



*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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## Notice of AGM

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, 7pm** Arataki Visitors Centre, Scenic Drive, Titirangi

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Announcements
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 2013 and Matters arising
5. Annual Report
6. Financial Report
7. Election of Officers
8. General Business

**Speaker:** Graeme Murdoch "Te Wao nui a Tiriwa"

### Maori place names in the Waitakere Ranges and their relationship to the former ecology

Graeme Murdoch has an MA (Hons) in History and is currently a self-employed historic heritage consultant, having previously worked as historian and then Director of Heritage at the Auckland Regional Council 1988-2006. Graeme has researched, lectured and written extensively on many aspects of Auckland's human history for forty years and has a special interest in the region's built heritage, local history, Maori history, place names and traditions. He was a co-author of *A Field Guide to Auckland* and *Volcanoes of Auckland - The Essential Guide*, and author of *Dreamers of the Day: A History of Auckland's Regional Parks*.

## Your President's Report



It has been a relatively hot and dry summer in the ranges and many visitors have taken advantage of the excellent conditions for tramping and swimming.

However the prolonged dry conditions put the ranges on high fire alert, and on January 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a serious bush fire at Karekare. It could have been far worse in such a dry summer, and we have the volunteer fire crews and the helicopter pilots with the monsoon buckets to thank for bringing the fire under control by the end of the day. Members of the public and the surf club were also involved.

The fire started at the top of the waterfall track, possibly from a discarded cigarette, expanded rapidly through the dry undergrowth, burnt nearly all the flora and fauna on the eastern face of Cave Rock and continued to the top of Zion Ridge. All the trees, shrubs and flax have gone. Thousands of native land snails are dead, their burnt shells lying everywhere. Myriad insects will have perished. Many of the memorial trees that the community had planted over the past years were incinerated. Those who remember the effects of the last fire in the same place in 1983 will know that the consequences will be felt for many years to come.

I have arranged to meet with Auckland Council this month to discuss an active management and restoration program in which the community can be involved.

Our new website is currently being designed by Think Red, Anna Fomison is writing content and Tim O'Shea is organising images. The new site will be a great improvement and will allow better access to the Society's information.

The Society's planning and legal team are currently completing our submission on the Auckland Council Proposed Unitary Plan which is due on 28 February. We will also be making submissions to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board Annual Plan due on 24 February.

Auckland Council has granted a consent to the Hillary Trail Run Charitable Trust to hold a running race of 500 people along the Hillary Trail on 29 March this year. An application for a similar event in 2013 was declined by Auckland Council because of the risk of spread of kauri dieback.

This year the consent application was not notified, and there has been no consultation with the Waitakere Ranges Local Board or the many groups who opposed the event in 2013. These groups have little to reassure them that this event will not exacerbate the spread of kauri dieback. Despite requests, there has to date been no information made available about a risk management assessment and other aspects of the consent that would allow an understanding of why this event was approved.

The Society has appointed Christine Rose as our new Heritage Area Coordinator. Christine's profile later in this newsletter will show that she is very well qualified to work for the Society on Council matters, which includes attending meetings, writing submissions and liaising with community groups. Christine takes over from Saffron Toms who resigned when she was elected to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board last year.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you a very happy new year. Thank you again for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM this year.

*John Edgar  
President*

## 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](mailto:wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz)). You will have the added advantage of being able to view the photographs in full and glorious colour.

## Heritage Area coordinator (HAC)



Christine Rose has been a lifelong environmental advocate, and with a rural upbringing, has been taking action for animals and nature from an early age. She has lived on the northern flanks of the Waitakere Ranges foothills for most of her life, and agrees the Ranges are a taonga for us all, but a treasure that should be handed on intact – te tuku iho, and we should as much as possible, leave the land undisturbed – toitu te whenua.

Christine has a political background, with 15 years in local and regional government. She has been Deputy Mayor of Rodney District Council, Deputy Chair of the Auckland Regional Council, and Chair of the Auckland Regional Council's Transport and Urban Development Committee, and the Regional Transport Committee. She was Deputy Chair of the ARC's parks and Heritage Committee. She graduated from the University of Auckland with First Class Honours in Political Science, with a double major in Philosophy, and has other environmental qualifications. She says we need to develop a sound ethical and empathetic relationship with nature to live morally and sustainably with each other and Mother Earth.

Christine is an environmental and political activist with particular passion for marine conservation, sustainability, the arts and public transport. She puts her beliefs into practice through campaigning, education, community development, awareness raising and living a sustainable lifestyle. She is also a writer on environmental and political issues.

