

NEWSLETTER

ORERE COMMUNITY & BOATING CLUB

Autumn 2017



I'm writing this bit one day after delivering the summer issue, so you can see I get started at least, pretty early. One reason for this enthusiasm is that I copped a serve about somebody I missed off the 'thank you' list for the Over 60's Xmas lunch, so I thought I'd better write this down before I forgot. Cock-ups with the Over 60's credits seems to be a habit of mine after the trifle debacle. Thank you Liz Mintrom for the cream puffs. It wasn't Liz herself who gave me the rark-up by the way...

Something else I noticed in the last issue, was my reference to "last month's" newsletter. In case you thought I did these monthly, I don't. A few things have happened in the last three months, so in no particular order, let's move on...

Weather, Weather. Everywhere

The weather is always very topical - that's *topical*, not tropical. It's either too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet, too humid - ad infinitum...

Jason Young hopes we've all been enjoying the fine weather we've been having lately in his report. Of course that was written when it was actually fine. There have been dramatic changes of late, as this issue is nearing completion. Most significant was the sudden arrival of some horrendous weather and caused flooding, slips, fallen trees, blocked roads and even a motorcycle getting washed away. Clevedon copped the worst of the flooding, but we had our own problems at Orere. Weymouth's Waimahia Intermediate had a leaders camp at Tapapakanga, and this group was among several that needed evacuating to dry ground. In their case, this was the hall. It seemed like they would be staying the night but the road was cleared by early evening and they were able to head home.

Thank you to all those who jumped into action and helped with the various Civil Defence operations that were required.

SPLORE

We had the annual music festival at Tapapakanga again in February. Some locals get a bit annoyed about loud music, but I was less than pleased at taking an hour and twenty minutes to get from 440 mountain bike park to the Orere Point turnoff on the Friday afternoon. That is usually just a minute or so. Won't be doing *that* again next year...

There was a fair bit of comment in the local paper and it seems the awful weather played the biggest part in this fiasco. In any case, I think Splore Dynamics will be getting the message loud and clear before the next event.

Let's Talk about Social Media

Social media comes in many guises - the best-known probably being Facebook. Love it, hate it or don't even understand it, Facebook plays a part in the lives of many people. Unfortunately, some of them are illiterate, uneducated drongos who have the uncontrollable urge to post crappy, blurry photos that nobody (except their illiterate, uneducated friends) would be remotely interested in. The same intellectually-challenged citizens have their own unique way of writing too, and the less said about that the better. It's a shame, because social media platforms like Facebook are powerful entities that have many uses other than staying in touch with friends.

One such use was demonstrated when the weather bomb hit us on 7 - 8 March. A Facebook page had been started a couple of weeks earlier, with the intention of keeping people up to date with dodgy activity in Orere Point (See item about crime on page 3). When the weather turned to custard, with flooding, slips, road closures and so on, members of the group were able to add information and find information pertaining to this, and it was very helpful. They were also able to update the situation for others without access to Facebook. OK, the power was off, but we still had good cellular service and most people have smart phones nowadays, so keeping informed was much easier.

Fishing Competition - Anniversary Weekend

The fishing competition on Anniversary weekend raised \$687 for Clinics / First Response. The figure was down on the previous year because there were not many fish about. Average size was down as well, and only one Kahawai was caught. Weather was good though!

A couple of things could have been better. In the morning, we set things up, but hardly anybody showed up to help erect the big marquee. Absentee committee members, myself included, had had a telling-off over this lapse, but if you happen to be around when there is a job to be done, please don't hesitate to offer a hand.

The other thing we could have done without was the theft of a meat pack. Somebody had won this in a raffle and it had been put in the ice bin behind the weigh-in tent for safe keeping - or so it was thought. At pack-up time, the person went to retrieve it and it was gone. It had been stolen - it was in a bag with the person's name written clearly on it, so this was not a mistake.

It's a sad day when this sort of thing happens - especially at a community event. Because of this, changes will be made to ensure light-fingered low-lives will not have the opportunity to help themselves in the future.

Chairman's Report

There has been a lot going on in our little piece of paradise since my last report, but unfortunately some of the news is all bad.

