

Pond Life

OUR COMMUNITY
YOUR PAPER

Wattle Downs

Our Area

Your Community



ISSUE: 29 • JULY 2025

Welcome to Pond Life...

your local Wattle Downs news!

Warm Greetings to our Wattle Downs residents,

We do hope you are all keeping warm and dry with our fluctuating weather. Winter can be a lonely time for everyone. Please keep in contact with your older neighbours and friends, and give a little of your time to give them some company.

One never knows from one minute to the next just what the day has in store for us.

Aren't we lucky to come through the Auckand Traffic to the peaceful haven of Wattle Downs.

The Pond Life team

A colorful banner for the Annual Wattle Downs Residents Picnic. The background features a stylized landscape with a blue sky, colorful clouds, and a green field. In the foreground, there is a picnic setup on a red and white checkered blanket, including a blue thermos, a red thermos, a blue bowl of food, and a plate of food. The text is prominently displayed in white and green.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Wattle Downs Residents Picnic

Sunday 14th December

11 am to 3pm

NEWSLETTER TEAM: Pat James, Sue Matete & Rae Baxter. Big thank you to Acacia Cove for printing the Pond Life.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY: Alan Boyle

CONTACT US: wattledownsresidentsassoc@gmail.com

Pond Life (E&OE) is a volunteer non-profit organisation operating as a sub-committee of the Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc.

Wattle Downs
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS
Association Inc.

The logo for the Wattle Downs Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc. features a stylized white silhouette of a bird, possibly a wattlebird, perched on a branch with leaves. The text is written in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts.

Residents Association Report

Have you ever wondered what the Committee of the Wattle Downs Residents Association do for the community? We are a dedicated group who love where we live and want the best for all residents.

Our main focus this year has been on having our CCTV network working efficiently and being able to share information with the Police. We are really grateful to the Trillian Trust for considering our application and giving us funds to do the work. We have a dedicated team of committee members who monitor the cameras and liaise with the Police. We are privileged to have Payam and Nathan supported by David to do this work for the community.

We are also preparing for the Christmas Picnic at the Golf Course. The Christmas Picnic will be on the Golf Course on Sunday, 14th December with all the usual fun and games. There is also a wonderful opportunity for residents to partake in Wattle Downs 2026 Calendar thanks to Leo and Sue. Leo also is our liaison on the WeChat Group.

Elly looks after the Finances for us supported by James. Stella shares her invaluable experience of local government practices to guide us. We were very grateful to June who took over the Secretary's role following the sad passing of Barbara Gerbich.

Which leaves me, the Chair, who supports and encourages the others. We changed the format of our General Meetings last year so that we can be more relevant to our residents. All reports from the Councillors, Local board Finance, Pest Control and other matters are sent prior to the meeting so that residents will have time to prepare questions for the meeting. Residents can either send the questions in before the meeting if they are unable to attend or ask them at the meeting. Councillors and the Local Board can then reply. This seems to work really well and helps us to keep in touch with you all.

We are here to help if you have any problems or concerns.
You can contact us on our email [*wattledownsresidentassoc@gmail.com*](mailto:wattledownsresidentassoc@gmail.com)

Pat James – Chair of Wattle Downs Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc



Community CCTV

JUNE 2025 UPDATE

Wattle Downs community is a safe place to live. We have installed community CCTV cameras to reinforce this. This awesome initiative has grown over years from 1 camera and 1 recorder to now having 12 cameras and 2 recorders around the peninsula. A big thank you to those with the original vision to start a Community CCTV system. And to our Residents and Ratepayers Association who continue to run and upgrade the system as needs change. This sort of help for our community is so special.

Now we have some fantastic cameras with vehicle number-plate recognition so police can quickly track trouble issues and aid in resolving them. From stolen trailers and vehicle theft, to damage, to illegal dumping and assault, Community cameras have aided in resolving many issues. We have a vision for more cameras, to replace older ones as well as covering new areas. A recent review of the system showed a number of cameras needed replacement. Some funding was sourced from the Trillion Trust - a big thank you to all involved!

The team of volunteers have tasked themselves to continue doing the following for our area:

- Over-viewing the whole network
- Sourcing funding for upgrades
- Liaising with contractors and suppliers
- Liaising with police
- Dealing with requests for camera footage and supporting the people in difficulties
- Maintenance of all network components and resolving glitches
- Liaising with local businesses which support our cameras and writing these updates for everyone to catch up with all the hours of great work being put in by many volunteers

If you need camera footage about an incident, Wattle Downs Residents and Ratepayers Assoc Facebook Page (not any group, but the Association page) has a pinned form for you to fill in.

