

WRPS NEWS



Issue 178

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

August 2018

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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President's Report

As I write this report today, it is yet again cold and raining in the ranges, and spring seems distant. However, looking across the valley I observe that the native trees have new growth and the forest is taking on a brighter green hue.

The Society continues our appeal in the environment court regarding the reinstatement of prohibited activity in some areas of the ranges. While this has been a long campaign, beginning with the Unitary Plan hearings in 2014 and then the High Court appeal in 2016, we are hopeful of a good outcome that we will be able to report on in our next newsletter.

Our Heritage Act history project progresses well, if a little slower than we had anticipated, as acquiring the historic images in high resolution scans from library and museum archives and writing the captions takes time. We are very appreciative of the work that the publisher, Oratia Media, have done to date and their continued patience with this final part of the project. Since the longer manuscript and images have extended the project considerably, we have made new grant applications in the past month to ensure that the e-book can still be made freely available.

Kauri dieback is our greatest ecological threat. West Auckland conservation groups, communities and iwi are working together to ensure that everything is done to educate the public, and to bring our concerns to council and central government. In August, 120 people attended a public meeting in Kelston organised by Forest and Bird, WRPS and the Tree Council.

The Society is looking to find some new volunteers for our committee. We currently have eight committee members, but would welcome a few more to ensure we have good attendance at our monthly meetings, robust discussion and a better sharing of tasks.

The meetings with Watercare regarding the new Huia Water Treatment Plant are now at the stage where we can discuss mitigation measures should the new plant be built on the Woodlands Park site.

We were very sad to hear of the death in June of past president John Lewis. Our sincere condolences go to

John's family and friends. His obituary can be read in this newsletter.

And our thoughts are with Trixie and Bruce Harvey and their family following Trixie's cancer diagnosis last month.

John Edgar ONZM
President

New Committee Member!



Mandy Patmore has a love of the land that permeates all that she does. She is a multi-media environmental artist who lives in Karekare with her kids, husband and way too many dogs. She has a passionate relationship with her local environment and her art work reflects this; looking at the past, present and future of our land, and human interactions with it. Primarily a painter, Mandy's current work focuses largely on deforestation and habitat loss, and the plight of many of our endangered native species.

In 2009 she was the lead artist on the Piha domain footbridge, which won the NZ Recreation Association Award for most outstanding project. The aim of this arts bridge was to create more understanding of our endangered endemic long finned eel, and educate the public about the

incredible journey of this creature and highlight the concerns about its decline.

As well as juggling her own arts practice, Mandy is also based at Corban Estate Arts Centre, where she is the Creative Director of Kakano Youth Arts Collective – a visual arts programme which works with at risk youth.

When she's not making art, she can be found tramping and climbing the odd mountain.

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

Auckland Council decisions

In the time since the last newsletter Auckland Council has reached its decision on a number of policy changes that we submitted on.

- 10-year Budget

Auckland Council reached their decision on the 10-year Budget and Auckland Plan 2050. They approved the proposal to deliver a 30 year water quality programme in 10 years by bringing \$856 million of future investment into the next 10 years. \$404 million of that would be used by Watercare and funded through their charges. The remaining \$452 million would be council projects and funded through the targeted rate. They also approved \$311 million over 10 years for environmental initiatives which include pest management and of this \$51.48 million will go towards addressing kauri dieback and Dutch elm disease and \$142.44 million will go towards managing pest plants and animals on parkland.

- Regional Fuel Tax

Auckland Council also agreed to implement a Regional Fuel Tax. We made a submission supporting a Regional Fuel Tax as we recognise that current funding is not enough to deliver the level of investment needed in Auckland's transport. We stated however that many people who live in the WRHA do not have the option to use public transport. Of concern to WRPS is that the Proposed Transport Programme only addresses increasing the capacity of existing public transport networks. Public transport to many parts of WRHA does not currently exist therefore will not be covered by this proposal. The WRHA needs support as currently it is suffering effects from population rise and visitor growth. We therefore stated that we want Auckland Council to prioritise improvements to public transport in the WRHA, as well as local walking and cycling networks.

- Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

Auckland Council agreed to adopt a new Rates Remission

and Postponement Policy which will remove the rates remission for privately protected, or covenanted land, and replace it with grants schemes and came into effect on 1 July 2018. We made a submission opposing this proposal. We stated how many of the people that live in the WRHA have covenants with the QE II Trust on their land, which is a critical means of preventing habitat loss in the WRHA. Covenantors make a valuable contribution to land management in the WRHA that other landowners do not make through the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and the natural landscape. The introduction of grants schemes will not encourage landowners to establish new legal protection for biodiversity. The QEII Trust are considering taking legal action over this decision. They say that the decision to remove rates remission ignores submissions on the policy which were overwhelmingly against removing rates remission on QEII covenanted land.

Other submissions

We have also made submissions on some local plans including:

- The Waitakere Ranges Greenways Plan.
- The Draft Pest Free Piha Strategic Plan

10-year anniversary event of the WRHA Act

On the 31st of May we attended the 10-year anniversary event of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. Coinciding with this was the release of the State of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area 2018 monitoring report. Auckland Council is required by the WRHA Act to produce a monitoring report every five years on the state of the heritage area's environment, the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the act, and the funding implications of the activities undertaken to achieve these objectives. The most recent monitoring report covers the period from 2013 to the end of 2017. The next report is due in 2023.

Big Blue Waitakere report

Another report released by Auckland Council was the 'Big Blue Waitakere Coastal and Marine Information Report' commissioned by the Local Board. The report pulls together information on the west coast and Manukau Harbour coastal environment and includes potential management objectives and actions. It is intended to be used as a guidance document to inform the Waitakere Ranges Local Board in proposing directions, priorities and projects to protect and enhance unique marine and coastal areas within the board's jurisdiction.

Kauri dieback

WRPS followed the initiative of the Rate Payers Association Group and wrote a letter to Phil Goff and the Auckland City Councillors regarding developing a track strategy to review and rationalise the track network in the Waitakere Ranges, which needs to be developed and publicly consulted on as a Variation to the Regional Parks Management Plan. In the letter we raised our concerns that the implementation and enforcement of the closure of the forested areas is happening in a haphazard and inconsistent way across the Waitakere Ranges and that a much more co-ordinated approach is desperately needed.

EDS Conference

Mischa attended the Environmental Defence Society's conference which is held annually and has become an environmental summit in New Zealand with this year's theme being the Government's environmental reforms. This event included presentations from several Ministers including Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage Minister of the Environment David Parker.

In her presentation on the government's conservation reform agenda Eugenie Sage spoke about a strategy for Predator Free NZ being developed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) alongside science from BioHeritage NZ. She also stated that the government are aiming to reinvigorate DOC's Resource Management Act (RMA) advocacy work with a strategy being finalised to determine how DOC should be engaged. Already DOC have doubled their submissions made in 2017-2018. Eugenie spoke briefly about kauri dieback and that not all work on kauri dieback has been communicated to the public but that the government has directed agencies to set up a new plan to deal with it. With regards to the marine environment she said that conversation has begun on how to create more Marine Protected Areas, they want to look at ways to reduce bycatch of marine birds, and they want to make changes to the Marine Mammals Act to better protect marine mammals from seismic surveying.

With the conference theme being focused on environment reform the Resource Management Act reform was a major topic for a lot of speakers at the conference however Minister of the Environment David Parker confirmed that a full reform of the RMA would not be addressed by the government until next year. He stated that until then some changes to the Act need to be made to fix a number of problems due to last year's changes made by the previous government and these changes should be in the House by the end of the year.

