



NEWS

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February 2013

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

PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640

www.waitakereranges.org.nz

wrrps@waitakereranges.org.nz

* * * Notice of AGM * * *

The 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Society will be held on
Monday, 18th March, 7pm
Arataki Visitors Centre, Scenic Drive, Titirangi

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Welcome | 5. Annual Report |
| 2. Announcements | 6. Financial Report |
| 3. Apologies | 7. Election of Officers |
| 4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 2012
and Matters arising | 8. General Business |

ADDRESS

"The Environmental Future"

Rod Oram

will moderate a discussion between

Annette Lees, Guy Salmon and Gary Taylor

Rod Oram is a New Zealand journalist writing on corporate, economic and political issues. He is a columnist for *The Sunday Star-Times*, a regular broadcaster on radio and television and a frequent public speaker, and an adjunct professor in the business school at Unitec.

Gary Taylor was a foundation member of WRPS, has served on the executive and has given the Society expert advice on resource management issues for 40 years. He is an environmental policy analyst and is currently the Chairman and Executive Director of the Environmental Defence Society.

Guy Salmon co-founded the Native Forests Action Council in 1975. He led the native forest conservation movement in many campaign successes, culminating in the abolition of the Forest Service and creation of the Department of Conservation in 1987. As chief executive of the Maruia Society and later the Ecologic Foundation, he has focused on the challenge of integrating economic and environmental perspectives in decision-making.

Annette Lees works in the fields of development, conservation and environment in the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. She has directed a major tropical forest conservation programme in the region for NGOs, and has been a member of a number of advisory committees on conservation and development issues for the New Zealand Government.

Your President's Report



As the dry weather continues, the ranges are under a total fire ban, the streams are very low and some flora and fauna are adversely affected. Together with low rainfall, there have been periods of a week or two over the summer with no rain. But it has been a great summer for enjoying the ranges either tramping or swimming and there have been high numbers of visitors on the west coast.

This year marks 40 years since the Society was incorporated on the 27th July 1973. While we can be proud of our achievements, our work will never be done. To document our history and to honour the hundreds of members, friends, supporters and volunteers who have contributed to our success, we have commissioned Trixie and Bruce Harvey to write the history of our first 40 years, and this book will be launched at our 40 year celebrations in July this year.

Saffron Toms, our Heritage Area Coordinator, has returned to work following the birth of her daughter Lily Ngaio Lockie born on Tuesday, 20th November. Lily is our youngest member. We wish Saffron, Tai and Lily all the very best for their new family. Saffron's first report for 2013 can be found in this newsletter.

The Society is preparing submissions to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Resource Management Act Reform Bill, which if passed could see the removal of tree protection on privately owned land in urban areas of the Ranges such as Titirangi and Laingholm. While we await the progress of this bill through parliament, the Property Council of New Zealand's proceedings in the Environment Court which challenge current tree protection rules have been adjourned. We are a party to these proceedings.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in March, and I bring your attention to the evening's address, "The Environmental Future". Our panelists will explore the current and future trends of our environment, and the discussion between Rod, Annette, Guy and Gary promises to be stimulating, informative and important as the Society moves forward to our next 40 years.

John Edgar

President



Photo: Saffron and Lily enjoy a lovely summer day at Cornwallis, January 2013 (Photo credit: Emily De La Hoz)

Heritage Area Coordinator's Report September - November



Kia ora koutou!

So lately... my personal life has taken precedence over the last few months as I welcomed my first child into the world. As featured on page 2, Lily is the light of my life - the light of our lives. With time to adjust to the new demands and privileges of being a mum, I can now approach my roles with renewed enthusiasm. One thing I'd really love to be part of is the preservation of the great and majestic tree, the taonga kauri that we all know and love, so that Lily's and future generations, can continue to enjoy and relish it as we have.

Prior to taking time out to bring Lily into the world

I represented WRPS at the Auckland Council Workshops on new dog bylaws; attended a session devoted to future visions of community collaboration by Auckland Council; continued work on our organisation's social media profile; met with Council staff on the continued spread of kauri dieback disease; wrote a submission on the proposed marathon event by Lactic Turkey Events on the Hillary trail; and continued to monitor such things as the Maui's dolphin issue, among other things.

Most notable is that fortunately the work WRPS and other community groups did to resist the Hillary Trail marathon was fruitful. We were able to prevent the large scale running event from occurring in 2013, thereby protecting our kauri from the increased risk of exposure to kauri dieback disease that was inevitable with so many more people using the Ranges.

Since resuming work

I have worked on the Society's submission on the Draft Annual Plan for Auckland which, unfortunately, almost ignores our most pressing biosecurity and biodiversity issue, kauri dieback disease. Our submission is focussed primarily on demanding that Council allocate sufficient funding and resources to further understand and manage the spread of this unprecedented threat in our forests.

I attended, with Lily, the ceremony accompanying the felling of kauri on the land of Colin McCahon House – a very significant happening as these very trees inspired the now famous and very valuable “kauri” works by the late Titirangi artist.

I am currently doing more networking to keep kauri dieback in the forefront of people's minds. This includes setting up meetings and briefings with Members of Parliament and biosecurity professionals so that *Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis* (PTA) is at the top of the agenda in Parliament.

I have also reignited discussion on the WRPS facebook page – please contribute to this by “liking” our links and commenting, etc. We now have 88 “fans”. The more activity there is on the page, through your interactions, helps to propel our page onto the notice boards of our fans, inciting more activity and thereby more fans.

