

# Summer Newsletter 2016

## Okura Residents and Ratepayers Association Committee (ORRA)

Okura website - [okura.org.nz](http://okura.org.nz) Contact - [okura.residents@gmail.com](mailto:okura.residents@gmail.com)  
Okura Neighbourhood Facebook group. [www.facebook.com/groups/254108924677250/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/254108924677250/)

The beginning of a busy year is upon us. We hope it will be a happy one and that you will enjoy the community events organised by your committee members throughout the year. Here's a brief reminder of what we (ORRA) get up to and what is in store for 2016, details of which are on the website above: **Friends of Okura Bush festival (Saturday Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - raised \$8,500) Deborah Reserve Street Party (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March - from 6pm onwards), Easter Frolic (Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - @ the Okura hall & park 3pm onwards), Cricket, Car Boot Market Day, Music in the Park, Pest Control Day, Halloween night**

The focal point for community events is the hall which also acts as an assembly point in the case of a civil emergency – items for which are stored in the hall and maintained by the committee. This has 10 – 12 keen members (positions available if anyone is interested) who attend one meeting a month (the first Tuesday), help out during events and, when necessary, attend Auckland Council meetings. Current members are listed on the website.

We are also responsible for the hire of the hall, the income from which provides for its upkeep, general maintenance and cleaning. Surplus profits are kept in a hall account and are used for social events and to support causes which protect the special environment we enjoy. We are currently organizing extra storage for the hall with council approval.

The key element in our environment is the river, to which we feel a strong attachment. It is thanks, originally, to the efforts of the Okura community that, since 1993, it has formed part of the Long Bay Okura Marine Reserve. But the struggle to protect the estuary began 30 years ago when the then Auckland Regional Council planned to create a landfill at the head of the river. The history of the community's involvement is well set out in the Okura website

It is this history which ORRA continues by supporting measures to protect the endangered New Zealand dotterel on the sandspit, to reduce pest numbers along the shoreline and to make donations to organisations such as Friends of Okura Bush and the Long Bay Okura Great Park Society.

Another more recent benefit of living in Okura which ORRA has worked hard to achieve is the upgrade to a faster broadband service. If you are unsure of what this involves we suggest you consult the advice which Paul Haywood has put up on the website.

**Finally, we hope you feel inspired to update your membership of our Association. You can do this by paying \$10 per household, either online to our Kiwi Bank Acc -  
OKURA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS INC SOC 38-9008-0840371-00  
Or by popping \$10 cash or cheque, to our treasurer, Neal Taylor at 27 Gails Drive and he will write you a receipt.**

We wish all Okura residents a joyful summer season and a profitable, peaceful 2016.