



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
wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz

MEET THE LOCAL BODY ELECTION CANDIDATES

Waitakere Ward and Waitakere Ranges & Henderson-Massey Local Boards
Whau Ward and Whau Local Board

WRPS and Forest & Bird Waitakere Branch
will co-host a Local Body election meeting at

Kelston Community Centre
Corner Awaroa Rd and Great North Road, Sunnyvale

7.30 pm, Thursday 19th September 2013

Candidates will be invited to answer questions on green matters. This is an opportunity to see how they shape up on issues important to West Auckland's environment before you cast your vote.

Your President's Report



It was great to see so many members and friends at the 40th anniversary celebrations on the 7th July. The hall where the Society held some of its first meetings was

filled with people, many of whom had not seen their friends for some years, and hence there was a lot to catch up on during the afternoon. The launch of *Saving the Ranges*, the 40 year history of the Society written by Trixie and Bruce Harvey went well and many copies were sold. Details of how to obtain further copies directly from the Society are included in further on in this newsletter.

At the anniversary the Society presented Honour Certificates to Dave and Barbara Harre, Geoff Davidson, Graeme Ramsay, Peter Maddison, Graeme Murdoch, Lynne Pillay, Dorothy Wilson, June Henderson and Ted Scott for their outstanding contributions to conservation in the ranges. Since 2003 we have presented 32 certificates.

Many volunteers helped to make the afternoon a success, and the enthusiasm and good company of all those who attended showed that the Society is in a strong position to ensure our next 40 years are even more successful.

With the Local Body elections on the 12th October, the roadsides have begun to fill up with campaign hoardings, and it is clear that these elections will have a wide range of candidates. WRPS and Forest and Bird Waitakere Branch will co-host an election meeting at the Kelston Community Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 September where the public will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates on matters related to conservation and protection of the environment.

Three members of the committee attended a meeting at the Auckland Museum on the 6th August, where five people spoke on the cultural and environmental importance of kauri trees and the science behind the disease that is killing them. The meeting was very well attended and the key-note address by Professor Giles Hardy from Murdoch University, Western Australia showed that their research into *Phytophthora* species is of great importance to New Zealand. A report on this meeting, written by Trixie Harvey, is included in this newsletter.

The Society is very disappointed that our submissions to the Local Government and Environmental Select Committee on the RMA Reform Bill have been largely rejected. We submitted in opposition to two aspects of the bill; namely the removal of tree protection in urban areas of the Waitakere Ranges and the lack of provision to appeal Auckland Unitary Plan decisions to the Environment Court. The bill will proceed to Parliament for its third reading without the amendments that we proposed.

On the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Bill we opposed the provision that allows the Minister of Housing to establish Special Housing Areas outside the Rural Urban Boundary. We submitted that Special Housing Areas should be excluded from the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area, and that if a conflict should arise, then the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act should prevail. These submissions were not accepted, however the WRHAA has been recognised as a matter that decision makers are required to have regard to.

In July, the Society was very pleased to receive a grant of \$3551.89 from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board towards our Oral History project. This will allow us to do another three interviews of people who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and protection of the Ranges. We are always happy to receive suggestions of people who we should interview. The interviews are available from the Auckland and Turnbull Libraries.

John Edgar
President



Photo: Tony Dunn

Trixie & Bruce Harvey at 40th Anniversary party

Review of *Saving the Ranges* Speaking Truth to Power

Murray Gray, gonewestbooks.com
Programme Director, Going West Books & Writers
Courtesy of *The Fringe*, July 2013

This quite modern phrase came from the post-war Quaker movement and was used as a title for Lawrence Simmons' collection of essays on the nature and purpose of 'public intellectuals'.

It would have been a great sub-title for Trixie and Bruce Harvey's most recent book about the history of the Ranges.

The book is called *Saving the Ranges: The first 40 years of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society*, published by the society and due to be launched this month. It is a paperback book of 168 pages, \$35.00, and is in a larger format than usual. This gives it a sense of heft that good books always have – even paperbacks. And, let's face it, it is a pragmatic and transparent title that tells the story!