Christine supports environmental education, believing people who know about their local ecosystems are more inclined to care for them, and she strongly recognises the value of art in achieving environmental ends. Christine believes the state of our marine environment is our greatest contemporary issue. She's been a campaigner for our local Maui's dolphins for about 15 years. In that time, the dolphins have received gradually more protection, though "it's not

enough. Maui's can't sustain more human induced mortality if the species is to survive. Our work to save Maui's is not done."

In her spare time, Christine tramps, camps, kayaks and cycles, and is an artist and aspiring musician. She aims to walk every one of the 260km of tracks in the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, and has about 30km of tracks to go before achieving that goal.

## Revamp of the Society's website

www.waitakereranges.org.nz is about to look very different. We are in the final stages of a website revamp that will give the Society a new website and a fresh online presence. Towards the end of 2013 I took over the Website Upgrade project that had been on the back-burner for several years.

The original website that you can see online now has served us well over the years as a basic information site but the Society needed to update its approach to fit the rapidly changing online world and have a more contemporary interface.

Along with the able assistance of fellow committee member Tim O'Shea, we headed into the world of website design armed with a brief to find a design company that could create a new website that would:

- increase awareness of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, its works and its history;
- increase awareness of the Waitakere Ranges - the
- land, history, geology, biology, creative inspiration, vulnerability and current threats;
- provide educational resources and an online shop;
- communicate current issues;
- engage with visitors to the site and attract a younger demographic; and
- be an awesome site.

We approached three suppliers and one company stood out as understanding what the Society is about and what we wanted. Think Red, based in Devonport, are primarily a design company who also design websites. Their proposal was for a website that can be viewed either on a large monitor or a phone, that would use some of the spectacular images of the Ranges, improve functionality and hopefully help us increase membership and donations. We'll get regular reporting from it too.

We have signed off the initial design and at the moment I am working in partnership with Think Red to provide the content and images for the pages. Tim, Sandra Jones and John Edgar are also involved in providing feedback. If all goes according to plan the

site will be "live" by the end of March. There is no change to our website address. In a few weeks you will see the new site when you click on the usual link [www.waitakereranges.org.nz](http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz).

If you have any questions or comments about this project please feel free to contact me at [amfomison@gmail.com](mailto:amfomison@gmail.com).

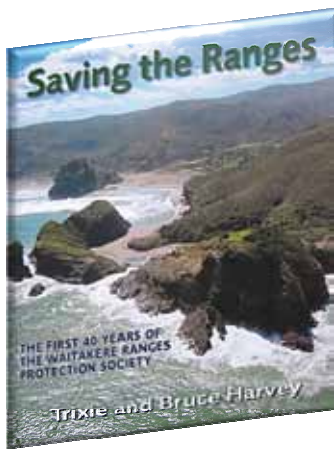
*Anna M Fomison*

## Report on Auckland Council Pest Liaison Meeting 5 February

A talk given by Malcolm Harrison from the community relations biosecurity team restated the basic principles of setting up a plant pest control voluntary group. There are several successful groups working now in the Waitakere Ranges. Malcolm said how important it was to have a plan which was specific and took into account the capacity of the group to do the necessary follow up.

Another talk was by Jack Crow, head of biosecurity at Auckland Council and formerly ARC. For many years Jack has been a great advocate for pest control in the Waitakeres, leading the Councils into programmes that have benefitted the Ranges enormously, and supporting voluntary efforts. Unfortunately we are losing him in the next month, as he moves to Northland to continue his valuable work there. His successor, Brett Butland, is equally enthusiastic about restoration projects in the Ranges. Jack has always been on the lookout for more effective methods to reduce the pest load, and his talk outlined the use of sodium nitrite as a pest control tool. With low toxicity to humans and other animals, no secondary poisoning problems, and particularly humane, this poison provides a new tool for targeting feral pigs especially. Pigs are a real problem in the Waitakeres; they are a vector for kauri dieback, and recently it has been shown that their droppings may carry kauri dieback as well as the spread by their rooting behaviour. Pig hunters have resisted the application of poisons, so Auckland Council employs a band of hunters who do an excellent job, but it is still impossible to reduce pig numbers below a certain minimum, without huge intensification of hunting pressure, which the Council cannot afford. This new poison may be the answer. The only down side is that the effective dose is comparatively large and must be delivered at one time. Sub lethal doses are quickly and harmlessly removed from the pig's body and leave no ill effects, so the pig does not become bait shy. The Council is experimenting in the next few months to get an effective way of delivering the lethal dose and testing its effectiveness.

*Trixie Harvey*



## **Saving the Ranges**

**Price: \$35.00**

**+ \$5.00 p&p**

### **Payment instructions:**

#### **Online:**

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

#### **Cheque:**

Send your order & cheque to: The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckl 0604

## **YOUR COMMITTEE**

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



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