

Yes! Please send me the following Waitakere Ranges Protection Society goodies...

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number (in case of queries) _____

Postcards
Number of packs (5 cards per pack)

Total at \$5 per pack (incl P&P) \$_____

Botanical Cards
Flowering plants
Number of packs (5 cards per pack)

Total at \$10 per pack (incl P&P) \$_____

T-Shirts
Size Number

S
M
L
XL

Total at \$30 each (incl P&P) \$_____ **TOTAL** payment \$_____

Please send your order to Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, P O Box 15668, New Lynn, Waitakere City. Please enclose your payment with your order. Thank you for your support.

Keep cool and support the Society!



The Hon Judith Tizard with a T-shirt!

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society T-shirts are ideal for keeping cool in this warm weather. Printed front and back they are NZ made in striking turquoise cotton. T-shirts cost just \$30 each (incl p&p). Just order the number you need on the form above.

Botanical cards or kids' designs!

A card is always appreciated and is a great way to celebrate the Ranges. You can choose:

A set of five botanical cards, with envelopes, featuring flowering plants of Spragg Bush,



or
A set of five postcards featuring winning entries in the Waitakere Ranges Postcard Competition, including this one by Jeremy Roberts of Henderson Valley Primary.

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

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Waitakere Ranges
Protection Society Inc

news

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

Issue 121 - February 2004

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting

7pm, Monday 29th March

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Monday 29 March at 7pm at the Arataki Visitors Centre.



As previous attendees know, the focus of these meetings is to share information and give members of the Society the chance to meet each other and their committee. The meetings are efficiently run and enjoyable; the committee will present its annual report, the election of committee members will take place and then we will have what is sure to be a lively debate around the protection of the Ranges. We'll be announcing this year's speakers shortly, so please put the 29th March in your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.

Image © Auckland Regional Council.

Te Pou (the guardian post) at Arataki Visitor Centre. Te Pou is an 11m high ancestor carving by Te Kawerau a Maki, the Iwi who are tangata whenua of the Waitakere Ranges. For more information see the booklet 'Nga Tohu a Nga Tupuna' at Arataki.

Happy New Year from your committee!

This year is already shaping up to be a busy one for the Society and this edition of your newsletter includes updates on some of our key projects, news of our AGM and of art events of interest to members as well as a profile of our indefatigable Treasurer, Sandra Jones. We'd also like to thank Metro Magazine for acknowledging Society President John Edgar as an admirable Auckland in the February 2004 edition. Hope to see you at the AGM on 29th March.

Happy reading,

Kath kathdewar@paradise.net.nz

Your President's Report



Happy new year to you all. As the new year arrived I was thinking of resolutions and realised that, after 30 years of constant advocacy for the Ranges, WRPS could only have one new year's resolution this year and that is "In 2004 to obtain permanent protection for the whole of the ranges".

This is most certainly your committee's resolve and we will work harder than ever this year to see it happen. Waitakere City are well on the way with their Protection Project and, following the consultation meetings before Christmas, the Council's document outlining the findings is now available. This will lead in March to some public forums on the issues and options and out of these meetings will come a decision from Council about the way to achieve the required protection.

There is strong political support for this at local, regional and national levels. Throughout the country, development pressures on areas of high scenic value are making people ever more aware of what we stand to lose in the very near future if we do not act decisively to protect those areas. An excellent article by Geoff Cummings in NZ Herald recently highlighted the problems on the Coromandel Peninsula and the failings of the Resource Management Act to adequately protect iconic landscapes from development.

Our other major project for 2004 is the Waitakere Ranges book. With all the

Copy now received, Bruce and Trixie Harvey have the unenviable task of putting it all together in a form the designer can work with. This stage is almost complete and so we move to the exciting part where the book starts to emerge from the mass of data. Together with the natural and human history of the Ranges there will be an arts and culture section covering the many painters, sculptors and writers who have expressed their love for the Ranges in inspirational works of art and literature.

We continued to make submissions on various resource consent matters over the summer. These included:

- Watercare Services' application to ARC for the five Waitakere dam consents. We are seeking reinstatement of residual flows into the streams below the dams.
- Waitakere City's application to ARC to discharge treated effluent from the upgraded Karekare toilets onto the southern sand dunes. We are opposing this.
- The proposed use of Whenuapai as a commercial airport after the airforce depart. We consider there would be environmental affects on the Waitakere Ranges that need to be taken into account. On top of these are the usual rash of non-complying applications for subdivision, building and bush clearance and I acknowledge our consultants and legal team who prepare and present submissions on our behalf.

Continued on next page.



Image courtesy of Alan Esler, 2002 and ARC

Meet your committee: Sandra Jones

What makes a non-accountant take on the office of Treasurer? A passionate interest in native plants perhaps? Not very likely, you would think, but there is a logical basis for it.



