

NEWSLETTER – December 2014

Improved Ferry Service

RRA was instrumental in negotiating the improved ferry service for the island in line with members' requirements indicated earlier this year. The number of sailings has risen by 35% (albeit at an increased cost), including a midweek Wednesday sailing over the busy summer period. See Belaire's website for specific details: <http://www.belaire.co.nz/rakino/>

Labour Weekend AGM

RRA's AGM was held over Labour Weekend with a good attendance.



Retiring members of the Committee Brendon Massey, Peter Scott and Lisa Holliday were thanked and new members elected.

The team now comprises:

John Denton, Chair	Barnaby Tozer, Vice-Chair
Jude MacLachlan, Secretary	Wayne Whitaker, Treasurer
Jenni Tozer & Rob Everall, general committee members.	

Mark Lockhart continues on as our Environmental Officer.
We are looking for someone to fill the role of Fire Officer.

Pukekos

The AGM asked the Committee to look again at the issue of an island cull to control numbers of birds. The Committee is presently looking at realistic, affordable and viable options and will report back in the New Year.

WiFi

Also the AGM asked the Committee to commence investigations on improved WiFi for Rakino. Rob Everall has started this task and will report back in the New Year when he's reached some outcomes.

Fire Training

A 3-hour Fire Training Course will take place at the wharf building on Sunday 28 December starting at 1pm. There is no cost for this course and it could just be vital for you and your property so please make every effort to attend. If you're interested and haven't yet registered, contact Jude MacLachlan: email: garyandjude@orcon.net.nz. A practical demo of the FireLords will follow.

Whilst we're talking of fire, take extra care especially over the holidays to avoid fire. Remove cobwebs from your inverter and hot water califont. Remember, lighting fires outside is strictly forbidden without an approved Fire Permit. If you see a fire, call 111 immediately!

"Round the Bays" 2014

Don't miss the big race on **31 December**. Be down on Sandy Bay at **8.30am**. Run or walk, it'll be fun and there are prizes aplenty. Organised by Colin McLaren of Rakino Olive Groves with lollies and drinks supplied by RRA, this is a seasonal Must-Do for the whole family. Afterwards, we'll have all the usual beach races, culminating in the Grand North-South Tug-of-War. The question is: will the South pull it off *this* time?

Dragon Boats 2015

The other thoroughly dampening experience of the New Year will be the Dragon Boat Race to be held on **1st January** starting at **2.30pm** as the tide's high that afternoon. Registrations start at 2.00pm. Come to the Home Bay ramp and enjoy the fun. We also need helpers, please, to care for the race-starts, to bail and to ensure everyone's safely in a life-jacket! If you've spare lifejackets, bring them along. We could also use a kayak or two! Again, this is an event for the whole family. Of course, RRA will be sponsoring drinks and a lolly scramble for competitors.

West Bay DOC corridor

DOC has agreed in principle to a suggestion to plant, with due care, its West Bay corridor strip running from the end of Askew Ave. This will continue to provide access for walkers and quad-bikes. Just awaiting finalisation of their approval so Kevin Wragge, who's been the driving force for this, can add this to his to-do-list next winter. He'll no doubt be asking for community help.

The agreed plan will be circulated to members once approved by DOC.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Committee wishes you and your family and friends a very Happy Christmas. Take care and enjoy what this wonderful island offers.

On behalf of the RRA Committee,

John Denton, Chair



*Meri Kirihimete, Geseënde Kersfees, Zalig Kerstfeest, La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou,
Feliz Navidad, Chuc Mung Giang Sinh, Kilisimasi fiefia mo ha ta'u fo'ou monū'ia, Joyeux Noel*