

WRPS NEWS

Issue 177

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

May 2018

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc. is a registered charitable entity in terms of the Charities Act 2005. Registration No. CC46103

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President's Report

April weather in the Waitakere Ranges was very eventful, as it was in many other parts of the country. Firstly, there was a huge storm with wild westerly winds gusting up to 200km/hour at the Manukau heads. The west coast villages suffered as the winds funnelled up the valleys, blowing down trees, blocking roads with slips, lifting roofs and causing widespread mayhem. Intense rain raised the streams to wild torrents carrying huge quantities of fallen logs and flooding low-lying areas. Power was off for five to eight days in parts of the ranges, causing huge disruption to family life and local businesses.

Having just begun recovering from that storm, another intense rain event followed two weeks later. Karekare had 101 mm of rain in 24 hours. The stream came up again very rapidly, and low-lying areas like the Piha camp ground were flooded again. Major slips closed local roads and many properties suffered damage. As the waters were receding, a local walked up Glen Esk Road at Piha to see how the Kitekite stream and track had fared in the deluge. When he looked up into the trees they were full of rats that had climbed up to avoid being washed away. The total April rainfall at Karekare was 308mm, about three times the monthly average.

The AGM on 26th March was well attended and it was good to see so many members and friends there. We welcome Mandy Patmore to our committee. Bob Harvey's address about films that made the west famous showed some great clips of early movies made in the ranges, as well as more recent ones like *Sleeping Dogs*, *Hercules*, *Xena Warrior Princess* and *The Piano*. The ranges are much used as a film location owing to the outstanding natural environment.

Before Christmas, Katherine Russell our Heritage Area Coordinator went on maternity leave and baby Emma Annabelle Russell was born on 15th March. We wish Katherine and James all the best as they start their new family. Katherine's position has been filled by Mischa Davis, who holds degrees in law and geography. Mischa has specialised in environment law and resource management. Her first report is in this newsletter.

The Society has been engaged in Environment Court-assisted mediation over the past three months on the matter of the reinstatement of prohibited activity status on subdivision in some zones of the ranges from where it was removed by the Council's Unitary Plan decision last year. As the matter is before the court at present I cannot give any details except to say it is progressing well.

On the 1st May, Auckland Council legally closed the majority of tracks in the forested areas of the ranges under a Controlled Area Notice issued by the Ministry of Primary Industries. As tracks are upgraded to dry foot they will be opened again in agreement with mana whenua, Te Kawerau a Maki. A list of closed and open tracks can be found here.

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/media/18838/4518-waitakere-ranges-track-list.pdf>

Kauri Dieback may have been found on Auckland's North Shore for the first time. A track at Chelsea Estate Heritage Park has been closed as a precautionary measure after a survey found a tree suspected to be affected by kauri dieback disease. Samples have been taken for analysis.

Parliament's Environment Select Committee has called for submissions on kauri dieback management, and the Society, together with The Tree Council and Friends of Regional Parks have made a combined statement of evidence that will be presented to the committee in May. We have also been part of a delegation to Wellington to raise these matters with the Ministers of Conservation and Biosecurity.

Our WRHA history book is coming along well. The manuscript is with the publisher Oratia Media and has been edited. We are now working to find the images needed. The book will tell the story of how permanent protection of the ranges was achieved.

So, it has been a very eventful three months. We thank our members and friends for their continued support.

John Edgar ONZM
President

Annual Report of the Executive Committee

THE WAITAKERE RANGES PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Arataki Visitors Centre,
Wednesday 26 March 2018

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

150 years ago, logging of the mighty trees in the ranges was the greatest ecological threat. Since the logging ended, the forest has regenerated. Now the greatest threat to the ecology of the ranges is kauri dieback, caused by a microscopic pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida*. There is no cure - every infected tree will die. The five-year survey results released in 2017 showed that on average 18% of kauri were infected, almost doubling from 10% in that five-year period. In some areas of the ranges, for example the Piha catchment, up to 60% of trees are infected. The Society has worked with iwi, Council and Waitakere conservation groups to ensure that everything possible is done to protect kauri from this pathogen. Following the placement of the rāhui by Te Kawerau a Maki in December 2017, Council moved in February to endorse the rāhui with closure of all tracks in the forested areas of the ranges, and a work program to begin upgrading tracks to dry foot, which once done, will allow the tracks to be re-opened to the public. We want to thank the Tree Council, Forest and Bird and Friends of the Regional Park for their hard work to push for these closures, and especially Te Kawerau a Maki for the strong and unrelenting position they have taken since placing the rāhui. Without this iwi leadership, I doubt that we would be in this position.

