

WRPS NEWS



Issue 179

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

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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

The arrival of spring has been most welcome in the ranges. Clematis and kowhai have flowered, kauri and pohutukawa have changed colour with verdant new growth, as have many other trees and shrubs. Unfortunately, all this needs to be admired from afar as the majority of tracks are still closed awaiting upgrades before they can be opened again.

In September the Society was honoured at the Eco Awards in Titirangi with a certificate "In appreciation of WRPS's long-standing care and protection of the Waitakere Ranges. Thank you for your dedication and unwavering commitment." The evening brought together many of the conservation groups working in the ranges and it was encouraging to be amongst friends and colleagues. We were also gifted a rimu and a kowhai seedling that we will plant in a grove of trees to honour Trixie Harvey, who passed away after a short illness in August. There are tributes to her in this newsletter.

The Society is pleased to have received three grants in the past months. We gratefully acknowledge \$3500 from WR Local Board and \$9000 from The Trusts Community Foundation towards our WRHA Act history project, and \$3900 from Foundation North for our Heritage Area Coordinator. We have also applied for grants from World Wildlife Fund and The Trusts Million Dollar Mission to support and extend our work on kauri dieback management.

Kauri dieback remains a major ecological threat and the closure of tracks has certainly reduced the number of people walking in the ranges. In September an audit of all tracks showed some deficiencies in fencing, signage, and cleaning stations. There is also a lack of public awareness about kauri dieback that needs to be addressed.

Our Environment Court appeal regarding subdivision status in the ranges is still at the mediation stage and we remain hopeful for a good outcome. As the matter is sub judice I cannot reveal any details.

In our merchandise section you will notice that we have some beautiful bird prints from Mandy Patmore. Mandy is on our committee and has generously allowed us to sell these three prints to raise funds. We also have new stock

of native bird mugs from Lynda Harris, and tea towels. These make excellent Christmas gifts and can be purchased from our website, or orders may be placed by post or by email (see page 7 for details).

This year the Society turned 45. Thanks to all our members and friends for your support over the years, without which the ranges would have a lesser voice.

John Edgar ONZM

Tribute for Dr Trixie Harvey QSM



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of our dear friend Trixie Harvey, who passed away in August surrounded by her family.

When I think of Trixie, Bruce is inextricably there at her side. Inseparable. Joined in heart and mind. Let me give you one example. To paraphrase the old song "you'll always find them in the kitchen at parties". How true. Be it a labour party fundraiser, a gathering of conservationists or a public meeting, there were Trixie and Bruce. And

what's more, if you went into the kitchen to help, they would say "we've got it all under control", which was true. They would be the first to arrive at a function and the last to leave - once all the dishes were done.

Trixie was on The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society committee from 2002 to 2015. Together with Bruce she edited "The Waitakere Ranges – Nature, History, Culture" (2006) and researched and wrote the history of the Society "Saving the Ranges" (2013). As a plant scientist her research into native plants, ecology and genetics led her to become a champion of conservation especially in the Waitakere Ranges.

She was a member of the Society for Horticultural Science, The Auckland Museum Institute, Forest and Bird Society, Auckland Botanical Society, the West Auckland Historical Society and Friends of Whatipu. In the past few years she convened the Waitakere Ranges Conservation Network that brought together the many community groups doing conservation in the Waitakere Ranges.

Our sincere condolences go to Bruce and family and friends.

John Edgar ONZM

A West Auckland environmental icon leaves us



I am very sad to report that Catherine 'Trixie' Harvey has just passed away after a short illness (aged 79).

Trixie grew up in Hamilton and took up pharmacy work as a young woman. Not long afterwards she met her lifelong and devoted husband, Bruce. They then raised a fine family of three children - Belinda and twins Anna and Mark.

In the 1980's she went to the University of Auckland studying science, eventually obtaining a PhD with a thesis on the endemic plant *Pomaderris kumeraho* aka 'Gumdiggers soap'. Trixie subsequently worked for a number of years at various scientific establishments

(including Hort Research) concentrating mainly on kiwifruit development.

Trixie was a very warm and caring person who had a contagious enthusiasm for matters botanical. She had been a tutor at University and was a talented teacher on any plant questions. Indeed, she and Bruce were proud curators of their own fine garden that was not only a decorative delight but also yielded many vegetables.

