



Waitakere Ranges
Protection Society Inc

news

P O Box 15668, New Lynn, Waitakere City
www.waitakereranges.org.nz

Welcome to your Autumn Newsletter!

Issue 118 - May 2003

This issue contains your committee's annual report and the Society's accounts, reports on the AGM and the Ranges of Inspiration Art exhibition and auction, as well as details of upcoming events.

Not least of these is our Birthday Party! Please join us to celebrate 30 years of work protecting the Ranges - the party is on 26th July in Waitakere Hall. Everyone is welcome.

best wishes

Kath
editor@waitakereranges.org.nz



Do you have a red dot?

If you have a red dot on the address panel of this newsletter it means you haven't sent us your subscription for 2003 yet. We need you to subscribe so we can continue our work and continue to send you your newsletter! Subscription fees are:

Retired or unwaged \$20, Single \$25, Family \$35

Please send to: The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, PO Box 15 668, New Lynn, Waitakere City.
Many thanks.

Anniversary Planting!

The best way we know to mark 30 years' work protecting the Ranges is to plant trees that we can watch grow over the next 30 years. Project Crimson and ARC are generously supporting this planting.

Anniversary Tree Planting, Arbor Day
Saturday, 7th June

If you'd like to help plant trees please call
John Edgar on 09 812 8555.

30th Birthday Party!

Please join us for cake,
recollections and celebration!

Saturday, 26th July
3pm

Waitakere Hall
Waitakere Village



If you have any memories or pictures you'd like to share at the party, please call Anna on 09 838 9665 or email annafomison@hotmail.com

Annual Report of the Executive Committee

**As presented at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
Arataki Visitors Centre, Monday 17 March, 2003**

I am pleased to present the 29th Annual Report of the Executive Committee of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.

The past year has been, if anything, busier than previous years. A combination of working with a newly-elected Council in Waitakere City to resolve District Plan appeals, making submissions to many hearings on local and regional issues, gearing up our advocacy campaign, introducing publicity initiatives, and many other matters have really been quite a challenge to the committee. At times we have felt under-resourced, more in terms of time than money, and this has led to considerable pressures on the executive to find time in their already busy schedules to commit to Society matters. It becomes a case of truly believing in the vision of the Society, knowing that others have worked hard for thirty years to get us to this point and believing that **we must continue to pursue our vision and never give up.** But the Society's work must also be sustainable in terms of human resources. I say this to remind you that we are a volunteer organisation, which requires members of the executive to make real personal commitments to further the aims of the Society.

Continued inside...

If we are to continue at this level of commitment it can only be with a very strong mandate and support from our members.

We are aware that in almost every case we take on we are the last line of defence between the inappropriate development and the conservation of the Ranges. So often the Society is the "last man standing", and even although this is very difficult place to be, we can be proud that over the past year we have found the necessary resources to remain true in the pursuit of our vision of **permanent protection for the Ranges**. And over the year we have achieved some very positive outcomes.

We congratulate the WCC for finally making the **District Plan operative** after its notification in 1995. There are still a number of appeals to which the Society is a party, and these are being resolved at present through mediation and litigation. For the past year we have worked on the Titirangi-Laingholm subdivision appeal which has required over 30 meetings attended by Douglas Allan and myself to attempt to reach a settlement between the many appellants. To date the parties have agreed on a set of draft rules which recognise some of the development aspirations of landowners in this area which, while inside the MUL, is known to have severe constraints on development posed by geotechnic, stormwater, landscape and ecology. It has been a difficult process but I believe that the Society has been fair and has shown a great amount of willingness to resolve the issues, many of which go back for at least 30 years.

The introduction of **structure plans** for subdivisions in the eastern flanks of the WR has taken considerable effort for the Society to contain. We are opposed to SPs in principle, as they are ultimately just another round of subdivision. However, if such development is to take place then it is imperative that those catchments are protected from further development by the introduction of prohibited activity status for all subdivision exceeding the DP provisions. This is the only way that landowners can be certain of the future.

