of green tea. It contains an

anti-inflammatory flavonoid called quercetin – also found in apples and onions.

- Reduce annoying "I've got to go again" symptoms and help get an uninterrupted night's sleep with a daily dose of pumpkin seeds.
- Drink up – regular coffee drinkers are less likely to develop diabetes, Alzheimer's, severe depression and gallstones.

Musings from Liz Hawes in Wellington

Peter and the Coo-coo trains

Like all big cities, Welly has its eccentricities. For instance, there is a shooting range next to the Zoo! Not sure whether they target panthers, pumas or peccadillo, but you can clearly see the bullet holes in the zoo-facing target sheets, as you drive your excited kiddies towards... well... hopefully, the 'day of their life'. "Girl Power" hoardings stand proudly erect, alongside the neon-lit massage parlour sign. Yeah! Go get em girls! And in the suburbs we find a sushi restaurant called 'Fuk U' (imagine being the waitress 'good evening sir, welcome to ...!')

We like that, but there are odd moments we don't like. These include Peter's recent attempt at traveling to Palmy North on the Capital Connection – a train service much lauded by me. Dutifully, I saw Peter to the station; shocked that the train was not ready for boarding – well, accurately speaking, I was amazed that the train wasn't even in the station yet – we headed for one of the many very good coffee outlets. Numerous announcements repeated that the "Capital Connection" would be on time and a platform would be announced shortly. What no-one announced was that Welly's train system was under siege from some evil alien force, bent on an agenda of chaos! I know this because the train always left the same platform and if it was to be 'on time' then it now had less than a minute to arrive, board its passengers and exit the station.

I look at Peter, amidst the thronging mass of some 15,000 other stranded commuters, and thought, 'You know, for nearly two years I've caught this train and it has never failed to reliably deliver me to Palmy on time. Tonight,

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not only are Palmy bound passengers denied their ride home, every goddam train on the station is out of order, late or cancelled!' And I thought what is the factor making the difference here? And I looked at Peter again...!

Moving on, having farewelled Peter, albeit an hour later, and having waved his train off down the tracks, I returned to our little Thorndon pad for an early night. A bit of tidying up and a quick satellite call to 'single-sock planet' confirmed that Peter has indeed made six contributions since his arrival in Welly, and then it was time to relax a bit ... until the phone rang at 8.30pm. My daughter Susie – who has been appraised of the late departure of the Capital Connection and is meeting Peter at the Palmy station – is on the other end.

"Hi Mum", giggle, giggle, giggle.

"Hi Susie – ahmm, you OK?"

Giggle, giggle "I am not meeting Peter off the train"

"Ok, so who is?"

(Laughing out loud now) "You are Mum! Oh, and Mum, in two hours, his train only made it to the Cake Tin!" Gales of helpless laughter...

And as I headed back to the railway station, my thoughts again turned to the factor that made the difference that night...

From Peter's wife in Welly.

UPDATE FROM RURAL LIAISON OFFICER, CONSTABLE ALLAN SPOONER

As we head into the winter months of the year, now is the time to begin to get the fires going and stay indoors a lot more.

It is also a good time to remind you that, over the winter period criminals don't stop going out, they have to make a living in some way and it offers an opportunity for them to move about urban and rural properties unseen at night, often during high wind or rainy evenings.

It is important that we continue to take notice of vehicles and registrations, especially those that are distinctive - note down their details and their locations.

Remember, if it looks out of place, if it doesn't seem right, it probably isn't right.

Lock all out buildings that you can lock. Don't leave the car parked in the driveway or next to

the sheds, put it away in the shed and lock the doors. Take the keys inside.

Take your four-wheeler and put it in the shed and remove the keys. If you have an opportunity to secure the motorcycle with a chain on a pole inside an open shed, do so. It is very easy to lock a bike to a post, it's a lot harder to try and feed out or run around after stock when your motorcycle's been stolen and you're without one for a least week if you are insured.

Semi-rural dwellers on the outskirts of Wanganui, Westmere, Kaitoke, Fordell, Okoia, Upokongaro and Papaiti, should also be aware that criminals are traveling to homes where people work in the city. During the day, they are seen as an easy target, as most homes are empty, with families at work and children at school. This provides an open opportunity for criminals to enter a house and spend time helping themselves to property.

I would encourage all rural dwellers to encourage locals to join a Neighbourhood support Group or Rural Support Group, and to become more aware of what is happening in their community.

I hope you have a good winter, keep warm and keep the criminals out.

Emergency Fire Sirens

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

If a continuous long siren is heard, that means that an emergency has occurred in the Village and that the siren has been left on. All residents are to report to the fire shed for further instruction.

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 05 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

September 2009

Good to experience lots of sun shine the past weekend – may there be lots more on the horizon. Daylight savings begins this weekend so that means no more excuses for not walking the dog in the evenings after work; it will still be light enough. The spring weather has also made the lawns grow again, so they are just about back to once a weekly mow now. Oh well, can't complain – just bring on summer!

There have been many villagers who have taken advantage of the felled logs in the forest and have filled up their back/front yards and any other patch of dirt they can find with their wood piles. I can see that there will be plenty of fires burning for the next few winters with people not having to worry about their stocks. There are still plenty of pinecones waiting to be collected once the villagers have done with the fire wood gathering.

The Pot Luck dinners continue to attract a large crowd – September saw 40+ keen people meet for a meal and bit of conversation. Next dinner is on 03 October from 5.30pm. Come along and give it a go.

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

- Grants to be looked at for the defibrillator
- Quote has been obtained for painting the hall floor

• Repairs to be done to the hall door - sticking
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 07 October, 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – lots of overseas tourists passing through

Community Hall – available to hire

Fire Station – crew are all out training for their new compulsory fitness tests

Ford – deep water now but you can cross if you want to brave the cold water, the use of vehicles is at your own risk

Forest – as of 01 October, public access to the forest is not allowed and wood gathering is to cease. Residents are also asked to be vigilant for any suspicious vehicles which may belong

to dope growers going in to set up their crops etc.

Newsletter Notices

- Market Day is just around the corner. Anyone wanting to donate any white elephant or bric a brac items, give Robyn 3272-909, Joy 3273-676, Jill 3273-727 or Annette 3273-985 a call.
- There will be a Pot Luck Dinner on Labour Weekend – Sunday 25 October, and then the next one after that will be 06 December.
- There will be a village Melbourne Cup Day in the Hall on November 3rd. Everyone welcome. Details to follow.
- The Jurgen family would like to officially thank those kind samaritans who delivered fire wood to their house while Trevor has been out of action. Also to the one who keeps filling up the wheelbarrow for Ma.
- Farewell to the Northovers who have now sold their beach house. The Northover family have been in the village for years and I am sure it wasn't an easy decision for them to make.
- Reminder to all those who have open fires in their back yards. There is a by-law that states that all fires must be in an enclosed incinerator or BBQ area where the likelihood of the fire spreading are limited. So if you don't want to be embarrassed by the fire brigade arriving at your place, don't do it.
- Beware walking around the village. The magpies are starting to nest and one resident was recently attacked by one at the north end of Rapaki Street, resulting in a gash on her forehead.

Village Tit Bits – just a few bits and pieces...

- **One resident is having a real hard time with his bones lately. He was having physio on his broken arm only to have the physio accidentally break it. So got it realigned and plastered etc only to find out he has to have it re-broken to line it up properly. How unlucky can a person get?**
- **Someone recently tried to cross the ford in his tractor, but it was even too deep for that and he got it stuck in the middle of the crossing. There it was covered in water and sand all over the motor, so he got out the trusty WD 40 spray and did some minor running repairs in the water to get it going again. Good old reliable tractor started up and they got it out.**
- **Resident who has finally got his partner back from working away from home has**

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 October, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

found that there are disadvantages for her returning home. He now loses his living alone allowance and she has come back with no job and wants to help him spend his money!

- One white baiter's taxi driver after dropping her off one morning forgot to leave her bucket and scoop which meant she couldn't really operate without it. Never mind, she improvised. Found an old ice cream container, a plastic milk bottle with its lid still on, and a glass bottle. Broke the bottle and cut up the milk bottle so it could be used as a scoop. The ice cream container came in handy for the white bait she later caught. These white baiters won't let anything get in their way!
- Notice – Annette is NOT an axe murderer. Ewen was seen around the village sporting a large cut to the forehead that required stitches. Seems he was cutting up wood, raised the axe and got caught up in the clothes line causing the axe to come down on himself. Required a rushed visit to the hospital and scared all the other patients with all the blood running down his face. Annette proved not to be a good nurse. Was meant to wake Ewen every 2 hours but failed to wake up herself and just slept on.
- Ewen was asked by a neighbour if he was getting a piece of brain added or taken out. Not sure but the birds were feasting on bits left on the clothesline.
- While at the hospital, Annette left the car lights on and flattened the battery, so injured Ewen with his head all stitched up, has to push it to get it started. A real comedy of errors...
- One neighbour was recently invited to lunch by the other neighbour. Turns up and enquires "what's for lunch"? Nothing, it was yesterday! Life just stands still for some out here.
- One white baiter has all the mod cons in her set up, a couch, carpet, steps down to her nets etc. Got her feet a little wet earlier on this month when the river was in flood due to excessive rain up the valley. Still whatever the set up, she still hasn't been catching many – yet.
- Remember, any white baiting antics reported in the newsletter go towards being eligible to qualify for the annual White Bait Awards held at the end of each season.
- One white baiter always uses his old net which is full of holes, but this doesn't seem to stop him catching his fair share of white bait. Maybe he needs to take a lesson or

two of the others on how to mend any holes – imagine the white bait that have gotten away.

- You can always tell the new white baiters. They are the ones who turn up ill prepared with no containers, borrowed net and short gumboots. The latest villager to give it a go ended up soaking wet but gratefully accepted a share of other's catch so he could have a taste of the delicacy.
- One avid white baiter invited one of the campers to join her in the morning for a shot at fishing. Don't think she was expecting to be picked up so early as she didn't have to time to get dressed and went with her pink PJ's still on under her waders
- But that's not as bad as one going white baiting a few years back and there he was perched up on the back of his tractor in an armchair and he still had his slippers on!

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

Koitiata – The Beginning?

An objective of the Koitiata 100 year project is to coincide the 'publishing' of 'the history' with the anniversary of the village. Determining the actual start-up date has therefore become an important first task, and it probably needs to be a bit more substantiated than the suggestion I received of "let's say it was about 1912/1913".

The following page of extracts from 'The Rangitikei Advocate' newspaper are all relative to the 'beginning' and show the progression from a camping and picnic area to a surveyed township over a period of 5½ years.

It appears that there was camping and also a few more substantial 'camping type structures' in existence prior to the 'official' establishment of Koitiata township, but it is the actual township start-up that we are needing to establish, not the general recreational use of the area.

I would appreciate any additional information and feedback on this subject; we need to put a 'peg in the ground' so let's know what you know and think. If you would like a copy of the Rangitikei Advocate articles please ask.

Eddy Mason
327 3676
eddym@xtra.co.nz

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 October, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Date	Extracts from The Rangitikei Advocate	Notes
July 13 th 1913	"Several Turakina residents are now interesting themselves in an endeavour to procure about 100 acres of land as a seaside resort, (at Turakina Heads)"	
July 15 th 1913	NOTICE; A public meeting for the purpose of considering the advisability of acquiring a Seaside Resort at the mouth of the Turakina River will be held at the Turakina Town Hall on Thursday, August 21 st at 8 p.m.	<i>It appears that this endeavour was being undertaken with the objective of getting an area of land set aside, as a 'domain', to provide easy access for the public to the beach, and an area adjacent to mouth of the Turakina River, to be used for camping etc. No mention is made of any future town being planned or use of the name Koitiata.</i>
Aug 22 nd 1913	Under heading 'Seaside Resort at Turakina' and subheading "A Worthy Project" a report given of meeting held August 21 st . "A committee was formed to 'take charge of the project'; visit to site 'proposed to be applied for (to Government) on Saturday afternoon, and will also interview Messrs Simpson Bros. with a view to securing their co-operation in this matter"	
Aug 27 th 1913	"Yesterday afternoon a deputation consisting of Turakina and Marton residents waited on Mr R. K. Simpson, chairman of Rangitikei County Council."..... "Mr Duncan Simpson, who holds a lease of the Beach Run at the mouth of the river Stated that he was quite willing to relinquish his lease of some 200 acres fronting the road and the beach Deputation unanimously decided to recommend the acceptance Requested R.C.C. to have necessary application made to Government to get land vested in the Council for the purpose of a seaside resort for the people of the district"	
Jan 14 th 1914	"The Premier in his letter to the R.C.C. on Saturday stated that there was no necessity to introduce legislation to set apart portion of the run ... for a seaside resort. Action will be taken ... and the necessary Gazette will be issued. ... and there is no doubt that in a short time the seaside resort ... will be open to the public ..."	
Nov 13 th 1914	Government surveyors are at present surveying the Beach Road and Reserve with a view to improvements being made.	<i>An information gap of three years begins!</i>
Dec 20 th 1917	Heading: Seaside Resort at Turakina Heads, Sub-heading: "KOITIATA DOMAIN BOARD"; "A meeting of above Board, which is comprised of members of the R.C.C., was held this morning... The following resolutions were carried: ... that shooting on the Domain is not permittedthat the chairman etc report on most suitable position for the setting aside of an area for the erection of cottages ... that a temporary license	<i>This is the 1st record of name Koitiata being used and 1st mention of existing and future buildings.</i>

	for one year from 1 st January 1918 be granted to those who have already erected cottages on the Domain, on payment of £1 each"	
Jan 14 th 1918	Heading: SITES FOR BEACH TOWNSHIP; "(Koitiata Domain Board & R.C.C. officers) visited Koitiata Reserve ... and selected sites for proposed township ... land will be surveyed and then opened up for selections on lease as seaside allotments. At the present time there are fifty people camped on the river bank.	<i>At some time between these dates the 1st stage of the village was surveyed, established, and sections put up for sale. There were 41 sections from 17 to 56 Rapaki St, plus 60,62,& 64 Wainui St.</i>
Feb 6 th 1919	NOTICE: Town of Koitiata. Seaside Building Sites For Lease By Public Auction, Tuesday the 18 th February 1919. Editorial in same edition: "the sections are within the Domain of some 170 acres which is vested in the R.C.C. and special legislation was obtained to enable sites to be leased for building purposes."	
Feb 18 th 1919	Heading: KOITIATA BEACH SECTIONS AUCTIONED; "There was a fair attendance ...yesterday afternoon when seaside building sites in town of Koitiata were submitted for public auction. (7 sections were sold)	

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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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Koitiata Matters

October 2009

What a load of rubbish the weather has been the past few weeks – frosts, stormy, very wet, freezing, windy along with a few sunny days chucked in for a reminder of what good weather is! The ford's water table is the highest seen for a very long time. What we need is a real good tide to open it up so all that excess water can drain away and make access by foot to the beach achievable again.

This newsletter isn't very big this month, really it's just a reminder of our pending Labour Weekend activities and pot luck dinner on the Sunday night.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 07 October and discussed the following items:-

- **Committee kick started the fundraising for the defibrillator with \$1000 set aside for same**
- **Hall door has been repaired and now opens outwards**
- **Social Committee outlined coming events they have planned. More details to follow**

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 November at 7pm.

The last pot luck dinner only drew a small crowd of the faithful regulars last time. Next one on Sunday October 25 will be a good time for those of you visiting the village for the weekend to come along and mix and mingle for a couple of hours. Bring a plate to share and it starts from 5.30pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – the bad weather has kept most campers away

Community Hall – gearing up for the big Market Day event

Fire Station – crew are currently kitting out their new trailer getting ready for the summer season

Ford – extremely deep water
Forest – Public vehicle access to the forest is no longer allowed and wood gathering is to cease.

Newsletter Notices

A Reminder! Donated Goods for Market Day
Don't forget to donate your unwanted goods to be sold by the Residents Committee at the Labour weekend market day. But 'treasure' only please; 'trash' will be returned!

Also cakes or produce for the Community sales table is always welcome.

If you have items to donate, or require other information, please phone Joy 327 3676, Robin 327 3909, Jill 327 3727, Annette 327 3985, or Glenis 327 3757

NOTE: *The hall will be open from 5pm to 7pm on Friday 23rd to receive donated goods and for setting up*

- Would the person who borrowed the petanque set please ring Joy on 3273 676 and let her know you have it.
- On Sunday 15 November a plaque in commemoration of Bruce Attwell will be laid at the park. Bruce's son will be over from Australia so join us with this special event. All meet at the park at 3pm followed by a cup of tea at the Hall.
- Melbourne Cup at Koitiata Hall – this is happening on 03 November from 3pm. \$2 Sweepstakes. Sweepstakes close 4.30pm and race starts at 5pm. Lucky door prize. Bring finger food and your drinks. All Welcome

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See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 25 October, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Labour Weekend in Koitiata

Market Day

Saturday from 9.00 am.

A late breakfast or morning tea?
Tea and Scones and a Sausage Sizzle!

CRAFTS PRESERVES JEWELLERY

BOOKS TOYS SWEETS

PLANTS CLOTHES

plus plenty of other great bargains!

All proceeds
from Labour
Weekend
fund raising
will be
added to
the Koitiata
Defibrillator
Purchase
Fund

For further
Information
please phone:

Robin 327 3909
Joy 327 3676
Gill 327 3727
Annette 327 3985
Glenis 327 3757

Market Day Raffle
Good prizes - 100 tickets
Available Saturday only.
Drawn at Pot Luck Dinner.

*Have you got
tickets in the Big
Labour Weekend
Raffle?
On sale now!
Phone Joan on
327 3748*

Pot Luck Dinner

One of The Great Social Events of the Year!

**Are you new to the village & want to meet the locals; or do you
just need to catch up on what's happening in Koitiata?**

**Come along & join in, bring your weekend visitors and your
neighbours!**

Sunday from 5.30 pm.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 25 October, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

November 2009

By the time you get this newsletter, there will only be 5 weeks to Xmas. It creeps up on you fast doesn't it?

A disappointing season for white baiters ends this month due to the wild weather, lots of rain and a flooded river and blustering winds – only just running now – someone reported that they got 13 lbs over 3 days in the last week or so. They are one of the few lucky ones this season.

