

KUAOTUNU RESIDENTS' & RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

EASTER NEWSLETTER

1998 COMMITTEE

The following committee was elected at the Christmas AGM. Please feel free to contact any of the following with any concerns or issues you wish to raise:

Chair:	Vivienne McLean	866 5776
Sec/Treas:	Alan Hill	866 4261
Committee:	Cliff Heraud	866 4082
	Ian Simpson	866 5448
	Dave Bryant	866 5994
	Bill Muir	866 4396
	Yvonne Harris	866 4854
	Hone Rogers	866 2124 / 0-9-846 4107
	Birgit Chilwell	866 5165
	Malcolm Cooke	866 2497
	Marguerite Muellers	866 2626 (bus)

SPEED LIMITS

Following discussion at the AGM the Association has written to the Land Transport Safety Authority requesting that speed limits on SH25 in the area be amended to:

70 km/h from Cemetery Road to the Whitianga side of the bridge;

50 km/h from there to Fugills, including a reminder 50 km sign and a "children crossing" sign along the beach straight;

70 km/h from Fugill's to Grant and Judy Simpson's drive.

LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

A reminder that membership subs are due now. We're keen to boost the membership of the Association. As Kuaotunu grows it's important we all keep in touch as a community, and the Ratepayers' Association is one way of doing that. The more members, the more subs ... the more subs, the more newsletters etc to keep in touch. If you're a member why not bring along a neighbour or two? Membership costs are nominal — just \$5 for individuals and \$10 per family.

SEALING OF SH25

The latest on this continuing saga

Contrary to reports that the sealing of the Kuaotunu Hill was on hold, Barry Dowsett of Transit New Zealand's Hamilton office advises that this project is still very active. He says following the decision to upgrade corners etc additional funding has been requested and a decision on this is awaited from Transfund. Final approval of the resource consent is also awaited from Environment Waikato. SH25 has priority for funding this financial year and the intention is to start the Te Rerenga extension in spring. It is even conceivable that part of the Kuaotunu Hill could start this summer!

The estimated cost of the project has now risen to around \$7 million. As some wise person said recently, if we'd added up the costs of all the consultants' and engineering reports over the years and sealed the road in the early days, we'd have saved one heck of a lot of money. Meanwhile the Kuaotunu Hill road has recently been graded, but deteriorated again in only a few days! The Association has written yet ANOTHER strong letter asking for more frequent and better quality maintenance, but don't hold your breath.

DOWN THE DRAIN

Following a very clear direction from the AGM, the Association made strong submissions against the new proposed wastewater by-law. Hearings will be held on 22 April in Thames and on 23 April in Whitianga.

RESERVE MANAGEMENT

The Reserve Management Group is currently putting together a planting plan for the grass reserves at Rings Beach, Kuaotunu West and Kuaotunu Beach — your suggestions are welcome. Environment Waikato will also be asked for plants for dune protection — these are provided at no charge. All the dunes in our area need some preventive planting to avoid serious erosion in the future. But we do need help in planting the reserves and dunes. There'll probably be a major planting exercise over Queen's Birthday Weekend — if you can assist then or at any other time please give your name and contact details to Cliff or Julie Heraud.

ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO PLANNING

Copies of Environment Waikato's draft Strategic Plan and draft 1998/99 annual plan are now available. Closing date for submissions is 24 April. You can obtain copies of these plans by phoning the Environment Freephone 0800 800 401. The Association is currently reviewing the plans and will probably make submissions.

COMMERCIAL AREA UPGRADE

TCDC expects to start work on upgrading the area around the hall, store and garage is scheduled to start late this month/early May. The upgrade is designed to ease parking problems during the summer peak, with more clearly defined parking areas, barriers and kerbing and channelling.