

## road rage and road sign rage

I've just got back from a drive down the Piha road which left me sweating, having observed what can only be called a criminally insane overtaking manoeuvre. Car six in the queue passed car five, with so little room to the blind bend that though we were all only doing around 50, even a cyclist rounding the corner would have been at risk.

It's part of the reason I'm convinced speed is not the main traffic danger on the Piha road - not keeping left is. This view was supported by recent (informal) chats with members of First Response. My perhaps less than humble opinion is that concentrating on speed alone allows those who don't speed to think they are lily-white, though they may exhibit behaviour just as dangerous as inappropriate speeding. By inappropriate I mean speed inappropriate to the conditions. If it's foggy, the road is wet, your tyres are worn, your car is old etc, an appropriate speed will be well below the legal limit. Just reducing the limit to 80 won't stop stupid overtaking manoeuvres.

Oh, and don't tell me it's a dangerous road. Does it lie in wait, then suddenly whip up and flip you loose? Does it quickly swivel into the shrubbery then, when you're plunging to your doom, innocuously regain its course until the next unsuspecting victim comes along? It's dangerous behaviour that's the problem - and behaviour that's fine elsewhere may be dangerous here.

Drivers need to take responsible decisions on our road. How can we make this necessity plain?

Those involved with KKRRT and the Community Board will be aware that the Community Board recently addressed the subject of signs on the Piha Road.

The discussion involved the new signs you'll all have seen at the junction with Scenic Drive, and with Forest Hill Road.

I understand the signs were organised by the Road Safety Coordinator, ACC and a design group. They are very nice signs, but not in the circumstances in which they are displayed.

Being frivolous - 'it's your playground' says to me, and to countless others for whom driving is fun, 'YEE HAA!'. It doesn't necessarily say slow down.

Being serious - the signs are attractive if viewed in a plain environment. They are far too fussy and difficult to read for use at a junction. Any warning sign needs to be clear in an instant. These are not.

Worse, they are sited in a manner likely to make their marginal legibility more lethal. There's a tendency to go where you look. Motorcyclists, mountain bikers, and drivers who have taken any sort of skills course will be familiar with the 'look where you want to go' mantra. Why do so many people hit the narrow power poles, when there's a huge gap between them? Because they look at what they are frightened of. This is why the signs advertising local activities should not be pinned to the two power poles most often smacked into on the Piha road. And why having a road safety sign at a

junction - where you should be looking at traffic, not squinting at little letters on a fussy background - is as detrimental to road safety as is placing it on the outside of a curve, where you don't want to go.

Alternatives?

How about using the international signs standard to produce narrow, or dangerous road, or keep left, or no overtaking warning signs - with the distance they cover. These are instantly recognisable in a fraction of a moment to anyone, whatever their language and literacy level.

I have heard people suggest passing lanes, blaming accidents on slow drivers who 'force' those behind them to pass when it's inappropriate. Excuse my language, but bullshit. No-one is forced to pass.

Moreover even if there was enough money around to build passing lanes, which I very much doubt, do we want them? Surely part of this coast's charm is the bush, the nature, the feeling you're really going somewhere.

How about two signs in each direction, half a day before a generous layby - and there are some - saying 'layby 500m'? That way a slow driver, who doesn't know the road so doesn't know where the laybys are, and is being tailgated so doesn't like to brake and stop, has ample warning to slow and pull aside, letting the impatient past.

How about having a white arrow pointing down, and another pointing up, painted at the top (and bottom?) of Lone Kauri road and the top of the cutting? An instant reminder that this is a two-way road, and you should be keeping left.