And I also work on the Society's newsletter. Suggestions and ideas are welcome and you can contact me at saffrontoms@gmail.com (please include WRPS in the subject line).

~ Saffron Toms, Heritage Area Coordinator, WRPS

Progress on the History of the Society book - "Saving the Ranges"

By Trixie Harvey

The text and illustrations for the history of the Society are now with the designer. The 190 page book will be titled "Saving the Ranges" which is really what the Society has been doing for the last 40 years! The committee has decided to keep the price as low as possible to members and ex members, even if this means subsidising the print run. Costs have been kept to a minimum, other than the design, a few professional photographs

and the printing. Society members have been very generous in giving photos, interviews and memorabilia from the past.

New and old members will enjoy finding out about the Society's origin, its victories in the past and the people with the vision who made it happen. The book will have a full index and a list of office holders during the whole history of the Society. The finished book will be ready for the Society's 40th birthday party later in the year.

The Orpheus Commemoration and historical talks 2013

Trixie and Bruce Harvey report on the Orpheus Commemoration held at Whatipu Beach and historical talks at Huia on 7th February 2013

This commemoration was to remember the 170 officers and men, some only boys, who lost their lives on the Manukau bar on the 7th February, 150 years ago, when HMS *Orpheus* was wrecked. The commemoration day was organized by Friends of Whatipu, the Huia Museum and the West Auckland Historical Society.

It was a beautiful day, with light winds and little or no surf. Invited guests were the descendants of the survivors, representatives from the British High Commission, Auckland Council and local boards, the Voyager maritime museum, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Naval Museum, and members of the organizing groups. The general public was invited to attend the morning function at Whatipu Beach. The afternoon historical lectures at the Huia Hall had limited space for casual attendees.

Dave Lawrence of the Titirangi RSA acted as MC and speakers at the beach ceremony were

Te Warena Taua of Te kawerau a Maki, Michael Wynd, naval historian, Sir Bob Harvey, and Wayne MacKenzie. The Rt Rev Ian Woodman chaplain for the Manukau Coastguard concluded the ceremony, and the poet laureate Ian Wedde recited a poem specially written for the occasion. Descendant of a survivor, Jenny Newman from Australia, and Lady Barbara Harvey, a descendant of Captain Wing who was harbourmaster of the Manukau at that time, concluded the ceremony, handing wreaths to the coastguard who took them to sea, near to where the vessel had foundered.

The afternoon speakers at the Huia Hall were Michael Wynd, Bruce Harvey and Sir Bob Harvey. The tales of descendants that had been handed down over generations were shared and recorded by West Auckland historians. These stories will be kept at Mill Cottage Henderson and at the Huia Museum, which has fully renovated its room commemorating the disaster and containing information and artefacts relating to the *Orpheus*.

Kauri Dieback receives much needed media attention

Finally, the plight of the kauri is receiving some media attention!

WRPS has been lobbying on this issue for years, almost to the point that we have gotten a bit self-conscious about repeating ourselves - but guess what? It seems it is finally important!

We are very pleased to see that kauri dieback is receiving some much needed media attention. It is heartening to see that the plight of our beloved kauri is gaining traction.

Unfortunately (though perhaps not surprising to those of us who have been working to save the trees from *Phytophthora taxon Agathis* (PTA or kauri dieback disease)), it is now official that the New Zealand Government has decided not to continue to fund efforts to halt the disease.

Phil Twyford, Labour MP for Te Atatu, got media attention when he and others walked the Hillary Trail in a stunt to raise awareness for kauri dieback disease. And since then, it seems that the future of our taonga tree is now news.

Saffron Toms, Heritage Area Coordinator for WRPS, joined some 50 plus people at the ceremony at Colin McCahon House to honour and farewell some of the trees that inspired the world-famous artist. The trees were to be felled, more victims to PTA.

John Edgar, WRPS President, was also featured on 3News on 24th February, responding to the recent confirmation that the government would no longer be investing in research and/or management programmes to halt the spread of the disease (to view online type <http://bit.ly/Wif1Jr>).

As always, WRPS will continue to work on this issue and urge members to keep the issue in the spotlight by writing to MPs, letters to the editor, blogging on line, among other things.



Above: A council contractor begins to fell a diseased Kauri at Colin McCahon House, French Bay, Titirangi (Photo_©John Chapman 2013)

Below: Concerned local, Angela Fleury, sent WRPS this photo of one of many diseased kauri on her property in Wood Bay, Titirangi.

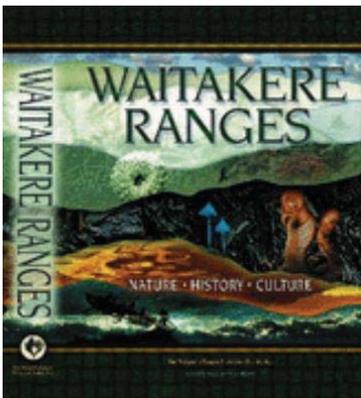


YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	John Edgar Phone: 812 8555	john@johnedgar.co.nz
Vice-President:	Anna Fomison Phone: 838 9665	amfomison@gmail.com
Secretary:	Lynda Williams Phone: 810 9442	witch2@ihug.co.nz
Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:	Sandra Jones Phone: 817 2788	kemsdale@ihug.co.nz
Committee Members:	Trixie Harvey Graeme Ramsay Tim O'Shea Paul Walbran	brutrix@xtra.co.nz gwransay@orcon.net.nz tim.o@ihug.co.nz paul@mgparts.co.nz



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



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AGM 18th March, 7.00pm
details inside