

Help wanted
fun and laughter included

New committee members for the Normandale Residents' Association are required. We meet together on the third Wednesday of each month and for special events.

Come to our next AGM or talk to one of the current committee members for more information.



Word of the month:

Mendacity

- A. Masculine dressing
- B. Behaving boldly
- C. Lack of honesty
- D. Unable to multi-task

Last month's word:

Vatic

- A. Predicting future happenings

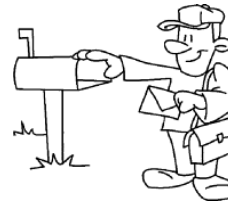
NORMANDALE TIMES

Published by the Normandale Residents' Association



Volunteers are awesome!

April 2016



Last month we featured an advert on the back cover asking for a volunteer to deliver the Normandale Times once a month. We are thrilled to be able to say we had a very quick response from a reader and the position is filled.

Thank you to our faithful deliverers!

We are also looking for new members to join the committee for the Normandale Residents Association (NRA). At our next Annual General Meeting a couple of our members will announce their unavailability for the 2016/17 year.



Thank you to our faithful committee members and office holders!

What do committee members do?

- ⇒ Meet together once a month on the third Wednesday (except for January)
- ⇒ Come up with great ideas to make Normandale even better.
- ⇒ Contribute to plans for the wider Lower Hutt
- ⇒ Organise activities such as the Inorganic Rubbish collection and Clean up Normandale
- ⇒ Contribute to the Santa parade.

The committee are a great bunch of people. If you would like to get to know

President: Peter Matcham 04 565 1083
Editor: Robyn Caygill (Temporary)
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The next NRA meeting will be held at St Aidans church on Wednesday 20th of April - all association members welcome. The meetings last from 7:30 until 9:00.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Note: Copy deadline 25th of preceding month.

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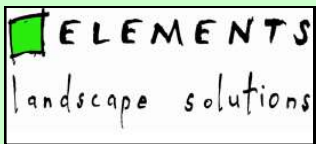
New Zealand Government

Poto Road Reserve

It is good to see the plantings around the Poto Road Reserve have established well, and that, on the whole, weeds are also being kept under control. We did note that gorse was coming away in some areas and will be talking to HCC officers about this. It is also gratifying to see the high level of usage and the variety of users justifying the NRA's fight to develop this site as a play area for older children. An integral part of this concept and development is the observation tower incorporating climbing walls and a 'fireman's pole' to provide the kind of adventurous play enjoyed by older children. The other purpose of the tower was to ensure that the iconic view across the harbour from the site would not be obscured by any houses developed below.

We have recently been told on several occasions that the developer of the houses on the freehold land adjoining the reserve wants to have this tower removed as it overlooks the houses and this would affect their sale. This comment has also appeared on social media sites. I must emphasise that this is all hearsay and that neither we nor HCC are aware of any such move. Clearly the developer bought the site in the full knowledge of the platform's existence and I'm sure they would have factored in any perceived affect on saleability in the price paid. It would also be unlikely that either council officers, or any Councillor, would entertain the destruction of a community facility developed at considerable expense in a joint project with the community, just to improve a developers profits.

Pete Matcham, President, NRA



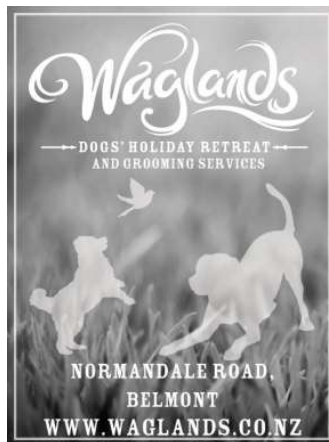
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William Golder's Mountain House

You will have seen the notice boards around Normandale positioned at historic sites. The following is an excerpt from the site of William Golder's 'Mountain House'.

William Golder (1810-1876) was born in Strathaven, Lanarkshire and studied as a teacher at the Glasgow Normal Seminary, where a radical approach to the theory of learning and teaching was developed. His budding career was terminated when his wife converted to Catholicism and he was obliged to resign from his position as head of a primary school in Newtown near Edinburgh.

He applied to emigrate to New Zealand as a teacher but was refused, being subsequently accepted on the basis of his farming experience from childhood. He arrived in Wellington with his wife Mary and their three children in February 1840 aboard the Bengal Merchant.

William spent his time as a settler in the Hutt Valley and was the School master at both Belmont and Korokoro schools. He is credited with being the author of the first volume of poetry printed and published in New Zealand, and also the first amateur printer who was not a missionary.

His 'Mountain Home' was the third house he built in New Zealand, which he shared initially with his children, his wife Mary having died in 1868. In 1873 his daughter Mary and her children moved to Upper Hutt and William noted in his



View of the Hutt Valley taken from near the ruins of William Golder's "Mountain Home" by his grandson, also William Golder, on 4th April 1899 (Courtesy B. Golder)

diary that "Great quiet reigns in the house now."

*P. Matcham
Sources: Personal communications from Bernie Golder (2014).
Bagnall, R. G., (1976). Survey of the proposed Belmont Regional Park, Victoria University.
Matcham, P. (2008). Belmont Road history trail. Friends of Belmont Regional Park.*

See the sign or upcoming Ntimes for more info!