The villagers pooled together and drained the lagoon. The volume of water that came out of there was amazing and what was even more surprising was the short time it took to drain. It was long overdue and once it dries out, the stench will disappear. Bring on some sun.

Welcome to those new residents (both permanent or semi-permanent) who have joined our small community. You will find that it is a very enjoyable place to live and now that we have the foot access to the beach available again, it is even more pleasant.

It is probably timely to pass on our thanks to the Social Committee who organize our community events such as Pot Luck dinners, the market day, Melbourne Cup day, Country & Western music afternoons to name a few. Your time and efforts are appreciated and the events enjoyable. It can be a thankless task at times but we are grateful to what you do. Joy, Jill, Robyn, Annette and Glennis.

The newsletter is a bit light this month as work commitments have taken precedent and frankly sometimes at nights, this poor worker is too bushed to think. Role on retirement...

Pot Luck Dinner at Labour weekend had a record number of attendees and a big welcome to our latest residents who joined in. Don't forget the coming dates for the next dinners:
05 December – Xmas theme
31 December – New Years Eve. Hall opens at 9.30pm so bring along your refreshments, friends/family and some music to dance to and join in for the last get together of the year.
24 January – Sunday of Wellington Anniversary

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 04 November and the following items were discussed:-

- Market Day and pot luck dinner raised a substantial amount towards the defibrillator.
- Funding options being look into for the defibrillator.

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 02 December 7pm.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – starting to build up again, toilet block has had its roof replaced

Community Hall – available for hire for your Xmas functions

Fire Station – new trailer is just about ready for the Summer season

Ford – Accessible once again – depending on the tide and sand build up which blocks the outlet.

Forest – be careful for those wandering far as there may be our usual dope growers plots around.

Newsletter Notices

- Our friendly mailman Nick loves Labour Weekend and market day. He can't drive past without having some of our goodies "forced" upon him. Don't see him declining the fairs offered though. He has asked again that his thanks to the village be recorded here.
- Melbourne Cup afternoon was well attended with about 40 people turning up to do a bit of socializing and to have a little flutter on the gee gees. Same is planned for next year. (Some of us had to work...!)
- Ford – a big thank you to all those who were involved in draining the lagoon and special thanks to Steve for the machinery. The "drain" will require ongoing unblocking as the sand gets built up so thanks also to those who are involved with this.
- Also another thanks to those who made the new beach access after the other track became impassable with all the wet weather (down south end of the track beside the now defunct forest).
- Country and Western music afternoons are on 29 November and January 31. All welcome to go along and join in.
- If you have noticed that two of the village icons are missing off their gate posts, the new owners are looking at ways of preserving them so don't worry, the whale bones are still around.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 05 December, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

A Big Thanks

The Koitiata Residents Committee would like to put on record our thanks to all who helped to make our Labour Weekend fundraising efforts a success.

Your contribution of time and energy; your donations of goods for sale; and the generous donations of raffle prizes have all been greatly appreciated. And we also thank those who made direct donations to our Defibrillator Purchase Fund.

Your combined generosity has enabled \$1465.00 to be added to the Defibrillator Fund.

"Thanks Heaps"

Village Tit Bits – not a lot has been volunteered this month...

- If any one has found a white bait net washed up on the sea shore, one was lost a while back when the fisherman was so engrossed in reading his newspaper on the bank and wasn't watching his net float gaily away with the current. Shows how confident he was of the fish running to have bought his newspaper along. Anyway, no names mentioned but if found, ring Jim...
- When the far track was wet and very treacherous to venture over late October, one resident tried and got stuck. Got pulled out only to go back to try and cross it again the same day and you guessed it – he got stuck again! What part of no longer accessible don't you understand man with a flowery name?

- But he wasn't the only one to get stuck. One son visiting dad for the day borrowed his 4 wheeler and ventured down the mud track only to get stuck. Merry Terry went to help and you guessed it, he got stuck too. Had to reply on the neighbour to the rescue. But as you all know, Hog's just love mud...
- One good Samaritan was helping out cutting wood for others less unfortunate who don't own their own chainsaw and was wondering why the wood wasn't cutting. Turns out, the blade was on the wrong way.
- One unlucky resident went to town the other day and went to draw some money out of the machine in the wall. Didn't work on that one, so he went and found another machine. It worked, so he took his card out (forgot about the money he had withdrawn) and just walked away. Someone else got lucky and scored a windfall that day!
- One person was following a recipe and it said to separate the eggs. So he used separate eggs. A good one for the Mere Male column in the Women's Weekly!

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Koitiata Matters

December 2009

Xmas is this week, so thought I had better get my "A" into gear and get the last newsletter out for the year. It has been a very busy time for me at work so once I get time to sit down to do the newsletter, I quite enjoy it and hope that you the readers, enjoy catching up on what has been happening around the village. Remember, if ever you want anything to put into the newsletter or any comments on the contents, let me know.

Again, there will be no newsletter in January – the Editor will be recovering from the mad Xmas/New Year rush and needs a rest. I have already made my New Year's resolution in that if I don't get jobs done (like the newsletter) in a timely manner, then "oh well too bad", so be it. No need to stress about it – I have found that being stressed only makes you go grey earlier and you have to dye the hair more often!

When you come into the village you will now notice that they have been back and cut down all the trees in the block nearest to the village. Don't ask what is happening as everybody has a different version of what the next stage is, so lets just all wait and see. The ones with houses nearest the domain will notice the difference with their shelter now gone. Looks terribly bare though!

Merry Xmas to you all, enjoy the festive season and while last year I wished you all luck with a big Lotto win or two, this time I will say don't worry about winning it because I am going to!

Pot Luck Dinner early December only had a light attendance by the old faithfuls. The raffle was won by Hermis and 2nd prize to Tom. Next Pot Luck is Wellington Anniversary weekend on Sunday 24 January. Bring your friends and family along to a fun evening complete with the White Bait Awards.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee met on 02 December and the following items were discussed:-

- Contact RDC regarding sealing of area in front of Fire Station

- Local councilor reported on sewage ponds and pye grass spraying.

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

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – slow build up 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 – ready for the dry season

Ford – easy to cross

Forest – don't ask!

Newsletter Notices

- 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.
- 31 December (New Years Eve) get together – all meet at the Hall from 9.30pm. BYO drinks and music.
- The first New Years Pot Luck dinner on 24 January will incorporate the White Bait Awards, so come along for a night of laughs.
- 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 even on the beach. If unsure, contact Crew Boss Stephen McKnight on 3273 949.
- Congratulations to Annette who is about to become an "Old Age Pensioner" on 05 January.
- Was told to write this one – work it out for yourself... Confucius say you never see a pukeho on it's own. There are always two by themselves....
- Some more words of wisdom from Wesley – *it will be fine – if it doesn't rain!*
- Congratulations to our married couple who are celebrating their 1st wedding anniversary soon. May there be many more to come...
- If you want to rid yourselves of your aluminum cans, there is a green wheelie bin beside the fire station to place all your used cans.
- Rubbish collection is every Monday regardless if it is a public holiday. You need to use the

See you all at New Year's Eve party on Friday 31 December 9.30pm onwards at the Hall.

appropriate rubbish bags which are available at the Mobil garage in the first instance.

Village Tit Bits – again it has been a quiet month for any “hot bits”...

- Heard a good story about a knotty piece of wood being stolen off Roy's front section, but can't remember all the details so next time you see Ron or Ewen – ask them. They have the long version!
- One resident hasn't quite caught on to how our Beach Road walker always knows when she is coming up behind him so that he can move off the road and wave to her before she even passes him in her car. His secret Hermis, is that he wears a small mirror on his hat so he can see when lady drivers are coming!
- Heard someone recently went to go fishing with his boat and got to the beach to launch it only to find it had come off at the ford – another Oops a Daisy moment...
- Even when the white baiting season was finally over, a tractor was noted to be driving around with a net on the front. Turns out (so they say) that he was only picking up his parked up set net. Yeah right!
- Heard the Village Butcher bought a pair of sunglasses off Trade Me that have a built in MP3 system. The first music he recorded was his favourite band (wait for it) Meat Loaf. So if you see him racing down the beach on his bike complete with sunnies, he is probably going like a “Bat out of Hell”, or he is “All Revved up and nowhere to go”, or he is thinking “Heaven can wait”. See Dean, others know Meat Loaf too – “Two out of Three ain't bad” – “For Crying out Loud” – “You took the words right out of my mouth”...
- Same resident has been doing building renovations to his house pending her majesty's arrival so that it is now fit for a queen from Buckingham Palace –actually it is just a new puppy but going by the extensive expansions it is like royalty was coming to Koitiata. May have all been in vain though as the first night it was a bit scared of the royal suite and had to sleep inside.
- Another family who has been living in the Big Smoke for a while had packed up and was moving back to Koitiata only to encounter their own dramas. Pete, complete with his moggy safely ensconced (or so he thought) in his cardboard box were traveling down State Highway 1 when the moggy escaped from the box and found that by resting it's paws on the door arm to look out the window, the window

mysteriously opened giving the moggy a great opportunity to seek it's freedom. Can you picture Pete driving along in his vehicle trying to dodge great 40 tonne trucks and other oncoming Wellington bound traffic to make a grab for the moggy in the back seat as it made its dive for freedom. Finally managed to secure it back inside the vehicle and lock the window catches so they could both arrive safely back to the beach. Welcome back to the village the Hawes family.

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



Merry Xmas to you all

Emergency Fire Sirens

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2 long sirens = Local fire

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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 New Year's Eve party on Friday 31 December 9.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

Jan/Feb/March 2010

I bet you all thought that you had either been taken off the newsletter email list, or the newsletter had failed to be delivered to your letter box or it had become lost, because you hadn't seen one for months? Well you are wrong on all counts. The Editor has been very busy at work and found time to take a 2 week well earned holiday, so the newsletter had to be put on the back burner until she could get into the groove again of producing this very sort after publication. What does the Tui add say? Yeah right – bet some of you hadn't even missed it! Anyway, it is back again.

Working for a Government Department is very challenging. We have been told to tighten our belts – tightly. So this means that some positions have not been replaced when people leave, and the work load instead gets shared out amongst those who are left. So besides doing their own jobs, they also now have to do others. Times are tough and people are becoming stressful, so if the newsletter goes missing again, you will understand that work commitments have taken over yet again. Anyway, all endeavours will be taken to ensure that you are given your highlight of the month in the form of the village newsletter. Fingers crossed!

Remember to put your clocks back this Sunday – yes daylight saving is ending so if the dog gets an evening walk, make sure you do it early enough before the sun goes down.

The next Pot Luck Dinner will be this weekend on Easter Sunday. Anyone visiting the village for the long weekend should take the trouble to come along and join in. Bring a plate of food to share and come and meet some of the other villagers.

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

- Several options have been looked at for housing the defibrillator once funding has been found for same.
- A meeting has been arranged with MP Simon Power over concerns of what is to become of the forest area.
- As no replies have been received from RDC on several queries, and items of concern were

given to local councilor to take back to RDC and then to report back to the committee.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be the 07 April, 7pm at the Hall. All welcome to attend.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – steady flow of campers

Community Hall – available to use for those family get togethers, birthday parties etc

Fire Station – have had a working bee and the floor received a new paint job. Also a reminder to change your battery on your smoke alarms this weekend.

Ford – thanks to those who keep it accessible to all

Forest – S. Power to report back to the committee on the future of this piece of land

Newsletter Notices

- There is a bit of a baby boon going on at the Village at the moment. Congratulations to those pending parents. The fun is about to start!
- Also congratulations to those who have celebrated significant birthdays since Xmas. Can't name you all, but you know who you are.
- Indoor bowls is to commence again. Anyone interested, go along to the Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm from 13 April onwards.
- For those of you who come out and visit, can you please remember that the rubbish only gets collected on a Monday (even on Public Holidays). If you have to leave your bags behind before a Monday, can you endeavor to find the nearest power pole, bang in a sturdy nail and then hang your bag of rubbish off it. There have been occasions where the local dogs/cats have decided to have an inspection before the rubbish men come to take it away and it leaves a heck of a mess that other residents are kind enough to clean up for you.
- It was surprising to see those villagers who gathered at the beach to watch for a potential tsunami or the possible effects of one. Nothing like being Johnny on the spot. Wonder what would have happened if it did hit? Think about it...
- It is disturbing to hear that there has been one burglary and one attempted burglary in the village. One instance, the pump to a header tank was stolen and the other a good attempt to steal a motor bike. A timely warning to all of you to keep an eye on each other's property especially those places which aren't fully occupied and don't become complacent about

See you all at the Easter Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday 04 April, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

security. If you see something suspicious, report it.

Village Tit Bits – only a few bits and pieces were reported this month...

- A resident has finally landed herself a job reading power meters. Hope she is fully prepared for vicious dogs, grumpy people, hard to get at meters etc. She will also have to carry her own foot stool for those meters placed up over 5 feet high...
- Heard that some villagers were all agog listening to one narrator telling them all about what the seismic survey boat seen in our waters was really doing – drug running! And the long liners weren't really fishing; they had their lines out there to haul in the drugs. Had some people going for a while! What a great imagination (and gullible listeners!)
- Did you hear about a great black swan decided to try out village life and made himself at home in the back yard of one of the locals. Had her dogs up in arms as it wasn't welcome – they weren't going to share their mum's bed for anything. It finally had to be "herded" back to the lagoon area as it appeared to be injured and wouldn't fly. Neighbour from his high vantage point was in hysterics watching the fun.
- One weekend owner was cleaning out his cupboards and found some Aussie beer that he had been given but couldn't stand so had stored it. Gave it to the ex Aussie neighbour as a way of saying thanks for helping keep an eye on his place. When he went to drink it, it was all cloudy and had expired some 2 years earlier. Well, I guess it was the thought that counted aye Gavin?
- Big purple bus was being taken in for a warrant only to run out of diesel on the Ratana hill. Driver contacted the only person available in the village to come to his aid by collecting drums from his garage, go and pick him up, take him to the garage for fuel, then to come back and bleed the system etc. And of course the tank was on the side closest to all the traffic. Maybe it is time for Hog to get glasses so he can read his fuel gauge? Some nice trendy purple ones maybe to match the bus?

A thought provoking email was received from a local resident and thought I would print it in its entirety:-

An interesting incident occurred on the beach last Sunday.

I took a guest for a drive down to Turning in Creek prior to high tide. Passed a number of people fishing, one with a long line out and I was able to easily drive around them as they were near the sea. Further down the beach came upon another long line, the owners parked well back from the sea near the sand hills. As I approached slowly, a person appeared and gestured indicating that I should drive up and around the rear of their line and parked vehicle. As they were a fair way back in soft sand I opted to stay on the hard and in turn gestured they hold their line down so I could drive over it. This was done, but I observed they were not happy about it. I continued to my destination, a number of vehicles passed by.

On returning more than an hour later I observed these people had gone but they had dragged logs in a line from where they were parked to the waters edge, I presume in order to block vehicles from going over their line? I can understand that people fishing would be concerned that vehicles may snag their line. There are a number of methods to protect your line without having to block vehicle access down the beach. So far in law, the beach is for everyone. I say let's enjoy it, consider others and Good Fishing.

It is true, the beach is considered to be a public road so must be accessible to all. You can't block it off just because you are fishing on that part – park your gear nearer to the beach so that others can safely go around it without damaging your lines etc. It is often hard for the driver of a vehicle to see where your lines are so it isn't their fault when lines are run into etc.

There are more and more people with long lines now and others who come to fish from our beach, so a bit of common courtesy from all is required.

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

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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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Koitiata Matters

April/May 2010

The Army again spent a week here in April carrying out a variety of exercises in and around the village. A day or so prior, there was reports of suspicious behavior behind some of the houses and men in balaclavas were seen sneaking around. Like the observant residents we are, the Police were called and attended the Village. People with similar clothing and matching the descriptions were seen to be sitting on a deck of one of the houses so they were stopped and spoken to. Seems they were Army personnel sorting out exercises for their pending visit. Phew, thank goodness for that. Good neighbourhood watching and reporting by residents – better to be safe than sorry so don't hesitate to contact the Police if ever you are suspicious. We have had several incidents in and around the village of late (see notices) so we all need to be watchful. Don't take it for granted that things are safe out here anymore which is a shame.

Was walking the dog along the lagoon the other day and suddenly a gun goes off and ducks take to the air. Forgot that duck shooting season was here hadn't I? Mind you, if you call that a duck call (whoever you are), then I am not surprised the ducks wouldn't come in to land! It didn't really sound like one of them calling to each other. A bit more practice is called for I think.

This year has been very mild and dry so far and several families having to get in water for their tanks. Not sure what the long range weather holds for us out here, but I don't mind that we haven't had the winds. The rain I can handle, the winds – well they are just downright annoying!

The residents who attended May's Pot Luck dinner were in for a nice surprise when Wes who turned 65, put on a hangi for all to share. Must have thought the whole village was coming as there was enough to feed an army. Many thanks to Wes and Veronica for sharing this celebration with us – hope there weren't too many headaches the following day. The next Pot Luck dinner will be on Queen's Birthday weekend – Sunday 6th

The Koitiata Residents' Committee has had three meetings since Xmas and the following items were discussed:-

- The Army carried out exercises in the village for one week during April.
- Committee agreed to support the possibility of bringing Broadband to the Village and fundraising for same to take place.
- Ngati Apa representatives advised re the hand over of land back to Iwi. 10 hectares closest to the Village to eventually be used for housing (10 year plan, resource consent etc) with the rest of the land to stay as commercial in forest. Plans for felled area to be cleaned up.
- Agreed that we have enough funds to purchase the defibrillator and plans are underway for something to house it in. More details will be published about training etc when to hand.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be the 02 June, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – have you seen Tom's new sign? Go and have a look – big and bright!

Community Hall – steady use, Army recently hired it for a week.

Fire Station – had one call out 23 April, see story below

Ford – still clear and easily accessible

Forest – spraying has been done and replanting of parts about to be undertaken. It is now considered to be a possible fire risk so anyone in there should be very careful.

Newsletter Notices

- Condolences to those of you who have lost family or friends of late. Our thoughts are with you.
- More burglaries have been reported around the village. This time it was petrol from vehicles on three separate occasions on Wainui Street. Will pay for all to keep an eye on their homes and don't take it for granted that you can go out and leave your house unlocked. It seems that those days are over.
- It was disturbing to hear that on the first day of duck shooting, some duck shooters were shot at by a 22 rifle across the river down from the river mouth where they were staked out. This is serious stuff and very dangerous in a public place. It wasn't another duck shooter because as we all know, you use a shot gun for sport. A 22 is used with intent. The Police were called.

