

NEWSLETTER – January 2015

Well, Christmas has come and gone - where to, not sure, it went so quickly - and what fantastic weather! One out of the book! This newsletter brings you up-to-date with several matters of interest:

1. Round-The-Bays: 31 December

A good turnout as people enjoyed a cooler morning for the race.



Josh Orton won yet again. Thanks, Colin McLaren of Rakino Olive Groves for your ongoing sponsorship and organisation.

2. Dragon Boat Races: 1st January

The annual Dragon Boat Race took place at Home Bay,



Whilst the buoy didn't appear to be very distant, we assure everyone it really was a struggle to paddle that distance against a strong breeze and tide.

Thanks to Wayne Whitaker of RRA Committee who organised the event and, of course, to an absent Grumpy who built the Boats (and had to rebuild the boats' trailer) which collapsed on its return to base! Also to all others who helped on the day.

3. Fire Equipment Maintenance

The Council's Rural Fire people came out just before Christmas to service all the Firelords.

4. Fire Training

20 people gave up a holiday afternoon to attend Fire Training provided by Auckland Council's Rural Fire Service and everyone learned something.

Participants' commented: "Everyone on the island should attend this course".

For those who missed this Course, a repeat is being offered. Please let Rory Renwick know by return email: Rory.Renwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz that you'd like to attend and do please cc Jude MacLachlan, RRA

Secretary garyandjude@orcon.net.nz so RRA knows who's signed up. This course [#3285: Protect personal safety at vegetation fires] will be run again on Thursday 12 Feb from 5pm to 9pm-ish at the Warkworth DOC Office 28 Baxter St, Warkworth. There's no cost, other than your travel to get there.

For those who have been through this initial training and are seeking to extend their skills further, other courses coming up on 14/15 February, 8am to 5pm at the Warkworth DOC Office 28 Baxter St, Warkworth are:

- 3286, 3287, (Wet and dry fire-fighting)
- 3270, 21417 and 20386 (Operation of portable pumps)
- 14555 (Defensive – external control of structure fires)
- 3271 (Extinguishers).

All are recommended as in-depth training. Each has a pre-course workbook as required pre-reading. Again, let Rory Renwick know by return email: Rory.Renwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz which you'd like to attend and again, please cc Jude MacLachlan . garyandjude@orcon.net.nz. Rory will make all further arrangements, including the provision of equipment. Please supply him with your size and height so he can arrange appropriate garments for your use on the course.

5. RULES RE FIRE

The Rules re Fire on Rakino are straight-forward. Everyone should know them. Please print the attached PDF and place in a prominent place in your bach:

THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN ON RAKINO, unless you have a Fire Permit. If a Fire is discovered:

- Step 1. Dial 111. Ask for 'FIRE'. Give location as "at such-and-such a place" on Rakino Island, Hauraki Gulf.**
- Step 2. Text Dylan Hinchey, our resident Fire Officer on 027 555 1590. He will (shortly be able to) issue a mass text-alert to all who have undertaken basic fire-training to seek their assistance whilst waiting for mainland crews.**
- Step 3. Activate the Alarm-bell outside the Oceanview Rd Phonebox to alert residents.**

See notes overleaf also>

NOTES

- a) If the fire is anything other than very small, only those wearing appropriate protective gear on head, body, hands and feet should go near the fire.

Remember: **Protect People First.** Grass re-grows, Houses can be rebuilt but LIVES CAN'T.

- b) Certain islanders have undertaken basic Fire-training. They can be summoned to offer initial fire-fighting help possibly using the FireLords / Beaters etc, until mainland help arrives.
- c) Do not approach fire unless have undertaken the training, are fit, and are appropriately dressed in protective gear.

Sightseers are a nuisance!

6. Questions?

Questions about this Newsletter? Please email Jude MacLachlan, Secretary
RRA: garyandjude@orcon.net.nz

Enjoy the remainder of summer!

From the RRA Committee,



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