Over the last couple of months we have issues with our friends at Vector, followed by Splore, but the worst issue we have had is some low life people in our village helping themselves to other people's valuables, and this is a real problem for our village.

The police are always telling us to report all crimes, but this doesn't always happen because we sometimes feel it's not that bad or maybe not worth reporting. Become proactive and report all crimes.

We have a community policeman and I would like him to come out and meet our residents so we all know who he is and what we can expect from him. If we have a problem the norm is ring 111, but I think we need better communication from our community policeman as well.

Wednesday 8th of March 2017 will be remembered for some time. Rain started falling on the Tuesday and never stopped, and we were isolated from the rest of Auckland which is not a bad thing. Unfortunately, we could have done with some help from big brother, but as normal no-one knew or even bothered to ask if we were OK. We didn't sit around waiting for the phone to ring though. Some of us just reacted to our situation. We were stranded, with all roads were blocked by slips and flooding. Barbara Stoneham [Fire Chief] and myself Edward Pram, waited at the hall just after 4.30 am, turning people around to stop them getting into any danger. Our Volunteer Fire Brigade Team had already been called out at 2.00 am, attending to flooding across the road near the 440 mountain bike track. As the hours ticked away things got worse, and we had no idea how bad things would get until daylight.

I am sure there are lots of questions some of our residents want to ask, and we need to have this conversation at some time.

I would like to ask all of our residents through this report, if they would like to offer their Mobile Phone Numbers so we can create a register, so if something happens in our village we can make a call to everyone, or to individuals warning them about whatever the situation is at the time. For example, strange cars driving around or unknown people in or around our properties. If we could make a call just to verify that these people should be here and if not, then we know that there is something happening that should be reported to the police.

Now that the weather has settled we need to look at what we need to do as a community to get our beach cleaned up, and look at our river. At the moment there is so much that needs to be done, we need to take stock and prioritise. Our biggest problem will be removing all of the trees scattered along the beach and in the river.

Edward Pram

Chairman

Freedom Camping

You may be interested to know that Auckland Council, like other local authorities around NZ, is running a trial of freedom camping in Kawakawa Bay and Orere Point. Freedom camping conjures up images of annoying, cheapskate tourists who poop in parks and on beaches. These are the ones that make the news, but they probably only represent a tiny fraction of the people who travel and camp on a low budget.

As for the trial, it is limited to six self-contained camper vans at Orere, for a maximum of two nights. The site would most likely be on one of the graveled areas at the beach reserve, in a place that would not disrupt locals. Freedom campers would be monitored on a daily basis by Auckland Council compliance staff, who will also chase off the usual riff-raff that camps on the reserve.

Given that we already have these family groups coming out and illegally setting up camp on the grassed areas, then leaving a mess behind, the proposal does not seem too bad. In any event, it's a trial only and if it does go ahead, it does not mean it will become a permanent thing.

Nude Nuns with Big Guns

An attention-grabbing headline if ever there was one. That's the title of a DVD that was donated to the library.



Obviously I had to watch this fine piece of cinematic art to see if was suitable for the Orere Point library, and after careful consideration, I came to the conclusion it wasn't.

It's a classic *grindhouse* movie with a truly meaningless plot, terrible acting and a plethora of gratuitous sex and violence. In fact, pretty much what you'd expect with a title like that...

Dropkick's Corner

A message to the idiot fool who felt the need to bust into the power box that connects the Xmas lights on the tree by the library. What exactly did you think was in the box doofus? Did you think there was money inside? Drugs? Ciggies? Hang on... I'm assuming you can read this...

Inorganic Collection

You can order your annual inorganic rubbish collection any time, by ringing Auckland Council or online. If you are having difficulty doing this, give Gary a call on 189.

Maybe the same thing with getting chimneys swept. As we get into autumn, the start thinking about winter, and for many residents, that means lighting the fire. Chimneys and flues need to be cleaned to get rid of the soot build-up, which can cause a fire.

As with septic tank cleaning, give Gary a call to get on the list of people wanting chimneys cleaned. Save some \$\$ by getting a group discount.

Message from Police

Hi everyone I hope you all had a good break over Christmas and are enjoying the fine weather we are having lately.