## local announcements

**Local situations vacant** • 4 hours a week cleaning an companionship for an elderly lady approx. \$10 an hour. For details phone Margo on **8128 640** • person required for 8 hours in after school hours to look after special needs child aprox. \$80 per week. For details phone Margo on **8128 640** • Teachers Aid required from 10.30am to 3pm supervising special needs child for 9 days a fortnight. Ring Lone Kauri School during school hours for details on **8128 746**

**For sale** • Electric califont for shower - used while building, no longer required. \$100 ono  
• Glass fish tank, 3ft long by 1ft by 1ft, and plain white metal stand, for sale. Stopped keeping fish when I started building cos of fumes. • MacIntosh computer: Older Powermac, with printer and screen. Have upgraded. Please can the lady who rang me about this please call back as I accidentally deleted the message. Sensible offers please. For all of these items call Jacqui **8128525**

**Stone wall builder wanted** to create a small low wall. Call Olivia, if you know anyone who can help **8128 624**.

**Organically grown Macadamia nuts** Great as gifts, Dry Roast or Raw. \$5.00 a bag. Contact Hannah on **8128 039**.

**Get fit and flexible** Yoga classes with Jyoti Thursday 9.30 - 11am. Please bring your own mat, blanket & empty stomach. At the Barn 124 Lone Kauri Road. Enquiries ph: **8128 640**.

**Animal sitter wanted** A local reliable teenager who loves animals is needed to sit a dog and cat during school holidays and weekends. Ph: Lyndsay on **8128 794**.

**Do you need help at home?** For babysitting or housekeeping duties in your bach or home. Reasonable rates available for all kinds of light domestic duties. Call Virginia on **8128 944**.

**Mobile fully qualified massage therapist**  
I can come to you for sports, remedial & therapeutic relaxation massage. Call Chris on **8128 012**.

**Local roofing and spouting** for free quotes or expert advice for new or replacement/repairs call Peter **8128 972**

**Household items purchased for cash**  
We buy: lounge suites, dining suites, fridge/freezers, beds, antiques etc. Phone Mark on **025 688 2811** or **8128 080** after 6pm.

**From anywhere to everywhere.** Compass Cabs Ltd. Ring your local driver Cherie on **025 680 5899** or **8128 222**.

**RAW COMEDY NIGHTS Friday 5 March** Do you fancy yourself as the next Mike King, Ewen Gilmore or Cal Wilson? All you need is 5 minutes of original comedy, call to register. *Mon 8pm, The Classic, 321 Queen St, Auckland, Tel: 373 4321 www.comedy.co.nz.*

**SPLORE FESTIVAL Friday-Sunday 5-7 March** Waharau Regional Park (70 minutes south east of Auckland on the east coast near Miranda Hot Springs). Three days of music, art, performance, film, workshops, kids activities, camping and community. Confirmed musicians include Fat Freddy's Drop, Trinity Roots, Pitch Black, Nathan Haines, Concord Dawn, Minuit, Batucada Sound Machine and many more. *Tickets from Red Ticket (any postshop), Real Groovy, Conch, Play Records and at the Corban Estate Arts Centre. (9am - 6pm Monday - Friday). \$120 weekend pass \$80 day pass (entry from 3pm Saturday 6 March only). Check www.splore.net for details.*

**FRACTURED TEXTURES until Sunday 7 March** with Viv Keenan, Iona Matheson and local artist Jasmine Clark, exhibition of new work. *Free, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 9.30am-4pm, Sun 10.30am-4pm, Pots of Ponsonby, 298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby, Tel: 376 0145.*

**HOT RODS IN TITIRANGI Sunday 7 March** Titirangi War Memorial Centre Titirangi 10am - 2pm Entry fee: \$5 per adult, children free. Hot rod car and classic American car display and trade stands. NZHRA sanctioned - street rods and classics. *For more information contact Sam Bellairs on (09) 817 1465, Alan Walker (09) 813 3884 Kevin Saran on (09)834 7126.*

**SWAMP AND STREAM Sunday 7th March** A field trip with Derek March. Enjoy, explore and record the fragile balance of nature in the streams and wetlands of Te Henga, Waitakere with longtime resident, environmentalist and artist Derek March. *9.30 am - 4.00 pm, Cost \$35.00 Group limit of 8. Enquiries Tel: 8178087*

**WAITEMATA - SPARKLING WATERS until Sunday 12 March** an historical film exhibition of Auckland as a harbour city. *Free, Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm, New Zealand Film Archive, 1st floor, 300 Karangahape Rd, Newton, Tel: 379 0628, www.filmarchive.org.nz.*