She was a long-time member of Forest & Bird and was involved with many organisations. She was recently made a life member of the Labour Party. I was lucky enough to serve with her on the executive of Friends of Regional Parks, the committee of Friends of Whatipu as well as the committee of the Waitakere Conservation Network.

She will be sorely missed by her very wide network of relatives and friends. She combined a sharp scientific mind with great caring and compassion. This radiated outwards like a beacon of hope in a world not always willing to make that extra effort to improve our lot. She cared and she took action!

Her funeral on 30th August drew over 240 people. The range and diversity of those present was amazing - all wanting to honour her and provide support to Bruce in his time of great need. Rest in peace Trixie - your vibrant legacy will live on in the Natural World, both human and non-human.

Robert Woolf
(Royal Forest and Bird Society)

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

Submission on Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

In August we made a brief two-page submission in support of the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. We raised concerns about population pressure on the Waitakere Ranges and the issue of waste pollution that this brings with it.

Kauri dieback

We sent a letter to the Minister for Research, Science and Innovation - Megan Woods, on the 28th of August, supporting a recommendation made by the Tree Council and Friends of Regional Parks, that the research budget of the National Kauri Dieback Research Programme be transferred to the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge. We highlighted how the "business as usual" model that has been applied over the last 10 years has not been working to address kauri dieback. Further, MPI's kauri dieback management and research in the Waitakere Ranges to date has been negligent. Transferring the research budget would enable it to be quickly redirected to those projects most desperately needed to protect kauri. We further supported the recommendation that the budget be

A Tribute to Dave Harre (1938-2018)

focussed on science research projects, as opposed to communication and engagement initiatives. We stated that due to the limited knowledge about kauri dieback disease, further scientific research into the issue must be made a priority for the research budget.

We attended a meeting on the National Kauri Dieback Management Plan on the 31st of August. This second consultation round was about the draft refreshed strategy for managing kauri dieback disease, the draft of the National Kauri Dieback Management Plan and ideas for the management agency that will implement the plan to protect kauri. It was a politically heated meeting with a lot of concerns being raised by the public and different groups about MPI's handling of the kauri dieback issue. We then lodged our submission to MPI on the 12th of September. In our submission we questioned why the plan needed to be refreshed when the previous one was adequate – it simply needed implementing. A concern for us with the proposed plan is the vague and non-aspirational or prescriptive language used throughout the plan, for example the use of the word “reduce” should be replaced with the word “eliminate”. We also stated that the plan needs to clearly state that it is statutory, and therefore legally enforceable, and a further concern being that it lacks any rules or responsibilities which are fundamental for enforcement.

Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill

In October we made a submission on Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill which seeks to amend the Crown Minerals Act 1991 to give effect to the Government's announcement made on 12 April 2018 not to award any new offshore petroleum prospecting, exploration or mining permits. The submission was largely based off the one that Greenpeace had prepared however it was edited to include some further concerns of our own such as the risks that deep sea oil drilling poses to the coastline and wider environment. We also raised concerns about the adverse effects climate change is having on the ecology and biodiversity of the Waitakere Ranges.

Coming up

Auckland Council are currently accepting submissions on an amendment to the Public Nuisance Bylaw which includes a number of proposals of relevance to the Waitakere Ranges including changes to recreational fishing controls, driving cars on beaches, and setting off fireworks. These changes are not major however and are mainly small changes to wording to provide clarity. However, part of this consultation includes a request to government by Auckland Council to ban the public sale of fireworks. WRPS will be looking to make a detailed submission on these changes. Submissions close on the 5th of December.

Auckland Council are also looking to notify their new Freedom Camping Bylaw for public consultation before the end of the year.

Mischa Davis



Dave Harre died on Sunday 18 November, just days after celebrating his 80th birthday with a wonderful party at his and Barbara's home in Oratia attended by over 200 people.

Dave was a foundation member of the Society, and a champion of conservation and heritage all his life. His love of west Auckland is the legacy that he leaves for us. Rest In Peace, Dave, and our sincere condolences to your family and friends.

In March 2011, I interviewed both Dave and Barbara Harre for the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Oral History project. We sat outside under the trees in the garden, and amidst the cicadas, Dave and Barbara talked about their lives as conservationists and in the Waitakeres.