What to do if there has been an incident where you need footage:

- Report what happened to the Police.
- To obtain camera footage to assist investigation please use this link - <https://form.jotform.com/240640883227053>

Your request will go to the kind volunteers who spend hours viewing camera footage so giving them the shortest time window to scan will be good. Asking neighbours for information can be very useful indeed. If police are involved, please inform them directly yourself as well. This is vital as police support only happens when they know about an issue. The more crimes reported, the more Police support we get.

The community CCTV subscription is \$20 per household each year. This helps maintain and expand the CCTV street camera network. For ongoing support from residents we ask each household for a basic subscription fee of \$20 per year. Could you contribute \$50? \$100? \$500? More? Sponsorship opportunities always exist too.

Payments can be made via direct credit or in person at The Cedar Park Superette.
Wattle Downs Residents and Ratepayers Association INC
12-3032-0269585-01 Reference: Surname & address



COMMUNITY NOTICE :

14a Carnoustie Drive

It has been a busy few months since our last meeting with the new Resource Consent application for development of 37 dwellings at 14a Carnoustie Drive. A public meeting was held and it was decided to proceed as per the first application and enter a submission from our Town Planner, Scott, and he would also make this available for all residents to use. There was much interest and many residents that have entered submissions. We are still receiving donations so thank you to all those that have donated to a worthy cause. Auckland council received 98 opposing submissions and 2 neutral submissions.



25 June update: The application has been put on hold following a Section 92 request by the Council planners. Section 92 of the Resource Management Act allows Council planners to request more information – something that has happened in this case due to the submission of evidence points lodged by Wattle Downs residents. This is an encouraging update – it reflects the fact that the Council is listening to the submission evidence and requiring the applicant to do more work. We are not discouraged, on the contrary, this information tends to confirm what many of us know: the application for 14A Carnoustie Drive contains a series of design proposals that breach the rules set down in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

A summary of matters that we have sought to challenge so far include:

1. 37 dwellings now proposed. Reduction of 5 dwellings from previous scheme.
2. All two storeys, mixture of duplex and terrace units. The breakdown is: 11 x 4 bedroom typology, 25 x 3 bedroom typology, 1 x 2 bedroom.
3. Land use is restricted discretionary, subdivision is discretionary. Units 14, 15, 20, 21, 31 and 32 have compromised outdoor living space. This speaks to the overall intensity of the site and will present a very harsh frontage to the esplanade reserve.
4. The design proposes a hard retaining wall and fencing structures, and this will have a road above the retaining e.g. no landscape character.
5. The proposed includes the removal of two Monterrey Cypress in the Council reserve, completely unnecessary and unacceptable. There is no comment on the landscape impact of removal.
6. Rubbish collection to be private. This is a good thing for a rear site like this. However, onsite management will be key. There is a legitimate concern regarding the effectiveness of “Residents Societies” in handling the operating cost of managing a site of this size and design.
7. There is a very arbitrary traffic assessment that assumes sight lines will be available from access. With so much over spill parking that will be generated by this development this assessment is artificial.
8. Developments near to the coast should be seeking to avoid hard structures such as retaining walls. This development ignores those directives in the Auckland Unitary Plan to squeeze more houses onto the site.

Heather Andrew (resident), Daniel Newman (resident) & Row Robinson (resident)

In & Out of Wattle Downs

MANUREWA CROQUET CLUB

We now have **12** residents of Wattle Downs playing and enjoying the game of croquet and are paid up club members.

Golf croquet, which we play at our club is easy to learn and keeps both brain and body active.

Our days of play are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 8.45am - noon.

We welcome anyone interested in giving this lesser known sport a go. All equipment is provided along with basic coaching .

You may come along 3 times for no charge. We do ask that flat soled shoes be worn please.

Come on Wattle Downers, come join in the fun and games at 31 Russell Road, Manurewa and swell our membership further.

Why not come join us!



LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HONOURED IN MANUREWA

A special celebration was recently held at Mountford Park Rugby Club to recognise dedicated volunteers from across Manurewa. Certificates were presented by Matt Winiata (Local Board Chair), with entertainment from talented local groups adding to the evening's atmosphere.

Among those acknowledged for their service were Wattle Downs Locals: Row Robinson, Lynn Bell, and Rae Baxter. The event wrapped up with a shared supper and a warm sense of community.



• COMMUNITY GROUPS • VOLUNTEER • GET INVOLVED •

COFFEE & CRAFT GROUP

We meet on a Wednesday morning every week, and have been running for two and a half years now. Sadly, we lost a dear friend and member of the group last year to cancer. June was a founding member of our group and shared her extensive knowledge of Manurewa and the changes in our area.



We work on a variety of personal projects: knitting, crochet, jewelry making, sewing, diamond dots, and embroidery. We help each other if needed, share ideas, and fix the world's problems! Discussions can be serious or hilarious with a huge range of topics brought up. We even have a member from Germany who visits New Zealand every year over the summer and loves coming to our group sessions.