Having arrived in New Zealand from Australia 30 years ago, completely ignorant of all things botanical, Sandra and her husband bought a Titirangi bach that was surrounded by 0.2 ha of native bush. A very real fear of the busy bulldozers in the area at the time spurred them into purchasing a 0.4 ha block next door in 1980 and an optimistic view of the future encouraged them to place a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenant on the bush to save it in perpetuity. After Sandra moved to Titirangi, a passing interest in identifying all the species within the boundaries of the property gradually developed into a broader interest in the Waitakere bush. With knowledge came the realisation of a paradox, while the bush has an amazing natural resilience it is also very vulnerable to both direct and indirect effects of human activities. So, over the years, Sandra has been actively involved in a number of conservation and like-minded organisations.

Although a member of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society for many years, she has only been in the Treasurer's role for a year. In that time Sandra has implemented many new reports and processes which have helped in the efficient running of the Society.

Sandra is an Honorary Life Member of the Auckland Botanical Society having served as Secretary for eighteen years, followed by a term as Vice-President. She has also served on the Committee of the West Auckland Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and as Secretary and Trustee of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust.

Over the years, Sandra has botanised most of the tracks in the Waitakere Ranges, many of them numerous times. A list-maker by nature, she has kept detailed botanical records of the Ranges for twenty-five years. Sandra and two botanical friends, Waitakere residents Anne Grace and Harry Beacham, have begun the task of recording (using a hand-held GPS) the location of rare plants in the Ranges, particularly those in vulnerable positions on track-sides, for the Auckland Regional Council Parks Service and Department of Conservation records. Sandra is also the Registrar of the School of Biological Sciences at The University of Auckland.

Sandra says her dream is that one day Bill Gates will toss her a coin, "A \$US2b one would be nice to be getting on with! It might not save the world or even solve Auckland's transport problems, but think what it could do for the Waitakere Ranges!" In the meantime, and in the real world, Sandra does what she can.



Visitor Management work underway

The Auckland Regional Council has commenced work on a Recreation Values and Visitor Management Study for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society is one of the stakeholder organisations invited to participate in pre-consultation discussions during February.

The Society has been lobbying on the issue of growing visitor numbers and the impact this has on the Ranges for years and is delighted the Council is taking proactive steps to develop a strategy for the future.

Massey University estimated in 1998 that the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park receives 2.6 million visits annually. During the summer of 1994/5 the Northern Lifeguard Association estimated 265,000 people visited Te Henga, Piha and Karekare. Waitakere City vehicle counts suggest 10,000 visitors to Piha, on the busiest days with the number of busy days per year growing. Auckland Regional Council vehicle counts suggest 180,000 visits to the Arataki Visitor Centre each year, 72,000 to Cascades Kauri Park, 59,000 visits to Cornwallis and 53,000 to Whatipu.

Most of the current visitors to the Ranges come from within the Auckland Region. The population of the region is expected to double in the next 50 years. An ad hoc and unplanned approach to the licencing of commercial recreation operations has resulted in over 100 operators running businesses in the Regional Park. These in general cater more for international visitors. There has also been a growth in the use of the West Coast area in overseas tourism promotional material.

Visitors impacts include dune erosion, disturbance to nesting birds, weed spread along tracks, air pollution from vehicles, fire risk and noise pollution as well as the cumulative effects of ever expanding facilities. The Society welcomes the opportunity to work with the Regional Council on this important issue.

Source: Protection of the Waitakere Ranges Area, December 2003

Your Committee:

Your committee is working hard on your behalf to protect the Waitakere Ranges. Given the huge tasks at hand we could do with some extra help. We need:

- A Secretary to help with correspondence, take minutes and organise meetings
- A volunteer coordinator to contact supporters when there are shared tasks to be done

If you, or someone you know, could help, please call John on 8128 555. Many thanks.

President:	John Edgar 09 8128 555 jedgar@iconz.co.nz
Vice-President:	Kath Dewar kathdewar@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer:	Sandra Jones s.jones@auckland.ac.nz
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Your President's Report - Continued

I think 2004 will be our year for finally achieving the vision so many members have worked towards for so long. But it will take a supreme effort from all of us to make permanent protection a reality. Your committee is up to the challenge, but we need the support of all our members, through subscriptions, donations and time to make it happen.

Permanent protection is our paramount issue, and I assure you that we will do everything in our power to make this the year we 'Saved the Ranges'. What better 30th birthday present could we want!

John Edgar
President

71 Turanga Road

We now have sufficient funds to pay for this section in full. Thank you to all members and friends who contributed so generously to raise the \$72,000. A list of all donors will be published in the next newsletter. A QE II Trust covenant has been obtained and will be registered on the title, and when this is complete we will gift the land to the ARC for inclusion in the Regional Park.

We are still more than happy to receive donations towards land acquisition and we have a special Reserves Fund for this purpose.