Speed and dangerous driving are still a major issue in our area remember *555 for any driving complaints however if you witness anything that is dangerous to life or property call 111.

We are having major issues with cars getting broken into when they are parked up at the beaches and park areas. Hunua Falls and the car parks out at the Mangatawhiri Dams are getting targeted particularly hard. Theft from vehicles, also known as 'theft ex car', involves the theft of property such as wheels, stereos and personal items - bags, briefcases, laptop computers, wallets, parking meter money etc. Thieves gain entry to vehicles primarily by forcing locks or smashing windows.

Just remember when parking your vehicle to take all valuables with you and do not park in secluded spots. These offenders are lazy and opportunistic so if you make your property a hard target to get into they will move on to an easier one.

Rural burglaries continue to be another issue for us, so we all need to keep on top of our security. Make sure that alarm systems if you have them are working and turned on, and CCTV cameras and security lights are functioning correctly.

Talk to your neighbours and let them know if you are going to be away. If you do see any suspicious activity in your area call 111 straight away. Some members of the public are hesitant to call 111 but this should not be the case as you know your area better than anyone. If something doesn't appear as it should be call 111 and our call takers will prioritise the call and take appropriate action.

Cheers

Jason Young



Boot Camp Challenge

For some reason that escapes me, Caroline Sherborne wants to run a Boot Camp here at Orere. This is no reflection on Caroline - I find the idea of boot camp unappealing no matter who is running it.

This is a six-week fitness challenge, and it will be held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 pm on the reserve next to the playground, commencing 7 March. You'll need to wear sports clothing, and bring water. Are **YOU** up for the challenge?

Call **Caroline** on **021 1661922**



Restricted Fire Season

Please note that regardless of the weather, Orere Point still has a Restricted Fire Season. That means a permit is required for any outside fires.

Crime on the Rise

Since December, there seems to have been an increase in property crime in Orere Point. It does tend to peak in summer anyway, with more people coming into Orere and the school holidays, but this year it's been worse. A Facebook page has been set up to report suspicious activity and doggy-looking people. If you are on Facebook, search for **Watchers on Orere Point**. You can request to join, and then you'll get the day-to-day info and updates, as well as post items of interest or concern. Edward has also suggested a mobile phone number list.

On Friday afternoon 3 March, motorcycles and a ride-on mower were stolen - loaded onto the back of a white tow truck in Howard Road. At time of writing, Police have leads and are closing in on the suspects. Kids have been seen looking in people's letterboxes and this has also been reported. Everybody needs to keep eyes open and report ANY suspicious behaviour to Police.

Here are a couple of things to watch out for:

- Unfamiliar vehicles driving around slowly, with occupant(s) looking into properties.
- Kids (or adults) wandering the street and looking into properties, especially during school hours in the case of kids, and maybe carrying a bag or backpack. If you confront anybody on your property, don't believe stories about lost pets, or looking for somebody. They are casing the joint - plain and simple.

Remember to not leave garages or sheds unlocked, and don't leave tools, mowers etc. out where they can be seen.

Get Your Zumba On

In case Boot Camp is not enough for you, Claire Johnson is starting up **Zumba** classes in the hall. For those who wouldn't recognise a zumba if they tripped over one, zumba (or more accurately Zumba Fitness) is an exercise programme set to dance music. If you're up to it, or would like more info, call **Claire** on **021 653650**

Yoga with Donna

Yoga classes are being held at **46 Bays Road, Orere Point** on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and twice on Saturday mornings at 7.30am and 9am. \$15 per class. Unwaged/pensioner rates \$12. Mats and blankets available. Beginners welcome. www.orerepointyoga.com

Doggie Doos

Either Orere Point is overrun with dogs, or some people cannot be bothered picking up after their pets. I'm guessing it's the latter. Reports from the boat ramp clean-up crew consistently refer to the amount of dog poo in the area, but it's not just there - it's everywhere. I realise that this will probably fall on deaf ears, because some people either have selective hearing, but... PLEASE pick up after your dogs. How would you like it if people stopped by to take a dump on YOUR front lawn?