There has been the usual number of **non-complying resource consent applications** on which the Society must make considered submissions and usually speak to those at hearings. And there are the perennial cases that move along very slowly and take an enormous amount of time and thought.

We enter into mediation as often as possible and attempt to avoid environment court hearings if at all possible.

We support the Royal Forest & Bird initiative for **marine protection of the west coast**. Sue Turner has been our representative on this committee. It is important for the working party to receive feedback on the discussion paper that is now circulating, and I urge all of you to contact Ken Catt at Waitakere F&B and make your comments known as soon as possible.

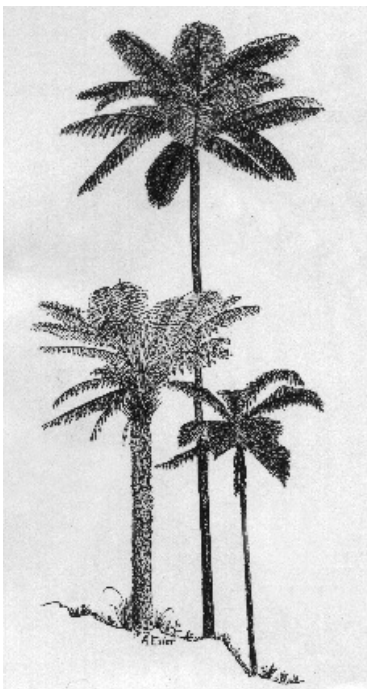


Image courtesy of Alan Esler, 2002 and ARC

We are also pleased that the **Ark in the Park** project is finally taken a form that we can support, and with the signing of a MOU between AitP and ARC this conservation program can now proceed in an area of 250 ha on the western slopes of Pukematekeo. Our concerns with the original proposal were found to be justified by the ARC, and the pilot project will be assessed annually before it is expanded. It is now of a similar size to various other pest eradication programs that are being conducted in the ranges such as the Lone Kauri and the La Trobe forest restoration initiatives at Karekare which the Society fully supports.

Over the past two years Jane and Simon have represented the Society on the **West Coast Plan Liason Group**. These meetings of community representatives from throughout the ranges are very valuable as it is rare for such a wide group to come together to discuss conservation matters. Jane and Simon have indicated that they wish to stand down this year and they deserve our thanks for the contribution that they have made.

Jane also coordinated our submission to the ARC on **canyoning and adventure tourism** in the CMP. Such commercial concessions have become an issue for the Society as more people want to make financial gain from recreation in the Park. We have noted with concern the increase in the number of tourism operators in the CMP over the past years, and have an assurance from the ARC that a visitor impact study will be undertaken and a visitor strategy developed to address these very real impacts.

The Society keeps a watching brief on developments at the **Te Henga quarry**, the water quality issues at **Lake Wainamu**, and the weed eradication program in the **Waitakere Valley wetlands**. Thanks go to our representatives on these various committees. One great success that we can acknowledge is the creation of the largest scientific reserve in the Auckland region. The Society has long advocated for the permanent protection of the accreted sand dunes at **Whatipu**, and we are pleased that this year 820ha have been designated a DOC scientific reserve and placed under management of ARC. We can now look forward to a comprehensive management program that will address the many weed, pest, and human issues in this very special area.

The Society supports the **PAM** eradication program. The consequences of the caterpillars getting into the Ranges are very serious. We also support WCC in its attempts to have MAF release the spray recipe to medical personnel in the city so that prevention and treatment of spray-related illness can be more effective.

We have almost completed the payments for **71 Turanga Rd**. There is still approximately \$10,000 to be repaid to WCC on their interest-free loan. As this loan is not registered against the title, we are proceeding with the conveyancing documentation to allow us to gift the land unencumbered to the ARC for inclusion in the Park. This will be our 30th birthday present to the people of Auckland, and we thank all those members and friends who so generously donated the \$72,000 to purchase the land. Unfortunately we have not been able to purchase 14 Turanga Rd due to a lack of funds, and the land has recently sold and will be built on by the new owners.