If there is one thing that I learned from this book it was that the power of like-minded people, enhanced with a dash of intellectual weight, can challenge The State and win. Starting in the '70s such a group coalesced around the home of potter Jeff Scholes at Bethells. Its common purpose was to halt the plan by the local body, at that time Waitemata County Council, to develop a 'sanitary landfill' rubbish-tip at Te Henga. This would have

Some Comments & a Correction from our Readers

discharged leachate in the river and lagoon and surrounding wet-lands. It had a projected life of 30 years after which, about now, it would be remediated and a sports field developed for the community. Plans had been initiated to widen roads and bridges to handle the expected heavy traffic. All this took place out of the public eye and with no consultation with people who would have their lives wrecked by this 'monstrous tip'.

It was this decade that saw environmental attitudes morph from flower power to public suasion, from exploitation to sustainability, from selfishness to generosity, from global to local. It became a personal issue as people realised that without concerted action the council would win by default. It was hard work at first but as the society attracted more support there arose a group of conservationists with the legal and scientific weight to mount the case in the courts and develop the society into a potent lobby group that has led the challenge against thoughtless development in the Ranges.

By the '80s the rest of the country had caught up with the now mature conservation ethic that WRPS had been advocating for some years. The society's concerns expanded to encompass the broader issues of planning in the whole of the Ranges and educational activities aimed at a wider public were initiated. The involvement in public activities such as invasive plants and extensive propagating and planting of native trees were carried out. There was a continuing battle to promote legislation that favoured the Ranges and to confront that which endangered them.

The third decade was one of unremitting submissions and appeals but there was a new eco broom at council. That meant even more lobbying, submitting, arguing and compromising. New issues came at speed – tourism in the ranges, subdividing on the coast, invasive weeds, the painted apple moth, etc. but the main battle was to protect the Ranges by legislation, stopping any further exploitation. By now WRPS had become a sophisticated and effective conservation lobby appearing in many legal forums arguing for the rights of the Ranges.

The 21st century has given the us the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act, the end of Waitakere City, kauri die back, the *Waitakere Ranges* book and, with WRPS, an organisation that has honed the tools of appeal and remonstrance to a fine art. This is a fascinating account of a group of people who, affronted by a crude and callous decision of 'good solid men', responded with argument, reason and good sense to make changes that still echo in our backyard.

Erratum Arnold Turner pointed out that in *Saving the Ranges* it was erroneously said that he was involved in the Centennial Park in 1941, whereas it should have been in 1961. He reminded the author that he was still at school in 1941!

Comments

One of our members, Bob Ussher, on reading *Saving the Ranges* wrote to us with some comments from a lifetime of recollections of tramping in the Waitakeres.

Wadham's farm and the Long Road

Prior to the purchase of the farm by the ARA, the Tramping Club tried to sneak through Rolly's farm using his farm road, hoping they wouldn't be caught, but they often were! The Auckland walkway committee arranged to put a walkway through the farm property on the old legal but unformed road. This did not go on the ridge line, but down in the gully through wetland, but users did not like it. The farm was purchased by the ARA in 1993 and given the name Pae o te Rangi. The Long Road access runs from Bethells Road to the Park boundary on the former farm road on the ridge. On this high part of the Long Road is located the stone memorial seat to Sylvia Happy.

Big Muddy Creek Bush

This area had no Maori name, as indicated by the iwi. The Tramping Club called it Big Muddy Bush, and the Maori name was invented for it by local Maori.

Pig Control in the 1990s

The Waitakere operations were divided into four parts and contractors allocated to each one. The part near the Alpine Sports Club at Anawhata Road was allocated to a three-hunter gang who used the hut as a base during weekdays for a month at a time. The hunters told us how many pigs were shot. There were many at the start of the cull and they had to leave the bodies where they fell and mark the spot with a GPS location on the map. They said that they did not get to take any meat home. This will be a never-ending job as angry recreational hunters release young pigs so as to have some sport. During the cull the hunters' dogs wore radio signal collars so they could be located if lost. Some of the hunters' accounts of this work are recorded in the Alpine Sports Club hut book.

