

RAKINO

RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

December 2016

Merry Christmas!

Relax.... It's time to forget the Christmas rush, retail extravagance and general pressure to get stuff done and gather friends and family on Rakino to sit back and enjoy the weather. Over the last 12 months, there have been 18 properties sold on Rakino, with 6 the year before that. There are loads of new families on The Island so please take the time to introduce yourselves to the noobs and make them feel welcome.

Unmitigated Awesomeness

Please mark these dates on the calendar and bring the family along for some good old-fashioned beach games.

Rakino Annual Fun Run

(Or walk for those who are 'challenged by velocity')

When: 31 December - START 08:30

Where: Sandy Bay

What to expect: A gentle tour de Rakino, on foot. Winners receive a shiny cup and 12 months of glory. Kids get lollies at the end, refreshments provided.



Beach Games and the famous North vs. South tug-of-war will be held after the run.

Dragon Boat races

After a couple of year's lay-off, the Dragon boats have been hacked out of the rampant Kikuyu and a race will be held early in the New Year.

When: 8th January Races start at 2:30pm sharp

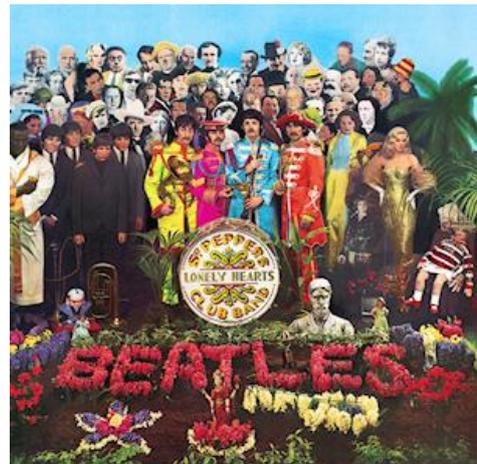
Where: Home Bay

What to expect: Age group races run out into the bay, around a buoy and back to the beach. The races will be supervised and safety boats will be in the water. Life jackets will be provided but bring one of you have it.



50 Years

Fifty years ago, New Zealand switched from imperial to decimal currency, the six o'clock swill officially ended, Denny Hulme won the Formula One Championship and the Beatles released Sgt. Pepper. In that year, the Rakino Ratepayers Association was first registered.



2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of that occasion. We will most likely celebrate at Labour Weekend 2017. The RRA will establish an event committee to organise the celebration.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this, please contact: secretary@rra.co.nz.

Summer Safety

With a higher visitor population on the island over summer, be careful when driving around the island. There are load of kids around. Please let your speed reflect the relaxed nature of the island, or perhaps try walking?

Also, please be mindful of boats arriving / departing when swimming and diving off the wharf.

Wasps

Wasps continue to be a problem on Rakino. Not only do they interrupt outdoor living and try and climb inside beer bottles, but they kill native insects and compete for food with native birds.

Luckily, Josh McCann has been deploying bait to kill German wasps. The bait is not at all attractive to bees, and is of very low risk to birds, pets and people.

Islanders and visitors will need to ensure they don't allow children or stray animals to pick up the bait.

If you see a nest or have a wasp problem give Josh a shout on 022 0492402



Bokashi and Going Green

We're approaching the end of the first year when Bokashi bins have been available, and they now sit in some 44 Rakino households. Inevitably, it will take a while to settle and to see the true impact on reduced food waste volumes going

off-island to landfill, and so we have permission from Auckland Council to extend our program (under the grant) for just three months, to March 2017.



If you haven't already purchased your bins, we urge you to do so now. Call Rob Everall on 021 996 796 or write to rob@marinejobs.co.nz to reserve your set.

They represent truly outstanding value at just \$20 for a pair of nested bins, which normally retails for \$112. The only proviso is that they must be used on the island, and Council is auditing us to ensure this happens.

We have some stock available immediately on Rakino and the capacity within our grant award to purchase additional units, but this WILL end by February 2017, as we have to lodge a claim for all grant support by the end of March.

We also have stocks of the **Zing bio-catalyst** available for just \$10 per 1 kg bag.

The second stage of the overall project can now proceed, with the AT land on South Pacific Road finally surveyed as the prospective site for the Bokashi bin store/swap station, which is close to the nursery and on public land. It will also be a potential home to firefighting equipment so that we can make it quicker to access for those in the northern half of the island in an emergency. We will be resolving what sort of structure will meet our needs and where it will sit over the Christmas period, allowing of course for consultation with adjacent property owners, so that we can get this final part of the project put to bed in the first quarter of next year.

New RRA Committee

After a bloodless coup, I have seized the chairmanship of the RRA. I would like to thank John Denton, Laura Sutherland, Wayne Whitaker, Bert Vercuyssen and Rob Everall. They had left the RRA in good shape, being financially solvent, reputationally robust and with a real sense of enthusiasm.

I would also like to thank John and Rob for staying on and providing continuity and helping me navigate the role of chair, Hank Postmaa, for continuing the role as Fire Officer and Mark Lockhart for continuing the role of Environmental Officer.

If you haven't yet joined the RRA, I would urge you to do so. The subscription is only \$30 per annum and we are really nice people. Please go to the website www.rra.nz and follow the instructions to pay.

If anyone wants to have a chat to me directly my number is 027 2743460. We are at 1 Marine Parade.

Cheers! Steve.

Your new committee is: Steve McCrone (Chair) Rob Everall (Vice Chair and Acting Secretary), Barry Bridgewater (Treasurer), John Denton, Susan Plummer, Stephen Thomas, Adrian Townsend and Peter Watson.

Fire Officer: Hank Postmaa
Environmental Officer: Mark Lockhart

FIRE SAFETY

The Rules regarding Fire on Rakino are straight-forward. Everyone should know them.

Please print this page and place it 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 Hank Postmaa, our resident Fire Officer on 027 220 3232. 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 fire crews.**
- Step 3. Activate the Alarm Siren, which is mounted on the Oceanview Rd Phone Box, to alert residents.**

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, and should remain upwind of it at all times.

Remember: Protect People First.

Grass regrows, 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 Fire Lords /Beaters etc., until mainland help arrives.
- c) Do not approach fire unless have undertaken the training, are physically fit and are appropriately dressed in protective gear.
Sightseers are a nuisance!