See you all at the Queen's Birthday dinner on Sunday 06 June, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

- Country and Western will be on again at the Hall on 30 May. All welcome to attend.
- Alan would like to thank all those residents who lent a hand when he had a mishap bringing in his boat the other week – he snapped a rogue wave side on and it tipped the boat over. Thanks also to those who even dropped gear off to his house. He did lose his catch of fish though – didn't locate that! Jim never lost his hat throughout the whole event. Thankfully, the boat is now finally up and running. Special thanks to the person who found Alan's false teeth on the beach later on. (Didn't tell me that bit did you Alan?)
- It seems that some parts of the newsletter get skimmed over because at the end of every newsletter (and the phone list) it states what the various fire sirens are for. This was highlighted the other week when the fire siren went off. People were confused as to what they should be doing. In this case it was one long siren – that means for the fire fighters to get to the station pronto as there is a fire somewhere. Two sirens means there is a local fire or it is a practice. Three sirens are for a civil defense emergency and all residents are encouraged to attend to Hall for more details. Got it? Now remember it for next time.
- Remember if you or someone at your house is feeling very unwell, it is no trouble to ring 111 and ask their advice. Don't sit there and wait until morning so as not to bother anyone. You could be wasting valuable time when you could be receiving help. When in doubt, ask.

Village Tit Bits – only a few bits and pieces were reported this month...

- **Our resident who is the new meter reader lady was only at work for a couple of weeks when she had to take time off on ACC. No she didn't fall off her stool; she was attacked by a dog – while the owner stood there and watched! Bring in the tasers for meter readers!**
- **Have anyone seen that Jonah Lomu is in town and now resides on Omanu Street. If you don't know what I mean, go for a walk and have a look. So, is this Jonah's greatest fan or what? Ask Mike for his story about why he has Jonah's giant poster up at his place...**

Another letter to the Editor this month that is worth printing and for those who it refers to, to have a think about...

I would just like to make a point of mentioning on a recent visit to Koitiata how disappointed I was with dog owners who think it is okay to let their pets poo where ever and take no responsibility in cleaning up the offending mess.

I have had children walking down the beach track as well as the local roads having to skirt around dog poo.

There is nothing worse than being a visitor from out of town or an overseas holiday maker seeing and walking in dog poo.

If you lived in the town you would be fined over this. It's an offence not to clean up your dog business and most dog owners I know carry a shopping bag and take responsibility cleaning up.

Thought provoking isn't it? Leave it up to you...

Just a snippet of local history from Peter Fraser for those that are interested ...

A while ago we had a local deluge of rain that accumulated behind Santoft Forest and ran through Middle Road for many days.

The deluge actually filled the old inland lake system that has existed through our region for many years.

Back, prior to 1980, part of the waterway was fed by Lake Mary-Anne, a permanent 30 acre lake between Tunnel Hill Road and Beamish Road. In those days, the culvert crossing Middle Road ran constantly for up to 10 months of each year and found its way to the sea via our swamp down past the sewage pond.

Lake Mary-Anne ceased to exist by 1980 due to a combination of sand blow (similar to our lagoon out front), water uptake from the forest, and drainage by neighbouring farms.

Most of the local lakes were named after people i.e. Lake Alice, Lake Mary-Anne, Lake William, Lake Guddop, Lake Barnard, Lake Heaton, Lake Roundbush, and Lake Beamish/Koitiata. While Lake Artillery still also exists, it is greatly reduced in size due to the surrounding forest affect on the water table etc.

Koitiata Broadband Internet Project

If you are on the internet and also on the Koitiata email list you will be reasonably up to date with the progress we have been making with this project, but

See you all at the Queen's Birthday dinner on Sunday 06 June, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

if you are not on the email list it will all be news to you.

Following an evaluation of existing wired broadband systems and the latest *"the government will get broadband to the rural masses"* scheme it was concluded that should any of us live long enough to see it arrive in Koitiata we would not be able to afford it anyway.

So to cut a long story short, we are going it alone!

Well actually, we are going it in conjunction with Airstream Wireless who are a specialist wireless broadband internet service provider with numerous connections throughout Manawatu, Horowhenua, and Rangitikei districts. (We did check out satellite services but they were not flexible enough and not in the ball park with pricing.)

The Koitiata community is fortunate that Bob Major has a suitable location for setting up a wireless repeater station in a position where it can receive the signal from Wharite Peak and also be seen from the majority of houses in the village.

Bob has given his support and approval for the transmitter to be sited on his property, to the north of Koitiata, on a ridge a little below and east of the water tank located on the skyline.

This wireless broadband system uses similar technology to mobile phones and will be available to all properties in the village, and an access point for the camping ground is also planned.

It is intended to have the transmitter and solar power system, mounted on top of a 4 metre pole, installed shortly and then the system will be going live a few days later.

Airstream broadband internet access in Koitiata will be via three types of connection plans, with some pricing variations possible within each plan type.

1. There will be a "Hotzone 1" and "Hotzone 2" plan which will have monthly fees which are relative to their connection speed and data limits.
2. A "Pay-as-you-go" plan will also be available, with 'pay for data as required' pricing which will suit casual and weekend and/or holiday periods only users.
3. And it is intended to have some type of pre-pay system for campers.
4. Connection and account set-up fees will be applicable (relative to plan types) and a wireless modem is required for access.
5. Further information on modem requirements, connection plans and pricing details should be

finalised and available in a couple of weeks. Pricing will be competitive and is way below the only other available alternatives, eg. via satellite or using the mobile phone network.

This Airstream wireless internet scheme is totally independent from the telephone system. As you will see from the varying types of connection that will be available, this network is being specifically tailored to suit the Koitiata community. Koitiata residents will even have our own email address available, eg. bill1@koitiata.co.nz.

Having our own broadband internet system available will be a real benefit to Koitiata and to all in the community.

There is a cost for this project and to enable it to happen we have made a commitment to provide \$1765 as our share of the setup costs.

We acknowledge the generosity of those who have already made contributions to the Broadband Fund and will also value your financial help in ensuring the success of this undertaking.

Contributions can be made via direct credit to Westpac account 03 1395 0002450 000 (use your name as reference please), or via cheque or cash to Treasurer, Residents Committee, 3 Rapaki Street. We will appreciate your help.

For any further information please contact Eddy Mason, 326 3676, eddym@xtra.co.nz

A Day in the Life of a Volunteer Rural Fire Fighter

Ah, Friday at last. That well earned bourbon after a hard week at work was looking inviting, so got organised, walked and fed the dog, got the drink organised, put tea onto cook and settled down to watch Shortland Street. Hmm that drink hardly touched the sides, so another one is in order. Turn the tea down. Hmm what's that noise? Shorty Street wasn't finished so no interruptions please. But no, the noise went on when it clicked – it was the pager going off! Boy, we hadn't heard that noise all summer and now in the middle of Shorty it decides to rear its head.

Leave the drink, grab the house keys, lock the house (I think) and race outside in my slippers. Oh heck, the car is locked in the garage and will take too long to get out, so take off at a run towards the fire station. I went the road way instead of over the hill cause of street lighting. Blooming hard when you haven't had to run that far since goodness knows when + the 2 bourbons didn't help. Arrive at the fire station only to find that I wasn't the last to arrive. Deep breaths are required trying to catch my

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breath at the same time as getting into overalls and grabbing my gear.

Directions are given and we are off! 7 of us had turned out so we took two vehicles. Adrenalin is running, lights flashing. Get to intersections and turn the siren on. Vehicles pull over for us and for once we are in a vehicle with plenty of hoo-jar, so the foot goes down and we carry on.

We get to the road only to have trouble finding the entrance to the farm where the fire was. Met the Mangaweka fire truck coming the other way, they were lost too, so had to stop and get on the radio. Turned around and located the drive way where by now a fire truck from Marton is there to greet us and take us over the farm to the fire. Stop and dropped off some of the crew to be on the pumps from the water tanks to the fire tenders. The rest of us went onto the fire ground and joined in with the Marton, Hunterville and Mangaweka crews. A large forest block was on fire and the undergrowth was making it difficult to get in with our hoses. Chainsaws had to be used to cut paths in.

The fire was turning on us, so we had to beat a hasty retreat bringing our hoses out at the same time. Ever tried stumbling around in the dark, hauling lengths of hoses with a fire roaring at your back? Blooming hard! We regroup and then go up along the fire from a different angle. Here the smoke is so thick that we had to wear our goggles and masks. Well the goggles fogged up and the paper masks did nothing to stop the smoke getting to you. Breathing was near impossible; the throat was burning and visibility was zilch. Then the fire took off and turned on us again. Quick, drop everything and run! Regroup and have a break while it burns itself down. Vehicles keep coming and going filling up the mobile dams with water.

Oh poop! Just remembered, did I turn off the stove with my tea cooking when I dashed out? Had I locked the back door? What to do. Not sure what I had done. So used a cell phone to ring and ask the neighbour to go to my house to have a look for me. Phew that was a relief. Imagine your house on fire while you are out fighting someone else's. Also made another quick phone call to hubby who is working and wondering why I hadn't made my usual evening call and was beginning to panic. He relieved to hear from me but at the same time slightly jealous as he would have loved to be at the fire as well.

Back to the fire again and this time hauling hoses for those up ahead. Boy, surely it was going to stop soon? Those 2 bourbons seemed hours ago now.

Remind me again why I volunteered to do this? As it turns out, we couldn't totally put out the fire, so the decision was made to pack it in and for some crews to return the following day with helicopters.

Thank goodness we were able to leave the many lengths of hoses there on the fire ground cause if we had to roll those us, it would have finished us off. We were all pretty exhausted and it was now 6 hours from when we were first called out.

A 30-45 minute road trip back to the station where we had a quick debrief before heading home to a welcoming shower for a good long soak to remove the stench of smoke that seems to find its way into every pore of your body. The house was still standing, so either I did or the neighbour did, turn my tea off. Too bad, too tired now to be hungry, it can wait for tomorrow – oh but tomorrow is now today (it was 2am)

And look, the half drunk bourbon was still sitting there, ice all melted, but down the hatch - waste not and all that! Could have done with another at that stage, but I am so tired I could hardly drag myself off to bed. Then the body caught up with the evening's events and it wouldn't let me sleep because everything was sooooo sore! Muscles that I did have there somewhere had been used again and they were protesting. Please calm down and let me sleep – I am so tired. But you know what? I was also excited and proud to have been part of the team of volunteer fire fighters who give up their own time to go and help others. It is very satisfying and rewarding. Being part of the evening's events was very rewarding and satisfying. You had to be there to understand...

Thanks to my fellow fire fighters for a great evening. We all did our best, looked out for each other and got out of there in one piece.

At last – sleep! Wonder what ever happened on Shorty.....?

Anyone interested in joining the fire brigade, contact Stephen McKnight on 3273 949.

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jsheehy@xtra.co.nz

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Koitiata Matters

June/July 2010

Winter had finally arrived and this is evident by the lack of people out and about and the smoking chimneys stacks about the place. All that summer spent gathering fire wood off the beach has enabled people to stay indoors with their fires going. Probably the best place to be some days.

We have some new people to the village, either new owners or people renting their houses, so a big welcome is extended to you all. You may not be aware, but the Village operates a Neighbourhood Watch database and if you haven't already been asked by your neighbourhood support person for personal contact details, please contact the Editor with your details. These can be kept confidential if required and only used for emergencies. This newsletter is also available via email for those of you who would to receive it this way. Again, contact the Editor.

Most of you would have by now noticed all the work being carried out by the owners of 2 properties opposite each other. The work that this couple have put into their properties is to be commended. The places are looking very tidy and it is amazing what a bit of hard work can do to give these houses and sections a face lift. Well done to you both!

The previous pot luck dinner at Queen's Birthday weekend saw 30+ residents, friends and family attend – all sharing a nice meal and a chat. Come along to the next one on 03 July and join in. \$1 raffle is run on the night.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee had a meeting early June and the following items were discussed:-

- The AGM will be 01 August, 1.30pm
- Cabinet for defibrillator to be installed on the Hall wall. Thanks to K Gray for materials and labour. Alarm system to be investigated.
- No smoking signs have been erected by RDC at the domain entrance and playground

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be the 05 July, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – Slow business at the moment

Community Hall – ring Wes 3273 934 if you would like to use this for any event

Fire Station – AGM and medal ceremonies on 11 July

Ford – currently under water

Forest – nothing to report, very wet in places

Newsletter Notices

- Robin and Jim would like to thank you all for the messages of sympathy after the death of our Nana. Also for the cards, phone calls, baking and offers of help.
- AGM of the Residents Committee is to be held on 1st August, 1.30pm at the Hall. All welcome to attend and if you are interested in being nominated onto the committee, contact Jim Mant on 3273 909
- Is there anyone who may have a hot water urn they no longer use they could donate (or sell cheap) to the Hall for events. Phone Joy on 3273 676
- An open meeting with the community about Tsunami Risk and Planning is to be held on 10 July 1pm at the Hall. The West coast of NZ contrary to popular opinion, does have a slight risk of Tsunami especially if the source is local or from the Solomon Islands. Items to be discussed will be this risk with the community, talk about Tsunami signage (what it is and where it should be put), warning signals etc. All interested people are invited to attend.
- Also on 10 July at the Hall from 1.30pm there will be a demonstration and coaching on how to use the defibrillator. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as you never know when this vital piece of equipment in the community may need to be used. We want as many people as possible trained on its use.

Village Tit Bits – as the weather is keeping everyone indoors, there is only a few snippets to report on...

- **Heard about one resident who was tidying up his property, loaded up his trailer and took it to the green waste area to dispose of it. Thought that while he was out and about, he would venture down the track to see how the land lay down at that end of the forest. Somehow, unbeknown to the driver, the**

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

trailer jumped off the tow ball and he didn't notice until he got back home. Found it way down the track. Don't worry Mike – the Editor has been there, done that so don't feel too bad!

- For Hire – Rotary hoe. Cheap rates. Answers to the name of Sammy and she has just discovered the joy of digging up her owners lawn. Their place now looks like they have chooks with all the wire netting around their precious grass areas.
- Hint for those wishing to cross the Ford and they don't have waders (nor want to wear bare feet) – wear large rubbish bags on each foot – portable gumboots on demand and they fold down to next to nothing when not in use. Thanks for the tip Barbara.
- One family in the village recently adopted a 2nd hand cat who has since made friends with other felines in the village. So much so, that it just helps itself to their cat door and makes itself at home on the owners' spare bed. He now comes and goes as he pleases. What a life!
- Heard about the theft who took on more than he could handle when he decided to take off with a bundle of meat from the Butcher's shop without paying for it. No way was the wife having that and took off in hot pursuit of the theft ably assisted by the local car dealer across the road. Finally caught the culprit and she got the meat pack back. Wonder if they then on sold it as second hand goods...?
- Time stands still in the village as most of the retired people here know. One such person recently had a sick cat and seeing as it was a Monday, he decided to take it to his friend at the Vets in Hunterville only to find that the place was all shut up. Then decided to try the Vets in Bulls only to find that was also shut. Oh well, lets try Marton then. Nope that was all shut up too. Had to get the cat seen to so decided to go to Wanganui where surely a Vet will be open? Got there and saw another person in the car park with a cat as well. So went into the waiting room and sat there with his moggy. A Vet came out and informed him that it was a public holiday and that he wasn't open to the public and that the lady had an appointment to be there. He could leave his cat and come back when they were open the following day. Fine, thanks. Went back the next day only to be told that they had been so busy, they hadn't had a chance to look at the cat – come back tomorrow. So he did, only to be told that the cat needed an

operation and that they hadn't proceeded because they needed his okay to do this. Of course, go ahead and do the operation, I will be back the next day. He did return only to find that the cat hadn't yet come out of his anaesthetic and could he leave it for yet another day? No way! This was the forth trip into town and he wasn't leaving without his cat. So besides the big Vet bill, he also incurred a massive petrol bill! He has now found that since that big trip, the cat won't let its owner out of his sight. The owner has also learnt to check out what day of the week it is before he ventures out on a mission again.

Koitiata Broadband Internet Project

Well, we are still not there yet but there has been some progress since the last issue of 'Matters' in May.

Thanks to the generosity of regular and irregular Koitiata residents, and the benevolence of several businesses we have achieved our funding target (including the addition of GST which had been overlooked).

You have probably noticed the pole that's been up on the hill for a few weeks now, and except for use by the local hawk as a convenient observation platform, it is standing as a silent sentinel for those Koitiata residents who wait below for the arrival of their chosen Hotspot internet plans.

We have been informed by Airstream that the main hold-up with completing the installation has been with getting the frame used for mounting the solar panel and battery power system on the pole manufactured. We have been told that this is now only a "few" days away.

Well, on Tuesday (22/06) it looked like we may have some progress. Early in the afternoon and all the transmitter doo dahs and other stuff were carted up the hill and mounted on the pole. A generator was fired up to provide power (no solar panel frame yet), a laptop connected to the watcha callit thingy and in between admiring the view and trying to keep warm I watched in anticipation for the arrival of the Hotspots into Koitiata airspace from Wharite Peak. They tweaked this and that and they scratched their heads, but no amount of coaxing and browbeating would entice anything out of the airwaves. The wind chill made it too bloody cold for Hotspots! So take it all down off the pole, down the

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

hill, load up and back to base to do some more testing of the watcha callit thingy.

Subsequently a couple of days later, a phone call, "the watcha callit thingy works OK back here, where we know there is a signal, so we probably need to go higher"

So it's now on to plan B, or C or D or whatever it takes! (Now imagine if BP had had a plan B!)

They say that patience is a virtue, so we need to remain virtuous for a bit longer while we await the arrival of our internet Hotspots!

For any further information please contact Eddy Mason, 326 3676, eddym@xtra.co.nz

Neighbourhood Watch - Selling your home

Burglars and thieves sometimes target homes that are for sale. Properties for sale can be vulnerable.

Be careful when selling or advertising your property.

Thieves look for items of interest in online advertisements. Avoid highlighting luxury and sought after or collectable items in photographs.

Thieves notice homes that have the Real Estate advertising signs. A weather beaten or damaged sign can indicate no one is home, just like piled up mail does.