The Hillary Trail

From Swanson the Trail does go through using the Bethells NZ Walkway from Bethells Road to Constable Road on to Muriwai Village. People are not advised to do this section, especially during winter months as they can be caught out by darkness.

WRPS 40th Anniversary Party



Photo: Tony Dunn

WRPS Patron, Lynne Pillay, cuts the 40th anniversary cake with President John Edgar watching on

About 100 people came to the Waitakere Hall on 7th July 2013 for the WRPS 40th anniversary. The hall in Waitakere Village was the place where WRPS was formed back in 1973, so it is traditional to return there for our significant occasions. We were blessed with a beautiful day, and the committee turned up early to get the hall ready for the celebration. With plants from Geoff and Bev Davidson at Oratia Nursery, and posters illustrating the Society's history from the archives, the hall looked festive and welcoming. Tables and chairs occupied the main part of the hall, with drinks, including mulled wine, being served at one end, and a long table in the adjoining room bearing a luscious afternoon tea supplied by members of the society. On one side of the main hall a table was set up selling the Society's merchandise, chief among them for this occasion being copies of the newly published WRPS history *Saving the Ranges* by Trixie and Bruce Harvey. On the stage committee member Tim O'Shea had set up a continuous slide show of historical events and people.

Many people who had contributed greatly to WRPS in the past were present. We were delighted to see great warriors from the 1970s and 80s, including Juliet Batten, Warwick Brown, Dick Bellamy, Dave McKay, and Colleen Pilcher. WRPS president John Edgar welcomed all and introduced our new patron Lynne Pillay, the sponsor of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act. Lynne joins our other patrons Professor Dick Bellamy and Jonathan Hunt. John then presented WRPS Honours Certificates to 10 more eco warriors. Recognition of the work of conservationists in the community is a happy feature of

WRPS birthday celebrations. Congratulations to all of them.

Afternoon tea was served and Lynne cut into a special birthday cake for the Society's 40th. Many memories of hard work and comradeship were shared and all present wished the Society strength to continue the work of protecting the Ranges for the next 40 years. Altogether it was a memorable occasion for the Society's members past and present.

Trixie Harvey



Photo: Tony Dunn

Vice-President Anna Fomison presenting an Honours Certificate to June Henderson



Photo: Tony Dunn



Photo: Ted Scott

Members and friends at the Society's 40th Anniversary celebrations, Waitakere Village Hall, 7 July 2013

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.

Auckland Conversations: Seminar on Kauri Dieback

held at the Auckland Museum 6th August 2013

The seminar was introduced by Councillor Sandra Coney, who gave a brief account of the history of kauri milling in the Waitakere Ranges.

Te Warena Taua of the Te Kawerau Iwi Tribal Authority presented the iwi point of view of kauri, how it was regarded as a special species, an ancestor of the people and the representative of Tane the spirit of the forest. The Maori used the wood from kauri to carve their tribal ancestors, as represented by the pou at Arataki and other sites in the Waitakeres.

Dr Bruce Burns, a kauri ecologist, then gave the background to the species of *Agathis*, and its relatives in other Southern Hemisphere countries. The ecology of kauri forests in northern New Zealand, its effect on soil, its companion species, and the scientific value of dendrochronology using kauri, for dating of events in New Zealand history such as the Taupo eruption which has been accurately dated to 232 +/- 5 A.D. He also pointed out that kauri, although often regarded as a slow growing species, had been shown to be capable of fast growth under ideal conditions.