If you want to know more, email Rae at r.baxter@xtra.co.nz

SOUTH AUCKLAND CHORUS WINS

SouthCity Soundz Chorus is a womens' 4-part harmony acapella group based at Reremoana School, and is affiliated to the international organization Sweet Adelines.

This year SouthCity Soundz competed at the annual Convention in Otautahi Christchurch where Sweet Adelines New Zealand celebrated 40 years in New Zealand.

Despite being one of the smallest Sweet Adeline Choruses in Aotearoa, SouthCity Soundz was very excited to come second in the small chorus section at this year's competition. They achieved not only their goal of moving up a performance level but also won a medal.

The Director, Cheryl Weijermars, says "We try to create a safe space where woman can come and sing, learn and grow. I love seeing the joy on our members faces when the chords all align and the music comes together."

If you're interested in coming to hear us, or joining, please contact Cheryl at chrisandcheryl123@gmail.com



Tington Wetlands Refresh



Tington Wetlands pond is scheduled for major earthworks, removing all deposited sediment down to the sandstone level at the bottom. The plan is to construct a new outlet structure to prevent flow of sea water into the pond. There will be some redesign and planting around the edges of the pond. The renewal project is designed, has consent, and is ready to start in October, provided budget is available.

This Tington pond is important in managing flooding through the surrounding areas. Knowing it will be deeper is reassuring.

This is also a declared wetlands and wildlife sanctuary, home to innumerable birds of many species.

Council planners are working with The Manurewa Local Board to organise an open day so residents can learn more about the work planned. Date to be decided. If you have questions or concerns about excavation, drainage, edge design or plantings etc, do let the authorities know.

Nature Journaling

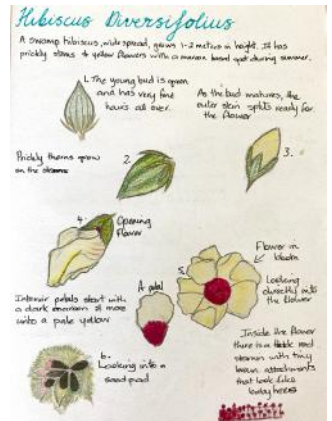
Nature journaling is the practice of recording personal experiences and observations of nature in a notebook using a variety of creative techniques, including writing, drawing, and other visual forms. It's a way to connect with the natural world and deepen your understanding of it through careful observation and personal expression.

It encourages you to slow down and pay close attention to the details of your surroundings, whether it's a specific plant, animal, landscape, or even the sounds of nature. Nature journaling can help calm your mind, increase your attention to detail, improve your understanding of nature, and even inspire creative projects

You use your notebook to document your observations, which can include drawings, sketches, notes, poems, or even maps. Nature journaling allows you to express your individual perspective and relationship with nature through various forms of art and writing.

It provides a space for you to reflect on your experiences and connect with your feelings about nature.

You don't need to be a professional artist or naturalist to start nature journaling; it's open to everyone.



Pest Free Wattle Downs

WINTER UPDATE 2025

Residents have a long history in caring for our area. One way is working to remove introduced pests like rats and mice.

Keen volunteers regularly maintain more than 170 locked bait stations around the reserves and public spaces of Wattle Downs. Having so many bait stations means there's a good chance any rodents coming in from outside will eat bait before they do damage to our homes and gardens.

It means birds, plants and other creatures which are part of the natural world have a greater chance to live than when they are targeted by predators like rats. Our efforts have so many benefits which aren't immediately apparent.

(Note: bait stations are locked and bait is not accessible to domestic pets, children or birds).

Volunteers each care for an area of the peninsula and regularly go around and restock the bait stations in their area. Bait is supplied by Council - a big thank you for this help. This bait is attractive to rodents so recording how much bait has been eaten in each station shows a picture of any infestation in the area. Each station is restocked depending on how much bait has been eaten.

This Winter in Wattle Downs shows some areas currently have more mice and rats than other areas. It's interesting how infestations change places over time. These rodent predators can do great harm to both our homes, our health and the wildlife of our area. Ever had their nests built in your roof? Your linen cupboard? Your pantry? Not nice! Populations can be reduced by not leaving food out, including pet food or bread scraps.

This network of bait stations also gives the birds and plants, which are vulnerable to rats and mice, a much better chance of surviving and flourishing. Have a look and a listen as you walk around our reserves.



This effort builds on lots of planting over the peninsula which has helped transform Wattle Downs into the vibrant environment it is today.

Overall, what a great job our Pest Free programme is doing!

Would you like to care for some of the stations around the peninsula so the protected area can expand further? All help appreciated so get in touch. wattledownsresidentsassn@gmail.com or ring **Row Robinson 021459559**



Left Image: Locked bait station near bush.