**PASIFIKA FESTIVAL Saturday 13 March** Western Springs Lakeside and Stadium Great North Rd Auckland 9 am - 6 pm Free entry Be a part of New Zealand's largest Pacific Islands Community Event. *Western Springs Lakeside, Stadium Road, Western Springs. For more information Tel: 379 2020, www.aucklandcity.govt.nz.*

**ST PATRICKS FESTIVAL Wednesday 17 March** Come & celebrate Irelands National Day with great bands and live performances. *Free at Aotea Square, Queen Street, City Ph: 307 5467 - 021 620 961 - Gene Jouavel Email: genej@the-edge.co.nz Web: www.the-edge.co.nz 10am - 6pm*

**GALLERY TALKS Friday 19 March** Mark Braunias, Julia Morison and Tanya Zoe Robinson will speak about their exhibitions. *10.00am Main Gallery Lopdell House, Cnr Titirangi & South Titirangi Roads Titirangi Tel 817 8087 Fax 817 3340 lopdell@lopdell.org.nz*

**GEOFF MOON:NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER Friday 19 March - Sunday 18 April** Local Titirangi-based photographer Geoff Moon has been photographing New Zealand birds and forests for over fifty years. This comprehensive exhibition brings together a collection of these works along with his notebooks that give a wonderful insight into how he managed to achieve some of these remarkable images. A portion of the proceeds from exhibition sales will be donated to the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. *Lopdell House Cnr Titirangi & South Titirangi Roads Titirangi Tel +64 9 817 8087 Fax +64 9 817 3340 lopdell@lopdell.org.nz*

**PERFORMANCE Saturday 20 March** Lopdell House Gallery presents two dramatic responses to Julia Morison's exhibition "no names for things no string for" created and performed by Anna Smith and Helen Grant. Anna Smith works for the English programme at the University of Canterbury where she teaches papers in Children's Literature, Post-Colonial Literature, Theory and Drama. Helen Grant recently completed her M.A in English Literature and Theatre Studies at the University of Auckland. *7pm, Lopdell House Gallery \$5, Spaces Limited Bookings essential . Cnr Titirangi & South Titirangi Roads Titirangi Tel 817 8087 Fax 817 3340 lopdell@lopdell.org.nz*

**KAREKARE STUDIO VISIT Saturday 20 March** Join us for a days outing to visit a selection of local artists studios. This trip will include a visit to the studios of Karekare artists Dean Buchanan and John Madden, plus one other (to be confirmed), as well as a stop for lunch at a local café. (Limit 10). *10am - 3pm Fee: \$45 For details: Corban Estate Arts Centre Tel: 838 4455 Fax 838 4488 info@ceac.org.nz*

**ANNUAL ROTARY BOOK FAIR Sunday 21 March** proceeds go to help local schools, call to donate books, audio CDs, tapes or records. *Free, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 9am-11am, Marcellin College, 617 Mt Albert Rd, Royal Oak, ph (09) 367 6421.*

**STUDIO OPEN DAY Sunday 28 March** Come to the studio and make a simple piece of Jewellery with Anna Bates. Take the time to try or simply come and watch as metal is drawn, sawn, hammered and shaped into Jewellery that references insects and cartoons inspired by the exhibitions in the Gallery. *Lopdell House Gallery Studio, Entry by Koha 10.00am - 2.00 pm Cnr Titirangi & South Titirangi Roads Titirangi Tel 817 8087 Fax 9 817 3340 lopdell@lopdell.org.nz*

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Written advertisements are free for Karekare residents to put local announcement column. For display advertisements a small fee is required please contact Julia Moore for further information. Please send articles, contributions and/or advertisement text material & illustrations via email if possible to: julia.moore@mail.com as long as files are smaller than 2 megabytes. Otherwise phone: 8128636. If you are a local resident or ratepayer and would prefer this newsletter to be sent to another address, please send 12 stamped self-addressed envelopes. **Deadline date for material, photos or advertisement changes for next issue: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month thanks, Julla Moore**

## road rage or road sign rage? (cont.)

Disagree with me? Agree? Have other, better and brighter ideas?

We must make the council, the community board and the local Road Safety Coordinator aware of our needs.

