

# WRPS



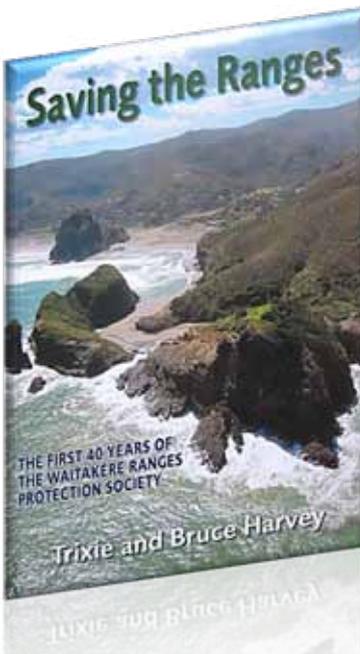
# NEWS

Issue 157

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.  
AGM Edition

May 2013

## 40<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Party and “Saving the Ranges” Book Launch



Please join us to celebrate our first 40 years protecting the Waitakere Ranges. Our celebration will be a time for recollections and good company. Some of the founding members of the Society will share their stories and we will have a display of photographs from the Society’s archives.

“Saving the Ranges”, the first forty years of the Society written by Trixie and Bruce Harvey will be launched and available for sale. Sales will be by cash, cheque or eftpos.

**SUNDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 2PM**

Waitakere Township Hall  
37 Township Road, Waitakere Village

An invitation with more details will be sent to all members closer to the date.  
Inquiries to John Edgar, phone 818 7447(wk)

### Your President’s Report



Forty years ago the Society was holding its first meetings at Te Henga to oppose the Waitemata County Council proposal to start a city rubbish tip in an old quarry in the upper reaches of the Waitakere Stream. That the Society was successful is credit to a community that found the knowledge and resources to oppose the Council.

We can be proud of our successes both then and over the last 40 years. Two years ago the committee decided that it was time to commission a history of the Society and when better to do it than 2013, to celebrate the first 40 years. This book recalls the beginnings of the Society as a small and passionate group of activists campaigning to “Save our Ranges”, and goes on to document the growth

of the Society into a remarkably effective volunteer organisation that continues to be a strong advocate for the conservation and protection of the Waitakere Ranges.

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## Your President's Report continued

We are most grateful for Trixie and Bruce Harvey's offer to research and write our history at no charge to the Society, and after two years this book is a tribute to their extensive knowledge of local history and their dedication to the Society. The book tells of the many people who have contributed to saving 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.

Currently the Society is engaged in preparing written submissions to the Auckland Council draft Unitary Plan, a complex document that will guide

Auckland for the next 30 years. This plan is a new vision for Auckland and the Society and other community groups have many concerns.

I look forward to meeting you at the 40 year celebrations on the 7<sup>th</sup> July at the hall where the Society held its early meetings and sharing with you your recollections. Our advocacy for the Ranges is as important now as it ever has been, and the support of members and friends has never been more necessary.

John Edgar ONZM  
President

## Heritage Area Coordinator's Report



It has been a busy few months for conservationists with several new legislative changes in the pipeline, both from Central and Local Government.

Over the last few months I have submitted on the Draft Annual Plan for Auckland, mainly insisting on more commitment of resources for halting and managing the spread of kauri dieback disease (*Phytophthora taxon Agathis*); I have also organised field trips with Members of Parliament to visit dying kauri in the Auckland Region. I have attended a stakeholders meeting on the allocation of governance of parks in Auckland which revealed that there is little guidance in the legislation on what distinguishes a local park from a Regional Park and how those parks are to be managed. Stakeholders identified more land to be added to the Regional Park network but also argued for clarity and robust legislative direction for the future management of parks as Auckland grows.

More recently, I attended the Waitakere Heritage Area forum on the Unitary Plan held in the Oratia School Hall. The meeting was well attended. Among the concerns raised were problems identified with the new Significant Ecological Area (SEA) overlays which feature on most properties in the Heritage Area. Council staff and politicians

have acknowledged that some erroneous data has contributed to the misapplication of some SEAs on some properties. If you feel as though an SEA has been wrongly placed on your property, or indeed that Council have missed an SEA on your place, you are advised to contact the Council planners.

Overshadowing the rapid local government legislative changes, necessitated under the new 'supercity' structure, is the RMA Reform Bill as well as other discussions by central government which threaten conservation and Auckland's ability to self-govern. In a similar vein, following the government's announcement that they'd open up tenders for exploratory drilling in our marine environment, the Green Party launched their No Drilling campaign at Piha's Bowling Club on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. Piha was chosen to highlight how unprepared NZ is in the event of a leak. The huge spill in the Gulf of Mexico came from exploratory drilling, yet it has been revealed that Maritime New Zealand does not have a subsea response capability, nor will a relief rig be required to be in this country during exploratory drilling.