Right Image: Highlighted areas show most bait eaten so far in 2025



Diary of a Rodent Trap Volunteer

There are a band of Wattle Downs volunteers keeping regular watch on the small black boxes you may have seen dotted around our peninsula, to ensure there are adequate supplies of the succulent bait which the rat population enjoy, at their peril!!

I have often been asked by folk walking by as I tend to the inspection of the black box...

“Have you caught any rats yet?” For those who don’t know, the baits in the bait stations contain poison especially designed for rodent eradication.

So up until March 2025, I was able to say, with authority, that I had never seen a dead rat on my rounds. That was until, when I found on opening one of the bait stations in March, a ball of grey unmoving fluff in there... I quickly slammed the bait station lid shut. I think it may have been a young very hungry rat which was also a greedy one but I was not the one who investigated and cleared that particular bait station. A few days later, I found his brother at peace on the grass frontage of the walking path where the ball of fluff was found!! Thankfully any other past customers have crawled back home to their families.

Rats are still around as the baits are being cleared from the bait station. Please don’t throw your old bread and other foodstuffs on your lawn for the birds, which could encourage the rodent population.

Just be aware householders of Wattle Downs, rats don’t like the cold any more than we do; they like to have a nice warm home... Don’t let it be yours!!



Share with care on our walkways

The walkways are primarily for pedestrians. Walking, running, jogging, alone or in a group, with or without dogs, or on a bike or scooter with our kids is great exercise. It is very important that we use courtesy for other users on our favourite paths.

If you are coming up behind a walker and you are on another mode of transport please let them know you will pass. The elderly of our community sometimes can't hear so please be mindful of that. Give everyone time and space. The walkway is not for motorised vehicles.

If you walk your dogs, please control them at all times - on or off-leash. It is unacceptable for dogs to approach other walkway users without an invitation to do so.



Tington Pond Clean Up

Recently there was a clean up around Tington Wetlands and many thanks to the local residents who pitched in. We found an abandoned shopping trolley, a boogie board, a trolley wheel and lots of other rubbish. Near the carpark rubbish bin there was also what looks like something from a shop using fat and flour with dumped messy containers and bags.

Residents also talked about the plans for digging out the pond and what should be planted around the edges.

We pulled out some of the weeds growing, especially moth plant. We discovered some stormwater pipes running into the pond which are not on Council's plans.

A worthwhile exercise and always good neighbours meeting and interacting with each other.



DUCKLING CORNER



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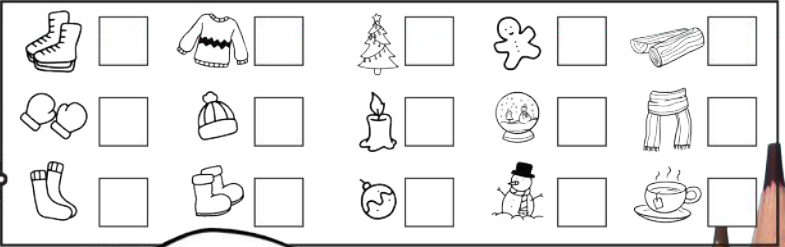
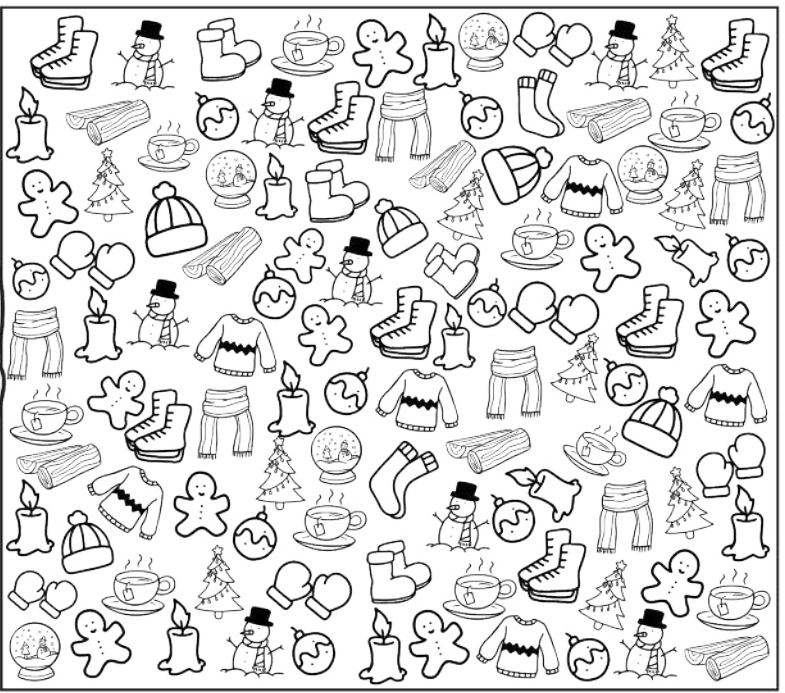
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- BOOTS
- COAT
- COCOA
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- HAT
- ICE
- SCARF
- SLED
- SNOW



What did the tree say after
 a long, cold winter?
 WHAT A RE-LEAF!



