

# Waitākere Ranges Local Board newsletter

August 2014

## Making plans for \$3m Piha land block

Waitākere Ranges Local Board members have welcomed council's purchase of 78 hectares of land between Piha and Karekare and look forward to seeing development plans for the area get underway.

The land will link two disconnected parts of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, connecting Mercer Bay Loop Track (south of this block) to the Tasman Lookout Track to form a safer alternative route for the section of the Hillary Trail passing through Piha.

Other features of the property – bought for \$3m using council's ring-fenced regional park acquisition funding – include blow holes and sea caves which are identified as some of the best examples on the west coast of Auckland and Northland.

The area also has a number of ecological classifications, recognising the significant landforms, vegetation and wildlife values. It has the remnants of two historic cottages, a headland pa, midden and terraces.

Board chair Sandra Coney says: "The drama of this coastline has been long recognised by artists such as Eric Lee Johnson and Pat Hanly, and now the public will be able to see its rugged beauty for themselves.

"Originally part of the Piha Māori Reserve, it has a strong Māori history with legends of the taniwha Kaiwhare explaining the rock formations. The later European owners have cared for the land for 150 years. It is a great addition to the regional park and to the Hillary Trail."

"This acquisition brings into public ownership a missing link in the West Coast parkland and in the Hillary Trail. This piece of coastline will offer visitors some spectacular views and will open up some great new walks. It is now safe for future generations to enjoy."

Developing tracks, addressing safety issues – particularly around the blow hole – and the provision of life buoys on fishing rocks will be among the first steps considered by officers.



*The stunning location of the new land purchase at Piha.*

## Weed control project



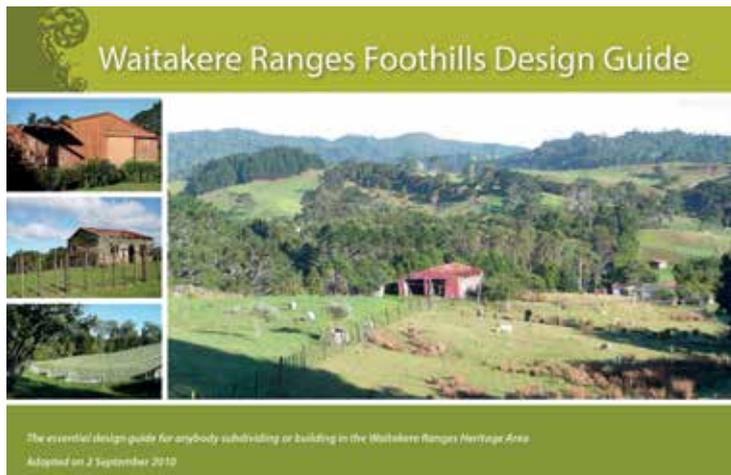
*Weed clearance has been taking place across the area.*

Replanting will take place during September at sites targeted by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board for a weed control and restoration programme.

Council parks staff worked with the board to identify initial high-profile locations in need of weed control. Work has been underway at two sites on Candia Road, Henderson Valley (privet and arundograss), the corner of Bush Road and West Coast Road, Waiatarua (elaegnus and ginger), and Landing Road Reserve, Laingholm (tradescantia and other weeds).

Replanting will feature a native revegetation mix appropriate for each location and will be followed by two years establishment maintenance to ensure canopy closure is achieved. Protecting and restoring the unique natural environments of the Ranges is a key focus for the board – with weed and pest control, along with education around Kauri dieback disease high on its list of priorities.

## Design guide for Foothills



The local board recently signed off on a revised version of the Waitākere Ranges Foothills Design Guide, which will help those seeking to build or develop in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

The design guide is non-statutory and was first produced under the former Waitākere City Council.

But board members agreed with a finding of the first Heritage Area Monitoring Report last year that said more needed to be done to promote awareness and use of the guide by landowners and council officers.

It funded the updating and reprinting of the document and has agreed it should be referred to in all Land Information Memorandums issued for sites in the Heritage Area.

For copies or more information on the design guide, contact [nicholas.lau@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:nicholas.lau@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz). The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 can be found at [legislation.govt.nz](http://legislation.govt.nz)

## We're Going West!

Waitākere Ranges Local Board is proud to be a sponsor of the 2014 Going West Festival.

This year marks the 19th anniversary of the festival, which runs from 28 August to 14 September, and includes the theatre season, poetry slam and culminates in the Books and Writers Weekend from Friday evening, 12 September, to Sunday, 14 September at Titirangi War Memorial Hall.

Local Board chair Sandra Coney is one of speakers at the final Writers weekend session, talking about 'On the Radar', her book on the story of Piha's World War 2 radar station.

The theatre season features 'Goodbye my Feleni' at the Glen Eden Playhouse from 28 to 31 August. This is the first play to explore the experiences of the almost forgotten Pacific Island soldiers who fought in Europe in the D 'Ngati Walkabout' Company of the 28th Māori Battalion during World War 1.

For more details, writer profiles, associated events and to book tickets go to [goingwestfest.co.nz](http://goingwestfest.co.nz)



## Local Area Plan workshops

Consultation continues with local people on the development of a Local Area Plan for Bethells Beach/Te Henga and the Waitakere River Valley.