WRPS has been engaging with these propositions and we are watching with interest to see the implications for how we can achieve and maintain conservation of the Ranges.

Saffron Toms  
Heritage Area Coordinator

THE WAITAKERE RANGES PROTECTION SOCIETY INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
**Arataki Visitors Centre, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2013**

Annual Report of the Executive Committee, Presented by John Edgar, President.

I am pleased to present the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Executive Committee of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Incorporated.

This is a special anniversary year for the Society. It was forty years ago this year that the Society was founded. In early 1973 the first meetings of concerned residents were held at Te Henga to oppose a Council proposed rubbish tip in the old Duck's Quarry in the Waitakere Valley. In a hard fought environmental battle, those activists won, and the Council withdrew the proposal. And as they say, the rest is history. You will be able to read all about it later this year when the Society publishes its forty-year history "Saving the Ranges".

Over the past year the committee has spent a large amount of time and effort working on the new planning documents of Auckland Council. With the Strategic Auckland Plan in place, Council moved to the Long-Term Plan, the Annual Plan and finally the Unitary Plan, a draft of which was released for public submissions on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. We have made or will make extensive submissions on all these plans that will guide the future growth of Auckland.

The Society was an appellant to the Environment Court on Plan Change 35 (Oratia and Waitatarua), 36 (Economic Wellbeing in the ranges), and 37 (Titirangi Village); all are the legacy of Waitakere City Council. These plan changes are a consequence of the Local Area Plans that are provided for in the WRHA Act. We have been in Environment Court mediation with the Council and other parties and all three matters have been resolved by consent notice. We also reached a satisfactory mediated settlement on our appeal of the Dean family consent application for subdivision of their orchard in Holdens Road.

The Government's proposed amendments to the RMA have been a source of great concern, and we have made submissions to the select committee on the RMA Reform Bill, specifically on the matter of urban tree protection and the right to appeal Auckland Council decisions on the Unitary Plan to the Environment Court. We are currently considering the discussion document "Improving our Resource Management system" released by the Ministry for the Environment in February, which proposes further changes to the RMA that we consider will have negative effects on the environment, conservation and protection of the ranges.

A year ago between 8 - 11% of kauri in the ranges were infected with the pathogen *Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis*. A year later the figure has grown to 11-13%. And 65% of infected trees are along walking tracks, an indication that trampers are spreading the disease. For this reason, the Society and other community groups supported the closing of some tracks to isolate areas showing no disease symptoms and opposed the application by Lactic Turkey to hold a running event along the Hillary Trail from Arataki to Muriwai involving up to 850 participants. After considerable effort by

those in opposition, Council declined the application. We have recently learnt that when the current government funding for research and management of the disease runs out in 2014, the Ministry for Primary Industries will be re-evaluating their role. In a recent statement they said, "We know now there is little hope of eradicating kauri dieback. Our focus must therefore be on slowing its spread and protecting our remaining disease-free forests. We need to be planning for 50 years, 100 years from now. To do this, MPI believes a new approach post-2014 is necessary to take the programme from short-term 'response' mode into sustainable long-term management. MPI has decided that its role, and where it can add the most value, is at the national coordination level." In this communication there was no mention of continued funding for the agencies working on the disease.

We remain concerned at proposals by Auckland Council over the past two years that control of the regional park network can be shared in co-governance with local boards in each area, together with suggestions that the regional parks might become simply named local parks. In the past year, some budgeted funding for regional park acquisition has been transferred to local parks and reserves, and the Society is currently preparing submissions to keep the regional park network intact, and in the governance of the Auckland Council.

Our Oral Historian Anna Fomison has progressed this project well. In the past year five new interviews have been completed and lodged with Auckland and Turnbull Libraries, and three more are currently underway. To date 21 interviews have been completed. We have just applied for funding for five more interviews.

It is a year since Saffron Toms took up her position as our Heritage Area Coordinator. This position is funded by a grant from the ASB Community Trust supplemented by tagged donations from members, for which we are very grateful. Saffron has worked on Council plans, community liaison, kauri dieback, marine mammal protection and a number of other issues. She took maternity leave in November 2012 and Saffron and Tai's daughter Lily was born on 20 November. We welcome Lily as the Society's youngest member.