Term 2 has been a busy term at Reremoana School. Recent highlights have been the Ice Skating Tour, a state of the art plastic ice rink. Our students all took part in skating lessons and many of our community came along to the afternoon ice skating discos. Many of our students were nervous about trying something new and it was great to see them demonstrate resilience and determination as they pushed the boundaries of what they thought they were capable of. We saw them encouraging each other and celebrating the success of their peers. The ice skating tour was an awesome extension to our physical education programme.

An absolute highlight of Term 2 has been our Matariki learning and celebration. Matariki is a time to gather as whānau, to reflect on the year that has passed, to honour loved ones who have gone before us, and to celebrate new beginnings. This kaupapa was brought to life through powerful performances from our three kapa haka roopu/groups, the sharing of student learning and art, and the presentation of our new Matariki Te Ao Māori Awards.

We were deeply honoured to be joined by members of Te Ākitai Waiohua, Mana Whenua of this rohe/area. Having the descendants of Reremoana with us is always a privilege. We were so very humbled to receive a taonga/treasure, a beautiful picture of Reremoana and her husband, Huiarangi, from them at our Matariki celebration. We would like all our tamariki to know who Reremoana was and the values her and her whanau held dear. This picture will be hung in our reception and will help everyone who is a part of Reremoana School know who she was.



Clayton Park School



Clayton Park School is built on land that was the former farm property of the Clayton family. This family came to New Zealand in the 1880s when Captain Clayton worked for Lloyds Registry as a surveyor. Captain Clayton was a very talented artist and he has over time had numerous famous ship paintings in the treaty house at Waitangi. They moved to Manurewa in 1886. The family contributed land from their farm estates to the community. They helped to build local churches and community facilities like the tennis courts. The peninsular had a lot of Wattle Trees covering it hence the suburbs name. Our buildings were rebuilt in 2019, and we're enjoying the updated spaces. Current projects include more planting, a Makerspace and LEGO area, music room upgrades, and a new challenge and wellbeing space. We have large grounds, a great hall, a Māori bilingual unit (Y6–8), and Rumaki Reo (Y0–5). We focus on play-based learning in juniors and collaboration across the school. Our rich curriculum features events like STEAM Fair, cultural festivals, talent shows, robotics, kapa haka, and sports.

Our ARISE values – Aroha, Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Engagement – guide everything we do.



Wattle Downs Calendar 2026

Our last 2025 Calendar was very successful. Apparently they have gone far and wide! As well as being used and displayed for us at home, many were sent overseas to family and friends to show them our beautiful area. It is soon time to start collecting photos for the next year's calendar, so please share a photo with us if you would like to have your part of Wattle Downs on display. Please set your camera setting to maximum resolution for print quality (over 2MB - *the bigger the better*). Give us a call if you would like more information on **Sue 021 715 672 or Leo 021 793 066**.



Everyday Safety Habits for Kids Out & About

- Ezekial Robson

From time to time we see reports of concerning behaviour involving adults approaching children near schools. Those involved, and the wider community, carry those experiences and strong feelings even if the motives or facts remain unknown to us. Experts advise that we need to understand the risk of child abduction is much lower than our emotions would have us believe. But what can we do to help?

As a Kidpower 'people safety' instructor, I have worked in local schools, teaching children how they can use their brain, voice, and body power to keep themselves safe. Here are some things to think about, and skills you can practice with young people.

For generations many parents have taught what they themselves learnt: don't talk to strangers, never accept lollies or rides from people you don't know. You are probably also familiar with the typical advice when out walking: use a buddy system, stay in well lit areas, and keep away from vehicles and people you don't know well.

For adults these are simple ideas we think should be easy to always stick to, but I have found kids are full of "What if...?" questions. 'Stranger Danger' stories raise awareness, but only skills-practice can turn safety into a habit that is flexible to respond to different situations.

We can help kids in a calm way, to believe in themselves, rather than raising anxiety through rigid rules or our own fearful or angry feelings. Being a 'tough-guy', hitting out at those who scare kids, only encourages more harm.

Through role play children learn how to stand up for themselves, confidently say no to an adult, and even yelling and running away. Practice helps them to push through feeling too embarrassed, shy or scared to ask for help.

- Have children practice awareness and confidence - have children identify potential risk

factors in places they commonly go. Practice looking around, and walking in a confident style (even when using headphones or while watching tiktok!).