Dr Nick Waipara, from Auckland Council biosecurity team, then recounted how Auckland Council was managing the current outbreak. His maps showed clearly the sites of kauri dieback in Auckland and Northland, and particularly in the Waitakere Ranges where dieback was concentrated in areas within 50m of tracks, implicating human use as a major factor in its spread. He also showed that the Hunua Ranges were currently unaffected and emphasised how important it was to keep infection out of this area. Other vectors were also mentioned such as feral pigs, which could be responsible for isolated outbreaks in remote spots. He detailed the Council's present policies to limit the spread of kauri dieback, including decontamination of boots, tools and vehicles, and the track closures.

Dr Giles Hardy, from Murdoch University Western Australia, talked about WA's extensive experience in combating *Phytophthora* infestation of native forests in

the state. The forests affected are mainly *Eucalyptus* and *Banksia* woodlands and the *Phytophthora* species causing dieback there were thought initially to be *P. cinnamomi*, *P. citricola*, or *P. multivora* but have now been shown to be caused by many species of *Phytophthora*, including some that were previously unknown to science. The organisms are microscopic, and very similar in appearance. Identification by DNA sequencing has enabled many new species to be recognised. All species of *Phytophthora* are parasitic and attack many different plants, but they vary in their virulence in different species. An important discovery was that some plants can harbour the resting spores of the fungus and remain apparently healthy, but provide a reservoir of infection particularly during drought. In NZ companion species that might harbour the infection have not been identified. In WA they have also identified individuals within the affected forest species that are more resistant to infection and have used these to start breeding more resistant genotypes. Dr Hardy also said that he thought NZ could benefit from more extensive use of phosphite, which has been successfully used to treat individual infected trees. It could be used, he suggested, in small areas within Auckland where infected trees

were identified. He also said that in WA they were experimenting with spraying whole areas with phosphite, a mass application which has some problems but is showing some interesting results. He also said that in many communities in WA volunteers were helping with application of phosphite enabling larger areas to be treated. He also had some slides showing that improving nutrition of the trees in infected areas improved their chances of survival when infected.

The seminar was very useful, upgrading our knowledge of what is being currently done and introducing some good new ideas about further ways in which we could combat kauri dieback in Waitakere and Northland forests. It is significant that present government funding for research into the disease, expires next year. New ideas and new initiatives are needed to persuade the government and the council to continue funding.

Trixie Harvey

Kauri Dieback Symposium

Phytophthora Information Group

30 November 2013, 9.00am - 5.00pm

Public welcome, free

Register by phone 0800 695 2874

or by email to: biosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

The University of Auckland, Engineering Lecture Theatre

Go to www.kauridieback.co.nz

Making a Bequest to WRPS

Over the past years we have received enquiries from members and friends who wish to leave a bequest to the Society in their will, and as a result the Society has benefitted. We feel that the time is right to make a clearer statement about different ways to make bequests, and we would welcome your enquiries.

Introduction Since its formation in 1973, WRPS has acted as the conservation watchdog for the Waitakere Ranges and the West Coast. The Society's fundamental goals are:

- The conservation and protection of Auckland's western forest and coastline from degradation.
- To enhance environmental values and restore degraded areas to ecological health.
- To see the region managed by a unified and consistent philosophy of protection.
- To provide an unequivocal voice speaking for this area of exceptional natural heritage.

In 2008 we succeeded in getting special legislation passed to better protect this unique area. However our work continues to ensure that the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act is implemented effectively and that any changes in governance do not compromise it.

The Ranges face unprecedented pressure from development, invasive weeds and pests, and unmanaged visitor numbers.

By remembering Waitakere Ranges Protection Society in your will, you will be helping to ensure that the Society's work can continue effectively for years to come.

Drawing up your will

It is important that you consult your solicitor, Guardian Trust or Public Trust office for advice in drawing up your will.

Making a bequest for a targeted purpose or for general support

There are a number of ways in which you can support our work in your will:

- (a) by making a general gift which gives us the flexibility to respond to protection issues as they arise;
- (b) by making a gift in your will targeted for a specific purpose.

We would be happy to discuss the best options, for you and for the Society, in confidence.