Feel free to send your thoughts by email to the KKRRT secretary, Matthew, on [matthewg@ihug.co.nz](mailto:matthewg@ihug.co.nz). It might be helpful to copy your thoughts to the Road Safety Coordinator, [kitch.Cuthbert@waitakere.co.nz](mailto:kitch.Cuthbert@waitakere.co.nz). And feel free to copy me too.

*Jacqui Madelin*

[jacmad@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jacmad@xtra.co.nz)

P.S. For those who don't know me, I'm a motoring writer living in Karekare. I drive and ride a wide variety of vehicles on a wide variety of roads both here and overseas, and participate in a range of driving and riding courses each year. I regularly receive/cover information on roads, road safety, driver training, etc. This doesn't make me an expert, but it does give me a wide experience to draw on.

While I sit on the board of trustees for the AA-sponsored Driver Education Foundation, and am an elected KKRRT committee member, I must stress the views above are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of either the KKRRT committee, or the AADEF.

## community board news

Greetings all, I hope that you've found some sunshine amidst the wind and rain this summer!

It is my belief that Community Board members are elected to represent the views of their local communities to Council; despite being funded and serviced by the Council, they are not Council sub-committees, nor are they required to support Council policies. The Community Board also provides a forum for informed debate on issues of concern to the community, and the following comments are offered in that spirit.

There was a flurry of activity at Waitakere City Council in December, much of it concerning matters of interest to ratepayers and residents out West:

**Structure Plans:** Council's long-awaited Structure Plan Review report was finally released, just a few days before the separate Peer Review of the Structure Plan Review process itself (i.e., a review of the review). The gist of both reports was that successive Councils have not done their homework, and cannot presently justify the use of Structure Plans as a means of subdividing below the provisions of the District Plan. This is a very positive development.

The key difference between the reports was the recommendation as to the fate of the politically-sensitive Swanson Structure Plan, which has divided that community

and which serves as a warning of what a West Coast structure plan would do to our social fabric.

Whilst the larger, better resourced and more thoughtful Structure Plan Review report recommended that Council simply abandon the Swanson plan, the solitary Peer Review consultant wanted it kept on, on the grounds that subdivision itself does not harm the environment; it's just the effects of subdivision that harms the environment. This is reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's argument against gun control in the US: "guns don't kill people, people kill people!"

Rather than debate the relative merits of each report, which would have been difficult, given the limited time they'd been available - Council's Environmental Committee deftly found a path between them, by deciding to ask the Environment Court to indefinitely suspend the Swanson plan. However, this "Dead Plan Walking" option requires the consent of all parties to the legal appeals; if that can't be gained, Council may need to quietly execute it at a later date.

**Saving the ranges:** in an extensive series of public meetings last year, Council gained overwhelming support for the long-term protection of the Waitakere Ranges, against the creeping degradation bought by weeds, pests and development. Yet, in the last meeting of the year, Council voted to slow the

The KKRRT AGM will be held at 7pm on Friday 23 April at the Fire Station.

Over the recent past the Trust Ctte has been a relatively stable group and it looks as though most incumbents on the ctte will be putting their names forward again for next year. That doesn't mean however that there isn't plenty of room for new blood to come on board. Anyway, maybe things have gotten too quiet and cosy since the heady days of controversy two years ago? I

have to say that if the success of the current committee - with me as its chair - was to be measured by membership and financial trends then we'd all have to fall on the sword of complete failure. The membership high that was achieved when the whiff of armed revolt was in the air has settled back to only slightly ahead of all time lows. And, the coffers have been well-and-truly depleted by our ongoing support for a workable solution



**KKRRT  
report**

to the 'Spencer sub-division' matter. (At least this is a matter which looks most likely to have an agreeable outcome which will be reported upon at the AGM.) Nevertheless, whilst peace in the community may be a good thing, apathy is not.

So, if you feel inclined to stir things up (declare the sovereign eco-state of Kare Kare and secede from New Zealand?) or have some good ideas for fund-raising (there will be other

issues in the future which will need money to fight) at least come to the AGM, and if you really are full of such good ideas, put your name forward for the committee.

There is one final ctte meeting ahead of the AGM and that will be held on Thursday 18 March at 7.30pm at the Fire Station. As always, all welcome.

