

Newsletter April 2023

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Dear members,

March has been a busy month for ORA with our social focussing on Neighbours' Week, repolishing the hall floor, making future plans for a winter solstice dance night and other events, and planning to paint the hall.

A bright new face to the Hall!! The committee has been working hard over the past month to organise a facelift for our much-loved but tired-looking hall, which is scheduled for early May. We have been systematically considering details for the re-paint, taking into account the iconic nature of the hall, environmental factors in choosing the type of paint, and the physical setting of the hall. A decision concerning the colour will be announced at the next social, 4pm, Sunday April 23rd. Watch this space for an announcement of the 'facelift party' towards the end of May.

Please help by paying the member sub of only \$15 or a koha of however much you can afford. The repaint will take up all of ORA's savings, so we'd be grateful if you could take a few minutes now to go online and pay the sub/koha for this year, due on April 1 (see bank account details below). The committee manages the finances carefully, and those funds will be needed to ensure a buffer in the bank after the painting and insurance have been paid for this year. And remember, paid-up members can use the hall free of charge for free community-fostering events. Many thanks for your support!

Neighbours' week March social. ORA's March social attracted around 50 locals, bringing the usual array of delicious kai. In line with national Neighbours' Week, with its theme of getting connected and sharing, ORA co-Chair Graeme Couper facilitated a quick session where the people present grouped together based on street connectedness, and discussed what each group of neighbours might like to set up by way of building resilience in the event of weather events or other crises causing disruption to lives and services in the Waiheke community. The most popular idea was to set up 'WhatsApp' groups in each street-based neighbourhood, where people could check on one another and see if anyone was at risk or needed help, not only in emergency situations, but also on a more everyday basis. The Belle Tce neighbours had set up a WhatsApp group following the Auckland Anniversary Weekend rains, which had already lead to greater connectedness among those living in their street. Other popular ideas among the people present were to set up informal (and open-ended) neighbourhood support systems based on sharing resources such as tools, labour and ride-sharing, and a WhatsApp group was seen as a great way to facilitate those kinds of sharing. There was also a keenness to get to know our closer neighbours better through occasional neighbourhood socialevents. ORA encourages you to check with your near neighbours whether a WhatsApp connection is being established in your vicinity.

Featuring long term members. We thought we might start a regular acknowledgement of people in the community who have been long term members and made a significant contribution to the community. This month we would like to acknowledge Jane Briscoe and Jim Burdett who have sadly had to leave the island. I'm sure we all have fond memories of them and of the bravery Jane showed as she continued to make her way through the reserve and down to the beach as

she was watched over by her dog. If any of you knew them well, they are happy to receive visitors from Waiheke in their new abode in South Auckland. Contact ORA for phone details.

Solstice Swing. To celebrate each new season on Waiheke, we are planning quarterly solstice/equinox dance parties. The first one will be a Winter Solstice Swing on Saturday June 24th with Waiheke's fabulous *Buzz Bars* https://partybands.co.nz/talent/thebuzzbars
Put it in your calendar now.

What's on at the hall		
200	Sunday, 23 April 4pm	Social Bring your favourite drink and a plate to share
	Sat, 1, 8, 22 & 29 April 8.30-10am Sun, 2,9,23 & 30 April 9-10.30am and 4-5.30pm Wed, 15,12,19, & 26 April 8.30-10am Fri, 7, 21 & 28 April 8.30-10.00am Also check our website calendar	YOGA with Stephanie Nelson Contact Stephanie to see if there are still places available on: 021 236 4414 or waihekeislandashtangayoga@gmail.com
	Tuesday 4, 11, 18 & 25 April, 9-10am and Thursday 6, 13, 20, & 27 April, 9-10am Also check our website calendar	PILATES with Sarah Gloyer Contact Sarah to see if there are still places available synergystudio01@gmail.com
	Please check with Phil and check our website calendar	Table Tennis with Phil Molloy Contact Fiona if there are still places available on: 021 252 5106 or phil.molloy12@gmail.com
Upcoming Events	Late May	Hall Facelift Party
	Saturday, 24 June 8-12pm Admission from 7pm	Winter Solstice Swing with the Buzz Bars want to pay your subs/koha or make a donation.

If you want to sign up as a member please contact Suzy Miller at oraonetangi@gmail.com