

NEWSLETTER

June 2015

RRA SUBS DUE SOON!!

On July 1, the new year's Annual Subscription falls due. Your Committee has determined the Sub should remain \$30 for 2015/16 - unchanged for 6 years - but warns that it can't stay static forever!

Please help our Treasurer by direct crediting your Sub to RRA on 1 July!

Payee:	Rakino Ratepayers Association Inc
Amount:	\$30
RRA Bank Acct:	12-3037-0395345-00
Your Identity:	Enter the word "Sub" in <u>Particulars</u> and your "Surname" in <u>Reference</u>

NEW WEBSITE: www.rra.nz

Check it out. RRA has created a brand new website to take over what was previously the Rakino Blogspot.

It's designed to introduce people to the island, its facilities, providing transport contacts and details about the RRA. You'll also find details of how to join RRA and how to pay your Subs.

Let us know your own great ideas about other useful information we should put there to enhance your enjoyment of the island.

HALL SHIFT

RRA understands action may start soon on moving the Hall back from the sea-edge by re-piling it and building it at a greater height from the ground to prevent seawater damage to foundations. This follows damage to its foundations a couple of years ago (and earlier) when the floor was damaged.

Chris Clews is RRA's rep on the job, liaising with Auckland Council and Auckland Transport, the latter also being responsible for the wharf. Thank you Chris. The Hall is an asset we cannot afford to lose.

DOC STRIP PLANTING

You'll recall at the meeting last October, Members endorsed the idea of carefully planting the DOC Strip between Askew Ave and West Bay in accordance with a draft plan tabled. Views from Askew Ave would not be affected as only very low-level vegetation would be planted at the top of the hill.

DOC asked for a couple of minor changes to the draft and the agreed final Plan is attached herewith. The strip remains walkable and its top half is accessible by a quad or small 4WD in case of emergency.

DOC's agreement in writing has just been received and the plants, funded by grants through Auckland Council and arranged by Kevin Wragge, were transported to the island with DOC's help earlier this month, ready for planting.

Thanks to Kevin Wragge, Mark Lockhart, Stephen Thomas and others who've had input and helped bring this initiative to fruition.

MORE POHUTUKAWAS!

Mark Lockhart has also managed to obtain 250 Pohutukawas, mainly for Woody Bay where there were bad slips a few years ago and the Reserves. Mark says some are available for planting on private properties, so if anyone wants some for their land and are happy to plant and look after them, please contact Mark Lockhart at mark@encompassdesign.co.nz.

ROAD APPROACHING THE WHARF

As many of you will have seen, the Council has placed big boulders to support the road from Sandy Bay. Hopefully, that is sufficient to stop our only access to the wharf from disappearing in the next major storm!

Thanks to Chris Clews and others who have been involved in meeting and ferrying Council members around.

BROADBAND

In May and on behalf of the island community, Rob Everall, after some detailed research including taking signal-strength measurements all over the island, has lodged a Funding Application on our behalf to improve island access to fast broadband under the Government Rural Broadband Initiative.

The quick and economical 2-step solution involves upgrading the Motutapu cell tower to 3G then, if necessary, improving the signal / coverage on Rakino using a new repeater station where the phone box stands.

Thanks, Rob for your work on this and your excellent submission.

WW1 REMEMBERED

The horrors of World War 1 were brought to life on May 9th when Rakino-ite, Dylan Hinchey, brought Dean Parker's play *Gentler Than A Rifle Butt* to the island, following performances on Waiheke.

The cast of 10, headed by Dylan, together with over 50 in the audience crammed the Hall to capacity on a beautiful autumn evening, all to become engrossed in an amazing story. In fact, the Hall, suitably 'aged', became the ideal play-setting!

Afterwards, the main question was "Did that really happen?", such was the cunning interweaving of fact and fiction.

A BBQ after saw the actors, theatre crew and audience relax and enjoy a beautiful evening's fading light. Thanks, Dylan, for bringing such quality theatre to the island!



MAINTAINING THE PHONE BOX / FIRE SIREN

RRA has applied for funding to maintain and repaint the phone box and give it some TLC. So look out for its 'bright red' to be restored. Should funding be unsuccessful, we propose to make this a community Help project and ask for volunteers!

There have been requests to install a larger, louder fire siren at the phone box (that may require a generator for power) but the Committee feels that, at present, this should await the outcome of the Wi-Fi project as that may require phone box upgrading. The Committee stresses that it's not disregarding the priority to make emergencies known quickly across the island but is relying on its newly-established text-messaging system to alert speedily all trained fire personnel on island to the outbreak of a fire.

DEFIBRILLATOR CHECK

RRA is ensuring the Defibrillator, attached to the Phone Box, will be serviced soon in order to keep this vital community asset in great shape.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

We need new members. We have 10 meetings per year lasting no longer than 90 minutes. Please contact Jude MacLachlan to offer your services.
garyandjude@orcon.net.nz.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER?

Please email RRA Secretary: garyandjude@orcon.net.nz

On behalf of the RRA Committee

John Denton, Chair