*Regards David Munro, KKRRT Chair*

Waitakere Ranges Protection Project until somebody comes up with \$120,000 to fund more consultation.

I agree that consulting with the community is very important, and I would be the last to suggest that something so desirable and widely supported, and which would put us on the world stage as a true "Eco-city", should be done on the cheap. It may even be that KRRRPT could volunteer the \$130,000 that Council has set aside to build the new public toilets next financial year, as the consent process for them will probably take longer than that.

On the other hand, it is interesting to compare Council's cautious attitude to this high-profile conservation project with its enthusiasm for another strategic project, namely to rehouse itself in new buildings in Henderson. As I understand it, a small group of Councillors put \$500,000 worth of work into this development before the proposal even appeared on the Council agenda, and there was no public consultation.

Don't get me wrong, the successful completion of that project (now including a transport interchange and re-branded as Waitakere Central) will provide an much-needed economic boost and be a major asset to the city for many generations; but so, too, will protecting the Ranges.

Full marks to Bob Harvey, who says, in his latest Mayoral report: "The historic opportunity to save the Ranges is now. We have a Council motivated to make it happen. All our local MPs are committed. We have a Prime Minister who loves the outdoors, and will listen when we go to her with our proposals. And we have a community consultation process that is working and scheduled to deliver an outcome by the middle of this year... I urge

all of the players, staff and politicians, to continue to support the process. This Council may build outstanding libraries and stadiums. We may dream big political dreams. But the natural environment is the legacy that will outlast them all. If it is lost, it can never be rebuilt. It will be lost forever."

**Road safety:** Those who imagine the job of a community board representative to be a tedious litany of the 3 Rs (roads, rates and rubbish), should have been in on this wide-ranging debate which offered drama, passion, and graffiti!

All the residents I've talked to say that the new road safety billboards don't work; some are badly sited, they're hard to read and can be distracting, as well as visually unappealing. What locals want are simple, highly visible and easily-understood signs that aid the safety of all who drive on our narrow, winding roads. I also think that the campaign is too monocultural, and will do little to assist immigrants and visitors not fluent in English.

Community Board members were asked by Council's road safety co-ordinator to provide feedback before the billboards went up, and a Waiatarua resident sent in a thoughtful and detailed analysis of the shortcomings of the proposed campaign. Nevertheless, feathers were ruffled, and a few Board members seemed to want to succumb to the temptation to shoot the messenger. There may also have been an element of exasperation that Council's road safety expertise should even be questioned by locals.

Fortunately, good sense prevailed; the ACC subsidizes these campaigns, and they joined the road safety co-ordinator and the billboards' designer in welcoming

constructive criticism, even noting that "under the new LTSA funding model, there is a great opportunity for local groups to create resources, and indeed campaigns, that they think would work in their communities."

I am pleased that the KRRRPT committee has decided to take up this invitation, and will host a meeting of Waitakere R&R groups to work with ACC and Council staff to come up with ideas we can all support. Anyone who is interested, or has experience to offer in this area, please contact either myself (ph. 027-95-4848), Jacqui Madelin at jacmad@xtra.co.nz, or Phil Parks at h20@waterservicesltd.co.nz.

**Broadband:** Those residents who eagerly awaited the arrival of Jetstream as the cabling crews were working their way along Piha Rd last year were disappointed to discover that the final kilometre of cable between Te Ahu Ahu and Karekare Beach Rd must be upgraded before Telecom can deliver the service. The kicker is, we would have to pay Telecom \$8,000 to upgrade their cable! Needless to say, we're not too keen on the offer, and local ITC gurus Rob Burrowes and Mike Nixon are investigating alternative technologies.

Finally, this is election year for local bodies; if you think you might like to stand, feel free to contact me at rob@taylored.co.nz.

The Karekare and Piha communities have not been backward over the years in seeking accountability and openness from their elected representatives, and I expect that will never change.