Term 1

The first term has been about gathering assessment data, meeting parents/whanau and setting learning goals with the students as well as focusing on quality learning programmes. We are excited to be using online assessment with the students and teachers now that we have reliable Internet.

We are taking on PR1ME Mathematics in the school to accelerate learning in this area. The teachers have already had some Professional Development in PR1ME and will be working together to improve teaching and learning in Mathematics.

All the students participated in the Small Schools Swimming events at Paparimu and Ararimu. We had many 1st and 2nd places on the day, as well as fantastic parent support.

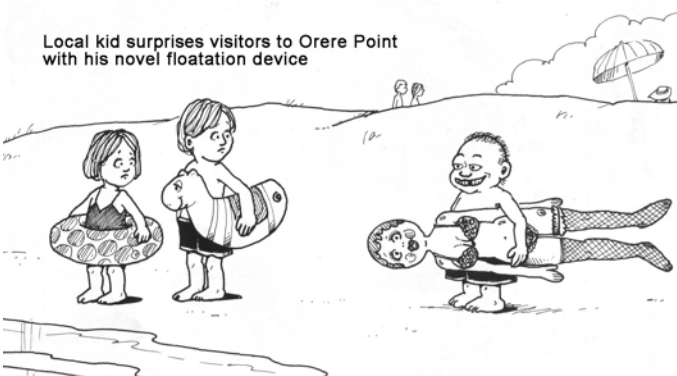
We are currently preparing for the Easter Gala with the Friends of the School meeting to organise the day and the students planning activities for the day. We are very humbled by the generosity of others to our school. Phoenix Kayaks have donated a kayak to the school and Top Catch in Clevedon have filled it with fishing gear, which will be sold as a raffle. Many other people are donating their time and goods to the school. Thanks to all.

Our learning for Term 2 will focus on Literacy. We will be having a poetry competition for the students, reading challenges, visitors to read and hope to inspire Reading and Writing throughout the school.

After a long wait, the new administration building began on Monday 6th March. The students will be watching the progress of the building with great interest. They have begun creating a timeline in writing and photos. The building is expected to be complete the second week of May.

Next Fishing Competition - 16 April

On Easter Sunday, we have the annual Easter Fishing Competition, followed by the usual fish auction. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust - better known perhaps as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Entry is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, with tickets available on the day or by contacting the Commodore, Rick Simpson on 113.



Community Day

There was a good response to the community day on 4 March. The idea behind this was to give new residents in particular the opportunity to meet other locals and acquaint themselves with who's who in Orere. Even the mayor rolled up on his motorcycle.

Thank you to all those who gave their time and efforts, and for all the yummy food.

New Wheelie Bins

Auckland Council will be rolling out (no pun intended) their new wheelie bins for the weekly rubbish collection. Bins are like the recycle ones, but have a red lid. They will be delivered in Jun / July and you should start using them with the first collection in September. Bags will no longer be picked up, but by all means keep rubbish in bags and put them into the bin. Bags are not actually needed with the new bins, but let's face it - they will keep things much cleaner and less stinky. That's got to be a good thing! Collection day remains the same.

Standard Orere Point Info

Website www.orere.net - newsletters available here.

Landline numbers all start with **2922** so we often just quote the last three digits.

Rubbish pickup is Tuesday and Recycle day is every second Tuesday (unless Monday is a statutory holiday in which case pickup will be Wednesday).

Library is free to join for local residents and ratepayers, and is manned - or *womanned* by volunteers*. Hours are:

Tuesday - Thursday > 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Friday > 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Saturday > 10:00 AM - Midday

* Unless they forget to turn up...

Phone Numbers:

OCBC Chairman - Edward 794 / 027 8763849

OCBC Secretary - Gary 189 / 027 3573328

Fire Station 989 - Chief Fire Officer Barbara 550

Hall Enquiries - Nicky 509 / 027 3043968

School - 736

Shop - 898

Top 10 Holiday Park - 774

Kawakawa Bay Motors - 870

Library & Orere Clinic - 007

Kawakawa Bay Clinic - 812

Police - Crime Stoppers - 0800 555111

This newsletter has been produced by Gary Healey on behalf of Orere Community and Boating Club Inc. Opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of all OCBC committee members. Except where stated, all words and content are by Gary.