Your gift may take the form of:

Residue

Having made provision for your family and others, you may consider leaving the Society the residue, or part thereof, of your estate. This could be expressed in percentage terms *or* as a specified sum of money *or* as assets such as real estate, shares, bonds, etc.

Gift of a Natural Area

If you wish to consider leaving a gift of a natural area it is advisable to discuss this with the Society in advance. The Society would need to consider how it would care for the area gifted, for example whether it would be possible for you to make provision in your will for a fund to cover the ongoing maintenance of the property.

Gift of money to be held in a named Endowment Fund in perpetuity

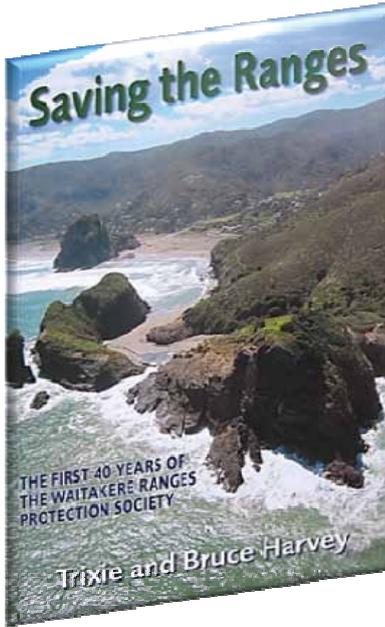
This is a legacy that keeps on giving. The gift would be invested as capital and held in a Fund in perpetuity. The Fund would bear the giver's name unless otherwise specified. The Society would be able to use the interest earned to fund its work. A portion of the income could be reinvested as capital to ensure that the original gift is not devalued over time by inflation.

Example from Nevill's *Will Drafting Handbook*

Bruce Douglas, Nicky Richardson, Sarah Parsons
Publisher: LexisNexis 6th edition June 2011

I give the sum of \$... to *[name]* Society for its general purposes *[for the purposes of Specify purpose]*. I direct the receipt of any responsible officer of the Society to be a full discharge to my trustees.

I further declare that if at my death *[or at the date of distribution of my residuary estate]* any charity named in my will does not exist or has amalgamated with another charity or has changed its name such legacy or residuary gift shall not fail but my trustees shall pay it to the charitable organisation which they consider most nearly fulfils the objects I intended to benefit. The decisions of my trustees in this regard shall be final and binding.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or email (in case of queries): _____

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

**Have you seen this bird?
Red-vented bulbul**



Photo: Anton Croos

We need your help. Red-vented bulbuls are in Auckland, and the number of areas they are being found in is growing. These are an aggressive pest bird and we want to eradicate them before they get

established. We urgently need to get reports of sightings of red-vented bulbuls as soon as they are seen.

So far we have recent confirmed reports in four main clusters in Auckland:

1. Māngere, Manurewa, Alfriston
2. Henderson, Massey, Te Atatu
3. Belmont, Takapuna
4. Whangaparāoa Peninsular

In addition they have also been reported in the Waitakeres in late May/early June.

This bird is the size of a starling. The one key feature that distinguishes red-vented bulbuls from other birds commonly found in New Zealand is a small patch of bright red feathers beneath the tail. It also has a very unusual and distinctive call – which you can hear on: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/red-vented-bulbul>. If you see or hear any unusual bird, **please call 0800 809966** immediately. If you can, take a photo.

Please distribute this information to your network of neighbours and friends. We need your help to get more reports of locations to find these birds before it is too late.

Thank you for your assistance.

Department of Conservation Auckland Area Office
in conjunction with Auckland Council & Ministry of Primary Industries

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 Mike Sweeney Jean Berry	brutrix@xtra.co.nz gwramsay@orcon.net.nz tim.o@ihug.co.nz paul@mgparts.co.nz mikesweeney41@gmail.com jean.jigby@gmail.com



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



The Waitakere Ranges Protection
Society Inc.

PO Box 15668, New Lynn
Auckland 0640