*Best wishes, Rob Taylor  
Waitakere Community Board*

## Botanising in Karekare

On Saturday 21st February, the Auckland Botanical Society ran a trip in Karekare down to the Paraha Stream via the beach. The amount of experts and knowledgeable people were astounding, Ewan Cameron - the leader, is Curator of the Herbarium at the Museum. The group brought their binoculars and many birds were identified, a small green Australian frog was found in the wetlands area and unfortunately a dead blue penguin was seen (does anyone ever spot them alive?). Some of the members brought hand lenses to help us look at the smallest flowering plant - *Wolfia Australis* - I believe it was called found near the tunnel. Thanks to the members for letting some of us Karekare Landcare members join in and learn a bit more about our local plants. *Julia Moore*



## Karekare Landcare

10am-12noon Sunday 14th March



### Pampus

**Where:** Karekare Beach carpark  
**Project this month:** We will be meeting in the carpark before we set off around the beach take off flower heads and slash back Pampas to stop them spreading seed in the wind. If you do not know the difference between Pampus & Toetoe 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, more information on current and planned conservation projects on the Karekare website:  
[www.karekare.org.nz/landcare](http://www.karekare.org.nz/landcare)



### weed bin

As part of Keep Waitakere Beautiful and their annual "War on Weeds" we will again ask for a bin from Council to be parked in Karekare. So get into your gardens and keep any invasive plants in check. Please do not place any rubbish or household waste in these bins.

**Where:** small carpark near Pohutukawa Glade entrance  
**When:** arriving Late March for four weeks

## local public services, groups & contacts

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

**Auckland Regional Council** web: [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) ph: 366 2000

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

**Piha library** Open :Tue 10am-1pm & 6.30pm-8pm, Wed 10am-1pm, Thu 10am-1pm, Sat 10am-2pm. ph: 8128 231

**Piha post office** Open: Tue, Thurs, Sat 10am-midday ph: 8128 486

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

**Piha playgroup** \$2 contribution at Barnett Hall. Open: Mon & Wed 9am-11am. ph: 8128 013 or co-ordinator - Kelly on 8128380.

**Plunket** Plunket nurse at Barnett Hall, once a month. Next date: 25 Feb. ph: 8388806 an appointment needed in advance, or ph. 8128 806 on the day, to cancel or speak to nurse at Barnett Hall.

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

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

**Waitakere City Council** Bldg 6, Waipereira Ave, Henderson. Email: [info@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:info@waitakere.govt.nz). Web: [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz) ph: 839 0400

**Waitakere Central Community Arts Council** For info on upcoming classes & workshops email: [waitakereartsCouncil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:waitakereartsCouncil@xtra.co.nz) or contact Janet Holtrichter ph: 838 5733

**Waitemata Theatre Group** For information on club nights, performances, costume hire, etc. contact Carol Gibson ph: 836 5572

**Waitatarua Playcentre** Sessions Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm for 0-6 years. 911 West Coast Rd. Learn and grow with your child. For information contact: Susie Butler ph. 8128 696 or Chris & Angela Turbott ph. 8128 447.

**West Auckland Historical Society** research centre at Henderson Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Dve is open every Monday 10am-3pm and also every second Sunday of the month from 10am-2pm, when guided walks take place. For more information or to book the walks ph: 818 5055.

**West Auckland Reiki Group** Reiki support group for all types and lineages of Reiki, meets at the Titirangi Centre for the Art of Wellbeing, cnr Titirangi & Rangiwai Rds, Titirangi, every 1st and 3rd Thurs night at 7.30pm. Call Jill or Martin on 8128 858 or email: [Reiki@aurora.org.nz](mailto:Reiki@aurora.org.nz)

**West Coast Gallery** Old Piha Fire Station, open Thurs 10am-1pm, Fri -Sun 11am-5pm ph: 8128 029 or after hours 813 6684.



## neighbourhood watch news

The police have located and arrested those responsible for stealing a cheque book late last year from a letter box in Waikarekare Lane and cashing some cheques.

The man who stole the cheque book lives in Glen Eden, so is not a local. He is already on a suspended sentence and is known to police.

Apparently one common method is to follow behind the rural mailman, especially on a road like this where you can get quite close, and riffle through for likely mail just after he's been.

The police recommend people in rural areas like this not to have bank mail sent to a home address. *John Edgar*



## Fire restriction season still in force

Call 111 in an emergency.

Call Kevin on 812 8153 for information.