Selling a home can be stressful and it is easy to forget security measures. Property owners need to be aware of increased risk of burglary or theft and take precautions where possible.

Homes should not look obviously unoccupied or uncared for. Most people appreciate neighbours removing junk mail or other rubbish from their property.

Neighbours should be extra vigilant when houses in their neighbourhood are for sale. They should contact the owner or Real estate agent if the house or advertising sign gets damaged. They should talk to people visiting the neighbourhood and take note of car license plates or ring the Police to report suspicious activity.

Councillor's Corner

Greetings all.

Behind the scenes there has been some major work going on with reviewing our 1999 District Plan. In the big picture of plans we have to develop, I believe this is the most important. This is due to it dealing with matters pertaining to the use, development and protection of our natural and physical resources in our District. For example we have to have rules controlling the effects of land use and land subdivision. These requirements fall out of the Resource Management Act.

In reviewing the current document which is made up of three volumes to siphon through, we are looking at a result that is more relevant, slim line and accessible. This is good news for the layperson such as myself. Other key areas being addressed is wind farms/landscapes and tweaking zonings. Public consultation will be out soon and we are eager to receive your feedback.

I note the other plans we are obligated to have is the 10 year Long Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP) which undergoes a review every three years and our Annual Plans which fall out of the LTCCP.

In reflecting on the last couple of months there is one key event that stands out for me. It was the 'A Path to Well-Being Conference' held in Taihape. There was a fantastic turnout of 120 delegates but more importantly those delegates represented 68 different organisations located within and neighbouring our District. It was a great opportunity for re-engaging, networking, putting faces to names but more importantly hearing and sharing the expertise, thoughts, issues, dreams and aspirations of the very people we represent. Those interested were able to attend follow up meetings on each of the theme groups Education, Health, Economic Development, Safe & Caring Communities, and Engaging Lifestyle.

A special mention and thanks to Management and Staff across the District whom did the ground work, researching, organising, and coordinating this conference. We are nothing without their commitment to the role they have within our organisation.

Lastly a comment on the recent Law Commission review on the sale and supply of liquor. It was under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 that beer went into supermarkets and the purchase age reduced from 20 to 18 with Sunday trading being extended. It has

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

now become a serious social problem. Research since 1986 demonstrates beyond doubt that alcohol is a drug and needs to be treated with caution and controlled by the law.

Don't get me wrong I don't mind a drop of wine myself and I don't agree with everything Mayor, John Banks says but I do agree with his comments 'we must crack down on alcohol misuse' and in particular 'I am against alcohol in the hands of our youngest and most vulnerable.' There is a lot of effort in the promotion of moderation I wonder if we can apply this to limiting the number of alcohol outlets across this country at least as a starting point. I'm looking forward to the outcome of the Law Commissions review.

*Kindest regards
Cr. Soraya Peke-Mason – Ph 06 3426 838,
swpeke@xtra.co.nz.*

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

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 03 July, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

August/September 2010

I mentioned in the last newsletter about the efforts of one couple to bring their two properties back to a tidy standard. When looking around the village at what everyone else has done as well, I am enthused at the pride that most are taking in their homes and properties. It is a pity that some of the people that live out here don't take the same pride and this is evident when traveling up Beach Road some days and the roadsides are littered with either takeaways (mainly McDonalds) or alcohol cans and bottles. It seems that when some people are coming home with their takeaways or booze they just chuck it out their vehicle onto the side of the road when they have finished with it. Shame on you all! Gosh, just another minute down the road and you could dispose of it in your own rubbish bin. It is a bit like the people who dump their other bits of rubbish (including concrete) in the "green" waste area. Where does a great hunk of concrete fit into the "green" waste concept? Come on folks, take some pride in your total surrounds and get rid of your rubbish appropriately. Be proud to live in Koitiata. It is a lovely place to live so help keep it that way.

Well, I believe Spring is here, daylight savings starts end of September so that means that Summer is just around the corner. Can't wait!

The next Pot Luck dinner is on 04 September. Go along and meet everyone and do a bit of networking. BYO drinks and a meal to share. \$1 raffle is run on the night.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee AGM was held on 01 August and the following residents were elected onto the committee:-

Chairperson – Jim Mant

Secretary – Jeanette Jurgens

Treasurer – Eddy Mason

Committee – Keith Gray, Jackie Sheehy, Claire Gibney, Hog Doughty, Wes Greenhorn, Steve McKnight

Social Committee – Joy Mason, Annette George, Robyn Mant, Jill Doughty

Ford Committee – Peter Fraser, Hog Doughty, Arnold Nation, Steve McKnight

General Business:-

- Agreed that the Village Centenary celebrations would be held in the Summer of 2013-14
- A letter to be written to the Iwi as owners of the land next to the domain to ask their future intentions of this unattended piece of land. The forest has been replanted, but not this piece. Residents are concerned that it will become a fire hazard during the summer season.
- More defibrillator training to be looked at for those who missed out on the original training day held.

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be the 01 September, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – Slowly steady

Community Hall – ring Wes 3273 934 if you would like to use this for any event

Fire Station – Anyone interested in joining ring Steve 3273 949 or Keith 3273 985

Ford – can safely cross. Plenty of water in the lagoon (may need draining again...)

Forest – planting of new pine trees has been completed except in the 10 hectare block next to the domain. Please be careful if walking in the forest and no vehicles please.

Newsletter Notices

- Country and Western music at the Hall 29 August. All welcome but it would be advisable to be in early as there is a couple of busloads of music lovers expected.
- Finally, white baiting season has arrived for all the keen enthusiasts. This lasts until November so you have plenty of time if you want to wait until the weather improves. Some are counting their catches individually, some are keeping mum – they are the ones you suspect are doing well...
- Many thanks for the donation to the Hall of a pie warmer and tea urn.
- Farewell to long term residents Pam Rhodes and Bob & Maureen Shearman. We trust your new locations will bring as much pleasure as living at Koitiata did while you were here.
- Our Labour Day Market Day is fast approaching. Anyone with white elephant or bric a brac items they would like to donate to sell, please contact anyone on the social committee.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

- The Village phone list is about to be updated. If you would like your phone number added, amended or deleted from the list, please contact the Editor of this newsletter before 10 September.

Village Tit Bits – as the weather is still keeping everyone indoors, there are only a few snippets to report on...

- Heard about two villagers who have recently had heart bypasses are now part of the elite “Zipper Club”. Ask them one day for a look at their chest and you will see why. It is amazing what modern day surgery is available now.
- I hear there are white bait for sale at \$1 each. See Trish if you want some...
- One avid white baiter due to have surgery on her arm 2 days prior to the opening of the season, somehow managed to talk the Hospital staff into going on strike and it has now been put off to a later date so she is now able to fish.
- Heard about the professional drain layer in the village who got a grader stuck in the drain of the Waipu Farm/Beach Road driveway when it conked out on him. Did a bit of innovative traffic control by stopping all traffic passing to see if they had some jumper leads to help him out. Thought you laid drains, not laid machines in then.
- With the flooded rivers lately, it has bought down a lot of fresh native wood for the wood gatherers to fight over on the beach. One such person broke down on his tractor when out hunting for some “fresh wood”. His opposition obliged by giving him a tow home and even shared one of his prize logs. Lets face it guys, you have enough wood to last for many years to come even if you have fires every day over summer as well!
- Late one night a loud siren could be heard and a well meaning resident thought that it was the new defibrillator siren going off. Raced into hubby's vehicle and hurriedly backed down the driveway to go to assist and scraped up against the fence all the way down the drive only to find that it noise was someone's vehicle alarm that had gone off by itself. Hubby certainly was not amused and wife now has to foot the bill to get the damage fixed. Anyone know of a good painter?
- With the heavy frosts earlier in the month, one keen beachcomber found a frost fish that was about 4ft long washed up on the beach. Apparently, they are very tasty if you are into that.

Koitiata Broadband Internet Project Update

Waiting for Broadband

*While some bide their time and curse the delay
And some carry on their activities for the day
Others spend time composing emails that are
rhyming*

*And some make the sacrifice to go to the
broadband hill climbing*

*And up on that hill where the post stood alone
There recently gathered a group who had seeds to
be sown*

*And they did their deeds with their wires with great
care*

*And for a brief moment the long awaited signals
flew into the air*

*To finish the project and get all the broadband
flowing*

*There would be another trip up the hill to get
the power thingy going*

*Then down to the awaiting settlers in the village
below*

*With modems and cable and all manner of wireless
thingies in tow*

*But now that the solar has been put up the post by
some old coots from the village*

*A delay has arisen connecting the wires for the sun
to get the battery some voltage*

*And now the solar power system awaits the expert
with some tools and a clue*

*But alas we are still waiting because the wiring
expert is at home in bed with the flu*

*But soon our village will be joining the wide world of
broadband*

*While we salute the pole on the hill with a glass
of cold ale in our hand*

*We will look back on the time we spent looking up to
the hill in anticipation*

*And we will be thankful that he didn't decide to build
us a nuclear power station.*

Word out is that it is just about here...

Neighbourhood Watch – More hints on selling your home

Some Real estate agents use lock boxes to hold home owners keys so they can conveniently take potential buyers through houses. The lock boxes

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

are robust but no match for a burglar determined to remove or smash a lock box open. Real Estate companies are mindful of security and will abide by your wishes. You should not agree to a lock box to hold your house keys if it makes you feel uncomfortable about the security of your home.

If for any reason you need to divulge your alarm code, for example a tradesman or to a Real Estate agent for an open home, you should change your alarm code afterwards.

Before real Estate agents show prospective purchasers through your home, they record their particulars; however these details are largely unverified. Having Real estate agent accompany people through your home helps to protect your property, but is not a guarantee that potential buyers will be escorted at all times.

If a Real Estate agent suggests marketing your home with an open home, ask "What will this mean to me?"

The names of all visitors to open homes should be recorded along with their telephone number and email addresses. Be aware this does not ensure protection. You can insist that visitors are accompanied through your home.

Don't leave cash or jewelry or other easily concealed valuable items on display or in cupboards and wardrobes that could be opened. Secure small valuable items safely away from prying eyes.

These precautions also apply to owners who are marketing and selling their homes privately.

Councillor's Corner

Greetings all,

RDC District Plan

Further to review of our District Plan here is some additional detail on key changes briefly mentioned in the last notice.

- ☐ *The introduction of outstanding landscape, significant amenity landscape and cultural landscape areas to replace the recommended natural areas for protection in the current plan.*
- ☐ *Detailed rules on hazards, particularly flood and land subsidence hazards.*
- ☐ *Clarifying the rules and assessment policies for renewable energy generation, including wind energy generation.*

Have a look at this when the draft comes out later in the year and share your thoughts with us.

Turakina Beach Road – Legislation

Some will be aware of the history of this matter which dates back to 1849. Briefly it is about the Crown's acquisition of the Rangitikei Turakina Block. In this case a section of land in which the existing road between Tini Waitara Marae and the Urupu sits is not legalised.

Investigations were carried out in 1992 to research the matter and seek to have it resolved but for whatever reasons it did not happen. In my view and given the passing of time Council has investigated all their options, thoroughly researched and debated the issue before finally voting on it. As one of our elders said 'it has closed a gap we have had in our community for a long time,' I can't agree more. Its pleasing this matter can now be put to rest.

Nomination Turakina Ward

In reflecting on my journey in Local Government and talking with elders/supporters in our Ward I have decided to run again. Of course that is entirely up to you. As a first term Councillor I see it a responsibility to at least go a second term. You have all invested in me, strengthened my skill base, networks and local government knowledge. You have paid for me to go to the RMA Workshop and Conference/s during the term. The least I can do is put my hand up a second time regardless of whether I get back in or not.

Local Government for me is a lifestyle and has huge impact on your life. There was only one time I felt a little strained and that was when our young adult son got Lymphoid Cancer and suddenly go through a chemo/radiation programme. Thanks to strong family networks he is well now and back to work. After this term I feel more confident and better equipped to give you my all again. I welcome any candidate wishing to take up the challenge.

Keep warm, spring is coming, hope all is well,

Cr. Soraya Peke-Mason JP.

*Ph: 027 2707763, 06 3426838 or
swpeke@xtra.co.nz.*

PS: Please feel free to contact me about the above or any other matter.

See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Hints on recording your property

With the number of burglaries beginning to climb it is opportune to give some information about recording serial numbers.

Police recover thousands of dollars worth of stolen property every year. Unfortunately many items can not be returned because the owners did not record the serial numbers or mark the property so it could be identified as belonging to them. Worse still, the property may have to be left with the thief.

There are a number of ways you can identify your property. These include engraving valuable property with your driver's licence number and making photographic records of property that can't be engraved. Police suggest keeping valuable certificates or purchase receipts and descriptions of your property in a safe place for future reference.

Microdots are becoming a popular way of discouraging theft of property and unlawful taking of motor vehicles. Microdots are the size of a pin head and are printed with a code that is unique to your property or vehicle. They are brushed or sprayed on to the property to be protected. Their presence on recovered property assists to identify and return it to its owner.

You can also make your own property record. This is the kind of information you need to record; item, make, model, serial number, colour, identifying features, date purchased, price paid, identifying number(drivers licence).

Defibrillator Instructions

The defibrillator has been purchased is now housed in the cupboard on the outside of the front of the Hall. There is a first aid sign above it to show you where it is and instructions on the outside of the door of how to access the machine. This is for everyone's use.

In the case of emergencies, remember to always ring 111 in the first instance.

- **Break the glass on the cupboard door**
- **Use the key to open the door**
- **A siren will sound to alert others that help is needed**
- **Mark on the white board inside the cupboard where the defibrillator is needed**
- **Take the defibrillator**

- **Other residents should respond to the siren and come to assist you and/or operate the defibrillator if you aren't trained**
- **Someone else will access the Hall to turn off the alarm.**

There is also a first aid kit in the cupboard that may come in handy in cases of emergencies.

6 TRUTHS OF LIFE...

- 1. You cannot stick your tongue out and look up at the ceiling at the same time.*
- 2. All idiots, after reading #1 will try it.*
- 3. And discover #1 is a lie.*
- 4. You are smiling now because you are an idiot.*
- 5. You soon will share this to another idiot.*
- 6. There is still a stupid smile on your face.*

Coming up next newsletter:-

- Report on the Civil Defence Tsunami meeting held recently.
- Your Neighbourhood watch street contacts
- And much more.

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 jshreehy@xtra.co.nz

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See you all at the next Pot Luck dinner on Saturday 04 September, 5.30pm onwards at the Hall.

Koitiata Matters

October/November 2010

Well last month I must have jinxed things. I mentioned in the newsletter that daylight saving was here, spring was here and that good weather was on the way. Wrong! While we did have a few lovely summer days, it then rained, and rained and rained some more. The ground became so saturated, that it couldn't hold any more and it spilled out, ran over the road down into the village and then found its way into houses and flooded several sewage systems.

Despite efforts to sandbag the first house, the water persisted and in the end, they had no choice but to abandon the house. I must say, I admire Annette and Ewen for coping as well as they did. They kept up their positive attitudes and even managed a laugh or two at their own expense. For example, while the portaloo was lying there on its side, they joked about having to lie down in order to take a pee. Accolades to the both of you. Other residents are still having trouble with their saturated properties and ongoing water problems. Taking the dog for a walk has become a real problem as most of the tracks surrounding the village are all flooded and you need your waders or snorkels to attempt them. You can't take rubbish to the green waste dump without the possibility of becoming bogged down. You would have to be a real brave person (or an idiot) to even attempt to go down the track alongside the forest on the coast side. If you do become stuck, there probably wouldn't be too many people who would risk drowning their own vehicles to come and rescue you.

Anyway folks, hopefully the weather and the Council will come to the party and things will soon sort themselves out.

The next Pot Luck will be at Labour Weekend on Sunday. BYO drinks and a meal to share. \$1 raffle is run on the night.

Koitiata Residents' Committee has meet and items discussed include:-

- Further defibrillator training has been arranged for 9.30am on the morning of Market Day
- Special mention and thanks to Keith and Wes for their efforts during the flooding

- As a result of the special meeting held on 30 September, still waiting to hear back from Horizons and RDC regarding their investigations into the flooding and any future plans to prevent this happening again
- Concern over lack of consistency in the lawn mowing around the village by contractors

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be the 03 November, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – travelers still keep coming
Community Hall – book now for your Xmas functions

Fire Station – new fire truck getting fitted out
Ford – was easily accessible until the ditch draining the lagoon filled up with sand and the water levels are rising again

Forest – nothing to report

Newsletter Notices

- Coming events in the Village:
 - Market Day Saturday 23 October
 - Pot Luck Dinner Sunday 24 October
 - Country & Western music 31 October.
 - Melbourne Cup Tuesday 02 November
 - Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 04 December
 - New Years in the hall 31 December
- Our Labour weekend Market Day is nearing. Have another look in your cupboards, out in the shed etc for white elephant or bric a brac items you would like to donate to sell. Contact either Joy 3273-676, Robyn 3273-909, Gill 3273 727 or Annette 3273 985. The Hall will be open from 5-7pm on the Friday to receive any donated goods or for setting up stalls etc.
- The Village phone list is in the process of being laminated prior to being delivered. This time, we have listed the sponsors who assisted financially with getting Broadband to the village.
- Melbourne Cup on 02 November from 3pm at the Hall. \$2 sweepstakes which close at 4.30pm and the race starts at 5pm. Lucky door prize and a prize for the best "Melbourne Cup Hat" competition. Bring finger food to share and your own drinks. All welcome.
- Proof that Neighbourhood Watch works in the village when recently after the floods a suspicious vehicle was spotted with its lights off, going around the village and someone snooping around the houses. Details were taken and relayed to the Police. Lookouts were stationed at most areas along the streets. No-one was

See you all at Market Day 23 October & Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 24 October, from 5.30pm onwards

caught but Police have information to work on.
Keep up the good work folks.

Message from the Fire Shed

Last month's flooding tested the village resources – starting with the efforts of the sandbaggers valiant attempts to protect houses, but unfortunately nature won. Sunday saw the Fire Crews pumping out houses and water from the streets. With a very high water table, it has been a real battle and will be ongoing for a few weeks yet. A drain down the north side of the Village has removed some of the surface water.