- Give children the practice to take charge - one useful skill is for a child to always "check first" with another adult, before going anywhere or taking anything from someone they don't know well. Most people are good people, so instead of judging a person by appearance, teach kids to judge people by their actions. Encourage them to trust their own instincts, if they don't have a good feeling about a person or situation - even if they don't know why they should leave and speak to an adult.
- Have children practise getting help - if they or someone else needs help, bringing the situation to the attention of adults can be tricky. Looking around for a person in a uniform, or working behind a counter, is a good start for whom to get help from. Help children learn how to interrupt and give important details of what happened. Factor in that they might worry about getting in trouble if they were somewhere doing something they shouldn't have at the time, or a parent is busy or doesn't understand the urgency right away.

Finally, as children grow they will come to understand that there are different rules for safety with people we know, and around people we don't know. When younger, if a child is lost, a 'stranger' may be the only person to turn to if they need help. Older children still need guidance about appropriate behaviours, respecting boundaries, and what to do if somebody they love crosses the line - but that's a whole other story.

For more information:
Empowerment Trust NZ
<https://empowermenttrust.nz/>



Wiri Rambler Guided Tours

Board the Wiri Rambler for a guided tour of the Auckland Botanic Gardens

The Wiri Rambler is a great way for families, groups and less able bodied visitors to explore Auckland Botanic Gardens.

- The Wiri Rambler departs from outside the Huakiawaka Visitor Centre (garden side)
- It runs every Sunday from 11am, weather permitting
- Tours run in half-hour intervals
- The Wiri Rambler also runs some Saturdays and public holidays (depending on the availability of volunteers)
- All Wiri Rambler guides and drivers are volunteers with Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and will provide a unique insight into the Gardens with a commentary during the tour.

Cost:

- Adult \$5 each
- Children 3 – 13 years old \$2 each
- Children under 3 years old Free
- Tickets can be bought at the Reception desk in the Visitors Centre

Special bookings

- Special tours for groups, clubs, kid's birthday parties, Retirement Villages and Rest homes can be organized on weekdays. Each tour costs \$90

For information about special bookings, contact the Auckland Botanic Gardens on 09 2671457 Ext 1 or email botanic.gardens@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



JUST SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES AT

acaciacove



Tai Chi



Outdoor Bowls



Rummikub



Water Aerobics



Snooker



Indoor Bowls

PLUS 26 MORE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING LINE DANCING, ZUMBA, TABLE TENNIS, SINGING GROUP, KNIT & NATTER, MEDITATION, MAHJONG, AND MOVIE AFTERNOONS!

WE ALSO HAVE HOMES PRICED BETWEEN \$655,000 - \$915,000 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

Contact: 09 268 8522 or bruce@acaciacove.co.nz



Bupa Wattle Downs

There's always something happening at Bupa Wattle Downs Retirement Village! We've recently enjoyed van outings around Auckland, inter-village quiz events, luncheons, Mother's Day Brunch, ANZAC Day Commemoration, and insightful guest speakers.

Warm and welcoming, our village offers park like surroundings, a mini putting green, communal vegetable gardens and fruit trees, as well as happy hour for catch ups with fellow residents and friends. Even better, retirement village living means no maintenance or lawn mowing – giving you more time to do the things you love!

Pop in and visit at our upcoming Open Days:

10am -2.00pm on 19 July / 23 August / 27 September / 1 November

Bupa Wattle Downs Retirement Village (Lynne Westbrooke):

09 941 1692 / bupa.co.nz/wattledowns



Yvonne Kleyn

yvonne.kleyn@bupa.co.nz
bupa.co.nz/wattledownsCare

Home 09 264 1393
Village 09 264 1397
120 Wattle Farm Rd
Wattle Downs



Why is feeding ducks and geese bread a problem?

Feeding birds with bread causes 'Angel Wing', a deformity commonly found in ducks, geese, swans and other waterfowl. As they grow, young birds subsisting on white bread and other inappropriate food sources can develop issue preventing their bones from forming normally, resulting in Angel Wing. Most wildlife experts agree that the overwhelming cause of Angel Wing is an unhealthy, high protein and/or carbohydrate-based diet. Birds with Angel Wing are stripped of their ability to fly and therefore their main method of defence. They are often maimed or killed as they are unable to escape predators.

The birds that are most likely to contract Angel Wing live in parks and ponds in public areas where people are feeding them bread. In short, feeding white bread to birds probably does them more long time harm than good.

Please don't feed the ducks and geese bread.



Wattle Downs Golf Course

Welcome to Wattle Downs Golf Course.

Come and enjoy a round of golf, whether it's a friendly hit or a serious battle with bragging rights, give us a call to book a tee time.

We welcome both members and green fee players to our little slice of paradise.

A friendly and inviting environment for golfers of all skill levels and a memorable day out with friends and family.

Group bookings are also available for that works-do, or family gathering. We would very much like to host any occasion.