The Society will monitor the development and make the WCC and the new owners aware of our concerns for this special piece of virgin rain forest. I would like to acknowledge the considerable contribution made by Jessica Beever to both these properties. Had it not been for her great grandfather Wesley Spragg we would not have Spragg Bush, and had it not been for Jessica's enthusiasm, we would not have purchased 71 Turanga Rd. She has been a wonderful representative for the Society with her exacting scientific information and her tenacity, and it has been a real pleasure working with her.

Throughout the year we have worked hard to progress the concept of a **Heritage Area** encompassing the whole of the ranges. We are at present in discussion with WCC, ARC and the local MPs as to the best way to achieve this permanent protection. The Society is a minor sponsor of the EDS Protected Landscapes Conference to be held 25 and 26 July at the Sheraton Hotel. Speakers from NZ and UK will present papers on why we need to protect areas of high scenic value and how to best achieve this in NZ. I urge as many of you as possible to attend this conference and get involved in the debate that will lead to a bill going before parliament in the near future, which will result in the Waitakere Ranges and other threatened areas of NZ getting the permanent protection they need.

Most of you by now will have visited the **Ranges of Inspiration art exhibition** at the CEAC. The Society is very proud to be associated with so many fine artists and you will agree that that a visit to the exhibition is as good as a walk in the ranges. Artists have been a keystone of the Society since its inception, and we are very grateful for the effort that all the artists made to produce a fine art work inspired by the Ranges. The auction of the art works will be held at the Corban Estate at 4 pm on Sunday 30 March. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Society by coming along and joining in the excitement of bidding for your special choice. All profits from the auction will go to the Society's land acquisition fund. Thanks to the exhibition sponsors WCC, ARC, Watercare and Ecowater we were able to produce a beautiful colour catalogue.

Bruce and Trixie Harvey have taken firm editorial control of the **Waitakere Ranges book** that had languished for so long. Most chapters are now rewritten and are being edited and photography commissioned. This book is going to be the definitive work on the Waitakere Ranges for some time to come and it is very important that it is authoritative while being accessible to a wide audience. We plan to print 3000 copies and will shortly be offering a special pre-publication price to members. These funds, together with the money raised by grants and donations will contribute towards the \$70,000 we need to publish a 300 page book of very high quality. Sale of the books directly to public and through retail outlets will eventually return a small profit to the Society.

As part of our **advocacy** for the ranges we have produced a new brochure and stickers this year. Thanks go to Paul and Yvonne at Aura for the design and to Ted Scott for the photography. You will note that the membership fees have gone up slightly for the first time in four years. At \$25 for a single and \$35 for a family this is still very reasonable, and the small increase will help us expand our programs.

The Society T shirts continue to sell well and I remind you that they are available for purchase tonight, together with various postcards and posters. By buying these you not only contribute to our fundraising campaign but also spread to word about the Society by wearing the T shirt proudly where ever you go.

Our new improved newsletter as added to our advocacy very well, and thanks go to our editor Kath Dewar who makes each newsletter informative and attractive. The website continues to be developed by webmaster Mike Nixon. Internet presence is an essential tool these days for the Society as we can ensure that it has the most up to date information about our work, and I recommend you all start to use it on a regular basis. As the amount of information on the site increases it becomes a real resource for students and visitors who want to know more about the Ranges and the Society.

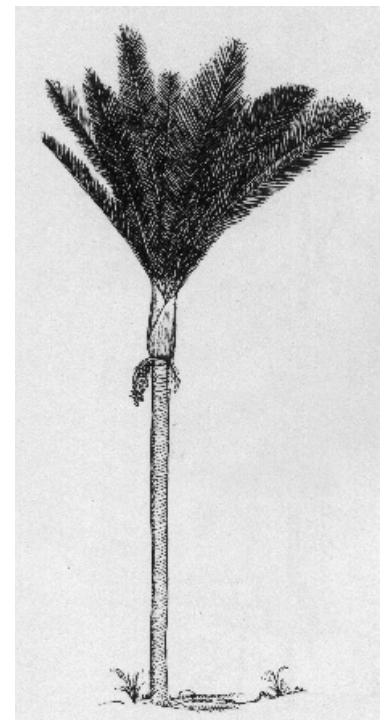
We gratefully acknowledge a grant this year of \$5000 from WLT towards the production of new publicity material, and also \$700 from WCC Wellbeing Fund towards collating archival material from the past 30 years.

