

WRPS



NEWS

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Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

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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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Your President's Report



The end of another year rapidly approaches and spring brings wonderful changes to the ranges on all levels; from the trees and the bird life to the smallest insects. The flowering of the clematis and the kowhai and soon the pohutukawa are the harbingers of spring and summer. Those of you who walk in the ranges regularly will enjoy the many signs of spring.

The Society has had another busy year, and we have been involved in submissions on many matters including the amendments to the Resource Management Act, the Housing Accord Bill, the Local Board's Visitor Management Plan for the ranges, and the Council's application for a resource consent to realign the Karekare stream.

Our congratulations to the successful candidates in the local body elections in October. Penny Hulse and Linda Cooper were elected as councillors for Waitakere Ward, and the Future West team of Sandra Coney, Denise Yates, Greg Presland, Neil Henderson, Steve Tollestrup and Saffron Toms won all six positions on the Local Board. Penny will again be Council Deputy Mayor, and Sandra Chair and Denise Deputy Chair of the Local Board. Since she is now a local board member, Saffron Toms has resigned as our Heritage Area Coordinator and we thank her for the work she did for the

Society over the past two years. We will be appointing a new coordinator in the new year.

Together with Forest and Bird we are currently involved in discussions with the Auckland Council and the quarry operator on the rehabilitation plans for the Te Henga quarry when the current lease expires in three years. We have started working on this now to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for future public access to and enjoyment of the area.

Committee members Tim O'Shea and Anna Fomison have been researching options for our new website and the committee is currently considering quotations from three website design companies and we plan to have a new improved website operational in the new year. Anna is also progressing our Oral History project. To date we have completed 24 interviews, all of which are lodged with the Auckland and Turnbull Libraries. We currently have funding for three more interviews. We welcome suggestions of people who have played an important role in the conservation, protection and history of the Waitakere Ranges who we could interview.

The most important matter over the next three months is our submission on the Auckland Council Unitary Plan that was notified in September. Submissions are due by 28 February, and we have our lawyers and planners advising us on the issues. They will ensure that our submission is as strong as possible as there is no longer the right to appeal the Council's decisions to the Environment Court.

I take this opportunity to remind you that copies of "Saving the Ranges", the forty-year history of the Society by Trixie and Bruce Harvey, are still available (see page 3 below for order details). It will make an excellent Christmas present for friends and family.

On behalf of the executive committee I thank you for your support over the past years and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope that you get to enjoy some wonderful visits to the Ranges.

John Edgar
President

Kauri dieback: Post-2014 – where to from here?

*This is an abridged version of an item in [KauriKonnnect 24](#),
(reproduced with permission).*

The original may be viewed in full on page 4 of

<http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/media/28902/kauri%20konnnect%2024.pdf>

On <http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/> you will find a Summary Report of the Independent Review of the Kauri Dieback Programme (9 October 2013)

On 13 October 2008, a joint agency kauri dieback response group was established involving tāngata whenua and the now Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council...

The Programme was initially set up as a five year knowledge-building 'response', as there were many unknowns at the time.. The response has led to significantly increased knowledge of kauri dieback's distribution, ecology, spread and techniques for control and prevention.

We now have:

- » a detection tool to find the disease
- » confirmed a number of locations that are infected and identified locations that appear to be free of the disease
- » an understanding of the basic information about the disease and its impacts including how it is spread
- » identified potential control tools and are now testing their ability to control the disease
- » developed and implemented measures to reduce the spread of the disease e.g. track cleaning stations and closing some tracks to protect disease-free areas
- » engaged with the public and communities to ensure people clean their gear before and after visiting forests.

However, there are still considerable gaps in our understanding of how this disease can be managed...

The Kauri Dieback Leadership Team (KDLT) is exploring a range of options for the leadership, management, delivery and funding of the post-2014 programme. The Programme is focusing on how to transition from the current short-term response model to a sustainable, truly long-term management programme potentially spanning 50 to 100 years.

To help achieve this outcome, the KDLT has appointed John Beachman and Tipene (Steven) Wilson to assemble the information required for a future business case....

The business case will include:

- » assessment of social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts and costs of kauri dieback disease and the impacts on the kauri ecosystems
- » five, ten, and 20–50 year outcomes, objectives and activities
- » identification of potential funding sources including a focus on not-for-profit and commercial sectors in addition to current partners
- » identification of the appropriate governance, management and operation structure to achieve the outcomes.

The business case will also indicate to the partners the level of financial contribution required to run a longer

term Programme. Generating the level of support required will continue to require innovation and effort...

Already a significant development has occurred with philanthropic funding being applied for and granted. The KDLT is delighted to announce that the Tindall Foundation has agreed to contribute \$30,000 to the development of the business case..

The KDLT would also like to express its gratitude and thanks to everyone helping us to slow the spread of this terrible disease. Kauri is an iconic species and a treasure for many New Zealanders. The Programme has attracted a passionate group of people working within a unique, and highly valued, partnership that has evolved over the past four years. We hope that you will continue to be involved, as we strongly believe that partnerships and working together are essential to the future success of this Programme.