Image courtesy of Alan Esler, 2002 and ARC

ARC takes 'Zero Pigs' stance

Jack Straw, Biosecurity Manager for the Auckland Regional Council, has taken a tough stand on the growing pig pest problem in the Ranges. Speaking at the Piha Residents and Ratepayers meeting on 4th January 2004, Jack announced over \$14,000 had been earmarked for eliminating pigs in the Ranges. Helped in part by cost savings in goat eradication on Great Barrier Island, this amount will be increased to over \$40,000 next year.

Jack clearly stated his department's commitment to pest eradication in the Ranges, arguing that pests should be viewed as vermin, not a resource to be harvested for pelts etc. He also asked the meeting to consider the long term future of other pest species in the Ranges, such as agapanthus, cockatoos and feral cats and outlined budget commitments to plant pest control.

The Society welcomes the Council's action.

Did you know..?

The Waitakere Ecological District contains more than a quarter of New Zealand's flowering plant species and two-thirds of all native fern species.

Specifically the area is home to:

- 542 species of native plant
- 21 species of rare and endangered plants
- 43 species of regionally threatened plants
- 50 species of native bird (14 rare or endangered)
- 3 species of kauri snail
- 11 species of native freshwater fish
- 5 species of native reptile (2 skinks, 3 geckos)
- 1 native frog
- 1 native mammal - the long tailed bat

Source: Tamaki Ecological District PNA Report, (north-western portion), 1998

Art of the Waitakere Ranges

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society has always been a forum in which science and art unite. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the artistic celebration of the Ranges we are delighted to profile two exhibitions we feel will be of interest to members.

Geoff Moon: Nature Photographer,
Corban Estate Arts Centre, Henderson

Opening: Thursday 18th March at 6pm

Exhibition Dates: Friday 19th March Sunday 18th April

This comprehensive exhibition brings together a collection of over 40 of Geoff Moon's images along with notebooks and other items that give a wonderful insight into how Geoff managed to achieve some of these remarkable images. This is the first time he has held a solo exhibition in which his work is also being offered for sale.



Many of the images on display have illustrated books, both nationally and internationally and none of the exhibited, autographed works will be offered for sale again.

As an indication of Geoff's appreciation and constant interest in the Waitakere Ranges, **a portion of the proceeds from exhibition sales will be donated to the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.** The Society is deeply grateful to Geoff for his support.

Geoff Moon has been photographing New Zealand forests, birds and other wildlife for over 50 years and in the process has gained an international reputation for the quality of his work. His spectacular images give a fascinating insight into the natural habitat of our wildlife. Part of the appeal to Geoff in taking these images has been the challenge of capturing moments in time that many people have not considered possible. Many hours work, sometimes stretching to days, goes into taking these images identifying locations; building camouflaged hides; and returning to the site on numerous occasions to capture the 'ultimate' image. Geoff Moon's photographs are all taken on film and have not been altered or enhanced by digital manipulation.

Geoff and his family have lived in Titirangi, on the fringe of the Waitakere Ranges, for over 22 years. In 1994 Geoff was awarded an OBE for his services to the veterinary profession and photography.

Explorations of environment,
Lopdell House Gallery, Titirangi

6 February - 14 March 2004

DEREK MARCH
DARK WATERS

Ten years ago Te Henga resident and artist Derek March staged his first exhibition of paintings at Lopdell House Gallery. The exhibition *Sacrifices* was a powerful show about the history of land use and abuse in Auckland's Western ranges. A decade on, March's new exhibition *Dark Waters* reflects the artist's ongoing interest in the impact that human beings have had on the natural environment. The paintings in *Dark Waters* feature the contrasting waterways and wetlands of the Waitakere River Valley.

HAMISH FOOTE
EXOTICA INDIGENIS IMMIXTA

Exotica Indigenis Immixta is concerned with the impact of the ebb and flow of species considered to be endemic, native or exotic to New Zealand. The process is a result of both evolution and the coming and going of people over centuries. Hamish Foote was awarded a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship in 2001 and this exhibition is the culmination of his Doctoral research.

MARK HARVEY
PSEUDOPANIX

In the exhibition *Pseudopanix*, Titirangi-based multi-media artist Mark Harvey explores the dreams and desires of those who live in the bush-clad suburb of Titirangi. At first glance Titirangi is one of the prettiest suburbs in the country with its lush native New Zealand greenery and glimmering coastline. A closer look, however, reveals that this is a suburb that has been infiltrated by weeds. *Pseudopanix* tells of the struggle taking place between the need to control our environment and the need to accept the indigenous beauty that surrounds us.



Peter Siddell, *Lopdell House*, oil on canvas, 1996

Find out more:

Corban Estate Arts Centre, phone 09 838 4455 or email info@ceac.org.nz

Lopdell House Gallery, phone 09 817 8087 or email lopdell@lopdell.org.nz