The rapid spread of myrtle rust is most alarming, as is the decision by MPI to stop trying to contain it in Taranaki with a Controlled Area Notice under the Biosecurity Act. The spores are moved by the wind, and also by plant movement and human and animal contact with infected plants. To date there are no reports of it in the ranges.

Following Council's decision in the Proposed Unitary Plan to replace prohibited activity status with non-complying in some planning zones in the ranges, the Society appealed this to the High Court and we were successful in overturning the decision. Council accepted this ruling and reversed their decision. That allowed parties who had submitted on this matter to the Proposed Unitary Plan Topic 75 to appeal to the Environment Court. Only one party did this and together with Council we are currently in court-assisted mediation with the Strategic Property Advocacy Network.

Katherine Russell, our Heritage Area Coordinator has

continued to provide very valuable input into research, reports to the committee, and drafting of submissions on many different matters. Katherine has been a valuable member of our team and we are very grateful for her diligence. However, she is currently on maternity leave and we wish her and her husband James the very best as they start their new family, with Emma Annabelle Russell born on 15 March. We welcome Emma as the youngest member of the Society. While Katherine is on leave, we have employed Mischa Davis, a highly-qualified environmental lawyer and she is currently working on submissions for the Long-Term Plan, The Auckland Plan, and the Regional Pest Management Plan.



Emma Annabelle Russell – Our youngest member!

Over the past year we have made submissions on the Draft Threatened Species Strategy, the Karekare beach access boardwalk resource consent application, the Taitomo Draft Policy and Concept Plan, the Waitakere Ranges Local Board Plan, the Amendments to National Policy Statement on Freshwater, the Air Quality draft bylaw and the Auckland Council Annual Plan discussion document.

We continue to be involved as a stakeholder in Watercare's consultation to replace the Huia Water Treatment Plant in Woodlands Park Road. The chosen site is Manuka Road, adjacent to the existing plant. We are a member of the Community Liaison Group that meets monthly with Watercare. This group has commissioned an independent review of the geotechnical data by Dr Bruce Riddolls and an independent ecological survey by Shona Myers. Once these reviews are finalised, Watercare engineers will consider if and how the new plant can be built on the site.

The Society has commissioned a history of the Heritage Area Act to be written by journalist Wayne Thompson who was a senior environmental reporter for the New Zealand Herald at the time leading up to and after the passing of the Act. The manuscript has been delivered to the publisher, Oratia Media, and it will be available as an electronic book before the end of this year.

As you will hear in the financial report, the Society remains in a strong financial position. The majority of the reserves have accumulated from sales of the Waitakere Ranges book. We are grateful to have received grants of \$5000 from Foundation North and \$8000 from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board towards the Heritage Area Act history book.

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

Facilitated by our secretary Joanna Silver the committee has prepared a five-year strategic plan that will give us a better focus on our objectives and allow us to regularly assess our performance and achievements. Joanna will report on the plan this evening.

The Society relies on professional consultants to prepare submissions and evidence for us on a range of legal and planning matters. The *pro bono publico* contribution of our legal counsel Douglas Allan from Ellis Gould Ltd and RMA consultant Gary Taylor from EDS is invaluable. Thanks also to James Hook at Envivo Planning who has advised and represented the Society on all planning matters. And our thanks go to Jenny Taylor who has maintained our membership database and coordinated mail-outs for many years.

Anna Fomison keeps our website up to date and it is working well to disseminate information and allow people to purchase merchandise and join the Society. Orhan Er is editor of our quarterly newsletter and we always welcome contributions from members. The executive committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month. I would like to ask the outgoing committee to stand up. These people are your elected executive who have given the Society so much of their volunteer time over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work together and I would like this meeting to join with me in showing our appreciation for their efforts on our behalf. During the year, Christine Rose resigned from the committee after a year as our Heritage Area Co-ordinator and 3 years as a committee member and Janet Thomson will not stand again for the committee this year. Special thanks go to our vice-president Anna Fomison, secretary Joanna Silver and treasurer Sandra Jones. The Society currently has three Patrons, Emeritus Professor Dick Bellamy, the Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hunt and Lynne Pillay. It has been my honour to be President and to chair the executive committee for the past twenty years. I want to thank Society members and my family and friends for their support that has enabled me to better serve the Society.

Sadly, during the year five members passed away. Dr Graeme Ramsay who was on our committee for 18 years was our senior scientist and a very enthusiastic and committed member. Lynda Williams was on our committee for 10 years, the last three of which she was our secretary. Local Board member Denise Yates was on our committee for 9 years resigning in 2010 when she was elected to the Local Board. Margaret Jenkinson and Jack Kingston, long time members of the Society, also passed away. Our thanks to these five members for their support and our condolences go to their families and friends.