The Society relies on professional consultants to prepare submissions and evidence for us on a range of matters. The *pro bono publico* contribution of our legal counsel Douglas Allan and Joanna van den Bergen from Ellis Gould Ltd., our resource management consultant Gary Taylor and the Environmental Defence Society is invaluable. Thanks also to James Hook at Meridian Planning who has advised the executive and represented the Society on various resource consent and planning matters. And once again our thanks go to Jenny Taylor who has maintained our membership database and coordinated mail-outs for many years.

The executive committee has met on the second Tuesday of the month. During the year, committee member Nardia Yozin resigned after she found fulltime employment as a planner for DoC in the South Island. We were very sad to hear in August that Graeme Ramsay, the longest-serving committee member since 1995, had a serious stroke and he is still in care. We miss Graeme's hosting of our monthly committee meetings, his scientific knowledge and his enthusiasm

for the Society's work. We wish him a good recovery, but unfortunately he is unable to stand for the committee this year. 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 time over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I would like this meeting to join with me in showing our appreciation for your efforts on our behalf.

Special thanks go to our Vice-President Anna Fomison, Secretary and fundraiser Lynda Williams and Treasurer Sandra Jones. Sandra has also edited and produced our quarterly newsletter with help from Saffron. The Society currently has two Patrons, Emeritus Professor Dick Bellamy and the Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hunt. It has been my honour to be President and to chair the executive committee for the past fifteen years. I want to thank Society members and my family and friends for their support which has enabled me to better serve the Society.

Thanks must also go to Bruce and Trixie Harvey for volunteering to research and write the forty-year history of the Society *pro bono*. Bruce and Trixie also edited the Waitakere Ranges book, and there are now 104 books in stock.

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 and these funds are currently tagged for future publications.

During the year five long-time members of the Society died and our condolences go to the families and friends of Leny Blokland, Janetta Newhook, Monica Asher, Doris Dutch and Don Binney. Don joined the Society on his return from England in 1973, and was an ardent supporter until his death. As an artist he had a deep understanding of the Waitakere Ranges, the west coast and the native birds as his iconic paintings and drawings show. He gave the Society two print editions to sell to raise funds for our campaigns, and his support, passion, and art will always be remembered.

This year we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To the members and friends who were there when the Society was founded in 1973, and the many others who have joined since we would like to express our thanks for your support over the years. The Society has a history that we can be proud of, but our work is not done. While the Heritage Area Act has made some matters more certain for both landowners, developers and the Society, some proposed changes to the RMA, if passed, will have adverse effects on the landscape and environment of the ranges. Your support will be more important than ever.

For that reason, we decided to ask Rod Oram to moderate a discussion tonight with Annette Lees, Guy Salmon and Gary Taylor on the subject "The Environmental Future", and we look forward to hearing their analysis of current trends and their predictions for the years ahead.

John Edgar,

President

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

## Financial Report to the 2013 AGM

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Incorporated  
Statement of Financial Position  
As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
ASB Bank – FstSver (N&JSmith Fund interest)	2,851	1,677
ASB Bank – Short Term Deposit	20,000	128,169
Kiwibank - 00 Account (H.A.C.)	11,747	5,240
Kiwibank - 01 Account (Operating)	16,928	5,370
Kiwibank - 02 Account (Waitakere Book)	3,426	2,448
Kiwibank - Short Term Deposits	201,092	96,496
GST Refund Due	-	106
Accounts Receivable	144	46
Accrued Income	10,612	6,809
Stock on Hand – Finished Goods	<u>3,085</u>	<u>3,460</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>269,885</b>	<b>249,821</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	<u>2,407</u>	<u>3,132</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>272,292</b>	<b>252,953</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	2,201	2,200
GST Due for payment	<u>1,307</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>3,508</u></b>	<b><u>2,200</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>268,784</u></b>	<b><u>250,753</u></b>
Represented by:		
<b>TRUSTEES FUNDS</b>		
Retained Earnings	<u>268,784</u>	<u>250,753</u>
<b>TOTAL TRUSTEES FUNDS</b>	<b><u>268,784</u></b>	<b><u>250,753</u></b>

Copies of the Audited Financial Statements are available on request from the Treasurer Ph: 817 2788  
Auditor: McGregor Bailey, Chartered Accountants

### NOTES:

#### Bank accounts:

##### Operating account

Total: \$16,928

##### Reserves (land acquisition) account

Term Deposits totalling \$52,196.

##### Waitakere book account

Total: \$3,426 + \$148,895 held in Term Deposits.