Thanks must go to the sandbag team, the fire crew and other villagers who pitched in to help with special thanks to Allan and Eric for their assistance with the pumps and hoses. Also, to the wonderful ladies who provided us with morning tea and lunch. It touched the right spot.

**Stephen McKnight
Senior Crew Boss**

Village Tit Bits – the warmer weather is drawing people outdoors and so the snippets of gossip come forward...

- Have you heard about our new water diviner in the village? Apparently he tried it with his stick outside his neighbour's house at the end of Omanu Street – had heaps of success!
- Due to the recent floods, one home owner even had to find alternative housing for his chickens. Wonder if he tried claiming insurance on their flooded building?
- After 12 long years with an old agitator washing machine, it finally gave up the ghost so the owner reluctantly went out and bought one of the new fangle automatic ones. Has now come to the conclusion that they aren't so bad as she can go out and work "gaily" in her garden while she is waiting for the load to wash.
- One person who will remain nameless (but he sells meat) was one of the first to be connected to the Broadband system. He was also the first one to have used up all his allocation after only 3 days of being connected – it appears that you can't go willy-nilly watching movies or downloading music etc without it using up all your bytes. Can't blame the kids for that one!
- Another resident with no name (but does a lot of work around the village with his digger) acquired a new pre-loved tractor. Very proudly, he took it for a run down the beach – showing off in front of the white baiters and all the

villagers who were out making the most of the beautiful weather – only to make a real fool of himself and become stuck on the side of the river bank. Had to rely on others to pull him out. Now because it made him look silly, he wants to sell it - \$2000 complete with transport tray.

Tsunami Information

A Tsunami is a series of waves caused by displacement of a large volume of water. Due to the immense volumes of water and energy involved, tsunami can devastate coastal regions. Tsunamis have been a danger in New Zealand as long as people have lived here. Archaeological studies have shown that during the mid 15th century, many Maori moved their settlements from low lying coastal sites to hilltops and inland sites.

Although the risk of tsunami to the West Coast of New Zealand is very low, the consequences of such an event would be catastrophic. With this in mind a Rangitikei District Tsunami plan has been developed. In essence the plan revolves around a distant source tsunami and a local source tsunami. With a distant source event you will receive lots of warnings and have time to evacuate. With a local source tsunami the only warning you may receive is that of feeling the earthquake! If you feel an earthquake that is strong enough to knock you to your knees, then you should immediately head inland.....

It has been identified that the gateway leading to Andrew Major's house would be the safest and highest point of which to evacuate.

Neighbourhood Support

Some of you may not be aware, but in Koitiata we have a neighbourhood support system set up with people responsible for watching out for houses in certain parts of each street. These people only, have personal contact details of those houses they are responsible for so if ever the need arises, contact can be made with the owners to report any issues. If you are new to the village and haven't been asked for your contact details, get hold of your street contact as listed below. If ever you are unable to get hold of yours, either contact someone else on this list or Jackie who is the coordinator of the whole support network database.

See you all at Market Day 23 October & Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 24 October, from 5.30pm onwards

1-11	Rapaki St	Jackie Sheehy	3273 654
12-24	"	Tom Dooney	3273 770
25-35	"	Peter Fraser	3273 754
36-55	"	Wes Greenhorn	3273 934
1-12	Wainui St	Stephen McKnight	3273 949
13-24	"	TBA	
25-36	"	Kevin Dais	3273 840
37-48	"	Ray Gilchrist	3273 750
49-60	"	Jim Mant	3273 909
61-76	"	Noel Bostock	@ No.72
1-26	Omanu St	Keith Gray	3273 985

News flash - We have received a report of an ex courier van that has been sold to a private individual and that it is possibly being used as a shield to allow burglars to gain access to properties without arousing suspicion.

The ex Post Haste Courier van, with logo, has been seen in the vicinity of a couple of rural burglaries. When the details were checked with NZ Post, it was confirmed that the owner of the vehicle did not have a contract with NZ Post.

The vehicle is a Mitsubishi L300 van, registration EKJ 247. The person in possession of the vehicle is thought to be residing in Palmerston North.

Any sightings of this vehicle should be reported to the Police immediately on 111, or if that is not possible then via 349 0600

Credit and eftpos card fraud information

Credit and eftpos card account and personal Identification Numbers (PIN) must be guarded carefully. They are the lock, and key, to your personal finances.

- Keep your own credit or eftpos card safe. If it is stolen or goes missing, inform your credit card company or bank and cancel it immediately.
- Don't have an easily guessed PIN e.g. your birth date; the first set of numbers on the card itself; or sequential numbers such as 1234.
- Try and memorise your PIN, if you can't then never keep your PIN and the card in the same place.
- Use different PINs for different cards.
- In no circumstances reveal your PIN number to anyone. There is no legitimate reason why anyone requires your PIN. Even during an

investigation by bank staff or Police your PIN is not required.

- Always keep your PIN well hidden when entering it-whether at a money machine, in a shop or other busy place.
- Keep an eye out for "shoulder surfers"-people who watch you enter your PIN, then look for an opportunity to steal your card-especially in crowded places.
- Never let your credit card out of your sight-even in a restaurant. Fraudsters are often the most charming people and frequently seek work with high public contact.
- Ensure you get your card back after every transaction.
- Destroy expired cards and sign new cards immediately.
- Match credit card statements with your receipts.
- Keep a record of the card account number, expiry date and any numbers to call if your card is lost or stolen.
- Tell your bank or credit card company if you change your address, so replacement cards are sent to the correct place.
- Be on the look out for "skimming" devices that can read and store the encoded information on the magnetic strip of your card. These small devices have been found attached to money machines and in venues where credit cards are frequently used.

Something a bit light to leave you with this month...

GEOGRAPHY OF A WOMAN

Between **18 and 22**, a woman is like **Africa** – half discovered, half wild, fertile and naturally beautiful!

Between **23 and 30**, a woman is like **Europe** - well-developed and open to trade, especially for something of real value.

Between **31 and 35**, a woman is like **Spain** – very hot, relaxed, and convinced of her own beauty.

Between **36 and 40**, a woman is like **Greece** - gently aging, but still a warm and desirable place to visit.

Between **41 and 50**, a woman is like **Great Britain** – with a glorious and all-conquering past.

Between **51 and 60**, a woman is like **Israel** – has been through war, doesn't make the same mistakes twice, and takes care of business.

Between **61 and 70**, a woman is like **Canada** - cool, self-preserving, but open to meeting new people.

After 70, she becomes **Tibet** – wildly beautiful,

See you all at Market Day 23 October & Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 24 October, from 5.30pm onwards

with a mysterious past and the wisdom of the ages.... an adventurous spirit and a thirst for spiritual knowledge.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF A MAN

Between 1 and 80, a man is like Iran – ruled by a couple of nuts.

Buying a Home in a Retirement Village

Buying a home in a retirement village is different to buying a home in a residential neighbourhood. As well as location, construction style, and the amenities offered, retirement villages offer different types of occupation right (unit-title, cross-lease or right to occupy). Also, there are joining and weekly charges and then there is the capital return at the end of the contract that varies from village to village.

The key to choosing the right retirement village is preparation, taking time to compare and understand the features of the villages you are considering and whether they will meet your future needs. For example, the ability to access home help services or move into a rest home or hospital may be important to you.

Visit different villages and find out what they have to offer. When seriously considering purchases, visit at different times of the day and night.

Talk to residents. Ask them what are the best and worst features of the village and village life?

Retirement villages are governed by the Retirement Villages Act 2003 and all villages must be registered with the registrar of Retirement Villages.

The Department of Building and Housing internet site has information for retirement village residents and operators and provides tips on choosing a retirement village, including;

- information on the Retirement Villages Code of Practice 2003
- information buyers must be given by the retirement village
- getting finance and legal advice
- talking to family and friends about your decision and the contract

The Code of Practice contains information that improves customer consumer protection, customer awareness and provides a minimum standard that all retirement village operators in New Zealand must attain.

About 80% of retirement villages are members of the Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand (RVA). Accredited RVA members are audited against the Code of Practice every three years. Members passing their audit are issued with certificates from an independent auditing organization and the RVA to display publicly in their premises. The RVA internet site has a list of all its members with links to most.

Sorted, which is the internet site of the Retirement Commission, offers helpful financial, lifestyle and signing up checklists plus other comprehensive information on retirement villages.

The internet site Trade Me has a Property section devoted to properties for sale in Retirement Villages.

And just one more...

How come when you mix water and flour together you get glue?

And then you add eggs and sugar and you get a cake. Where did the glue go?

You know darn well where it went – that's what makes cake stick to your bum and hips!

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 j.sheehy@koitiata.co.nz

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

See you all at Market Day 23 October & Pot Luck dinner on Sunday 24 October, from 5.30pm onwards

Koitiata Matters

Dec 2010 & January 2011

Well Broadband has finally reached many households in the village but not without heaps of hassles as you will read about further on. Hope you are all happy with the service. Personally I wasn't happy so have now withdrawn, but I would like to give a big vote of thanks for all the work Eddy Mason has had to do to get this thing moving. He has gone a lot greyer with what hair he now has left after pulling most of it out and it has been very frustrating for him – promises made and not kept, prices quoted and then changed and so on. I hope it now all runs smoothly for those of you on the system. Me – I will stick with my old faithful dial-up. I know I am getting charged \$17 for 50 hours usage per month, the service is uninterrupted and hey, while it may be a little slower, remember we live at the beach and the lifestyle here is a little slower and more laid back so things take a bit more time.

This will be the last newsletter this year. The next one will be out probably at the end of January. So to all of you out there, have a very Merry Xmas and New Year. If you are going away take care and if you have family and friends coming to the beach then have a great time.

The next Pot Luck will 04 December. BYO drinks and a meal to share. A raffle is run on the night.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee have meet and items discussed included:-

- As a result of a complaint laid by a resident to the DHB about possible contamination of drinking water after the recent floods, the DHB are to carry out testing on random bores within the village. They will then come back next year and test the same bores again. Residents should by now have received a letter about this.
- RDC is to put in a culvert and drain along the north side of the village to divert any excess water coming into the village. All RDC ratepayers are to be levied for this (approx. \$2 each)
- A separate fund to be set up for the 2014 Koitiata Centennial Fund and 40% of any village fundraising is now to be put into the fund.
- A photo wall is to be set up within the Hall to display old photos of the village and/or residents. These pictures will be changed or updated regularly. If any one has something to contribute to this wall, contact Eddy on 3272 676

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be on 01 December, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – steady influx of campers

Community Hall – see advert with this newsletter about some exciting December entertainment including Koitiata's very own globe trotting banjo player Catherine (BB) Bowness

Fire Station – the new fire truck has arrived

Ford – spraying has been done. Just a small bit of water left to get your feet wet when crossing it
Forest – drying out fast.

Newsletter Notices

- Coming events in the Village:
 - Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 04 December
 - New Years in the hall 31 December – meet there from 9.30pm – flyer to follow
 - January events – see flyer out soon
- The Village phone list has now been delivered to most houses in the village. If you have not received your copy or would like an emailed copy sent to you if you live outside the village, please contact the editor. Apologies to anyone who has been missed off or incorrect details entered. It is a living document and changes will occur.
- Recently a pod of whales were spied swimming not far out from shore and close to one of the residents in his boat as he was collecting his net. Quite an awesome sight apparently.
- If you think you are seeing strange lights out at sea lately at nights, it is just the fishing trawler taking away all the fish destined for my husband's long line! And yes, they are allowed to come in as close as they do.
- Many thanks to the Social Committee for their involvement in our recent social events. The Labour Weekend market was a great success as was the Melbourne Cup day (43 attendees) and the Country and Western afternoon (92 guests).
- It seems that possibly the phantom wood stealer is back in town. There have been several strange goings on of late, sheds tampered with, wood piles getting smaller etc. Residents to be vigilant and remember to secure areas/buildings when not in use.
- If anyone missed out on the defibrillator training there is a DVD available. If you wish to view it contact the editor on 3273 654.
- A few more significant birthdays and milestones have been held recently, so *Happy Birthday* to you all. You know who you are...

Village Tit Bits – just a few bits and pieces have come out of the woodwork this month...

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on 04 December from 5.30pm at the Hall & New Years Eve from 9.30pm

MERRY XMAS EVERYONE!

- Hear an interesting “old” story the other night that some may have already heard. It was a case of mistaken identify. Two people were white baiting down at Turning In Creek in atrocious weather conditions when they spied what they thought was a polar bear just out in the waves. Long hair white coat and small beady eyes. Rushed home to get other family reinforcements and bought them down to search for this bear. The weather was so bad that the bikes were getting sand blasted. Took a bit of searching up and down the beach to finally locate a dead Charolais cow! Upon reflection, they did consider exactly where polar bears come from and how on earth it would have ended up in NZ waters. The sand blasted family weren’t too pleased at the over-zealous bear spotters!
- One lucky couple from Turakina who regularly come down to walk their dog, decided to try the forest track by the green waste only to become stuck (second person that day in the same place!). While the rescue mission was happening, another resident located a camera by one of the humps on the road and after a quick bit of calculating of who had recently been over the hump, and sourcing their whereabouts, it was determined that it belonged to this couple. Upon questioning if they would like their predicament photographed, it came to light that it was their camera that was going to be used to take the evidential pic. Turns out hubby had rested the camera on the 4WD back at home and it was only the motion of going over the hump that it dislodged itself off the vehicle to end up on the road. Must have been an expensive one as it lasted a 8km car ride, humps and it still lived to take photos. Buy quality and it is made to last...
- Another couple were woken late one night to hear their tractor revving away in the back yard. Someone is trying to steal the flaming tractor he roars jumping out of bed to give chase only to find the tractor bellied on a great log with flames coming out from under the hood. Transpires that it had been left in reverse, on a slight slope, which started it moving enough to set off the starter motor (which did catch on fire) and to set the tractor in motion – backwards. Thank goodness for the log else it probably would have ended up in the swamp before the lagoon never to be found again.
- By the way, if you are mowing your lawns with your ear phones on and i-Pod playing, remember that you are singing very loud to hear your voice over the noise of the mower. Other people can only hear the voice. Thanks for the entertainment neighbour!
- It is the towing season now. Don’t know how many people have had to be towed out from several tracks around the green waste area. One person had followed the length of the track from the beach and got to the very last puddle by the dump only to follow the wrong set of tracks and ended up submerged. Opened up the doors to get out and in gushed the water. When finally towed out, the vehicle was able to be restarted – lucky fella! Don’t what was worse, asking the neighbour for help or facing the wife who was going to say “I told you so”. The maroon surf is now known as *The Swamp Mobile*.

Neighbourhood Support

Thanks to those who offered to be the designated support person for 13-24 Wainui Street. Trevor Greig will now be responsible for this section.

Funnies

A bit of humour to finish the year off with:-

*Paddy goes to the vet with his goldfish.
"I think it's got epilepsy" he tells the vet.
Vet takes a look and says "It seems calm enough to me".
Paddy says, "I haven't taken it out of the bowl yet".*

*Paddy spies a letter lying on his doormat.
It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND".
Paddy spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick the thing up.*

*Paddy shouts frantically into the phone "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"
"Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor.
"No", shouts Paddy, "this is her husband!"*

*An old Irish farmer's dog goes missing and he's inconsolable.
His wife says "Why don't you put an advert in the paper?"
He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing.
"What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks.
"Here boy" he replies.*

DID YOU KNOW...

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven (7) times. Oh go ahead...I'll wait...

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on 04 December from 5.30pm at the Hall & New Years Eve from 9.30pm

MERRY XMAS EVERYONE!

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes or shark attacks.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty (50) years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The King of Hearts is the only king without a moustache

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one (1) olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. (Since Venus is normally associated with women, what does this tell you ? That women are going the 'right' direction...?)

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning ..

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer. So did the first 'Marlboro Man'.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice!

Pearls dissolve in vinegar

The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs... but, not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo - no one knows why.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six (6) feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush. (I keep my toothbrush in the living room now !)

Turtles can breathe through their butts. (I know some people like that, don't you ?)

Remember - knowledge is everything, so pass it on.....and go move your toothbrush !!!

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

CONSTABLE ALLAN SPOONER RURAL OFFICER

At the moment we are heading towards Christmas very quickly and activity on farm over the last two months with calving and lambing now completed can ease off a little.

Over these last months there has been a sharp increase in stock theft from both remote and semi rural properties. Sheep and lambs are the main target at the moment with the festive season, cattle to a lesser extent but are still at risk if the opportunity arises.

Vehicle theft especially 4x4 quad farm bikes is a high priority for burglars in the more remote areas at the moment. Often these bikes are left outside the house with the keys left in the ignitions. A short time ago police recovered two 4x4 quads with a combined value of \$21500 which were stolen to order and delivered to the new owners the same night. Both had their keys in the ignition and the shed was unlocked, remember, **if you don't lock it you will lose it.**

Security in and around your home and farm is important, don't put fat forward stock on a road fence paddock prior to Christmas, its not rocket science. Your quad will still be yours if you lock away at night and put the keys somewhere safe.

Have a crime free Christmas and New Year.



Merry Xmas to you all

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.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on 04 December from 5.30pm at the Hall & New Years Eve from 9.30pm

MERRY XMAS EVERYONE!

Koitiata Broadband Internet

We have broadband internet access in Koitiata and there a couple things to update you all with;

First, we must acknowledge that this would not have been possible without the generosity of the following Koitiata residents and Marton businesses who gave their financial support for the project.

Thanks many big heaps to;

Terry and Barbara, Rapaki Street

Dean and Kate, Rapaki Street

Janice and John, Rapaki Street

Gill and Robert, Rapaki Street

Joy and friend, Rapaki Street

Eric and Zehava, Wainui Street

Fliss, Omanu Street

Jeanette and Trevor, Rapaki Street

John and Glennis, Rapaki Street

Judy and Kevin, Wainui Street

Keith and Annette, Omanu Street

Noel, Wainui Street

Richard and Laurel, Wainui Street

Tom and Trish, Rapaki Street

Alf Downs & Sons Ltd, Marton

BJW Motors, Marton

Cobham Plumbing, Marton

Lynx Computing, Marton

Onestop Auto Centre, Marton

Professionals Real Estate, Marton

Rangitikei Tyre Centre, Marton

Rural Timber & Hardware, Marton

Also thanks to those donors who wish to remain anonymous, and thanks also to Clare Gibney who helped me by 'rounding up' the business contributions.