To the members and friends who were there when the Society was founded in 1973, and the many others who have since joined we would like to express our thanks for your support. The Society has a proud history, but our work is not done. Your support in the coming years will be more important than ever.

John Edgar

I am pleased to now be working as the new Heritage Area Co-ordinator for WRPS while Katherine is away on maternity leave. It has been a busy first couple of months with several submissions all due around the same time. It really feels like I've hit the ground running. These submissions included Auckland Council's 10-year Budget, Auckland Plan 2050, Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Rates Remission and Postponement Policy. WRPS also submitted on the Waitakere Ranges Local Board's Draft Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Local Parks Design Guide.

Also timely with my start was the AGM held in March which was a nice introduction to WRPS.

I have also attended a couple of public workshops on behalf of WRPS. One was held by Auckland Council which is in the process of developing a bylaw on freedom camping. The other was held by the Royal Society on the topic of using gene-editing, which is essentially a form of genetic engineering, for pest-control.

It has also been a busy time as Auckland Council's Environment and Community Committee made a final decision on closure options for the management of kauri dieback disease in the Auckland region. As a result, there has been a lot of attention in the media on the kauri dieback issue and John has been receiving a lot of emails on these matters. The Parliamentary Environment Select Committee were also receiving feedback on the kauri dieback management program. WRPS decided to team up with Forest and Bird, The Tree Council and Friends of Regional Parks to prepare a joint submission which was largely drafted by Dr Nick Waipara and Jack Craw (both ex AC biosecurity). There will be a public Select Committee hearing for submitters to speak to their submissions on the 10th of May.

Upcoming consultations include the Waitakere Ranges Greenways Plan. The plan created by the Waitakere Ranges Local Board, is to develop a walking and cycling network in the urban and near-urban areas of the Waitakere Ranges with the aim to ensure that locals can easily and safely get around using pathways. Consultation closes on the 21st of May.

Mischa Davis

Why like us on Facebook?

Did you know that Facebook has an algorithm to determine who sees posts? That means that not everyone who likes our page sees every post. Instead, the algorithm chooses who and how many people see each post. One of the factors is interaction, so when our post is liked or shared, the algorithm gives that post more popularity and then it is seen by more group members.

So, what can you do? Like us on Facebook or share our posts. That helps us get better visibility and spread the word about key events, issues and ideas for the Ranges.

WRPS Merchandise

We have a range of quality merchandise ranging from high quality reference books to t-shirts, tea towels, uniquely hand-crafted mugs & bowls, and a Don Binney poster print.

For more details of the Society's merchandise please refer to the WRPS online shop at: www.waitakereranges.org.nz.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tea Towels



Place names of the Ranges

Maori Proverb

Made from unbleached 100% Indian cotton, designed in West Auckland by Julia Moore and screen printed by Karousel. The quotation is a traditional proverb from Te Kawerau ā Maki and we are grateful to Te Warena Taua for permission to use it.

\$17 each + p&p

P&P costs vary according to number of tea towels ordered.

1 tea towel \$3.00 2 tea towels \$4.00
3-6 tea towels \$5.50 7-10 tea towels \$6.50

Mugs & Bowls

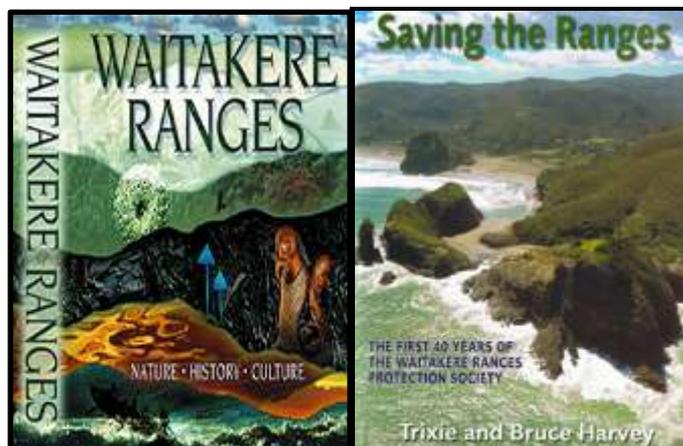


Hand painted by Lynda Harris

Kiwi, Takahe, Pukeko, Torea (Oystercatcher), Kereru, Kakariki, Tui.

All mugs are priced at **\$35 each + p&p**

(P&P varies according to numbers and is available on request)



“Waitākere Ranges: Nature, History, Culture”

The story of the Waitākere Ranges is written by many authors who tell us from various points of view what it is about the Ranges that they love and value.