This is being accumulated to cover the costs of a possible reprint (or second edition) of the *Waitakere Ranges* book in the next few years. A portion of the interest earned on these Term Deposits over the last 3 years will be used to subsidise the publication of the history of the Society, which will be on sale in mid-2013.

##### H.A.C. (Heritage Area Coordinator) account

Total: 11,747 (ASB Community Trust Grant)

##### Fast Saver Account - Neil & Jean Smith Fund

The original donation (\$20,000) is held as capital and the interest earned (current balance \$2,851) is employed for special projects.

##### Stock on hand – value \$3,085.

This consists primarily of residual copies of our book *Waitakere Ranges*.

**Accrued income** - \$10,612. This represents the anticipated income from Term Deposits in the next financial year.

**Fixed Assets** - value \$2,407. Equipment purchased in 2009 from NZ Lottery Grants Board and ASB Community Trust grants (laptop computer, data projector and screen, digital recorder, mobile display).

**Total Trustees Funds** combines \$250,753 carried forward from previous years, with \$18,031 excess income over expenditure in the current year. A major part of this money (\$221,091.52) is held in tagged funds – the Reserves fund for land acquisition, the Neil and Jean Smith fund, and the Book fund tagged for future publications.

## Introducing WRPS's new Patron: LYNNE PILLAY



WRPS is delighted to introduce our new patron, former Member of Parliament for Waitakere, Lynne Pillay.

A familiar face to many WRPS members, Lynne says one of the highlights of her political career was her involvement in the passing of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act (2008). Lynne was responsible for the passage through Parliament of that Act which she says, "was the culmination of so much work by so many," and the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society have played a vital advocacy and leadership role for decades".

Lynne's other areas of interest are around social justice and advocating for opportunities to ensure all new Zealanders are able to reach their full potential. Lynne works for the Housing Foundation, a charitable trust which assists low

and medium income families to purchase their first home.

Lynne is proud to have played her part in ensuring the iconic Waitakere Ranges are protected for generations to come whilst in Parliament and continues that trajectory in this new role as Patron for the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.



*From left to right: WRPS Committee Members, Bruce and Trixie Harvey are joined by (now former) Prime Minister Helen Clark and (now former) Waitakere MP Lynne Pillay at the WRPS stall at Ecoday circa 2008.*

## Introducing WRPS's new Committee Members



### Mike Sweeney

Born in the borders in Scotland in 1941, Mike went to sea as an Engineer before migrating to New Zealand in 1967. In 1973 Mike became a Union Official for the Engineers Union. He retired in 2009.

Mike has been actively involved in numerous social issues as well as having a particular interest in causes that have an effect on the environment. Mike is passionate about the protection of the Waitakere ranges and is excited to serve on the WRPS Committee.



### Jean Berry

Since arriving in NZ from England as a child, Jean has lived in the Swanson Foothills. She has fond memories of exploring the West Coast beaches with her family as a child and indulging in the Ranges "great beauty". Jean has witnessed the slow but sure incursion of subdivision through much dense bush, including the arrival of the "10 acre block" in the 1970s.

Jean has a background in civil engineering and environmental technology and is currently President of Preserve the Swanson Foothills Society which has been resisting further subdivision in the Swanson Foothills since its formation in 2001.

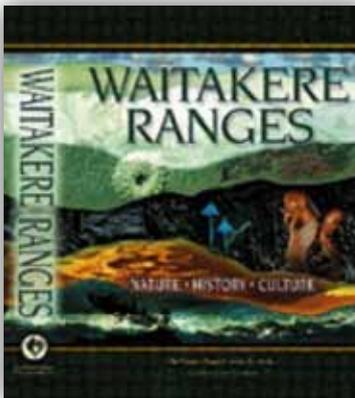
## YOUR COMMITTEE

<b>President:</b>	John Edgar Phone: 812 8555	john@johndegar.co.nz
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Anna Fomison Phone: 838 9665	amfomison@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lynda Williams Phone: 810 9442	witch2@ihug.co.nz
<b>Treasurer &amp; Newsletter Editor:</b>	Sandra Jones Phone: 817 2788	kemsdale@ihug.co.nz
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Trixie Harvey Jean Berry Mike Sweeney Tim O'Shea Paul Walbran	brutrix@xtra.co.nz jeanbee@xtra.co.nz mike.sweeney41@gmail.com 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.

Website: [www.waitakereranges.org.nz](http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz)

Email: [wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz)



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(2) Make online payment to Kiwibank Acc/ No. 38-9010-0379887-02

**Cheque:** Please send your order and cheque to: The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc., PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640



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