Please show your appreciation for their generosity by giving your custom to those companies who contributed, and not just those based in Marton, but also those businesses that are owned by fellow villagers and operated from Koitiata.

And now secondly, this is it from me, I'm giving myself the boot from this project! It's up and running and that's what I set out to achieve, access to broadband internet for Koitiata.

It is a much lesser "service" than was originally offered by Airstream and it remains to be seen whether they will be able and/or willing to provide what was "promised", (data and pricing).

But I'm over dealing with Airstream; too many let downs and broken promises. I've had enough of all that and now I'm just going to be one of their

'customers'. Someone else can take on the role of 'Airstream coordinator', (any takers?).

I will continue to be interested in progress and watching out for any new opportunities, so if you watch this space, there could always be a plan B coming over the horizon!

Thank you Koitiata for all your support, financial, physical and moral.

Eddy Mason

eddym@koitiata.co.nz or eddym@xtra.co.nz

Contacts for Airstream; service@airstream.net.nz or 0800 124 778.

Professionals Real Estate

I am pleased to have been a financial supporter of the Koitiata Broadband Fund.

***I am available for all of your Real Estate Needs.
Feel free to give me a no obligation call at any time.***

Glenys Carr | Licensed: REAA 2008
Your trusted choice in Local Real Estate
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Ph 06 327 4455 | Mobile 021 1379302
www.uniqueproperty.co.nz

Cobham Plumbing and Drainlaying

Our company is delighted to have been a financial contributor to the Koitiata Broadband Project.

*Plumbers, Drainlayers, Septic Tank Systems,
Firenzo Woodburners*

**171 Broadway, Marton
Phone (06) 327 8918
rine@xtra.co.nz**

Rangitikei Tyre Centre

We are happy to be a financial supporter for the Koitiata Broadband Internet Project.

Call in and get your tyres checked before you get on the road for the Xmas holidays.

***We have tyres for all your beach vehicles.
Tyres for 4WDs, tractors, motorbikes and trailers.***

**384 Wellington Road, Marton
Phone (06) 327 7885
rangis_tyres@xtra.co.nz**

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on 04 December from 5.30pm at the Hall & New Years Eve from 9.30pm

MERRY XMAS EVERYONE!



Reintarnayshun Live in Concert At the Koitiata Community Hall 7pm Thursday December 2nd



Rooted in bluegrass, the band ventures into other genres mixing delicious grooves and old-timey energy to make for an evening of unforgettable acoustic music.

\$5 entry/Kids free (BYO Drinks)
Includes a free cuppa tea

Reintarnayshun is stopping in Koitiata (Turakina Beach) as part of their 2010 North Island tour, don't miss them.
www.myspace.com/reintarnayshun

See you at the Pot Luck Dinner on 04 December from 5.30pm at the Hall & New Years Eve from 9.30pm

MERRY XMAS EVERYONE!

Koitiata Matters

February/March 2011

What a mixture of weather we have been having at the moment. Bright and sunny, wet and wild, humid nights, and then along came the winds. Never mind, apart from all that, we have been having a very nice hot summer with plenty of long fine evenings to enjoy the outdoors, the beach and all that living at the beach has to offer. I must say, that this summer is the busiest I have ever seen the camp ground. Before Xmas, the New Year and most of January there has been a constant stream of campers. At one stage, you could hardly move along the grass verge to the south of the play ground with all the campers having overflowed there from the camp ground. They all seemed to enjoy themselves and the beach got plenty of use. Heaps of other holiday makers have been staying in the Village as well as out of town home owners returning back for some R&R and all in all, the general behaviour of everyone was very good. It is peaceful now that all the motor cross bikes have gone though – they can get a bit annoying with their high pitch noise as their riders go screaming around the place. Mind you, their riders could be out pillaging and plundering but instead are just having fun and enjoying being teenagers. And it wasn't for too long. I think I may be turning into an old fuddy duddy...

The next Pot Luck will 05 February. BYO drinks and a meal to share. A raffle is run on the night.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee have meet and items discussed included:-

- Approval was given to the Treasurer to set up Telebanking
- Hall kitchen to be modified
- RDC to be contacted re concerns over the incomplete work on the new culvert
- To look at running 6mthly defibrillator refresher training
- Decided that every month prior to the Pot Luck Dinner at 5.30pm the defibrillator siren would be tested

A full set of the minutes of these meetings can be viewed on the notice board by the Hall doorway. Next meeting will be on 02 March, 7pm at the Hall. Anyone can attend these meetings.

Local reports –

Camping Grounds – has proved to be a very popular spot this summer

Community Hall – Roof has recently been painted

Fire Station – recruiting for new members

Ford – due to recent weather, your feet will get wet crossing it

Forest – nothing to report

Newsletter Notices

- Coming events in the Village:
 - Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 05 February
 - Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 05 March
- Country & Western had another successful afternoon last weekend. Once again thanks to all those helpers who give up their time to organise and run these events. The next one will be held at the end of May.
- If you haven't had a chance yet, call into Clare's Turakina Beach Gallery (look for the large sign on Wainui St) and have a look at her artwork. She has had lots of interest and sales are doing well.
- The Koitiata Rural Fire Force is looking at recruiting more members to join their crew. If you don't want to go the whole hog and join the brigade, they are also looking at volunteers who would be prepared to be trained in operating the pumps and fighting a fire if ever we had a fire in the village. The more experienced people on hand if ever that happened, the better. Contact Training Officer Keith Gray on 3273 985 if you are interested in either
- Free to a good home – wooden dog kennel and run, suit small dog. Phone Steve 3273 949.

Village Tit Bits – just a few bits and pieces have come out of the woodwork this month...

- Further on the last story about the polar bear down by Turning In Creek, the concerned parties had always wondered why DOC never turned up after they had been rung and informed of the presence of the bear.
- One good thing that has come from having your home flooded, is that the lady of the house now gets to finally have a stove and running hot water in her kitchen! She wont know herself.
- Does anyone out there have a map of the sand dunes along the beach? Reason being is that after a late evening trip down the beach one night, the unsuspecting driver took a wrong turn thinking he was about to go up the hill to admire the view, when instead he went into a deep ditch and ended up with the vehicle on it's side. Too late to do anything about it in the dark, walked all the way home, mumbled something to the wife and retired for the night. He had to hurry back down the beach at first light to inspect the damage before he broke the news to his wife. Fortunately for good neighbours and a stranger on the beach, the vehicle was righted then towed out of the crevice and it eventually got home. After being on it's side all night and with a bit of mechanical genius on the hubby's part, the old girl finally fired up (blowing oil everywhere) and she is back in business. Wife is happy too. By the way, if anyone finds a denture plate down the beach with 3 teeth on it, gummy hubby is missing one! That's his story and he is sticking to it!

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 05 February – 5.30pm onwards at the Hall

- Talking about loosing teeth down the beach, this time Alan has lost his new anchor off the boat. Think someone needs to show him how to tie a secure knot before he takes the next anchor out.
- Seeing as our water tanks are fairly full again, one resident decided to wash the outside of her house. It started to rain but wanting to get the job finished, she changed into her togs and raincoat to get the job done. Come on, isn't the whole idea of having togs on is so they get wet? So why the raincoat? We have some strange (and shy) people living out here...
- Another strange person was one out on a walk one evening and came across a stranded eel that was struggling to stay alive with no water left in his pool. Not a problem for this person, off came the sock, scooped it up and then proceeded to carry it for 10 minutes until the next water hole. The extremes some people go to for nature!
- Residents at the North end of Rapaki Street have been kept entertained by the stream of people getting stuck over by their end of the lagoon. One such person has had to be pulled out several times now – when will he learn? And a warning to others, when you do stuff up, there always seems to be someone watching...

At the end of last year, Joyce Smith had to go over to England to help with her elderly mother moving into a rest home. This interesting story below reflects the family packing up the her home:

Breaking up the happy home

Mum always said 'you'll have a laugh going through this lot when I'm gone!' with a twinkle in her eye. By 'gone' she meant really gone - as in a wooden box. None of us ever considered the possibility that our ruggedly independent mother would end her days in a rest home. But the fact that she was still very much with us made it all the more important that we should honour her wish and disestablish her flat with good humour. And so on the afternoon of Sat Dec 11th 2010 my brother Ken, sister-in-law Doreen, niece Carol, nephew Ian, great-niece Christina and her partner Colin did just that.

First we got out the contents of the alcohol cupboard and poured ourselves a glass of something we would not usually drink – sherry, port, rum, brandy, ginger wine and a variety of miniature liqueurs – that got us off to a good start. And to soak that up we finished up the contents of Mum's tins of sweet and savoury biscuits.

Mum had taken a lot of photos into the rest home but there were still plenty left on the walls and shelves and of course suitcases to go through. We all agreed there were far too few of our family before we were born, and far too many of our kids and grandkids.

Sharing photos was not a problem as Ken had them all on disc.

In the kitchen, some of the items of most interest were the things I had sent Mum from NZ. Classic 1970s pottery – salt pigs and casserole dishes (postage must have been cheaper in those days). Christina loved the paua shell salt and pepper shakers and Doreen was delighted with the pastry forks with the Massey University crest. Did I really send all that tat? The only things I still really loved were the two moulded resin figures of old Otago gold panners. Ian had always admired them and was delighted to take them home.

Christina loves old stuff. She scored some old books, some frilly glass desert dishes and was thrilled with Mum's collection of winter and summer gloves.

Carol had only wanted the set of fish knives and forks, but she managed to fill a couple of cardboard boxes with other things that 'might come in useful'.

Ken, the family historian, was fascinated with old dog, wireless and TV licenses and old pay slips and receipts. We found the receipt for my wedding food and the outfit Mum wore to my wedding. Ever the hoarder like his mother, Ken couldn't part with fuse wire, three point plugs, brass screws etc.

Colin was surprisingly interested in the proceedings and, as a sports grounds person, was interested in Dad's old tools.

With my baggage restrictions, I had to choose small things to bring back to NZ, but small is beautiful. I got most of Mum's earrings and some very pretty jam spoons and pickle forks which came from 'big houses' where various family members worked as maids. There was also the old sewing memorabilia – various sized hooks from lace to rug making, holes that measured the size of unmarked knitting needles, 12 shades of threads for mending lisle stockings. There were yards and yards of elastic, a life time collection of ribbon and lace and buttons, and best of all – Mum's silver thimble. I also retrieved a beautiful embroidery anglais blouse and a classic wrap around apron. The fabric looks 1970s so it must have been one of the last ones ever made.

The only thing I wanted from Mum's mantelpiece was a little pot with a thatched cottage and the inscription 'a little bit of Old England' It had been there all my life. But Mum isn't ready to part with that yet – it was one of the first things she ordered me to pack for her move. So I'll have to wait until she's really gone for that.

And so Nancy Buckles, aged 99 years 11 months, has a new address and a new lease of life. Good on yer Mum, and thanks for all the memories.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 05 February – 5.30pm onwards at the Hall

Neighbourhood Support

With Stephen McKnight about to reside outside the Village, Richard Corcoran will be the designated support person for 1-12 Wainui Street.

Funnies

To continue on with a bit of more humour to lighten up your month:-

What is a calorie?

Calories are the little sods that get into your wardrobe at night and sew your clothes tighter.
MY CLOSET IS INFESTED WITH THE LITTLE DEVILS

Dear God,

All I ask for in 2011 is a big, fat bank account and a slim body... please don't mix these up like you did last year. Amen.

Points to ponder:-

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in', but it's only a penny for your thoughts? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you are in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, it is still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway?

Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?

Why do toasters always have settings that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

This is amusing – try it. Takes 2 seconds and is good for 'stress relief'. Obviously there are some things the brain just cannot handle.

While sitting at your desk in front of your computer, lift your left foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Now while doing this, draw the number 6 in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction!

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. 'Is it true', she wanted to know, 'that the medication you prescribed to me has to be taken for the rest of my life?'

'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, 'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked "NO REPEATS" '.

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes Dad, what is it?"

'Don't be nervous son, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife'.

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 05 February – 5.30pm onwards at the Hall

Rearranging words

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:

BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:

MOON STARER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:

A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:

THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH:

When you rearrange the letters:

HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE :

When you rearrange the letters:

HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:

DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:

CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:

IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:

LIES LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:

ALAS NO MORE Z'S

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:

I'M A DOT IN PLACE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:

TWELVE PLUS ONE

AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:

WOMAN HITLER

Coming up in the next newsletter

Ever wondered where the farm "Tunnel Hill" got it's name from and would anyone actually like to see this tunnel? Stay posted and all will be revealed in the next newsletter...

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.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the views and fair comment of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

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

See you all at the next Pot Luck Dinner on 05 February – 5.30pm onwards at the Hall

Koitiata Village Newsletter

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In this issue:

- ♦ From the Editor
- ♦ Village Notices
- ♦ Meetings held
- ♦ Local Reports
- ♦ Emergency info
- ♦ Coming events
- ♦ Monthly Moments
- ♦ And finally...

From the Editor

I thought it was about time I changed the format and layout of this newsletter. Hope you like it and find it easy to follow.

Well, day light saving is just about finished for another year. I for one, make the most of the daylight at the end of the day and will miss it. It is getting colder in the mornings and evenings now and I see many villagers have already had fires.

I am sure that while our thoughts are still with the people of Christchurch, they now extend to the people of Japan who have suffered unbelievable damage firstly by the massive earthquake, followed a few minutes later by the massive tsunami. Life is certainly fragile and uncertain at the present time so make the most of it.

Jackie

Meetings

Residents Committee –
Items discussed included:

- Kitchen alterations still work in progress
- Online savings account opened for Centennial account
- RDC met with committee over several concerns including new storm water plan

View a full set of these minutes on the notice board at the Hall.

Next meeting April 6th 7pm at the Hall. All welcome.



VILLAGE NOTICES

- As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are all invited to visit Tunnel Hill and hear how the farm got its name and to have a walk through the tunnel itself. All meet at gate by the woolshed 1.30pm on Sunday April 3rd. There will be a pot luck afternoon tea afterwards in the Hall which will be open prior to the visit at 1pm to drop off your food to share.
- It is only 6mths until our Labour Weekend market day. We need all you crafty people out there to start thinking about making wares to sell.
- Condolences to those of you who have lost loved ones, friends or family of late and special thoughts to the Jermy family for the loss of Allison.
- Don't forget to put your clocks back this weekend.
- A big welcome is extended to the new residents who have recently bought houses in the village. May you enjoy living here as much as the rest of us do. The lifestyle is pretty hard to beat and if you are workers like the editor, the beach is very relaxing to come home to at nights.
- Annette and Ewen want to say a **BIG** thank you to all those who helped and supported them when their house was flooded out. That is one thing small communities are good at – supporting one another.



Coming Events

- Pot luck tea April 2nd 5.30pm at the hall
- Tunnel Hill walk April 3rd 1.30pm at the woolshed
- Residents committee meeting April 6th 7.00pm
- Easter pot luck tea April 24th 5.30pm at the hall
- No pot luck tea in May
- Country music May 29th

Local Reports

Camping Grounds - A popular summer spot

Community Hall – available for hire, phone Wes 3273-934

Fire Brigade - have attended several fire call outs this season

Ford - accessible for all

Forest - is quite dry so care is needed

CONSTABLE ALLAN SPOONER RURAL OFFICER

Well here we are Christmas is over once again and we are recovering from the annual indulgences. Unfortunately criminals don't stop very long over the holiday period and I know I harp on about it but farmers and rural dwellers make it easy for criminals to help themselves in the country. Again the theft of farm 4x4 bike is continuing on at a constant pace, most of which have been parked outside with the keys left in them. Remember if you want to use them every day you need to put them away in a locked shed with the keys removed, it takes time to replace them and as I've seen in the past you really notice it when its not there to use.

It is also the time of the year for cannabis to be grown in the rural areas. If anyone has seen vehicles parked in unusual places or returning to bush or remote areas at the same time repetitively please contact your local police they will forward your information on to me. Any information given is treated in strict confidence. I may need to talk with you to confirm a location so include your contact details.



Monthly Moments

- During the month of February we had heaps of hot muggy days – evening time while trying to sleep for everyone was even worse. One resident was so tired that one Sunday afternoon and due to lack of sleep, decided to take an afternoon siesta to catch up on all her lost sleep. When she finally woke, she was astonished to find the clock saying 8.00 o'clock. Oh darn, I have gone and sleep through the whole night and have now missed the blooming rubbish run, she thought. Oh well, nothing I can do about it now, so I may as well have my breakfast. It wasn't until she was half way through her breakfast and observed that the daylight was getting darker that she realised it was only 8.30pm in the evening and not the morning at all! Don't worry Gay, the editor has been there and done exactly the same thing, only I actually made it all the way to work!!!
- Since the RDC have put in new culverts along Wainui St, two residents have had to resow the grass on their road frontages. One just raked and grass seeded, the other went all out with a load of top soil, hormone growth and fancy grass seeds. Will be interesting to watch and see who gets the better results – that is if the birds don't clean out all the seeds first. Hear it is rather a battle trying to keep them away. So if you see a couple of men out waving around on their pieces of dirt, they aren't trying to get your attention, they are trying to scare off the birds!

Emergency Information

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 the fire shed to hear what the emergency is

Household Emergency Plan

Ensure you have emergency survival items to cope on your own for up to 3 days or more

- | | |
|--|--|
| * Water – at least 3 litres per person per day | * Canned and other non perishable food |
| * Torch and radio (with spare batteries) | * Toilet paper, plastic bags and buckets |
| * First aid kit + essential everyday medications | * Portable gas operated cooker |
| * Face and gas masks | |

- Listen to the radio for civil defence advice
- Do not use your telephone unless urgent. For Ambulance, Fire or Police, dial 111
- Make yourself familiar with the emergency information on the back page of your telephone directory or the website www.getthru.govt.nz

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

And finally...

50 bucks is 50 bucks

Buddy and his wife Edna went to the state fair every year and every year Buddy would say, 'Edna, I'd like to ride in that helicopter'. Edna always replied, 'I know Buddy, but that helicopter ride is 50 bucks, and 50 bucks is 50 bucks'.

One year Buddy and Edna went to the fair, and Buddy said, 'Edna I'm 85 years old, if I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance'. To this Edna replied, 'Buddy that helicopter ride is 50 bucks and 50 bucks is 50 bucks'.

