

WRPS NEWS



Issue 180

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

February 2019

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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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7 pm, Monday 25 March, 2019 Arataki Visitors Centre, Scenic Drive, Titirangi

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Announcements
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 2018 and Matters arising
5. Annual Report
6. Financial Report
7. Election of Officers
8. General Business

Address

“Shimmersea”. Mary (Bobbie) Woodward is in conversation with Barbara Lusk.

In 2018 Mary wrote “Shimmersea - what ever happened to Miss New Zealand 1949?”. It is a wonderful memoir of her remarkable life. Growing up in Samoa and Taranaki, she travelled the world as Miss New Zealand and then with husband Peter, established their family home in Titirangi. Her fond memories of family and friends and her love of the Waitakere Ranges - especially Te Henga - is a very moving story.

Mary and Barbara have been close friends for many years, and are great supporters of the Society. Mary’s other books include “The Bethells of Te Henga” 1988, “Landscape of my Heart” 2004, and “The Piha Story” 2012.

Mary has been a passionate supporter of the Society, and for that and her environmental values, we were proud to give her a WRPS honour award in 2008.

Please join us for this very special occasion.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

President’s Report

I trust that you have enjoyed the summer, even if it has been one of the hottest on record. It has been dry in the ranges, with only 40mm of rain in January, and that mostly came in one day when I recorded 26mm. It is wonderful to see so many people enjoying the beaches and consequently the car parks have been overflowing on many occasions.

This year will be a busy one for the Society. Our Environment Court appeal regarding subdivision status in the ranges is still at the mediation stage and we remain hopeful for a good outcome. This matter has been going on for some time, however there are long periods without any activity followed by meetings with all parties to the appeal in the Court. As the matter is sub judice I cannot reveal any details.

The Heritage Area Act History project progresses slowly as it takes time to find the historic images required for the early chapters but we are hoping that the manuscript can go to the book designer soon.

As I reported previously, Kauri dieback remains a major ecological threat and the closure of tracks has certainly reduced the number of people walking in the ranges. In January, volunteers completed a second track audit, and this information has been passed onto Auckland Council with recommendations for action to ensure that tracks are only opened to the public once they meet all the criteria to the satisfaction of mana whenua, Te Kawerau a Maki. Thanks to Mels Barton and Sean Freeman of The Tree Council who have coordinated the audit. Auckland Council has called for submissions by 15 March on their Waitakere Ranges Proposed Track Plan, and the Society will be making a detailed submission.

Myrtle Rust continues to spread in the North Island and upper South Island. **895** infected properties have been reported since May 2017. There are 179 sites in Auckland region with confirmed infection, mostly in Remuera. There has been an increased level of positive myrtle rust detections during the summer months so far. The summer months provide ideal conditions for the spread of myrtle rust as infection risk is directly related to the duration of

high relative humidity and temperature. Myrtle rust can look different in different stages during the progression of the disease. If you suspect you have seen an infected plant, do not handle it. Use the MPI website to help identify the disease. MyrtlerustNZ@mpi.govt.nz

Mischa Davis, our Heritage Area Coordinator for the past two years will be resigning from the role in March, while she takes maternity leave. We wish her and husband Nick all the very best as they start their family. We also want to thank Mischa for the exceptional work that she has done for the Society, researching and writing submissions on a wide range of matters, and also making a number of successful funding applications.

One of these applications was to The Trusts Community Foundation and we recently heard that we are to be one of 48 local organisations competing in what is known as the Million Dollar Mission. When it opens on 1st March, the public are allowed to vote by email once a day for their favourite group. Each vote is worth \$5, and voting continues until the group reaches its target or when the million dollars total has been reached. I hope our members and friends will help us raise our target of \$13,000 towards kauri dieback management in the ranges. You can find more information about this later in this newsletter.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 25th March. I look forward to seeing you there, and am thrilled that Mary (Bobbie) Woodward will be the speaker this year and address us on her memoir, “Shimmersea”. Members and friends are most welcome.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you for your support over the past year.

John Edgar ONZM

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

Auckland Council Public Nuisance Bylaw amendment

In November we made a submission on the Auckland Council Public Nuisance Bylaw amendment. This included the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Council’s request to the Government to ban the public sale of fireworks, which we supported. Fireworks are obviously a concern for the heritage area and its communities as they pose the very serious threat of bush fires. The use of fireworks can also cause harm and injury to people and animals and places unnecessary pressure on the council, police and emergency and medical services.

Kauri dieback

We had some great news in November in regards to kauri dieback research. We sent a letter back in August to Megan Woods - Minister for Research, Science and Innovation, seeking that the research budget of the National Kauri Dieback Research Programme be transferred to the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge. Megan Woods announced on 19 November that this is now going

to happen but also that the budget would be significantly increased. It’s good to know that our continued advocacy pays off and it is worth reaching out directly to those with the power to bring change.