Thanks go to the many experts who prepared evidence for us in the past year as part of our **submissions**. I especially need to mention two people who constantly find time to give the Society their very best profession advice. To Douglas Allan and Gary Taylor the Society owes a great debt for their generous *pro bono* contribution to our cause.

There are many people who have worked so hard for so long to achieve the Society's vision. Many of you are here tonight, and you will know others who have worked tirelessly to get us to this point. I acknowledge you all by saying that **without each individual's contribution we would not be achieving the way we do.**

I would like to ask the outgoing committee to stand up. These people are your elected committee who have given 100% over the past year. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I would like the meeting to join with me in showing our appreciation for their efforts on our behalf. Most of them are standing again, but I

would like to especially mention Jane Alexander, who will be standing down this year as VP. We have all been encouraged by Jane's enthusiasm and her precise science. Special thanks also to Linda Godfrey, our secretary for the past five years, who is standing down to work with another community group. Thanks also to Christine Shepherd, standing down as treasurer, who has kept us fiscally responsible over the past year. The honorary audit of the Society's books this year by Martin Bailey of McGregor Bailey Ltd is gratefully acknowledged.



Remember this is our **30th year**. We plan to celebrate with a series of events over the next year. Please join us for the celebrations. These events will all be notified in the newsletters and an enthusiastic turnout will be much appreciated. We begin with the Art Auction on 30 March, Arbor day tree planting 7 June, and our 30th Birthday party at the Waitakere Hall on 26 July.

Thanks again to all members for their support and encouragement over the past year. I can assure you that the **next year is going to even more exciting** as we get close to achieving our vision of a Heritage Area that will give the Waitakere Ranges the permanent protection they need to survive the vagaries of local body politics.



John Edgar
President
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society

Abbreviations:

- MUL Metropolitan Urban Limit
- MOU Memorandum of Understanding
- CMP Centennial Memorial Park
- EDS Environmental Defence Society
- CEAC Corban Estate Arts Centre
- WLT Waitakere Licensing Trust

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc,
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st January 2003

2002

Current Assets

7,338 ASB Bank 00 Account	15,583
1,677 ASB Bank 01 Account	349
<u>7813 ASB Bank</u>	
Short Term Deposit	<u>18,297</u>
16,828 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>34,229</u>

LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES

8,076 Special Programmes Funds	8,560
<u>1,414 Spragg Bush Appeal Fund</u>	<u>9,826</u>
<u>9,490 TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	<u>18,386</u>

7,338 NET ASSETS 15,843

Represented by:

FUNDS EMPLOYED

2,824 Accumulated Funds	7,338
<u>4,514 Net Surplus (Deficit)</u>	<u>8,505</u>
7,338 TOTAL EQUITY	<u>15,843</u>
<u>7,338 TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</u>	<u>15,843</u>

Your New Committee:

This year's AGM both reelected those members of our current excellent committee who wished to stand again and gave us 4 talented new members on our executive.

Sandra, our new Treasurer, brings financial acumen and a deep knowledge of native botany. Cherie, our new Secretary, has great efficiency and organisational flair. Denise is a resident of Huia and active environmental campaigner. Mels has expertise in water management and in Internet communications.

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- Melissa Marler
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Waitakere Ranges
Protection Society Inc

Geoff Park captures 'standing room only' crowd

100 members attended the Society's AGM this year making it the biggest turnout ever! The attendees were well rewarded with a fascinating and compellingly illustrated talk by Geoff Park. Geoff is a leading ecologist, writer and historian and shared his insights with generosity. We thank him for travelling from Wellington to join us and for his stimulating insights. Geoff tells us he was hugely inspired by his trip to the Waitakere Ranges and, impressed by their significance, he hopes to featuring them more in future writing.

Geoff's notes for his speech are now available online at www.waitakereranges.org.nz

Ranges of Inspiration - inspired!