The pilot overheard the couple and said, 'folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say anything I won't charge you a penny. But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars.'

Buddy and Edna agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy manoeuvres, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Buddy and said, 'By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't, I'm so impressed'.

Buddy replied, 'Well to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Edna fell out, but you know, 'Fifty bucks is fifty bucks!'

=====

The blonde and the porch

A young blonde girl in her late teens wanting to earn some extra money for the summer decided to hire herself out as a "handy woman" and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do. "Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint the porch" he said. "How much will you charge me?" Delighted the girl quickly responded, "How about \$50?" The man agreed and told her that the paint and brushes and everything she would need were in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation, said to her husband "Does she realise that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?" "That's a bit cynical isn't it?" he responded. The wife replied "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes."

A few hours later the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already??" the startled husband asked. "Yes" the blonde replied, "and I even had paint left over so I gave it two coats." Impressed the man reached into his pocket for the \$50 and handed it to her along with a \$10 tip.

"Thank you" the blonde said, "and by the way, it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

=====

Where did "Piss Poor" come from?

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive, you were "Piss Poor". But worse than that were the really poor folks who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

Other interesting facts about the "olden" days...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub of hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually loose someone in it. Hence the saying – don't throw out the baby with the bath water!

Koitiata Village Newsletter

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In this issue:

- ◆ From the Editor
- ◆ Village Notices
- ◆ Meetings held
- ◆ Local Reports
- ◆ Emergency info
- ◆ Coming events
- ◆ Historical news items on flax mill
- ◆ Monthly Moments
- ◆ And finally...

From the Editor

Apart from a few odd cold days and a lot of rain, the weather had been quite mild of late. Strange for this time of year, but who is complaining? Hopefully it stays like this for a while longer yet. The darker evenings are drawing in and this means we all gravitate indoors to where most of the village has had their fires going. Some of us are holding out and resisting the temptation to light their fires. With the forest being cut down last year, most residents seem to have managed to get themselves a good stock of firewood and the beach wood gatherers are still hard at it.

Duck season is on us again, so watch out for those hunters when you are out and about on your walks. Also you hunters – watch out for us! It is amazing how the birds seem to know when the season is and what areas to avoid.

Jackie

Meetings

Residents Committee –
Items discussed included:

- Kitchen plan agreed and work to commence shortly
- Centennial account now open
- Sub committee to be formed to plan Village Centennial
- RDC contacted and Domain finally mowed
- Road edges still to be sprayed by RDC

View a full set of these minutes on the notice board at the Hall.

Next meeting 01 June, 7pm at the Hall. All welcome.



VILLAGE NOTICES

- Expressions of interest for those wishing to go on the sub committee to plan for the Village Centennial will be called for shortly. Anyone interested to contact Jim Mant on 3273 909 in the first instance
- Broadband is up and running successfully with 22 connected. Weekend services available (need lap top and credit card). Contact Eddy 3273 626 if you need more info.
- If you want worms for your compost, contact Mosston School, Wanganui who have a worm farm for school fund raising.
- It is requested that dog owners take responsibility for some of the droppings that their pooches leave behind when out on their walks.
- The Fire Brigade is intending to visit each section in the Village to familiarise themselves with access to water tanks on each property in the event of an emergency occurring where they may need access to your property for water.
- Congratulations on more villagers as they are reach milestones relating to their age – pensions, the big “0” birthday etc.
- Get well soon to those who have been unwell or have had to undertake a trip to the hospital courtesy of St Johns Ambulance service.
- Beside the Fire Shed are green waste bins available for you to recycle your aluminium cans – saves room in your rubbish bags too!



Coming Events

- Country music 29 May
- Pot Luck tea 05 June
- Xmas in July 02 July
- Residents Committee AGM 17 July, 2pm
- Country music 31 July

Local Reports

Camping Grounds – now has access to Broadband for campers

Community Hall – available for hire, phone Wes 3273-934

Fire Brigade – checking houses in village for water tank access

Ford – flooded at the moment; care is needed if crossing

Forest – permission is required if intending to get firewood. There are issues with motorbikes going into that area & some of the access ways that have been made will be closed off shortly



Monthly Moments

Things conspired against Peter Smith getting his broad beans in this year. He bought some at the usual time and left them on the porch shelf ready to plant. A couple of days later he picked up the packet and found it empty. Every bean seed had been tidily removed through a little hole in the corner barely big enough for a bean to go through. Oh well – shopping again Friday – buy some more. Did the round of all the usual garden and chain stores in Wanganui – not a broad bean to bought anywhere – it's the season – very popular broad beans. Oh well – Easter coming up – driving to Wellington and flying to Christchurch - bound to get some somewhere.

Understandably, everywhere you go in Christchurch to shop or eat is very crowded – but we got around a bit – only found one garden centre in our travels – no broad beans – someone's planting in Christchurch – as also evidenced by the beautiful little broad bean plants at the Riccarton Farmer's Market – they were going like hot cakes. The locals might have had a bumpy drive home but we were flying.

Back on the main land and two days in Wellington. It's the capital city for heaven's sake - there must be some broad beans. Sure enough Peter got some in Lyall Bay Bunning's taking his grandsons for a leg stretch. And just to be sure he bought another packet in Levin - because he could!

Finally – the ground was prepared, the packet was opened and Peter went forth to sow. He stood up, he bent down, he stood up, he bent down, he got dizzy but he thought he'd finish his row and whoo – down he fell! 'I've got a very sore shoulder' he told the ambulance lady. "I'd put money on that being a broken collar bone' she replied. She was right. Those broad beans had better be good!



Emergency Information

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 the fire shed to hear what the emergency is.

Defibrillator Instructions

This is housed in the cupboard on the front wall to the Hall. Just look for the First Aid sign. Instructions on how to access this are on the outside of the door. This is for anyone's use, so take the time next time you are passing to read how to access it. **In the case of emergencies, remember to ring 111 in the first instance.**

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| * Break glass on cupboard door | * Use key to open cupboard door |
| * Siren will sound to alert others that help is needed | * Mark whiteboard where you are going |
| * Take defibrillator | |
| * Other residents should respond to the siren and come to assist you and/or operate the machine | |
| * Someone else will access the Hall to turn off the alarm | |

And finally...

Childbirth at 65

With all the new technology regarding fertility recently, a 65year old friend of mine was able to give birth. When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, I went to visit.

"May I see the new baby" I asked. "Not yet", she said. "I'll make coffee and we can visit for a while first".

Thirty minutes had passed and I asked "May I see the new baby now?" "No, not yet" she said. After another few minutes had elapsed, I asked again "May I see the baby now?" "No, not yet", replied my friend.

Growing very impatient, I asked "Well when can I see the baby?" "When he cries!" she told me. "When he cries?" I demanded. "Why do I have to wait until he cries?"

"BECAUSE I FORGOT WHERE I PUT HIM, O.K. ?!!!"

Why parents drink

The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees was absent but had not phoned in sick one day. Needing to have an urgent problem with one of the main computers resolved, he dialled the employee's home number and was greeted with a child's whisper "*Hello*".

"Is your Daddy home?" he asked. "Yes" whispered the small voice. "May I talk with him?" The child whispered "No". surprised and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked "Is your mummy there?" "Yes". "May I talk with her?" Again the small voice whispered "No".

Hoping there was someone with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, "Is anybody else there?" "Yes" whispered the child "*a policeman*". Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked "May I speak with the policeman?" "*No, he's busy*" whispered the child. "Busy doing what?" "*Talking to Daddy and Mummy and the Fireman*" came the whispered answer.

Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background through the earpiece on the phone, the boss asked "What is that noise?". "*A helicopter*" answered the whispering voice. "What is going on there?" demanded the boss now truly apprehensive. Again, whispering the child answered "*The search team just landed a helicopter*". Alarmed, concerned and a little frustrated the boss asked, "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle..."*Me!*"

A women sitting at home on the veranda with her husband and says "I Love you". He asks, "Is that you or the wine talking?"

She replies, "It's me talking to the wine!"

Other interesting facts from history...

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof – hence the saying "it's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That is how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you open the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way – hence a "thresh hold".

In April, Richard Redmayne gave a group of about 30 interested people a tour of part of his farm to show us the tunnel where in the earlier days, had been used by the Rangitikei Fibre Company's mill to transport the flax down the hill via a sluice type system to the mill. To date, there is no evidence on the surrounding farmlands as to where exactly the mill was – it was like it was never there – the only evidence remaining is the tunnel through the hill. It had been professionally constructed and over the years the Redmayne family has kept the maintenance on it up to date and it is still in excellent condition. Below are two extracts from the then local newspaper about the mill, so there is written proof that the mill did actually exist. It makes for very interesting reading...

THE YEOMAN (Wanganui) : October 19, 1889 - page 2

GENERAL NEWS

The Rangitikei Fibre Company's Turakina Mill.

(Communicated)

Being in Turakina on Thursday last and having a few hours to spare, I thought it could not be more profitably employed than visiting and inspecting the Rangitikei Fibre Company's Turakina Mill. With this object in view I left Turakina at about 11am. The road leading to the mill passes through some of the richest pastoral and agricultural land in New Zealand, and is situated in one of the most picturesque spots on the Turakina River. The soil is of a rich alluvial nature, and the land having been brought under a fair state of cultivation (particularly that occupied by the Maoris), affords with the fringe of bush on each side of the clear land and the serpentine character of the Turakina River, a series of sketches worthy of the pencil of a Blomfield. The distance from Turakina township to the mill site is about three miles. I arrived there at a little after 12 a.m. and on introducing myself to the manager, Mr Gibbons was courteously received and hospitably invited to partake of dinner with him, it being the hour for that meal. After dinner Mr Gibbons constituting himself my guide conducted me over the premises. We first visited the dining-room, which is a very comfortable apartment measuring 65ft by 10ft, the sleeping accommodation for the boarders occupying the same length with a width of 5ft. There is sleeping accommodation for 36 men, and the rooms are very well ventilated. The kitchen under the same roof is very commodious and clean, and is supplied with an oven (almost large enough to bake an ox in) and a huge boiler. The whole is under the management of Mr Pole and reflects great credit upon him for the manner in which he conducts the place.

Green Flax Store I was next shown the green flax store. This is a building some 40ft by 85ft and is supplied with two of Avery's platform weighing machines. Messrs Pearson and Beattie have the contract for cutting and carting the raw material, the contract being for the delivery of 25 tons a day, the flax to be tied up in bundles not exceeding 100, and to be cut above the crown of the root. There were about 50 tons in the store, and on measuring it I found it about 8ft long. We next visited the stripping machines, of there are five in use. Mr Gibbons informed me that they were working fairly well at present, each stripping from four to five tons per day. This department is under the supervision of Mr Hansen, who has five men and five boys at the strippers, three washing the fibre and two shaking it. The strippers are raised on a platform some 6ft high, and the *modus operandi* is this: The flax is placed into stripper and pulled out from below by a boy. It is then put into the trough, where there is a continual flow of water, and then taken out and placed onto the benches, then carted away to the bleaching and drying grounds. For this purpose 3 horses and drays are kept constantly at work. I might mention *en passant* that the water for mill purposes is brought down in a flume from a lake some half a mile distant from which there will never be a never falling supply. The fibre dried on wires in very wet or unfavourable weather. But when the wind is high and the sun bright it is merely laid on the ground, being turned over frequently. Every seven or eight tons of green flax gives a return of one ton of dressed fibre.

Scutching Shed We found our way to the scutching shed, where the fibre is taken after being dried and bleached. This is a shed some 40ft by 60ft, in which are two scutchers and two screw-power presses, made by S. Luke and Son, Wellington, from designs furnished by the late Mr Fulton, C.E. This shed is under the management of Messrs Cameron, Berry, Suxten and Co., who have the contract for doing the scutching. Mr Gibbons is of opinion that it would be impossible to find a better set of men for the work they are engaged in; in fact he considers it would be superfluous to get an "Edison's patent twigger" as the men and boys in all departments do their work satisfactorily. The fibre after being scutched is pressed into bales of 2 ½ cwt, each containing some eight hanks. Mr Gibbons is sorting the fibre-before baling-and showed me three distinct qualities, the finest being almost equal to silk. The drying ground is some 200 acres in extent. Mr Richards has the contract for carting dressed flax to Turakina Railway Station, and taking back to the mill stores and other requirements. The number of men employed by the Rangitikei Fibre Company represents some 60 all told, and they all seem satisfied with the rate of wages given, and some have

evidently made up their minds to remain there, as I saw a large kitchen garden being laid out. I omitted to mention that Mr James Murray, of our town, is in charge of the machinery. In conclusion, while thanking Mr Gibbons for his kindness, I must congratulate the company on securing the services of such a competent manager, as Mr Gibbons is a practical engineer, and has had some 20 years experience in dressing flax in the Auckland district. In fact, it was from the firm that he was connected with that the Government acquired the information on the flax industry that was published by them in 1875.

THE YEOMAN (Wanganui) : February 1, 1890 - page II

TURAKINA

(From our Correspondent.)

The Rangitikei Fibre Company's Mills.

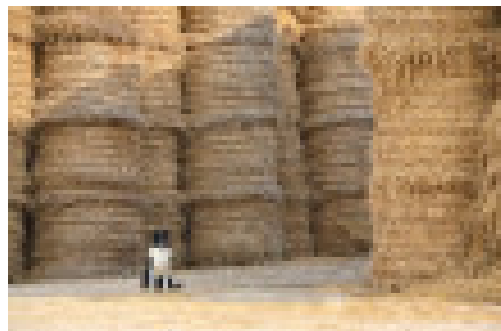
This Company is the largest concern that has ever been established in the colony for the manufacture of flax, and in order that your readers may be able to form an idea of the importance of this local industry and its beneficial effect to the labouring classes in particular, I propose to give a few details, showing the number of hands employed, and their various duties, together with a few other particulars as to the *modus operandi* of hemp manufacture. There are two mills, the larger one is about three miles from the Turakina Railway Station, almost in a direct line towards the ocean. This mill is known as the Turakina Mill, and it is the one which I am now describing. The only reference to the other mill which I think it necessary to make is, that it is situated at Lake William, about five miles south of the Turakina Mill, and is also on the Otakapu or Rhodes' station. Lake William Mill is off the Bulls-Turakina road about seven miles, nearly in a line with the Pukupapa road, and about half way between Bulls and Turakina. Bulls is about nine miles from Lake William, and Marton about seven miles. The Marton Railway Station and the town of Marton is where the business of this mill is done. The mill hands patronise both Bulls and Marton, and Turakina receives the patronage of the mill of the same name. The whole of the stores and dressed flax come and go by rail to Wellington, while the coal is brought from Wanganui by rail, but I am of opinion that the whole carriage of coal, flax, and stores could be done cheaper by wagons from Wanganui, as it is only half the distance by road. Teamsters would do well to make enquiries respecting this item, I think also that a coach would find a good load on Saturday afternoon, returning from Wanganui on Sunday.

The Water Supply for the Turakina mill is obtained from a lake about 3 miles distant, and is brought in a flume for about 1 ½ miles, then through a tunnel, thence to the mill by a raised aqueduct a quarter of a mile long. A strong flow of water is brought directly under the strippers and finally empties itself into a creek below the works. The buildings are large and substantially built, and consist of the mill proper, where the green flax is received and passed on to the stripping machines, thence to the washers on the benches outside. The engine-room is at one end of the main building, where there is a 25 horse-power engine, and 30 h.p. tubular boiler which are none too large for the power required, as there are 4 double strippers and 3 double scutchers, one of the strippers being kept in reserve. The scutching shed is also a large place, and is used for storing the hanked flax preparatory to its being scutched and bailed up by the 2 power presses. The hackling shed is a separate building where the tow is passed into or rather a portion of it, as there are several large stacks out in the bleaching field, which I guess, the Company would like to dispose of. The wages men's house, has sleeping, dining, and cooking accommodation, for upwards of 40 hands. The office, managers and clerks quarters, are in a separate building. I will now describe

The various duties of the mill hands which will show how the labour is distributed. The manager, Mr John Gibbons, has of course to see to everything, and appears to understand how to deal with both the raw vegetable and the raw recruit, the work going on like the machinery with but little friction. The clerk has to do with both mills, the time-keeper having local work entirely. Now coming into the mill we find the weighing clerk handling the heavy green bundles, after it is delivered from the carts, 2 benchmen carrying the leaves to the 6 feeders, 6 catchers, who take the flax from under the stripping machine, 4 hankers, who shake out the separate vegetable matter and hank, 4 washers, 2 trolley men, who truck the flax outside, 2 wheelers taking away refuse, 2 stripper keepers, for repairing, 1 sweeper, who cleans the scutching house. I must not forget the engineer, 2 firemen and 1 carpenter, and at the large whare 1 cook and his assistants, say 40 hands besides 10 or so extra as the mill is working a "nightshift" – 50 salaried and wages men. Then there are the contractors. Mr Nathan, an erstwhile Wanganui man, has 3 horse teams with 1 man to each bringing 2 and 3 loads of green flax daily a distance of four miles; 15 cutters are camped out, a weighing clerk and one clerk and a cook – making 26 hands in all. The scutchers and bailers also have a separate contract, and of these there are 10. There are 12 "paddockers" who operate on the bleaching grounds, who with there two carters and one cook total 15; so that there are 101 employees at the Turakina mill alone, and about two-thirds as many as the Lake William

mill, where Mr James Murray is in charge. The mill hands average about 25s per week and found, boys about 15s and “tucker”. The various contractors have separate camps, and, like neighbours in London, don’t know much of each other as yet. The hands have the reputation of being a steady lot, and they look an active body of men. They have their cricket club, and enjoy Saturday afternoon, as the mill stops at 1pm. The mill hours are 7 to 12 and 1 to 6, with ten minutes for “oiling” twice a day, which the “boys” call “smoke” time.

The Daily Output at this mill, requiring from 28 to 30 tons of green leaves to produce it. The consumption of coal is 2 ½ tons for 24 hours. A system of selecting the various classes of flax is being adopted, i.e. as to quality of fibre, which method the manager believes will be much appreciated by the manufacturers. The reason why the mills are working double “shift” is on account of having an order from one firm for 250 tons of hemp for the American market, which is required to be worked up before the harvest of July or August next. The yearly output at a low average of production say 30 tons per week – actual production 40 tons - at £20 per ton gives the large amount at £30,000 per annum, most of which goes for labour and is distributed between Palmerston North and Wanganui, wherever the men’s homes are, or their inclinations lead them to cash their orders. But as description and not calculation is my object in writing, I will finish by adding that the “Harmy” have not been unmindful of the men’s moral and spiritual welfare, and they have also done a line with the “Cry”.