Ed. Bruce & Trixie Harvey

Special for WRPS members: **\$85 (includes p&p)**

For non-WRPS members: **\$95 (includes p&p)**

“Saving the Ranges: The first 40 years of the Waitākere Ranges Protection Society”

The book tells of the many people who have contributed to the conservation and protection of the Ranges and makes it clear that the work of the Society would not have flourished without the hundreds of members who have given their support.

Ed. Bruce & Trixie Harvey

\$40 (includes p&p)

2018-2019 Subscription Renewal Notice Reminder

Subscription renewal notices for the period 1 Feb 2018 to 31 Jan 2019 were sent to all members in early February. If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, by post or online, could we urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you aren't sure, feel free to email me or phone me to check. I'd rather that you did that than pay twice. If you've lost/mislaid your invoice, we'd be pleased to send you another.

Sandra Jones, Treasurer

treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz

09 817 2788

WRPS Newsletter Email List

If you are receiving this newsletter by post but would prefer to receive it by email (as a .pdf file), please let us know (email us at wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz). You will have the added advantage of being able to view the photographs in full and glorious colour.

Financial Report to the AGM

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Incorporated
Statement of Financial Position, as at 31st January 2018

As a Registered Charity, we must submit an Annual Return to Charities Services (Department of Internal Affairs) using a template that they provide. In addition to the Financial Statement, this Return includes a non-financial Statement of Service Performance. The full Annual Return including the Audited Financial Statements may be viewed online on the Charities Register. Copies are also available on request from the Treasurer Ph: 817 2788, Email: treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
Auditor: McGregor Bailey, Chartered Accountants

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS “How we were funded” and “What did it cost to run WRPS”

	<u>31.1.2018</u>	<u>31.1.2017</u>
	\$	\$
OPERATING RECEIPTS (Money In)		
Donations (\$6060), Grant receipts (Foundation North \$5,000 & Akl Cncl, WRLB \$8,000)	19,060	13,613
Subscriptions	4,700	4,726
Sale of goods (books \$458, other goods \$1,593)	2,051	1,725
Interest from investments	8,296	8,169
Other (GST refund)	886	1,711
Total Operating Receipts	34,993	29,944
Operating Payments (Money Out)		
Buying goods for sale (t-shirts, mugs & bowls)	1,669	1,088
Donations paid (2017: KiwisAgainstSandMining\$200; 2016: Matuku Link Trust, land purchase)	200	30,000
Other operating payments	12,031	16,770
Total Operating Payments	13,900	47,858
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	21,093	(17,914)
Increase / (Decrease) in Bank Accounts and Cash	21,093	(17,914)
Bank accounts and cash at start of F/Y	182,695	200,609
Bank accounts and cash at end of F/Y	203,788	182,695

Represented by:

ASB - Fast Saver (Interest from Term Deposit)	306	6,545
ASB - Short Term Deposit (Neil & June Smith Fund)	20,000	20,000
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (Visa Debit card)	10	
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (H.A.C - Heritage Area Coordinator, supported by grants)	3,646	8,155
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (Operating)	5,959	4,063
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (WRPS publications)	18,728	3,319
Kiwibank Short Term Deposits (Books \$104816, Land \$36159, H.A.C. \$7000, Operating \$7164)	155,139	140,613
Total Bank Accounts and Cash at the End of the F/Y	203,788	182,695

STATEMENT OF RESOURCES & COMMITMENTS “What WRPS owns” and “What WRPS owes”

Schedule of Resources	31.1.2018	31.1.2017
	\$	\$
Bank accounts	203,788	182,695
Money Held on Behalf of IRD		
GST Receivable	666	694
Other Resources		
Inventory on hand at cost (This consists primarily of stocks of ‘Saving the Ranges’ and residual copies of ‘Waitakere Ranges’)	19,134	18,806
Office Equipment	2	2
Plant and Equipment (includes equip. purchased in 2009 from NZ Lottery Grants Board & ASB Community Trust grants (laptop, data projector/screen, digital recorder, mobile display) Note: Under the new Reporting Standards (Tier 4, Cash Accounting), depreciation is not regarded as a cash transaction, so there is no change in value from the previous year.	15,555	15,555
Total Resources	239,145	217,752

YOUR COMMITTEE

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Vice-President:	Anna Fomison Phone: 838 9665	amfomison@gmail.com
Secretary:	Joanna Silver	joanna.silver@stitchbirdconsulting.com
Treasurer:	Sandra Jones Phone: 817 2788	treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
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Committee meetings are held monthly, from February to November, on the second Wednesday of the month.



The Waitakere Ranges Protection
Society
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