Mischa Davis

EDS Conference gives the green light to reforms

The Environmental Defence Society conference in August confirmed that the Government is on a positive trajectory with its environmental reforms. Most delegates gave the programme a green light with best progress being made with conservation and climate change. Environment policy was more a work in progress with amendments to the RMA and to the NPS Freshwater Management expected before year-end. The promised fisheries inquiry has been pushed back till after consultation on electronic monitoring and reporting. There were some concerns about the expected rollout of ecosystems-based management to fisheries and questions were raised about the detail behind the Billion trees project. There was a sense of profound change coming our way with big implications for both town and country. Presentations including video of all sessions are available on the EDS website (eds.org.nz)

Obituary John Lewis died 2018



Many members will have memories John Lewis and his contribution to the Society. John was on WRPS committee from 1976-78, 1982-83, 1985-86, 1988-1993 and was President in 1984 and 1987.

Some of John's friends have written the following words about him.

In his MArch thesis John had explored the way in which the New Zealand bach also gave form to love. Traditionally the bach began with a love of place rather than any architectural text. The building was incidental to the wonder and awe of nature. Humility, simplicity, and respect for community followed because the building did not need to assert anything or draw attention to itself. The bach minimised its environmental demands.

John built a house for himself, including all the joinery, without using power tools. His love of materials and love of craftsmanship resonated with the Medieval world. His loving restoration of the house in Leeds reflected the way in which monasteries were built.

John led a gentle, contemplative, monastic life. He

NEW PRINTS



Three unique Native Bird Prints, artwork by Mandy Patmore, our newest committee member.

www.mandypatmore.com

www.facebook.com/mandypatmore.artist

Limited run printed on quality paper.

Tui and the Heron on A3 for \$40 each.

Tomtit on A4 for \$30.

To order please email:

treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz

Mugs & Bowels

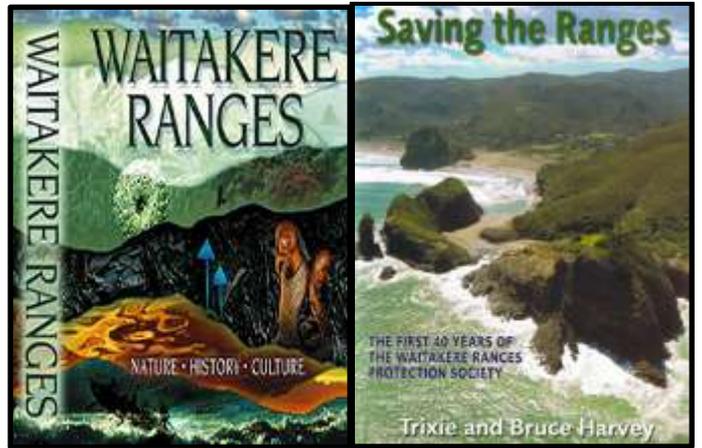


Hand painted by Lynda Harris

Kiwi, Takahe, Pukeko, Torea (Oystercatcher), Kereru, Kakariki, Tui.

All mugs are priced at **\$35 each + p&p**

(P&P varies according to numbers and is available on request)



“Waitakere Ranges: Nature, History, Culture”

The story of the Waitakere Ranges is written by many authors who tell us from various points of view what it is about the Ranges that they love and value.

Ed. Bruce & Trixie Harvey

Special for WRPS members: **\$85 (includes p&p)**

For non-WRPS members: **\$95 (includes p&p)**

“Saving the Ranges: The first 40 years of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society”

The book tells of the many people who have contributed to the conservation and protection of 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.

Ed. Bruce & Trixie Harvey

\$40 (includes p&p)

Order / Payment

Online: Email your order information to treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz, and make your payment online to:

[Books]: Kiwibank Acc No. 38-9010-0379887-02

[Other items]: Kiwibank Acc No. 38-9010-0379887-01

By cheque: Post your order details & cheque to:

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society

PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640

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.

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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