



## **AVERT Newsletter #36**

**Late autumn 2013**

In this issue

- 1 Bill and Jane Tito's generous donation wins this year's firewood auction.
- 2 Farewell to Dixie Lix
3. One key to rule them all? Well not yet!
4. Sheep rustling, nutella and cheese gastro-gangsters
5. Next equipment test and practice
6. Advance notice for 2013 AGM
6. Property records
7. Does a fish need a bicycle? AVERT does.

### **1 Bill and Jane Tito's generous donation wins this year's firewood auction.**

Many thanks to Bill and Jane Tito for their generous donation that was the winning bid for the firewood auction held at the annual BBQ in February. We sincerely appreciate Bill and Jane's long-standing support for AVERT. The photo below shows Mark with the neatly stacked trailer load of wood. Bill would not have got where he is today without attention to detail, and the delivery team, having negotiated Bill and Jane's damaged driveway, were surprised, or was it relieved, to find that that Bill insisted on stacking the wood himself.

In case you are wondering the building on the right of the picture is not Bill's wood shed as clearly the trailer load will not fit in it.



For those of us who missed out on the firewood, the chainsaw team report that next year's wood is split and under shelter as we write.



Once again the weather gods shone on the valley and we had a beautiful afternoon for the BBQ and a good crowd turned out to catch up with friends, consume a few beverages, show off their favourite sunhat, and demonstrate their cooking skills.



This year His Worship the Mayor, Wayne Guppy, was a guest at the BBQ. We've been inviting him every year but his busy schedule has meant he had not made it till this year. He was very supportive of AVERT's aims and organisation, and expressed an interest in seeing our equipment on a future visit out our way.

## **2 Farewell to Dixie Lix**

This year's BBQ marked the final appearance for our resident band, Dixie Lix. Wanda said they've been playing together for 10 years and have decided to take a break from performing and pursue their own musical interests. Their bluegrass/country style of music was always appreciated at our BBQs over the years and we will all have some foot-tapping moments to remember about their playing for us. We wish them all the best.

## **3. One key to rule the all? Well not yet!**

Keen readers of the newsletter will recall an item several issues ago on a meeting the Committee had with the local rep from the Emergency Management Department. The committee asked if we could hold a copy of the key to Karapoti Park so we could use the area as a meeting or assembly point in the event of a major disaster. At the BBQ Mr Guppy indicated his support for this proposal but apparently there is resistance in the ranks of the local bureaucracy and things are stalled at present. Pity they're not facing the local body elections later this year!

## **4. Sheep rustling, nutella and cheese – the rise of the gastro-gangsters?**

Counting sheep may not put you to sleep at night but counting your sheep if you have them on your property is a routine practice. In these days of rising food prices, it seems inevitable

that large-scale food theft is going to become more of a problem. Recently the remains of three sheep were found floating in the Akatarawa River near the first Karapoti bridge, where they apparently were dumped after the animals were skinned and gutted. No one in the AVERT area has reported missing stock so the gastro-gangsters are doing their rustling somewhere else. As usual if you see any suspicious activity call the police.

We are fortunate that things are not as bad here yet as in the small town of Bad Hersfeld, in central Germany. Thieves made off with five tonnes of Nutella one weekend early last month. According to some fag-packet calculations that's 6,875 large jars – or 27m calories – of the chocolate and hazelnut spread, thought to be worth about \$30000. Imagine two medium-sized elephants made of Nutella and that's roughly what we are dealing with. Neither the spread nor the brigands have been seen since the robbery from a parked trailer last weekend. (Guardian 9 April)



Some research suggests that indeed, cheese is apparently the most popular quarry among gastro-gangsters. Some of you may recall a few years ago, thieves in this country broke on to a train in what one can only imagine was a dramatic and high-octane fashion, and stole 20kg of cheddar.

## **5. Next equipment test and practice**

Joe wishes to advise that the next check of the AVERT equipment stored on our container will be on Sunday June 1st starting at 10am at 1423 Akatarawa Rd. All members are welcome to attend and familiarise themselves with our range of equipment and help Joe run through the testing of pumps, hoses, generator etc.

## **6. Advance notice for 2013 AGM**

The 2013 AGM will be held on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 430pm. The venue will be the same as last year – Wanda and Colin's barn at 31a Karapoti Rd. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter. The committee recommended the slightly later start time to allow people to have more time to attend to routine chores during the day.

## **6. Property records**

Brenda reports that there are still a few outstanding property records for the AVERT area. Brenda will be contacting you to follow up on this. It is important that we have up to date records of sources of water, potential hazards etc. on members' property.

## **7. Does a fish need a bicycle? AVERT does.**



You all know the answer to this perennial question, but did you know that AVERT is looking to add a couple of bicycles to our equipment. While we have plenty of quads and motorbikes among members, the committee felt that in a major disaster with roads cut off a bicycle may be very useful as it would be easier to pick up and carry. Also in the event of prolonged isolation, we may want to conserve stocks of petrol so a bicycle would be an advantage for getting around. Some people have their own bikes for emergency transport so AVERT is looking for two mountain bike types that are surplus to your requirements. If you have something that might fit the bill (for donation or sale) then please contact one of the committee.

Photo credits Karen Wallace, Creativ Studio Heinemann/WestEnd61/Rex Features and Google Images