Play either 9 holes or 18 on this flat but somewhat challenging course and take in the stunning scenery while you navigate the terrain.

We provide different membership options for Midweek and Full Week golfers. Come into the office or give us a call on 09 268 1929 ext1 to discuss the best option for you.

The restaurant and bar are located on the course and are enjoyed by golfers and the wider community. You can relax after your game over a nice cold beer or settle in for a lovely meal with your family.

Call May on 09 268 1929 ext3 to book a table.



WATTLE DOWNS
GOLF COURSE

Gardening Corner with Chris

If you have your own vegetable patch, now is the time for planting garlic if you have a mind to. They need a sunny spot, well fertilized compost soil, and need to be planted to a depth of your finger, pointy end up, with no competition from other plants or weeds. When you see a green shoot, give them a regular fertilizer which helps produce plenty of good fat bulbs.

I have several strawberry plants getting themselves ready to supply me with plentiful succulent berries when the weather warms up. Before we know it, spring will be upon us so it's a good time to think about doing all those cleanup jobs in our gardens while it is cooler, and to maybe make room for some new plantings. So go to it folks, there is nothing more satisfying than being able to pick fruit and vegetables that you have grown

Chris Allen



Manurewa Squash Club

Located on Weymouth Road, the Manurewa Squash Club is a welcoming place where people come together to enjoy the simple, satisfying game of hitting a ball against a wall. Over the next month, the club will be hosting a series of introductory sessions especially for newcomers. Whether you've never held a racquet before or just want to give squash a try, these sessions are a fun and relaxed way to get started. Come along, pick up a racquet (provided), and discover what the sport is all about. There will be friendly volunteers, slightly over-explained rules, and the low-key thrill of chasing a small rubber ball in a box. No experience required. Just bring non-marking shoes and a sense of curiosity. The club promises a good workout, good company, and the sort of cheerful chaos that only comes from sports played in enclosed spaces. And when the games are done, there's more: a bar for post-match storytelling, saunas to undo whatever your quads just did, and a friendly community that makes it remarkably easy to meet people —on court or off. Sessions are only \$15.

For session times, visit www.manurewasquash.nz If you don't see a time that works for you, just send us an email at hello@manurewasquash.nz and we'll be happy to arrange something that fits your schedule.



CHINESE 'WECHAT' GROUP FOR WATTLE DOWNS

欢迎来到WATTLE DOWNS 您好！我们非常开心您能够入住到WATTLE DOWNS。在这里我们有一个微信群，如果您愿意加入这个微信群，可以通扫二维码或者通过帐号加入到我们的社区群里，一起交流，互相认识。谢谢！

TRANSLATION:

Hello! Welcome to WATTLE DOWNS. We are very happy that you can live in WATTLE DOWNS. Here we have a WeChat group; if you want to join, you can apply to join our community through the recommendations of the group friends, (*Wattle Downs residents only*) to communicate together and know each other. Thank you!

Keas, Cubs and Scouts

Trail Jam is an annual Scouting event where we all get out for a hike together. In May, our Keas, Cubs, Scouts, leaders and families had a fabulous time on the walk at Tahuna Torea seeing the amazing birdlife, identifying native trees and finding crabs on the beach.

Are you or your children interested in learning about hiking, roasting marshmallows, camping, being in the bush, kayaking, boating and being on the water, then come and visit one night and see what else we do.

Keas are 5 ½ - 7 ½ year olds and Cubs are 7 ½ - 10 ½ year olds and meet on Monday nights at the Reremoana School hall. Scouts are 10 ½ to 15 year olds and meet on Tuesdays at our Browns Road hall.

We are looking for more leaders for our Kea and Cub sections. If you are keen in visiting to see what is entailed in becoming a leader please contact Kate.

For more information about Scouts Aotearoa go to www.scouts.nz

If you or your children are interested in seeing what the Keas, Cubs and Scouts do or are interested in becoming a leader, contact our Group Leader:

Kate on **0212973227** or email weymouth@group.scouts.nz



WINTER WARMER RECIPE: BB Mince



- 500 gms mince
- 1 can baked beans
- 1 diced onion
- ½ tsp (or more) curry powder
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 2 Tbs Oyster sauce (or your own choice)

Heat pot on a medium heat. Add a tablespoon of oil, and cook the onion and mince. Add the rest of the ingredients. Serve on toast or with a baked potato and veges.

How does our community connect?

There are many ways you can get involved in doing things in our neighbourhood. There are so many passionate people with many interests and hobbies that they are willing to share and connect with their neighbours. Many communication channels are open to everyone. It does not matter what language you speak or if you have a computer or not.

