

What's happening with our regional rates?

A new law, passed last year (The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002), requires all local authorities to communicate directly and clearly to ratepayers about how rates are spent. This signals a move towards greater understanding of local government, in particular for regional councils around the country, including the Auckland Regional Council (ARC).

In Auckland, regional rates are currently collected indirectly, through the local city or district council rates bill. All this is set to change after 1 July 2003. From this date, ratepayers in the Auckland region (from Rodney to Franklin) will receive an invoice from the ARC, with detailed information about how regional rates are spent. At the same time, the ARC levy will be dropped from local rates bills.

Bills will be sent to the region's 450,000+ ratepayers between 7 July and 18 August 2003. People will be able to pay their regional rates bill in a variety of ways. Options include direct debit (payments by this method can be spread over 10 months); by cheque in a reply-paid envelope; by cash, cheque or EFTPOS over the counter at any Post Shop; by internet/telephone banking; or by cash, cheque or EFTPOS at the ARC main offices in Pitt Street in Auckland City.

The ARC rate is not a new charge, but the amount many ratepayers pay to the ARC will change. Previously each local council collected the ARC rate on the ARC's behalf, and each council applied its own rating policy to calculate the amount. Now all ARC ratepayers will receive their regional rates bill based on the ARC rating policy, which will be applied fairly across the region. The ARC's new rating policy will therefore affect different types of property in different areas in different ways. In addition, revaluation in some cities will mean that rates are spread differently, depending on the extent of change to a property's valuation.

ARC Chairperson Gwen Bull says, "This new process enables us to provide ratepayers with information about how their rates are spent, in making the Auckland region a place we all love to live. Ratepayers will benefit by understanding better what we deliver to the region. The goal for the ARC is to establish a new rating process which is fair and equitable."

As a result of the legislation, the ARC is proposing a new rating policy, which better reflects the services the Council provides. In December last year, the Council proposed:

- adopting capital value as the basis for general rates
- that there will be no uniform annual general charge (UAGC)
- that there will be no business or rural differentials applied
- the only targeted rates (rates that are ring-fenced to cover costs for specific services) will be for passenger transport and biosecurity. (The biosecurity rate pays for the animal and plant pest control activities of the regional council.)

The ARC has aimed to design a clear, simple and fair rating system for the region. Most of the activities that the ARC is involved in relate to the use and development of land, and the impacts from this use. Capital value reflects the total value of property assets and the demands different types of property place on the environment and/or transport systems. These relate more clearly to the council's services.

The ARC is holding formal public consultations on the proposed funding and rating policies, in conjunction with the draft Annual Plan, in April 2003, inviting members of the public to give their views. The ARC will place public notices and information in local papers, in libraries, and on its website, and will distribute the draft Annual Plan to interested groups and individuals. The consultation period will conclude at the end of April 2003, and final decisions on rating policy will be made in June, in advance of the delivery date for rates invoices, in July and August.

The ARC will post additional information to all ratepayers before they receive their regional rates bill. If you would like to know more, email our regional rates enquiry team (info@arc.govt.nz), or call 09 366 2000 (0800 80 60 40 for callers outside the Auckland toll-free area), and request copies of our Regional Rates fact sheets. You can also find answers to your questions on the ARC website - www.arc.govt.nz.

Auckland Regional Council presenting to the AGM on April 11. The presenters will be Paul Waleran & Anthony James @8pm.

war on weeds bin

A bin provided by Keep Waitakere Beautiful, will be here until 15th April. The bins are for weeds you cannot safely compost. Please do not place any household or building rubbish in these bins. Start weeding now, if you need bags to collect them in you can contact Caroline Grove ph.8128 760



All residents and ratepayers of Karekare are invited to attend the

KKRRT AGM
Friday 11 April 2003
7.30pm at the Fire Station,
Farm Road

All last and late nominations to:

Mathew Grove
enquiries: 8128 760 or
matthewg@ihug.co.nz



Fire restriction season still in force

Call Kevin on 812 8153 for information.
Call 111 in an emergency.

note from the KKRRT chair

Presumably by now no-one will need reminding that the KKRRT AGM is being held 7.30pm, Friday 11 April @ The Kare Kare Fire Station. We are looking forward to a convivial meeting at which it is rumored that Hot Cross Buns may be served with supper. Absolutely a 'not-to-miss' get-together.

