

WRPS NEWS

Issue 181

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

May 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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closures, upgrades and re-openings. I have had good

President's Report

Thanks to all our members and friends who attended the AGM on the 25th of March. The good turnout was much appreciated, both for the official business and for the excellent conversation that followed between Mary (Bobbie) Woodward and her friend of many years, Barbara Lusk. The conversation was recorded for the Society's Oral History archives and will be lodged with the Auckland Public Library, and the audio recording will soon be available on our website <http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz/current-projects.html>.

Last month we farewelled our Heritage Area Coordinator Mischa Davis, who is now on maternity leave, and we welcomed our new coordinator, Eva Wrassky-Bulmer. Eva has completed her first submission to Auckland Council on the Proposed new Dog Bylaws. Her full report can be found in this newsletter.

Sandra and I attended The Trusts Community Foundation awards to receive our cheque for \$5655 raised in the Million Dollar Mission to support our work on Kauri Dieback.



Our Environment Court action on Prohibited Activity Status in the ranges continues.

We await the decision from Auckland Council regarding the Proposed Regional Track Plan that will address Kauri dieback issues in the Auckland region, especially track

reports on the upgrade and the re-opening of the Comans Track at Karekare. I have not walked it myself but I understand that it is very well done and an example of how the tracks will be upgraded in the future to better protect kauri.

Once again, thank you for your support. We do the best we can as a volunteer organisation, and are always keen for feedback.

John Edgar ONZM

Annual Report of the Executive Committee

THE WAITAKERE RANGES PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

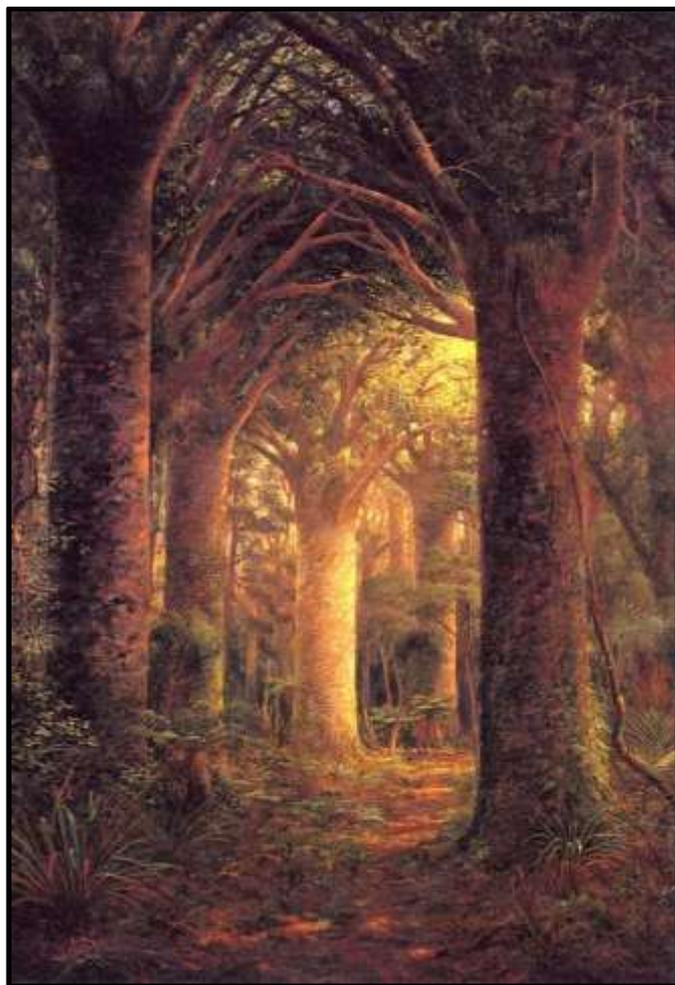
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Arataki Visitors Centre, Wednesday 25 March 2019

Annual Report of the Executive Committee

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Executive Committee of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Incorporated.

As you well know, 150 years ago logging of the mighty trees in the ranges was the greatest ecological threat. Since the logging ended, the forest has regenerated. Now the greatest threat is kauri dieback, caused by a microscopic pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida*. There is no cure - every infected tree will die. The five-year survey results released in 2017 showed that on average 18% of kauri were infected, almost doubling since 2012. In some areas of the ranges, for example the Piha catchment, up to 60% of trees are infected.

The Rahui placed by Te Kawerau a Maki in 2017, led to Council closing the majority of tracks in the ranges, and budgeting \$100M over 10 years for Kauri dieback management. The Society has worked with Council, Waitakere conservation groups and local communities to see that this fund is used to ensure that tracks are upgraded to dry foot status before they can be opened again. Two audits of track conditions in the past six months have been carried out by volunteers organised by the Tree Council and the results have been forwarded to the Auckland Council. Special thanks to Te Kawerau a Maki for their strong leadership up to and following the rahui.