Auckland Transport draft Regional Transport Plan

In December we made a submission to Auckland Transport on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan which sets out the 10-year plan for Auckland’s public transport system. We stated our concern that many people who live in the WRHA do not have the option to use public transport and that the Plan only focusses on the metropolitan area and parts of the region where public transport services operate. We also highlighted that carparking is a concern for residents of the WRHA who park at public transport stations to commute to the city and so we support changing park and ride facilities to better meet public demand.

DOC Predator Free 2050 discussion guide

In January we made a submission to the Department of Conservation on the Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) discussion guide. The discussion guide outlines the views of scientists, technical experts, iwi, NGOs and others during a series of focus group workshops, to help formulate a strategic plan for the PF2050 goal, and invited comment on them. In our submission we stated our support for the values and principles listed and particularly “local action, led by communities”, highlighting how the WRHA has a strong history of hands-on community environmental stewardship, the WRPS being one example of that. We noted our concerns about the narrow scope of PF2050 questioning whether there needs to be a greater focus on measures to not only protect and enhance remaining habitat but also on how to create new habitat. Regarding scope we sought that the strategic plan includes feral cats. We also highlighted how more needs to be added for environmental education. There is a need for better government support for conservation education at all levels of the education system. School curricula should incorporate the practice and theory of conservation and should be valued as an academic subject.

Up-coming work

February is rolling out to be a busy month with submissions on the Proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw closing on the 18th February. As the name suggests the bylaw only applies to vehicles and therefore not those camping in tents. Nevertheless, freedom camper numbers are growing in New Zealand and obviously pose a concern for the WRHA. Auckland Council are specifically looking at providing for more suitable areas for campers to go. The new bylaw identifies places where freedom camping is allowed and prohibited, and where its allowed but with restrictions. It also gives the council power to issue infringement fines which enforcement officers currently don’t have.

We will also be looking to make a submission on DOC’s National Biodiversity Strategy, which sets out how New Zealand’s biodiversity will be protected over the next 50 years, closing on the 28th of February. The goals and actions of the current Biodiversity Strategy run out in 2020. The new Biodiversity Strategy will set a vision and guide our biodiversity management work for the next 20 years.

Also coming up is the deadline to submit feedback on Auckland Council's Track Plan for the ranges with submissions closing on the 14th of March. It's great to see Auckland Council consulting with the public this time on priorities for track upgrades and reopening. We will be making a submission highlighting the need to focus on quality and not quantity of track upgrades and that all must meet the Controlled Area Notice standards before reopening i.e. no movement of soil as well as that the opening of any new track must be agreed to by Te Kawarau a Maki.

Mischa Davis

Million-Dollar Mission

For the past few years the Trusts have given back a million dollars to community groups in west Auckland.

We are delighted to announce that our application has been successful and we will be in the running to receive our share of the one million dollars!

From the 1st of March we will be among the group of finalists aiming to get as many votes as possible.

HOW THE VOTING PROCESS WORKS

For every vote you make WRPS will receive \$5, so the more votes you submit, the more funding we'll receive.

Voting is open from 10am on the 1st March 2019, until one million dollars is given out. Each day throughout the voting period, you, your family and friends can go online and cast one vote for WRPS!

To find out more visit:
<https://www.milliondollarmission.co.nz/>

We here at WRPS thank you all in advance.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions to the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society are now due. Many of you will have recently received your 2019 invoice in the mail. If not please contact our treasurer wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz.

Cheques can be mailed to:
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society,
PO Box 15668,
New Lynn,
Auckland 0640

You can also join online on our website:
www.waitakereranges.org.nz

We need your support to continue our work. Donations are much appreciated. Many thanks for your continued support – without it, Waitakere Ranges would have no voice.

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 Taua 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

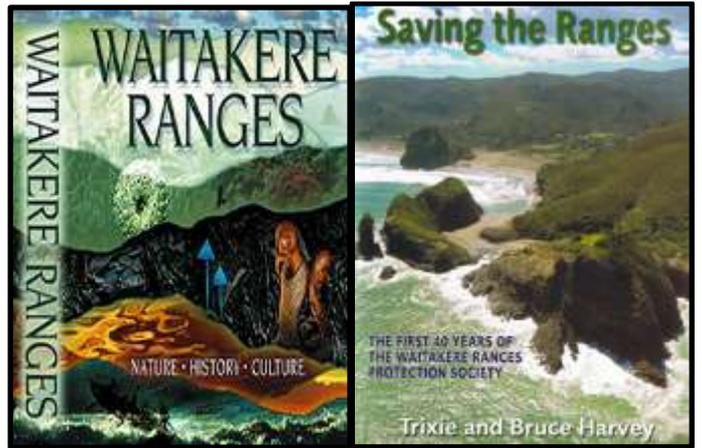
Tui, keruru, pukeko, kokako, kiwi, kakariki, kaka, takahe, torea pango (oyster catcher)

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:

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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Society
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