Even if it hadn't raised a cent, the stunning range and calibre of work in the Ranges of Inspiration exhibition would have made it all worthwhile. The exhibition was, organised by the Society and the Corbans Estate Arts Centre, Henderson.

The exhibition was fabulous, and as John Edgar said 'to walk into the gallery was like being in the Ranges!' The Society can't sufficiently thank the artists, the gallery and the sponsors for making it possible.

The auction of work, kindly run for the Society and the gallery by Peter Webb, was great fun and tremendously successful. Sales totalled over \$92,000, and the final sum raised for the Society will be announced shortly.



This picture shows the Rt Hon Judith Tizard at the opening of the exhibition. Ms Tizard received a WRPS T-shirt and is watched by contributing artist, Ann Robinson and Society President, John Edgar.

Heritage Area Update!

Progress continues towards permanent protection for the Ranges. Recent highlights include:

- **Chris Carter**, Minister for Conservation, pledged his support to creating a Heritage Area through a Local Government Bill in his opening speech at the Ranges of Inspiration Art Auction. You can read what he said online at www.waitakereranges.org.nz.

- **David Cunliffe**, MP for Titirangi and Laingholm, pledged his support for the Heritage Area and outlined some potential components at a recent meeting of the Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association. You can read what he said online at www.waitakereranges.org.nz.

- **The Environmental Defence Society** (www.eds.org.nz) is working closely with central government and the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society to examine options for the Heritage Area.

- **Waitakere City Council** is preparing an options paper on the Heritage Area concept which it is hoped will become the basis for the Local Government Bill and will then be opened for **public consultation**.

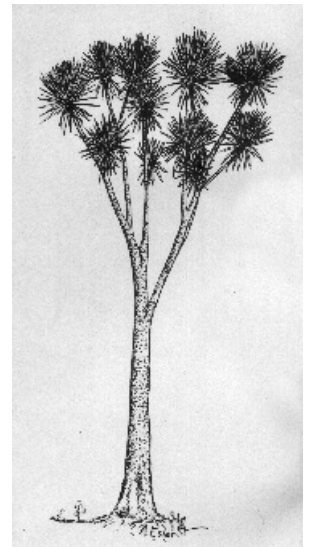


Image courtesy of Alan Esler, 2002 and ARC

New Zealand Landscape Conference

The Environmental Defence Society is running the **New Zealand Landscape Conference**, Reclaiming Our Heritage, on 25th and 26th July. The purpose of the conference is to debate the importance of landscape to New Zealanders, reasons for its loss and opportunities for better protection, such as the creation of Heritage Areas. The conference is sponsored by Waitakere City Council, The University of Auckland Centre for Continuing Education and the Law Foundation of New Zealand. The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society is a minor sponsor.

For more information on the conference, contact Marie-Therese Millet on 09 373 7599 ext 87619 or email mt.millet@auckland.ac.nz.

The Society is born!

Many thanks to Juliet Batten and Mary Woodward for their memories of the earliest formation of the Society:

Juliet recalls:

"It was in 1972 that I first heard the news. I had recently moved to live in my bach at Te Henga with my two year old son. After two years living in Paris, it was heaven to be in a clean, inspiring environment, close to the bush and the sea. But a local guy - John Wheeler I think - charged up the driveway calling out, 'The Council's going to put a rubbish tip in the valley!'

My first thought was disbelief. My second thought was, 'I'll have to leave.'

However, I soon heard that the local people were organising a meeting in the Waitakere Hall. With potter, Jeff Scholes, I went along, and to my amazement found the hall was full. The councillors sat up on stage with the engineer, trying to persuade us that this was to be a 'sanitary' landfill that would cause no problems. The audience was not convinced, and tempers ran high.

After that meeting a committee was formed and Jeff Scholes became president of the group that was to fight the proposed tip. He tried to get me involved, but I didn't like committees. Jeff was canny. 'Come along to the next meeting and help me with the minutes,' he said. 'You've got an English degree; you can use words.'