We've come a long way and remain committed to continuing to "save our kauri forests". We encourage everyone to help. *Kia toitu he kauri.*



Photo: Sandra Jones

Sophora fulvida ('Anawhata kowhai')
Mercer Bay Track, 15 Nov 08

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.

Visionary local with a passion for conservation

Reproduced with kind permission of "The Fringe" November 2013

Geoff and Bev Davidson are long-standing members of the Society. They kindly provided the native plant display at the Society's 40th birthday celebrations held at the Waitakere Village hall earlier this year, as they have done for previous milestone celebrations.

'Conservation could well be Geoff Davidson's middle name and as words like *Griselinia lucida*, *Ficinia spiralis* and *Parahebe jovellanoides* slip easily off his tongue, there's no doubting this man has a passion for native flora.

It's an infatuation that Geoff reckons may have its roots in 1954 when, as a little boy, he won a prize at the Cheeseman Memorial Native Flora Show. But it wasn't until 20 years later, when Geoff returned from overseas to his family land at Oratia, not knowing what to do with his life, that the 'tree' light went on. His brother and father worked the orchard on the land and as Geoff puzzled his future, he could hear chainsaws and bulldozers in the extensive valley below.

That was it, he says. "I knew I had to try and reverse that trend. I started to think about why our country is so special and what makes us different to other countries. It's not the light or the people. It's our native vegetation."

At that time, Geoff's conservation interests kicked in too and he joined the Native Forest Action Council and the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. Native seedlings along Piha Road were rescued from the paths of bulldozers and potted up and it was only when his garden became overrun with fruits of his hobby that Geoff started selling them to gardeners who wanted an alternative to planting exotics.

It wasn't an immediate financial success but Geoff persisted in various conservation efforts including working with a local paper in a schools' competition where the children had to collect drink cans and Geoff would give them a tree for every 100. "I needed the cans to use as containers for the seedlings," Geoff says. "Today some of those seedlings have become a stand of puriri at St Leonard's School in Kelston."

In time, the young conservationist found another love at a Ferns, Mosses and Liverworts course and in 1980 he married Bev whose Henderson High School teaching salary significantly supported their fledgling business, Oratia Native Plant Nursery.

The 'serious nursery' side of things came about in 1988 when they won the contract to supply plants for the Commonwealth Games Village. "That involved a lot of natives but also, of all things, agapanthus which they wanted to plant in the median strips on the motorway," says Geoff. "They're actually quite slow to germinate and get growing and I think at the back of my mind I knew it was a retrograde step to grow them. Who knew they would become so insidious?"

But growing agapanthus was soon dwarfed by orders for thousands (some orders are for 10,000-plus) of native trees and plants for use by councils around the country. Transit New Zealand uses the nursery's plants along motorways and revegetation projects are many including the New Zealand Waste Redvale Quarry, the Unitec wetland project, Waitakere's Twin Streams project and Auckland and Massey Universities. A highlight for Bev and Geoff – and national recognition – came when they supplied the bulk of the specimen trees for the Bush City at the Museum of New Zealand in Wellington, Te Papa Tongarewa.

In 2005 Oratia Native Plant Nursery was named top plant

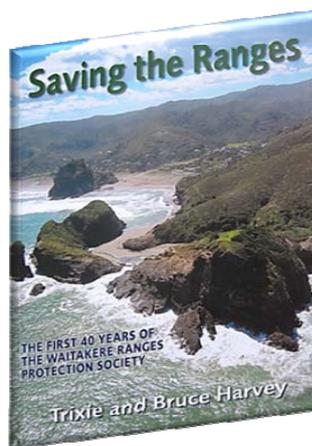
nursery in the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Awards and two years later Geoff received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

While he doesn't have favourites, Geoff does have a special fondness for the puriri which he says has a big role to play in our ecology. "It's good for so many things. The native pigeons love the fruit, the tuis love the flowers, the insects, wetas, they all love it too."

Bev says she's [also] passionate about native plants. "I love the bush and New Zealand's natural landscape but when you're married to a visionary it becomes all-encompassing and you got with it. Geoff sees things other people don't," she says. "He has a real interest in the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust where he notices land that needs to be set aside for reserve status. He excels at fund-raising and finding ways to add to the nation's conservation estate."

The couple had plans to retire from the nursery at the end of last year but with orders coming for redevelopments around the country, they felt they couldn't just walk away. Health issues for Geoff interfered with their plans too and while he's now recovered, the pair are now reconciled to keeping the nursery going.

"It's a wonderful lifestyle," he says. "What else could I do?"



**Price: \$35.00
+ \$5.00 p&p**

Payment instructions:

Online:

Email your order information to the Treasurer at kemsdale@ihug.co.nz and make your payment to Kiwibank Acc/ No. 38-9010-0379887-02

Cheque:

Send your order and cheque to: The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640

YOUR COMMITTEE

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Committee meetings are held monthly, from February to November, on the second Wednesday of the month.



The Waitakere Ranges Protection
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