I have quoted below from the transcript of the interview.

Dave talked about his early life where, as a child, he spent a lot of time out at Te Henga. "In fact the slightest little sniffle, we were sent straight out there to be with Aunty Gert to get better."

He attributed becoming a conservationist to those early days spent at Te Henga, with the beach, the hills and the swamp. He said "...after a while you realise that the values you feel about a particular place and the hills, land, the sea and the area, are a part of yourself."

Dave talked about his involvement in the famous Tipnic protest at Bethells in 1973. The Tipnic was a picnic organised by the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society in order to protest against the proposition to construct a tip at Te Henga.

"In terms of Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, I was totally involved because of my relations at Te Henga Bethells. And I was working at broadcasting at the time, at NZBC [New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation]. And then, at the time of the Tipnic I discovered that the newsroom had this book and, in the weekend, when things were quiet, they'd always consult this book to see who had

rung in to say something was happening. So whenever anything happened that, well particularly the example of the Tipnic, I would write it in the book and just hope like mad.



But I thought the whole thing wasn't exciting enough for broadcasting. You needed a visual image. So I organised a friend who had a bulldozer and another person who had an enormous long rope – a guy that worked on the waterfront – another waterfront I presume— and the um the bulldozer being a tug of war with the Te Henga people and it was just triumphant because it got covered on the news. They came out and filmed it and it was good publicity, but to me it was the most extraordinary thing to see because there were people like Gert Bethell, who would have been in her 80s then I guess, and Alice Woodward who is Pa Bethell's daughter, there they were pulling on the rope in their very old age. It was extraordinary eh. Aunty Al wouldn't have been all that old then but Aunty Gert was quite old. And it was just the most amazing scene and the joyous thing was, because of this ... it's the first time I've seen the Bethell's unified, and John Bethell was working in with everyone else ...and it was marvellous. It was just the most amazing day. I will never forget that in my whole life



We acknowledge the huge contribution Dave Harre has made to the Waitakere Ranges and our heartfelt thanks to him and Barbara for their energy and commitment to the conservation of the land and to the values of the West.

The full recording and all other interviews recorded as part of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society oral history can be found lodged at Research West-Whare Matauranga o

Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland Libraries and are available for research purposes.

Anna Fomison
WRPS Oral Historian

Voices from the Stream The story of Project Twin Streams

In August this year, in the beautiful legacy Waitakere City Council chambers, Auckland Council launched a 60-minute documentary about Project Twin Streams (PTS). The documentary "Voices from the Stream - The story of Project Twin Streams" tells the story of this remarkable project solely through the eyes and voices of those who had been involved in the project.

Project Twin Streams was an extremely successful local environmental project based in Waitakere, West Auckland. It has achieved national recognition as the largest stream restoration project to date, and as well the first partnership project between a Local Council and the community.

The documentary tells the story of a project that was unbelievably successful. With a budget of over \$38 million rolled out over 15 years, PTS has effectively managed to restore 56 kilometres of riparian margins of streams in Waitakere in an attempt to mitigate the impact of erosion, flooding, sediment and toxin accumulation flowing into the Waitemata Harbour. Since the project began 800,000+ native trees and shrubs planted, 60,000+ volunteer hours streamside, 4212.8m² weeds removed, 9.3km walk/cycleways, 98 art projects, 1 rongoā garden, 1 pā harakeke and last but not least 4 community gardens.

In 2015, I was commissioned to undertake an Oral History Project to record the stories of the project from those who had been involved in PTS. The Oral History Project was initiated by Environmental Services, Auckland Council in an attempt to ensure that valuable knowledge that had been gained in the ten years of PTS was not lost in translation during the transition to Supercity. Twenty-six people were interviewed and over sixteen hours of recorded interviews have been lodged and are available for research purposes at Research West-Whare Matauranga o Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland Libraries. The documentary "Voices from the Streams" was created from the interview audio and footage and is available for viewing on the PTS website <http://projecttwinstreams.com/the-story-of-project-twin-streams>.

The documentary was added on to the original Oral History project in the hope that it would make the story of PTS more easily accessible to the public. I was responsible for stitching together the narrative from the audio of the interviews, reducing the sixteen hours to one hour, which was a massive learning curve. Davian Lorson as videographer, filmed the interviews and as video editor, pulled it all together with stills and the soundtrack. It was a privilege and an honour to work on this Oral History Project, and on the documentary "Voices from the Stream"

which tells the complex story of a plucky multi-layered community and Local Government environmental project that punches well above its weight.