A huge turnout from the Kare Kare community, Kawerau a Maki, and invited dignitaries attended the unveiling of the carving commemorating Kawerau a Maki at the beach carpark on Saturday 29 April at dawn. It was a touching event with a number of highlights. Kawerau a Maki blessed the carving and entrusted its care and the future to the young people of Kare Kare who were formally represented there by the children from Lone Kauri school. The children pulled the rope that dropped the veil and later in the ceremony sang and played recorder. On behalf of the community Dean Buchanan returned two taonga to Kawerau a Maki that had been uncovered in storms at Kare Kare and found. Bob Harvey spoke warmly of the re-discovered heritage of



PHOTO: TED SCOTT

Kawerau a Maki at Kare Kare and, as usual, introduced us to some more lively tales of old Kare Kare. The event was organised by the ARC who must be congratulated for a marvellous event. I won't attempt to describe the sumptuous break-

fast; ask someone who was there! Suffice to say it was magnificent and a credit to the ARC and in keeping with such an important event. See you on the 11th.

Regards David Munro, KKRRT Chair

and the nominations we have received are...

All those nominated have written the personal profiles below to aid your decision-making at the KKRRT AGM.

David Munro

This is the second year that I am seeking your support as chair of KKRRT. I have lived at Kare Kare for over twenty years and our children have all attended Lone Kauri School. I am a patrolling member of the Surf Club and I have also been active in many of Kare Kare's community projects in the years that I have been here including, Beach Race Days, Tree Plantings, the Local Fire Party, and, going back a bit, the battles to prevent Auckland's sewerage outfall coming to Kare Kare, the proposal to build a tourist railway round to Whatipu and the proposals to replace our three wooden bridges with concrete culverts. In my year as chair I believe that KKRRT has operated as a harmonious and focussed group and that we have achieved much for our community (note: Chair's report at AGM). We continue to 'box above our weight' as a community and our wider role within in Waitakere City is well regarded. With

your support I look forward to another year ensuring that KKRRT remains representative of our community, and a credible advocate on the important issues.

Robin Binsley

KKRRT Committee & Landcare member since 2000. I have served as treasurer to the KKRRT for the past year and am willing to continue in this practical and satisfying role.

I also look forward to:

- Implementing new protocols to smarten-up our committee proceedings
- Increased effort by the KKRRT to support the environmental guidelines of the West Coast Plan.
- Advocating for a Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.
- Helping to reduce pests and weeds
- Always being able to consider other viewpoints

Ted Scott

Having had a long association with Karekare, I became a permanent resident last June. I have found the experience of living in this community very similar to the village I left behind in England. Such communities are based upon personal involvement of locals. As a local now I am putting my name forward to be a committee member.

Dave Bryant

- Karekare resident, seven years.
- Committee member KKRRT (2001/02/03).
- Member West Coast Plan Liaison Group.

Our principal reasons for living at Karekare are embodied in the Karekare Management Plan i.e. - maintenance of the wildness of the West Coast & the environmental values of the beach and the bush terrain. I believe that we are the guardians of this area and that we should



Karekare Landcare

Sunday 13th April 10am

Waterfall planting

Thanks to those who came to the March weeding to tackle the ever growing problem of Pampas. We managed to take down many seed heads to prevent seed spread.

April Landcare day's programme is the pleasurable task of planting

view from above

Ted Scott will be doing aerial photography Piha/Karekare area in the next few months. This would be a good opportunity to have aerial pics of your property at very cheap rates. Give him a call for details, weather has delayed the date, so you can still get your order in. Tel 8128 859 or email: tedscott@clear.net.nz

strive to keep it as a wilderness recreation region. I am a passionate supporter of the concept of a heritage classification for the Waitakere ranges and will continue to support and lobby for this concept. We love living here, the atmosphere and friendliness of the Karekare community make living at Karekare a real joy.

Jacqui Madelin

I have lived at Karekare for nine years, first at the beach, now off lower Lone Kauri Road. I deeply appreciate Karekare's wild nature, despite its closeness to Auckland. It is a resource not just for us, but for the region, and as such it needs to be protected, even if that means some individuals' plans have to give way to the good of the whole. I do not agree with further subdivision, and do support the Karekare Management plan. Disparate groups in the community may have lost sight of the fact we all, with our different and sometimes conflicting con-

cerns, operate in the same environment and need to learn to work together, even if we don't always agree. We also need a strong relationship with Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional council to ensure the community's concerns are heard. I have been a member of KKRRT for four years and secretary for three; this year I'm just standing for committee.