Before long I was hooked. The committee was a lively bunch and the meetings were far from boring. When the first secretary resigned a few weeks later, I was co-opted into that role. Later I would become president and spend a total of 10 years on the committee."

Mary remembers:

"My husband and I had done some research 'on the ground' for Professor McGregor of the New Zealand Conservation Society, which enabled him to mount a successful campaign against logging in the Warwara forest north of Hokianga. Imagine then our anger when faced with the prospect of a lovely kauri-filled valley being used as a dump for stinking rubbish almost in our own back yard. I for one was not so concerned about saving the swamp - being not very enlightened about the value of swamps, mangroves etc at that time- but was very concerned for the health of the Te Henga lagoon where I and my siblings, and later my own children, nieces and nephews had first gained confidence in the water and started to swim.

So a few of us, led probably by the local potter, Jeff Scholes, put the word around about a meeting at

the Waitakere hall. There was a great turn-out with lots of hot air. Among the starters that I remember were my sister Elizabeth Wheeler and her husband Hap; Joce and Peter Worley; Alan Happy, our first treasurer I think, and his parents Bob and the late Sylvia Happy who soon took over the job of treasurer from her son; John Carlson; Juliet Batten and her brother Miles Jackson; Gary Taylor, not long started on his career as a professional conservationist; Colleen Pilcher; and Merv Halcrow, A motley steering committee including myself was charged with getting the society started and very soon a regular committee was formed, a name chosen, and after the success of the landfill issue, instead of simply winding up, the society went on to address other issues threatening the Ranges."

We'll be featuring more of Juliet and Mary's memories in future newsletters - watch out for the story about the 'tug of war' and the cyanide presented at a Council hearing! We'll also be celebrating memories of the Society at our Birthday Party on 26th July.

If you have fond or amusing memories of the Society's past please share them with us! Send them to **'Memories', Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Waitakere City** or email wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz

Save your patch for ever!

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society is promoting the concept of open space covenants and would like as many members as possible to create a covenant for their piece of paradise.

An Open Space Covenant is a legal agreement between a landowner and the Queen Elizabeth National Trust to protect an area of open space. It provides for landowners who have landscape features or areas of open space on their properties which they do not wish to see destroyed by clearing, buildings, powerlines, subdivision, or thoughtless land use. Land subject to a covenant does not become the property of the National Trust - the owner retains the title. An Open Space Covenant is usually granted in perpetuity. Covenanting your property will protect the things that you love about the property - even when you no longer own it.

For more information contact the Auckland representative for the Queen Elizabeth National Trust, Rex Smith by email: elite.sports@xtra.co.nz OR contact the head office of the trust on **free phone 0508 732 878** or fax 04 472 5578.

Kia Ora, Forest and Bird!

We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. The Society cooperates on a number of initiatives with Forest and Bird and we were delighted at their recent 80th anniversary dinner to present them with a donation of \$1,000 towards the Matuku Reserve land purchase at Te Henga.

Forest and Bird have also produced a consultation document on the Marine Park concept which you can receive by calling 09 303 3514 or online at www.forestandbird.org.nz. Submissions close on 31st May and the Society will be making a submission which supports no-take zones.

We are pleased the Ark in the Park project has started as a pest eradication pilot project in an area of 250ha on the western slopes of Pukemateko.

We looking forward to continuing to work with Royal Forest and Bird for the conservation of the Ranges.

Weed Action!

A key issue raised at the year's AGM was the threat to the Ranges from weed pests. The Society will continue to champion the management and removal of weeds. Since the AGM we have highlighted the increasingly urgent weed issues in the Ranges with both ARC staff and politicians and the need for more focus in this area is a key aspect of our submission on response to the ARC's Annual Plan.

Weed eradication is one area of protecting the Ranges where we can all get involved. The following summarises some of the many resources available to help you:

Waitakere City Council

The Council is working hard to help communities get rid of weeds. The Council provides both information and practical help.

Call for your free copy of these 3 publications:

- 'Do it yourself' weed control pamphlet
- A full list of invasive weeds
- A Guide For Planting and Restoring the Nature of Waitakere City

Call 09 839 0400.