Koitiata Village Newsletter

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the view and fair comments of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

In this issue:

- ♦ From the Editor
- ♦ Village Notices
- ♦ Meetings held
- ♦ Local Reports
- ♦ Emergency info
- ♦ Coming events
- ♦ Monthly Moments
- ♦ And finally...
- ♦ More history facts
- ♦ Bit of light reading

From the Editor

It was very disturbing to go down to the beach to inspect what damage the wild storm had done to the beach only to find absolutely hundreds and hundreds of dead prion sea birds strewn along the beach. They obviously couldn't handle the nasty weather out at sea and had died. Quite a sad sight. Thank goodness nature worked her magic and the lagoon finally broken through at the beach and drained out. The water level was so high and getting across to the beach was almost impossible without your wet suit or boat! On the first weekend of July on a sunny afternoon, I was amazed to see four young teenagers having their own mid winter swim. They just didn't duck in and out of the cold sea; they stayed and played in it. Crazy!!! But that is what kids do – have fun.

Jackie

Meetings

Residents Committee –
AGM held 17 July results:
New committee
President = Keith Gray
Secretary = Jeanette Jurgens
Treasurer = Eddy Mason
Committee = Jim Mant, Clare Gibney, Jackie Sheehy, Russell Mason, Wes Greenhorn, & Hog Doughty
Social Committee
Joy Mason, Gill Doughty, Robin Mant & Annette George
Ford Committee
Trevor Jurgens, Hog Doughty, Arnold Nation & Jim Mant
Centennial Committee
Peter Fraser, Joyce Smith, Trevor Jurgens, Eddy Mason and Judy Wilson

Next meeting 03 August, 7pm at the Hall. All welcome.

VILLAGE NOTICES

- It is requested that dog owners take responsibility for their dogs if they run free on their properties. Please shut your gates so they don't roam out onto other people's properties.
- Reminder to those of you tidying up your sections, there are appropriate areas to dispose of your rubbish etc. Please use them.
- Many thanks for the Social Committee (Joy, Gill, Robin & Annette) for organising the mid winter Xmas dinner on 02 July. It was a very enjoyable evening with approximately 60 people attending.
- Special thanks to our new village DJ - Alan - who along with his Karaoke gear, provided us with many budding Elvis or Roy Orbison prospects. Don't worry guys, practice makes perfect!
- Tidy flat to rent – apply to the Dooney residence. Ph 3273 770
- It was decided at the Residents Committee AGM to look into getting oxygen facilities available to be used in Village and for it to be housed in the cabinet along with the defibrillator. First Aid training also to be investigated for the operators of this gear.
- White Baiting season starts soon, so they will all be thanking their lucky stars that the beach is accessible again.
- Start planning ahead. Koitiata Village Centennial will be held on a weekend late January or early February 2014. Dates out soon.



Coming Events

- Country music 31 July
- Pot Luck tea 06 August
- Pot Luck tea 03 Sept
- Pot Luck tea 01 October
- Labour Weekend market day

Local Reports

Camping Grounds – very wet at the moment

Community Hall – part of new kitchen has been installed

Fire Brigade – AGM and prize giving dinner was held in July

Ford – flooding has drained away and it is now accessible again

Forest – permission is required if intending to get firewood. Riders or drivers to ensure they don't ride over top of the new saplings



Monthly Moments

Things just couldn't have gotten worse for one of our permanent residents when his evening was interrupted with a car outside on the domain doing doughnuts. Angry at their antics, he storms outside to get his vehicle to go and block the road into the domain so he can have a word with the idiots, when CRASH! He backs into his partners car which is quietly parked against the fence – where she always parks it – out of everyone's way. Really angry at himself for being such a bad driver, he goes and blames her for parking it where she did (and has done for the past 12mths!) Needless to say, the insurance company had to come to the party and she was left with a replacement car which she now has to park it up each night as shown in the picture below. And to top it all off, the driver of the car hooning around was a young female and when she turned on the tears, he relented a bit with his tongue lashing and toned it down a lot.



One resident went over to have a look at the lagoon after it had drained. He decided to veer off the usual track to take a shorter route and suddenly his bike became stuck fast in the quick sand. Had to get himself out of it and walk home to get his tractor to pull the bike out. There is always someone around, watching and willing to nark on you when you muck up.

Emergency Information

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 the fire shed to hear what the emergency is. |

Defibrillator Instructions

This is housed in the cupboard on the front wall to the Hall. Just look for the First Aid sign. Instructions on how to access this are on the outside of the door. This is for anyone's use, so take the time next time you are passing to read how to access it. **In the case of emergencies, remember to ring 111 in the first instance.**

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| * Break glass on cupboard door | * Use key to open cupboard door |
| * Siren will sound to alert others that help is needed | * Mark whiteboard where you are going |
| * Take defibrillator | |
| * Other residents should respond to the siren and come to assist you and/or operate the machine | |
| * Someone else will access the Hall to turn off the alarm | |

And finally...

Your duck is dead...

A woman brought a very limp duck into a vet surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes I am sure. Your duck is dead", replied the vet. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is now definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried. "\$150 to tell me my duck is dead!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab report and the Cat scan, it's now \$150."

=====

Other interesting facts from history...

In the old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving the leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: *Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old*. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up the bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "*bring home the bacon*". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top – or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence, the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folk started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone house, and reuse the grave. When re-opening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell, or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth. Now, whoever said that History was boring? More next month...

Seeing as the days are bleak and the nights long, thought you might enjoy a few more ditties to brighten up your day...

How to manage unpleasant people

Yesterday I had an appointment to see the urologist for a prostate exam. Of course I was a bit on edge because all my friends have either gone under the knife or had those pellets implanted. The waiting room was filled with patients. As I approached the receptionist's desk, I noticed that the receptionist was a large unfriendly woman who looked like a Sumo wrestler. I gave her my name.

In a very loud voice, the receptionist said, "YES I HAVE YOUR NAME HERE. YOU WANT TO SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT IMPOTENCE, RIGHT?" All the patients in the waiting room snapped their heads around to look at me, a now very embarrassed man.

But as usual, I recovered quickly, and in an equally loud voice replied, "NO, I'VE COME TO INQUIRE ABOUT A SEX CHANGE OPERATION, BUT I DON'T WANT THE SAME DOCTOR THAT DID YOURS." The room erupted in applause!

A dog's tale!

Why do dogs sniff each other's bottoms when they meet?

Dogs arrive for their summer ball and hang up their bottoms in neat rows in the cloak room. They eat and drink and enjoy some doggy entertainment. Everyone is having a good time.

Then disaster strikes! A fire breaks out and all the dogs flee the building. In their haste, they all grab the first bottom they can reach in the cloak room – they have all taken the wrong bottoms. Now, whenever they meet each other in the street, they sniff each other to find their own bottom again.

True! As told in the children's story book "Why do Dogs Sniff Bottoms" by Dawn McMillan & Bert Signal.

A distinguished young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, "Father, may I ask a favour?" "Of course, child, what may I do for you?"

"Well I bought an expensive women's electronic hair dryer for my mother's birthday that is unopened and well over the Customs limits, and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through Customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?" "I would love to help you dear, but I must warn you – I will not lie." "With your honest face Father, no one will question you". When they got to Customs, she let the priest go ahead of her.

The official asked, "Father do you have anything to declare?" "From the top of my head down to waist, I have nothing to declare". The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused." Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father. Next!"

A Scotsman's Chilli A hungry bloke walks into a seedy cafe in Glasgow. He sits at the counter and notices a Jock with his arms folded staring blankly at a bowl of chilli. After fifteen minutes of just sitting there staring at it, the hungry bloke bravely asks, "If you aren't going to eat that, mind if I do?" The old Jock slowly turns his head toward the young bloke and says, "Nah, ye can gae ahead."

Eagerly, the young bloke reaches over and slides the bowl over to his place and starts spooning it in with delight. He gets nearly down to the bottom and notices a dead mouse in the chilli. The sight was shocking and he immediately pukes up the chilli back into the bowl.

The old Jock says, "Aye, that's as far as I got too."

**Editor contact details: ph 06 3273 654
or email jamsheehy@gmail.com**

Koitiata Village Newsletter

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the view and fair comments of the Editor as a reporter of village affairs. No personal denigration of any person is intended.

From the Editor

I have been providing you with a newsletter now since April 2006 and I have endeavoured to provide you with a variety of village information, minutes of meetings, other useful information when to hand and also to add a bit of light humour. It is not easy gathering all of this so that you have something substantive and interesting to read each month. Working this around managing full time job has been a challenge. I was fortunate to have the resources to print off 110 coloured copies each month for distribution to your mail boxes. Many thanks to my "mailman/lady" Eddy and Joy for assisting me with the delivery of these.

It is now time to move aside and let someone else have a turn at producing a newsletter. If anyone would like to give it go, contact the Residents Committee Chairperson Keith Gray on 3273-985.

I am intending to continue with my other involvement with village matters e.g. member of the Residents committee, coordinating the Neighbourhood Support, compiling the phone list and being an active member of the Fire Brigade.

For those of you who have supported me of the years with snippets of information or articles to include in the newsletter, a big thank you. To the lucky person who is going to take over producing a newsletter – GOOD LUCK to you.

Jackie

VILLAGE NOTICES

- It is planned to produce a new phone list shortly. There will be room to add more names this time so if you would like your number added or need to make an amendment, please contact Jackie on 3273 654.
- The Fire Brigade is planning a promotional drive endeavouring to kit out all homes in the Village with at least 2 smoke alarms. All home owners will be contacted shortly by their Neighbourhood Support Street Contact to survey what your house has or hasn't got in the way of smoke alarms so that we can get an idea of how many alarms we will need. Once this information is to hand, the funding will be applied for. The fire brigade will install these.



Koitiata Matters

November 2011

A **new editor** for Koitiata Matters? **No**, this is a once only interim effort because there are a few items the community needs to be advised of.

A new editor is needed or there won't be any more newsletters!

Talk to Keith Gray if you want to give it a go or have any ideas.

Market Day for 2011 has been and gone, so if you missed out put a note on your fridge for Labour weekend 2012.

The highlight of the day was the performance of the new sausage sizzler and his counter hand, all dressed up in their pretty pinnies. Jim really was a picture, he looks good in red flowers!

Thanks for the great effort by everyone involved in putting the event together and to the community for your support. When all payments are finalised around \$1200 will have been raised and will be added to the fund for the Koitiata Centennial event in early 2014.

Market Day **Raffle Results;**

1st Meat Voucher: Di Tasker

2nd Whitebait: Di Tasker

3rd Petrol Voucher: Rita Bensemen

Thank you to Dean & Kate Smith, Keith Gray, and Turakina Service Station for donating the prizes.

The **World Cup Final Sweepstake prize** was won by Reg Jerney who was closest to the actual score with his prediction of 10 – 6 to the All Blacks.

At the **Koitiata Residents Committee** meeting 2nd Nov the following items were discussed;

- A beach cleanup is to be held 10th December, details below.
- Market day results were presented.
- New Years Eve function will not be arranged by Social Committee this year. Residents are free to organise something if they want to.
- Hall management funding and caretaking was discussed.
- Ford / causeway drains have been sprayed, some pot-holes and the developing hole at track entrance corner have been filled in.
- Minutes of Centennial & History sub committee meeting held 26th Sept.
- Playground project discussed; Keith will 're-sand the digger'.

Help Needed: Beach Clean-up!

We're having a **Beach Clean-up** on Saturday 10th December! We are going to clean up the glass and plastic from the beach between the river and down to "Turning In Creek". Bring your beach vehicles, trailers, gloves, plastic bags & buckets. Meet at the causeway entrance by the playground at 1.30pm. If you need more information give Keith Gray a call on 327 3985.

Camping on the domain is not usually permitted, but approval has been given for the Wanganui Caravan Club to use the domain for a weekend rally. There will be a large number of caravans,

more than can fit into the camping grounds, camping on the domain for three nights; 9th, 10th, & 11th December. All are self contained with toilet facilities.

Another **enjoyable Melbourne Cup** afternoon, another close finish – won by the French this time! Suzi Bryant won best hat this year. Thank you to Robin, Gill, Annette, & Joy for another well run community event.

NEWS FLASH.. Koitiata Actor Wins Oscar!

Well it's a similar thingy, but anyway... for his performance in the movie "Bird" **Peter Hawes** has earned the coveted **'Best Performance in a Short Film'** award at the Aotearoa Film & Television Craft Awards. Well done Peter, you're a bloody star! *"Congratulations from your fellow beach people"*.

And while on **the subject of stars**, Koitiata's star banjo player, **Catherine Bowness**, and Alex Borthwick will be performing here on Sunday 20th November. They will be doing their "9 string banjo duo" in the hall at 7.30pm. Only \$5 entry for a good show.

Xmas Pot Luck Dinner is on **Sat 3rd Dec**. Wear your Xmas hat and decorate yourself with tinsel is you want to, or just come along and be merry!

From the **'this can't possibly be true'** department. Just when you thought that **lightning doesn't strike twice** in the same place, spare a thought for the bloke who was taking his big purple bus into Wanganui for a COF check-up and it

ran out of fuel ... again! Why again? Well a year or two before, he was taking his big purple bus into Wanganui for a COF, and ... he ran out of fuel! That couldn't be right, could it?

There's only one **Broadband** pole on the hill now! If you hadn't noticed, the pole installed for the defunct Airstream service was removed from the horizon last week. Bob needed a post, we didn't, so that's the end of that venture! (or should I say 'misad-venture').

The **Inspire Broadband Internet** service is 'inspiring' after our failed Airstream experience. If you want to connect or need further info please give me a call. If you didn't also get this newsletter via your email it means you are not on the 'Koitiata email list'. To enable you to be kept up to date on broadband and other items that are only sent out via email, can you please advise your email address to eddynjoy@gmail.com.

The **Centennial Committee** is working on firming up the format for the celebrations to be held during a weekend in Feb or March 2014. Some decisions will need to be made by about April / May 2012 relative to the weekends activities based on feasibility, costs and other factors.

Popularity will also be a factor so it is imperative that **if you have ideas or want to have an input** then put them forward. Come along to the next meeting or talk to Peter Fraser, Joyce Smith, Trevor Jurgens or Judy Wilson.

Koitiata Matters

Dec 2011/Jan 2012

White baiting season for some of us was over all too quickly, good catches had by most and the general feeling is it's been a good season. Now the nets and long lines will get an outing, with some nice fish already being caught.

A big **thank you to Jackie** for her many years as newsletter editor, we've all appreciated the effort you have put in to keep us all up to date with news and for the latest phone list, no mean feat to put it all together. Locals and casual villagers are lucky to have you on the job.

Xmas pot luck dinner was a great evening with a great meal enjoyed by all. Next **Pot luck dinner** is January 21st 2012. Everyone is welcome.

New Years Eve Celebration at Koitiata Community Hall from 7.30pm till late.

Dress code; must be outrageous, mismatched, funny, cheap and tasteless.

Well dressed people will be politely asked to go home and change.

Big screen, music, karaoke.

Prize for the greatest outfit.

Please bring good humor, drinks and nibbles. Gold coin entry.

Xmas Church Service

Koitiata Community Hall,
25th Dec. 2011 at 10.00pm.
Everyone welcome.

Custodian (caretaker) wanted for Community Hall. Expressions of interest to the chairman Keith Gray by 31st January 2012. ph 327 3985

Anyone interested in a visit to **Bob Major's cowshed** at milking to view the newly installed feed system to please contact Keith Gray, this will be an afternoon visit in mid January, ph 327 3985.

The defibrillator cabinet at the hall now has an **emergency oxygen set**. This was kindly donated by Doctor John, who is prepared to run a short course on how to use it. This will be notified early in the new year.

Thank you very much Doctor John for your generosity.

Please respect the fact that we have a **Green Dump**. This is for green waste only, this does not include concrete, iron, treated timber or household rubbish. There is refuse collection early Monday mornings, yellow budget bags only.

Many thanks to all who helped with the **beach clean up**. This included some of the weekend campers from the Wanganui caravan club, cheers. A huge heap was gathered, but no treasure maps in bottles.

Thank you to the council who made a special trip out to take it all away.

A friendly reminder for **beach traffic** to look out for others as the beach fills with folk enjoying the summer.

Drivers and riders to respect beach and the forest. We would like it if those who do doughnuts and wheelies to stop using our public places as their private play ground.

The track out to the beach runs past the **play ground**, so please be very aware of children over the holidays. These are public areas, road rules and laws apply.

Anyone interested in a **craft group** get together, maybe monthly, knitting, quilting etc. learning new things or just to share a cuppa, contact Suzi Bryant ph 327 3870

This is that time of the year when we always seem to be popping **into Mitre 10 in Wanganui** for one thing or another, and we constantly have competition entry forms demanding completion and popping into the box for whatever the current competition is. And we do it but never win anything do we!

Well that changed for one of our well known residents! He **won a very nice BBQ** this week! And because he is feeling so bad for the rest of us who never win anything, he is going to invite all us losers to a BBQ cooked on his new prize. You can use our nice new phone list to ring around with your invites Roy!

And again from the **lightning does strike twice in the same place** department! Turns out that a well known village non-swimmer has got into a bit of a habit of getting out of the boat while still navigating through the breakers to shore. Problem is

that the driver, the fish and everything else gets tipped out too! For a bloke who can't swim he seems to have mastered the knack of coming to shore without a boat OK! New water wings for Xmas Jim?

Emergency Information

Emergency fire sirens:

1 long siren – Fire crew only.

2 long sirens – Local Fire.

3 long sirens – Civil Emergency; all villagers to report to fire shed at the hall to hear what the emergency is.

Defibrillator Instructions

This is housed in the cupboard on the front of the community hall. Look for first aid sign. Instructions to access this are on the outside of the door.

This is for anyone's use, take time to read it next time you are going past.

**In the case of an emergency
Phone 111 in the first instance.**

Thank you to Eddy for the November newsletter, if any one would like any thing published in future newsletters contact Suzi Bryant, ph 327 3870, or jbryant@ihug.co.nz

Wishing you all and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR.**