



T H E N E W S L E T T E R : S P R I N G 2 0 1 4 # 4 0



Hello from your new Newsletter Editor

Welcome to your new AVERT Newsletter.

My name is Franz Johnston your new newsletter editor and emergency equipment caretaker.

I'm originally from Texas, USA, the home of hot air and ice tea. I've been in New Zealand now near 15 years and still people ask me when am I going back. I have just moved to Akatarawa Valley with my partner Lynley (from Wellington) to 1423 Akatarawa Road and we love it here.

So far our animals include 4 horses, 6 sheep, 2 Alpacas, 4 chickens, 1 dog and 2 cats. With more to come I am sure.

Please feel free to email me any emergency response or survival / off-grid articles which you think go well in here and I'll try to get them in future newsletters.

I'll be seeing you around the valley...

Schedule of Dates

ANNUAL BBQ

Sunday 22 February 2015
Rain Day Sunday 1 March
3:00pm onwards

Open to all AVERT members
and households interested in
joining

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 11 December 2014



AGM and new Committee



“Whew! That was close!
We almost decided something”

Karen Wallace
Stephanie Lambert
Franz Johnston
Joany Grima
Pam Ritchie
Paul Lambert
Brenda Mills
Kaye Hammond
Franz Johnston
Allan Rockell
Bruce McPhail
Mark Robbins
Peter Deckers
Hilda Gascard

President
Secretary
Equipment Caretaker
First Aid
Treasurer
Chainsaws
Road and Alarms
Welfare/Liaison
Newsletter
Stock
Committee
Committee
Committee
Committee

SUMMER BBQ

Our Annual SUMMER BBQ to be held at Karapoti Park is right around the corner and it's time to pencil in the date.

The BBQ for this summer will be on **Sunday February 22** (rain day 1 March). Kickoff / fire up is at 3pm

What's happening at the BBQ?

Great company
BYO food and drink, cooking facilities provided
Cricket pitch available for the kids
Fundraising auction of a trailer load of firewood.



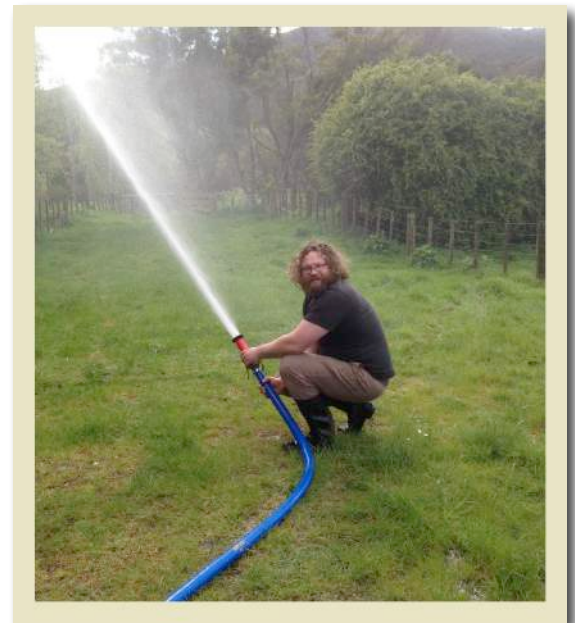


Emergency Equipment

We recently had an equipment check done of what we have in the shipping container and I thank Joe for bringing me up to speed on the usage of the equipment.

I would like to note that no fuel is stored in the container so if you need to use the generator or water pump then you need to provide your own fuel.

Access: We have a somewhat free ranging, protective and not fully trained German Shepherd roaming around. So, if you need something from the container, please make sure to contact me, Franz Johnston, on 528 3224 or 022 499 0098 before you come over. Thank you.



Fireworks and Animals

This is a repeat request when we have this time of year roll around. If you are celebrating any kind of special event and are going to be setting off your stash of fireworks, then please as a matter of courtesy let your neighbours know, especially if they have stock that might be prone to stress from the noise. Neighbours of the Bluebank Blueberry & Emu Farm should take notice of this as their emus get very spooked by fireworks.



Giving a thought towards emergency preparedness

WE ALL KNOW...

We live in a beautiful place in the world but we also live on top of one very large fault line that can surprise us at any moment. This surprise could shut us off from everyone else and leave us to look after ourselves for an undetermined amount of time. Being prepared and well stocked will make all the difference.



GET THE BASICS

Water (and power for the water pump)

Food – Rice / Pasta / Canned Goods / Spices

Generator for electricity (and plenty of petrol or diesel)

Fuel – Petrol / Diesel / LPG / Firewood / Candles

Medicines / Prescriptions / Toiletries

COMMUNICATION

Land lines, mobile phones and ADSL broadband could be knocked out. Farmside satellite based Internet is a good option to reach the outside world as long as you have power to your router and computer.

Hand held radios will most likely become must haves to keep in the loop with what is going on.



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Get to know your neighbour if you don't already.

Not everyone is a member of AVERT and it could be useful in times of emergencies to know who lives next to you and how to contact them. Plus... you might make a new friend.

A Sometimes Stall By Joany Grima

A Sometimes Stall has opened in the Akatarawa Valley. Excited residents gathered for the stall's inauguration at 1483 Akatarawa Road, where a recycled ribbon was cut to launch the new venture.

"We thought The Mayor would join us for the opening", said stall operator, Joany Grima, "but I realised this morning I hadn't sent the invitation. Oops".



The Sometimes Stall is the brainchild of Joany, eager to build on the rural character of the Valley by sharing spray-free plants, flowers and seeds lovingly grown on her property.

"The stall is made of parts rescued from landfill, opening hours are irregular, stock is inconsistent and we accept only cash on an honesty basis. We're happy to do a swap for something we don't have – say, honey for kindling, or pumpkin for worms. Make us an offer."

Les Scott, long time Valley dweller and nearby neighbour said he thought the stall would be popular with passer-by traffic. "Coming from the west, this is the point in the road where cell phone reception returns. Cars often pull over to make calls or let their kids vomit after 30km of difficult driving. It's the ideal location for Joany's Sometimes Stall."

In time, Joany hopes that the "Joangrown" products sold at the stall will be available more widely. "Who knows," says Joany, "today Akatarawa Valley, tomorrow Brown Owl. There's really no harm in being ambitious."

"Joany hassled me for ages to make the stall", Joany's Beloved and builder of the stall, Allan Rockell recalls. "I'm skeptical of its success, being unsupervised, unadvertised and open, well, sometimes."

Joany is dismissive of Allan's cynicism. "Sometimes you have to take a risk. It's like that film: build it, and they will come". "What, Field of Dreams?" laughs Allan. "No, no", says Joany, "the other one. I was thinking more Wayne's World 2".

The Sometimes Stall is open sometimes and is supply and weather dependent.

Swap and franchise enquiries to the stall.

AVERT Website

Did you know we have a website? It's at www.avert.org.nz.

Back issues of our newsletters are posted there as well as dates for upcoming meetings. If you have any of the missing newsletter issues please send them to me at franzjohnston@gmail.com and I will update the website.