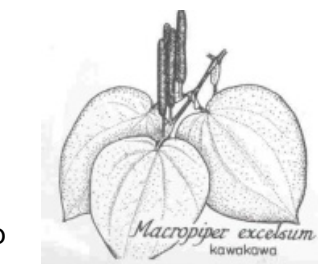


Image courtesy of Alan Esler, 2002 and ARC

You can apply for practical help in the form of:

- Free weed bins
- Free bags for ginger
- Up to 50% of the cost of weed removal if the job is really hard or you are unwell.
- Free herbicide for ginger
- A management plan for your property
- Free native plants
- Covenanted your property to protect it in the future
- Rates relief if your property is covenanted
- Help with the cost of fencing bush if stock grazing is a threat or if you are fencing off waterways or coast.

For more on any of these services call the Green Network Team on **09 836 8000 extension 8787**

Weedfree Waitakere

Weedfree Waitakere Trust offer a range of services to help you remove the weeds on your property. For just \$35 they will conduct a survey of your section and develop a plan and quote for weed removal. Costs vary depending on how large your section is and what weeds you have but the service is surprisingly affordable. Weedfree Waitakere also provide a free information pack and can help you with management plans and weed identification. See www.ecomatters.co.nz or phone Samantha Harding on **09 826 4276**

Auckland Regional Council

ARC's new Regional Pest Management Strategy includes a new Community Initiatives Programme which allows landowners and occupiers to work collaboratively to control 27 pest species. Community groups can nominate any pest plant in this category on which to carry out control work and the ARC will provide regulatory back-up. For more information please call Sandra Coney on 09 356 7074 or email s_coney@xtra.co.nz or Clyde Edmiston, Acting ARC Biosecurity Manager on 09 292 4819. For free pest factsheets, including weed information, phone 09 379 4420.

Laingholm Weedfree Website

Visit www.laingholm.org and look under 'Community' for weed identification and information archives.

'What I love about the Ranges'

The Society is extending its collaboration with the Corban Estate Arts Centre with a schools' postcard competition. A key part of this year's advocacy and education work, the competition has 15 of the region's schools taking part - to design a postcard to show 'What I love about the Ranges'.

The competition is being sponsored by Waitakere City Council, WaterCare and Ecowater and participating schools will receive native trees to plant thanks to Keep Waitakere Beautiful. The entries will be judged by Sandra Coney, Bob Harvey and John Edgar and the winning entries will be printed and made available locally.

Waitakere Book Progress

The development of the book is going well under Bruce and Trixie Harvey's guidance. The historical section is almost complete with some exciting original research from Arnold Turner on the Centennial Memorial Park a real highlight. Natural history contributions are currently being received. We have had sponsorships confirmed from ARC and Watercare. The dream of a comprehensive book on the Ranges looks set to become a reality.

Submissions Update

The Society has recently made submissions on your behalf to ARC on both the Annual Plan and canyoning in the Ranges. The Annual Plan has a number of areas which concern the Ranges and we are particularly keen to see a comprehensive Visitor Management Plan for the area. The Society opposes commercial adventure tourism, such as canyoning, in the Ranges. Copies of both these submissions are available from the Society or online at www.WaitakereRanges.org.nz

Whatipu Protection

The Society is delighted that 820ha at Whatipu sands have been designated a scientific reserve and management formally transferred to the Auckland Regional Council.

Scientific reserve classification is the second highest level of protection under the Reserves Act, and recognises the high geological and ecological values at Whatipu. It is the same status held by Tiritiri Matangi Island.

Scientific reserve status recognises that these extensive mobile dunes and sand fields, with their numerous fascinating ponds, are one of the most ecologically significant areas in the region and a land form of national importance.

Although the ARC has informally looked after the area for many years, the formal transfer of responsibility gives greater certainty and authority to manage the area.

The Society has long advocated for the permanent protection area and we are pleased we can now look forward to a comprehensive management program that will address the many weed, pest, and human issues in this very special area.



Sender:
The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society
PO Box 15668
New Lynn
Waitakere City

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