Anna Fomison
WRPS Oral Historian

Obituary John Lewis

John joined the WRPS committee in 1976, in the years when we had won the rubbish tip battle and were now turning our attention to other issues that threatened the integrity of the Waitakeres.

He and I worked together on developing a colour code for buildings that were to be constructed on the new subdivision at Te Henga. The colours were based on those found in the dunes, foreshore and sea and our aim was to encourage a harmonious approach with this development. The Council adopted the colour code and, together with planting requirements, succeeded in creating a result that was much less intrusive than we had feared.

John's approach was gentle, methodical and slow, an approach that was particularly effective when it seemed that the historic Winchelsea House at Karekare would be demolished and replaced by a new prefabricated building.

John entered into discussions with the owner, whom he persuaded to renovate the old boarding house (formerly single men's quarters, known locally as the Barracks) and enlarge it with an extension in the exact style of the original. As for the separate cottage, Winchelsea House itself, which was run down and invaded by rats, brambles and rubbish, John was convinced it could be restored. In December 1981 he led the first of a series of WRPS working bees where we moved mountains, it seemed, and with time a beautifully restored cottage emerged from years of neglect.

While many of us wanted a wild landscape preserved in the Waitakeres, and found the actions of many landowner's offensive and insensitive, John appreciated the human presence and believed that people could live in harmony with nature. His benevolent philosophy, respectful communication and quiet sense of humour made him a pleasure to work with.

Juliet Batten, August 2018

(My apologies to Juliet for omitting this tribute from the August newsletter. John Edgar)

Why like us on Facebook?

Did you know that Facebook has an algorithm to determine who sees posts? That means that not everyone who likes our page sees every post. Instead, the algorithm chooses who and how many people see each post. One of the factors is interaction, so when our post is liked or shared, the

algorithm gives that post more popularity and then it is seen by more group members.

So, what can you do? Like us on Facebook or share our posts. That helps us get better visibility and spread the word about key events, issues and ideas for the Ranges.

WRPS Merchandise

We have a range of quality merchandise ranging from high quality reference books to t-shirts, tea towels, uniquely hand-crafted mugs & bowls, a Don Binney poster print and bird prints by Mandy Patmore.

For more details of the Society's merchandise please refer to the WRPS online shop at: www.waitakereranges.org.nz.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Tea Towels



Place names of the Ranges



Maori Proverb

Made from unbleached 100% Indian cotton, designed in West Auckland by Julia Moore and screen printed by Karousel. The quotation is a traditional proverb from Te Kawerau ā Maki and we are grateful to Te Warena Taura for permission to use it.

\$17 each + p&p

P&P costs vary according to number of tea towels ordered.

1 tea towel \$3.00 2 tea towels \$4.00
3-6 tea towels \$5.50 7-10 tea towels \$6.50

Mugs & Bowls



Hand painted by Lynda Harris

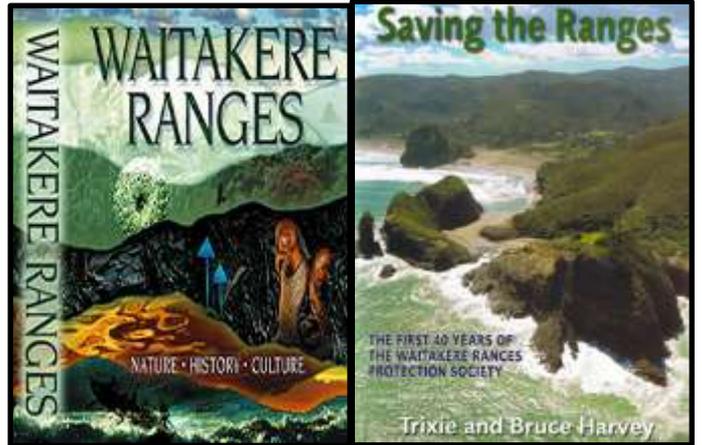
Tui, keruru, pukeko, kokako, kiwi, kakariki, kaka, takahe, torea pango (oyster catcher)

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

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



Books



“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:
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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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