Workshops have already been held to look at 'visioning', community and economic development, civil defence and cultural heritage for the area, along with meetings on the Waitākere Quarry and ecology and ecosystems. The remaining workshops, below, will look at other key topics.

Topic	Where/When
Parks and Visitor Management	Tuesday 26 August, 7-9pm at Bethells Surf Club
Walkways and Transport	Tuesday 2 September, 7-9pm at Bethells Surf Club
Day-time drop in	Thursday 4 September, 9.30-11.30am at Bethells Surf Club

For more information, email [claire.liousse@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:claire.liousse@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

- A proposal to extend Waitākere Quarry and operate it beyond its current closure date next year has been withdrawn by Auckland Council Property Limited. Board members will now work with officers to look at its future use and funding options.

## Focus on the future of Waikumete Cemetery



An open day was held on 16 August for members of the public to learn more about the draft Waikumete Cemetery Reserve Management Plan.

People were able to find out more about the cemetery and the issues it currently faces, and to ask any questions.

Matters which are addressed in the plan include a proposed new main entrance and burial plot development, as well as more active management of developed and natural areas of vegetation.

The draft plan sets out a pathway to develop the site as a memorial park with increased passive recreational opportunities, whilst also protecting and enhancing the historic and natural qualities of the site.

You can find out more about the draft Waikumete Cemetery Reserve Management Plan by visiting [shapeauckland.co.nz](http://shapeauckland.co.nz)

Submissions are open until **4pm Tuesday 16 September 2014**.

## Mayor talks Glen Eden business



The Waitākere Ranges Local Board in partnership with the Glen Eden Business Improvement District arranged a meeting with Mayor Len Brown on 12 August to discuss future growth and local economic development.

The turn out was excellent and as well as looking at opportunities and challenges for the business community, issues raised included increasing park and ride options, improving town centre safety, beautifying gateways to the town and peak-hour traffic problems.

Revitalising our town centres is a key outcome of the draft Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan, with a major focus on funding local improvements and advocating for “big-ticket” items in Glen Eden.

## Community hall grants

The board recently approved the following nine grants from its community halls assistance fund:

- Lainghom Village Hall (electricity charges 2013/2014) \$694.77
- Oratia Ratepayers and Residents Association – Oratia Settlers (operating costs) \$2,800
- Oratia Ratepayers and Residents Association – Small Hall (operating costs) \$2,800
- Paturoa Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association (operating costs) \$2,000
- The Waitākere Residents and Ratepayers Association – Waitākere Domain (operating costs) \$1,505.23
- The Waitākere Residents and Ratepayers Association – Waitākere Township Hall (operating costs) \$2,800
- The Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (operating costs) \$2,800
- Piha Community Centre Society – Barnett Hall (Piha Community News design work and hall insurance) \$2,800
- Huia Cornwallis Ratepayers and Residents Association (operating costs) \$2,800.

## Getting ready to play!

Work has been progressing on the exciting new Parris Park playground and an official opening and fun day is expected to be held around the end of September.

Children of all ages should be thrilled with the new facility which features an 11m tower crammed with features including slides, a climbing wall, hammocks, sound tubes and binoculars.

There is also an interactive water feature with a hand-driven pump, channels, dams, an Archimedes spiral screw, bridges, and a natural stream gully, allowing youngsters to play, explore and learn about stream water cleansing before the water is discharged to irrigate planting beds.

## Local Board Plan: next steps

A big ‘thank you’ to all those who turned up to meetings and submitted to our draft Local Board Plan.

The next steps are as follows:

- Aug-Sept 2014: Hearings
- Aug-Sept 2014: Decisions
- October 2014: Local Board Plans adopted
- December 2014: Local Board Plans published.

## World War 1 and the west

Regional commemorations are underway to mark the 100-year anniversary of World War 1 – and we want to know what we can be doing to acknowledge this important milestone in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.

Three local sites will be part of Auckland Council's First World War Heritage Trail to be launched in late September – the Spragg Monument at Huia, the Waikumete cemetery war graves and the Lion Rock war memorial at Piha.

Restoration and renovation of local monuments and memorial sites has already taken place.

And local libraries will also feature the "Our Boys, Our Families" – a website with guides for research into those who served and were involved in other ways.

Libraries are also running an oral history programme, but the board wants to bring together groups (whether they be RSAs, schools or community organisations) who have an interest in marking the centenary with uniquely local events or activities.

Anyone interested in finding out more or wanting to get involved should email [sharon.davies@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:sharon.davies@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or call 09 813 9150.

For details of regional events and activities over the coming months go to the WW100 page at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



One of the interesting features of the war graves at Waikumete is a headstone marking the resting place of Lance Corporal Peter Solomona, one of the around 500 Rarotongans who came to help the New Zealand war effort. From Manihiki, in the Northern Cooks, Solomona trained at Narrow Neck and then went to the Western Front with the Pioneer Māori Battalion. He was returned very ill in 1917 and died in Auckland Hospital. He is the only soldier from the Rarotongan contingent buried at Waikumete, other Rarotongans who died while training at Narrow Neck Camp are buried on the North Shore.



Feel free to join us at any upcoming Waitākere Ranges Local Board meetings.  
For details please go to [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitakereranges](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitakereranges) or visit [facebook.com/waitakereranges](https://facebook.com/waitakereranges)

### Find out more:

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-  [WaitakereRangeslocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:WaitakereRangeslocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)
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