Here are some ways that you can seek out and share in connecting in Wattle Downs:



WATTLE DOWNS RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Facebook: @wattledownsresidentsassociation
www.facebook.com/wattledownsresidentsassociation
Email: wattledownsresidentsassoc@gmail.com



LOCAL FACEBOOK GRAPEVINES

Wattle Downs Grapevine

www.facebook.com/groups/986812188017626

The Wattle Downs Community Grapevine

www.facebook.com/groups/THEWattleDownsCommunityGrapevine

The Wattle Downs Mummys group

www.facebook.com/groups/1444544802450137

Wattle Downs Buy and Sell

www.facebook.com/groups/715457138532911

Wattle Farm Ponds

www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wattle%20farm%20ponds

Wattle Downs Café, Bar and Restaurant

www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wattle%20downs%20club%20bar%20%26%20restaurant

Wattle Downs Golf Course

www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wattle%20downs%20golf%20course

Wattle Downs Nannas Grandmas

www.facebook.com/groups/580100375500281

WeChat Group

www.facebook.com/groups/939028382775911



POND LIFE NEWSLETTER

Contact the newsletter team for more info, articles you would like to write, or to be a new committee member.

WATTLE DOWNS ANNUAL CALENDAR

Contact Leo: 021 930 066 or Sue Matete: 021 715 672

OUR LOCAL DIRECTORY

AAA Roberts Property Maintenance Services
"All your Handyman Needs"
robertspms@gmail.com
021 261 9301

Beauty Sensations
Specialising in Nails, Waxing and Eyelashes
99 Tington Ave, Wattle Downs
09 268 4044
www.beautysensations.co.nz

Beck Electrical
Richard 09 266 4584
027 242 2109

Cedar Park Superette
99 Tington Ave,
Wattle Downs
09 267 5909

Clayton Park Bakery
99 Tington Ave,
Wattle Downs
09 267 9087

Cleven Electrical Ltd
For all your electrical and air conditioning needs.
09 238 5374
office@clevenelectrical.co.nz
www.clevenelectrical.co.nz

Davis Pool Care
Swimming & Spa Pool Servicing
Mark 021 370 793
0800 4 POOLS

Detailing Duo
Mobile detailing around Wattle Downs and Auckland.
Xavier - 022 123 4943

Euro Motor Works
General Vehicle Repairs & WOF
MTA Assured
19a Holmes Rd, Manurewa
09 914 1590

Exclusive Electrical
Darren - 09 217 1477
0275 942 538
sales@exclusiveelectrical.co.nz
www.exclusiveelectrical.co.nz

Fitaz Fitness and Group Fitness Classes
Tracey Raututi - 021 151 7174
fitaz@hotmail.co.nz

Go Pest - Pest Control
Commercial & Residential
info@gopest.co.nz
0508 467 378

JB Lawn & Garden Work
Lawn mowing, tree work/removals, spraying
jblawnandgarden@outlook.co.nz
jblawnandgarden.co.nz
James 0210 260 5630

Les Car Valet
Your local car valet service.
Les - 0211 400 391

LS Muir Builders
Local renovations & building
Lee 021 2255 282
lsmuirbuilders@xtra.co.nz

Moor Park Superette
1 Moor Park, Wattle Downs
09 267 4638

Nail Therapy
Beautiful Nails, expert care, clean space and creativity you can trust.
Lauren 021 234 9267

Next Gen Electrical
Dylan - 021 950 706
dylan@nextgenelectrical.co.nz
http://www.nextgenelectrical.co.nz/

On Call Security Services Ltd
Home safety secure equipment systems, Specialised in house alarms, CCTV cameras.
Jay 022 042 2477
oncallssltd@gmail.com

Ross's Plumbing Ltd
Plumbing, Gasfitting & Drainage
09 262 4003
0800 363 747
www.rosssplumbing.co.nz

Shane's Installation Services
CCTV Installations, For all your UHF aerial & freeview TV services.
Installation repairs, new outlets & TV wall mounting.
0276 601 377

Smartwash Waterblasting Ltd
House washing services
021 748 277
office@smartwash.co.nz
www.smartwash.co.nz

Taxteam - Accountants
09 267 3628, 021 793 066
admin@taxteam.co.nz
www.taxteam.co.nz

If you would like to list your business in this directory, please contact the newsletter team at wattedowns@live.com

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 111

Coastguard Emergency 09 303 1303
(*500 from mobile)

Crime Stoppers (Anonymous) 0800 555 111

Counties Medical 09 299 7670

Takanini & Waiata Shores

Illegal Rubbish Dumping 0800 663 867
(0800 NO DUMP)

Pollution Hotline 09 377 3107

Noise/Animal Control 09 301 0101

Graffiti Removal 09 269 4080

Graffiti Chorus Cabinet Boxes 0800 222 638

Power Outages 0508 832 867

Gas Faults 0508 764 764

Water Pipe Leaks 09 442 2222

Animal Control 09 301 0101