



## **AVERT NEWSLETTER #37 CHRISTMAS EDITION**

**DECEMBER 2013**

### **SANTA'S COMING**



**Best wishes for a safe and happy time to all members and families for the Holiday Season from the AVERT Committee.**

**In what has been described as a very good omen, at least one hind has been spotted on a training run along Akatarawa Rd in the last few weeks, so Santa's sleigh will be primed for action.**

### **AVERT SUMMER BBQ, PICNIC AND FIREWOOD AUCTION**

**The date has been set for one of the highlights of the AVERT social calendar. The annual BBQ and picnic will be held on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> from 3pm (rain-off day Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 3pm). We will be holding our fundraising auction for a stacked trailer load of firewood. We will have the same sealed bid procedure as this year. More details will follow in a reminder notice closer to the time. We will also test our emergency sirens during the BBQ.**

## **A MIGHTY TOTARA HAS FALLEN**



**It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Barry McGhie, one of the AVERT founders, in late September. Barry and Dorothy had lived for a number of years in Bridge Road before moving to the heart of the Valley over 30 years ago. We are indebted to Barry for his and the other founders' foresight in the setting up of AVERT. This may have been influenced by Barry's work with the Regional Council, which often involved dealing with the aftermath of extreme weather events. His work with the Wellington Free Ambulance would also have contributed. We always thought Barry was an exemplar when it came to demonstrating what was needed to prepare for extreme events in the way he had his and the AVERT equipment laid out in his shed during his years as caretaker. Not forgetting his multiple water sources and storage methods, and his continual investment in future-proofing their property with upgrading flood protection systems and track maintenance. We remember only a couple of years ago, Barry announcing that he had had a digger and bulldozer in to do some work, and he had finally got the farm tracks the way he wanted after all these years. Barry was vastly experienced with sheep, bees and trees. Many of us have been beneficiaries of his help and advice with animal problems and dealing with wasp invasions. Barry's Bush Honey was like nectar and its reputation extended far beyond the Valley boundaries. We will miss his advice and stories on life in the Valley. We will miss hearing his quad bike going up to the top paddocks to check on his sheep each evening before dinner. We will miss the friendly wave he gave each morning as we passed his ute and trailer returning with the blue barrels of pig food from the supermarket. We will also remember Barry's additions to rural lexicon - well we heard them first from Barry. You don't start an engine, you "kick it in the guts". You don't shoot a possum or put down a dying sheep, you "barrel them".**

**Above all, Barry was a devoted family man, and our thoughts are with Dorothy and the family at this time.**

## **NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2013-2014**

Following this year's AGM, the full committee is:

<b>Karen Wallace, Chair</b>	<b>Ph 526 6517</b>
<b>Mark Robbins, Treasurer</b>	<b>Ph 526 6517</b>
<b>Susan Corbett, Secretary</b>	<b>Ph 526 4046</b>
<b>Pam Ritchie, Liaison</b>	<b>Ph 526 7224</b>
<b>Brenda Mills, Road and alarms</b>	<b>Ph 526 9462</b>
<b>Lawrence Corbett, Newsletter</b>	<b>Ph 526 4046</b>
<b>Joe Moon, Caretaker</b>	<b>Ph 526 9597</b>
<b>Colin Green, Chainsaws</b>	<b>Ph 526 4809</b>
<b>Matt McGhie, Search &amp; rescue</b>	<b>Ph 526 9449</b>
<b>Bruce McPhail, Webmaster</b>	<b>Ph 526 6716</b>
<b>Allan Rockell, Stock</b>	<b>Ph 021 1487265</b>
<b>Joany Grima,</b>	<b>Ph 021 02340419</b>
<b>Peter Deckers,</b>	<b>Ph 526 6795</b>
<b>Wanda Menchi,</b>	<b>Ph 526 4809</b>
<b>Kaye Hammond,</b>	<b>Ph 529 4069</b>
<b>Hilda Gascard,</b>	<b>Ph 526 6795</b>

### **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

The door hangers for all members with contact details for the AVERT committee are in the process of being delivered to all members.

### **REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER**

Invoices for the current year's subscription were sent out a couple of months ago but we still have a number outstanding. If you have forgotten to pay your sub it would be appreciated if you could get the \$20 due delivered to Mark at your earliest convenience.

### **MISSING STOCK**

Rustling warning! One member reported stock missing in recent weeks. A rabbit caught munching someone's dahlias was reclaimed by its owner just as the recipe for *lapin du vin* was being dusted off. Remember to advise Allan, the AVERT Stock team leader, promptly if you have any stock gone missing so that we can be alert to any further attempts or patterns to missing stock.

### **PROPERTY RECORDS**

Member data base IS being updated. You will be contacted to check your details (email address phone number and names of residents plus indicate if

**you have stock, tractor, or a generator) and then be provided a copy, on the basis that it is kept confidential and only able to be used for AVERT emergency purposes only. If you have any objection to this information being provided to other AVERT members please Susan, the AVERT secretary, know.**

## **AVERT RADIO COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS**

**Here is a reminder of our agreed protocols:**

- Use Channel 1
- Turn Radio on and listen to make sure that no-one is talking
- Speak slowly, clearly and deliberately
- Call the recipient's name 3 times, then state your own name followed by "over".
- In this example we use two imaginary characters a male, "Prince William", who is calling a female who shall be called Kate Middleton "Kate Middleton, Kate Middleton Kate Middleton this is Prince William from AVERT are you receiving, over?"
- Repeat if she doesn't answer.
- If you want to address everyone, e.g. to seek urgent assistance or communicate an emergency situation:

"All Stations, All Stations, All Stations, this is Prince William from AVERT, is anyone receiving? Over."

- You say "over" when you have finished as this indicates you have finished speaking and the recipient can begin to speak.

Kate to reply: "Receiving you my Prince, go ahead please, over"

Prince: "Kate, is your tractor available to move a tree blocking the road by my palace, over?"

Kate: "Yes we will come now, over "

Prince: "Thank you. This is Prince, over and out".

Kate: "Kate over and out".

- Over and out signals the conversation is over and anyone else listening can join in or else use the channel for another conversation.
- If you want to have a further conversation away from the main channel: Say "Prince, let's move this to Channel 2, over"
- If the speaker wants to indicate that they will continue to listen to the radio to monitor the situation or provide further assistance, Say "Kate Middleton standing by"
- If you want to keep the channel free for emergency communication only say "Securite , Securite , Securite"\* followed by the person or people you want to address.

\*Securite (pronounced ' say-cure-it-tay') is a call sign used when you do not want anyone else to use the radio and is used for important announcements.

## **THE FISH, THE BICYCLE, AND AVERT (continued)**



**We have received one offer of a bicycle that has been generously donated. If you are still searching your shed the Committee would welcome further donations (or at a small cost) any more unwanted bicycle(s) for storage with our emergency gear in the container.**

### **DEEP DOWN IN “MANO’S DIP”**

**You will doubtless have been delayed recently by the road repairs in “Mano’s Dip” after several bouts of heavy rain. This is almost an annual event now and the Committee has resolved to write a letter going to council over the need for a more permanent and properly engineered solution to the problems with the culvert, rather than just dumping a load of drainage metal in the washout. There is apparently no truth in the rumour that on days with particularly long delays, people have renamed this part of the road as “Robbins’ Revenge” and/or “Minh’s Folly”.**

## **See you at the BBQ Feb 16.**

## **BE THERE!**



**It will be a riot.**