Karekare Landcare meets on the second Sunday of each month at 10am to tackle weeding or planting projects according to the season. Come and meet those interested in conservation, and become familiar with the special native plants in our area.

For those with web access, you can access more information on current and planned conservation projects on our local Karekare website: www.karekare.org.nz/landcare

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Mathew Grove

I have always lived in Karekare, and was a founding pupil of Lone Kauri School. I have a Degree and Diploma in Computer Science from Auckland. Keen trumper, camper and snow boarder. Wide variety of computer skills. I work in our families' hardware business, Grove Mitre10. Member of local fire brigade for over 12 years. Involved in the organisation and running of the local beach races, landcare and website, and I am a current KKRRT committee member.

what's on...

Book launch in Piha

Lindsey Dawson is going to be at the Piha Library to celebrate the publication of her book LIPSTICK IN THE DUST. Monday April 28 @ 7.00pm is the time when Lindsey will be in Piha to read from her novel and answers questions so make sure you come along. Bring a cushion and stay for a light supper. Lindsey's novel will be on sale and there is a small charge of \$2.

Lindsey was formerly editor of More magazine, Next and Grace magazine. She has written one other novel ANGEL BABY.

Waitakere Pacifica Arts Week

'TE ATA' - Free Outdoor Performance by MAU & PACIFICA Exhibition Opening. Paintings by Fatu Feu'u; Prints and Sculptural Installation by Andy Tauafafi; Paintings by Isabelle Staron Tutugoro; and Woven Hats by the Waitakere Pacifica Weaving Group. @ the Corban Estate Arts Centre this Thursday 3rd April 6pm (exhibition opening), 7pm (performance) 426 Great North Rd, Henderson, Waitakere City (Entrance at the intersection of Great North Rd, Lincoln Rd, & Mt Lebanon Lane)

Te Ata will be a 30 minute site specific multimedia performance that will take place at in the grounds of the historic Corban Winery Estate in Henderson, Waitakere City. The work of MAU is highly contemporary with a distinctive visual aesthetic. It crosses boundaries of dance, theatre, oratory, architecture and visual arts. It extends the bounds of performance space to include alternative environments such as mountains, rivers, urban, and architectural sites.

This event has been supported by Creative Communities. For more information contact Tanya Wilkinson, Corban Estate Arts Centre. Ph: 09 838 4455, email info@ceac.org.nz

local public services, groups & contacts

Arataki visitor centre ph:817 0077 Scenic Drive. Open 7 days from:1 Sept-31 May, 9am-5pm. Open Mon-Fri: 1 Jun- 31 Aug, 10am-4pm

Auckland Regional Council ph: 366 2000 web: www.arc.govt.nz

Piha store ph:8128 844 15 Seaview Rd. Open: Weekdays: 9am -5.30pm, Weekends: 8.30am-5.30pm.

Piha library ph:8128 231 Open :Tue 9am-4pm & 6pm-8pm, Wed 10am-1pm, Thu 10am-1pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

Piha post office Open :Tue 9am-4pm & 6pm-8pm, Wed/Thu 10am-1pm, Sat 10am-3pm.(open longer hours on Saturday as a trial until Easter, normally it closes at 12 midday).

Piha art market ph:8128 029 Every 3rd Saturday of the month outside the West Coast Gallery, Piha 10am-2pm.

Piha community pre-school ph: 8128 013 \$10 per session. Open : Tue 9am -4pm, Thu 9am- 1pm, Fri 9am-4pm.

Piha playgroup ph: 8128 876 \$2 contribution. Open: Mon 9am-11am, Thu 9am-11am.

Plunket ph: 8128 806 No appointment needed. Nurse at Barnett Hall, Piha every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Piha tennis club ph: 8128 185 Contact Ross Pownall/President. Casual players can get the key to the courts at the campground office for a small fee.

Refuse transfer station The concourse, Henderson. Mon-Fri: 5am-7.45pm, Sat: 8am - 4.45pm, Sun: 8am - 3.45pm.

Titirangi market Every last Sunday of the month, Titirangi 10am-2pm.

Waitakere City Council ph:839 0400 Bldg 6 Waipereira Ave email: info@waitakere.govt.nz