Charles Bloomfield – Natures Cathedral 1921

Myrtle Rust continues to spread in the North Island and upper South Island. **900** infected sites have been reported since May 2017. There are 179 sites in Auckland region with confirmed infection, mostly in Remuera. To date there are no confirmed infection sites in the ranges. In 2018, the Government invested \$14 million into new research into kauri dieback and myrtle rust.



Myrtle Rust Source: MPI

Following our successful High Court appeal in 2017 regarding prohibited activity status in the ranges, parties who had submitted on this matter to the Proposed Unitary Plan Topic 75 were able to appeal to the Environment Court. Only two parties did this and together with Council we are currently in court-assisted mediation. As the matter is sub judice, I am unable to discuss the details of the case.

Mischa Davis, our Heritage Area Coordinator for the past two years will be resigning from the role at the end of 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. We have appointed a new Heritage Area Coordinator, Eva Wrassky-Bulmer who will take over from Mischa on 1st April.

Over the past year we have made submissions on Rates Remission and Postponement Policy, WRHA Local Parks Design Guide, Kauri dieback management programme, Draft Regional Transport Plan and Regional Fuel Tax, Waitakere Ranges Greenways Plan, Local Government (Community Well-Being) Amendment Bill, Pest Free Piha Draft Strategic Plan, Mandatory phase out of single use plastic bags, National Kauri Dieback Management Plan submission, Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill, DOC Biodiversity Convention draft report, Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw, Regional Public Transport Plan, Predator Free 2050 discussion document, Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, National Biodiversity Strategy 2020, and the Waitakere Ranges Track Plan.

We continue to be involved as a stakeholder in Watercare’s consultation to replace the Huia Water Treatment Plant in Woodlands Park Road. The chosen site is Manuka Road, adjacent to the existing plant. The Society is a member of the Community Liaison Group that meets monthly with Watercare. As a group we have tabled a mitigation package to offset some of the damage to native flora and fauna on the site should the project proceed. The resource consent application is due to be notified next month.

The Society has commissioned a history of the Heritage Area Act written by journalist Wayne Thompson who was a senior environmental reporter for the New Zealand Herald at the time leading up to and after the passing of the Act. The manuscript has been delivered to the publisher, Oratia Media, and will soon go to the designer and will be published as an e-book.

As you will hear in the financial report, the Society remains in a strong financial position. The majority of the reserves have accumulated from sales of the Waitakere Ranges book. We are grateful to have received grants of \$7826 from The Trusts Community Foundation and \$3500 from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board towards the Heritage Area Act history book, and \$3900 from Foundation North towards HAC work. We were a finalist in the Trusts Million Dollar Mission, and raised \$5655 towards our work on kauri dieback.

The Society relies on professional consultants to prepare submissions and evidence for us on a range of legal and planning matters. The *pro bono publico* contribution of our legal counsel Douglas Allan from Ellis Gould Ltd., and RMA consultant Gary Taylor from EDS is invaluable. Thanks also to James Hook at Envivo Planning who has advised and represented the Society on all planning matters. And our thanks go to Jenny Taylor who has maintained our membership database and coordinated mail-outs for many years.

Anna Fomison keeps our website up to date and it is working well to disseminate information and allow people to purchase merchandise and join the Society. Orhan Er is editor of our quarterly newsletter and we always welcome contributions from members. The executive committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month. I would like to ask the outgoing committee to stand up. These people are your elected executive that has given the society so much of their volunteer time over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work together and I would like this meeting to join with me in showing our appreciation for their efforts on our behalf. Special thanks go to our vice-president Anna Fomison, secretary Joanna Silver and treasurer Sandra Jones. The Society has three Patrons; Emeritus Professor Dick Bellamy, the Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hunt and Lynne Pillay. It has been my honour to be President and to chair the executive committee for the past 21 years. I want to thank Society members and my family and friends for their support that has enabled me to better serve the society.



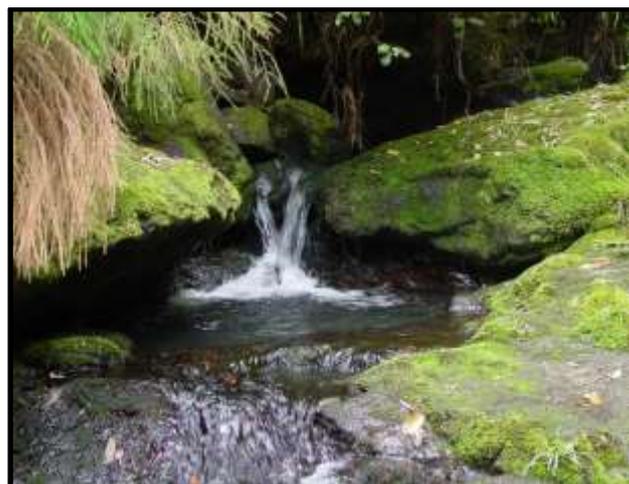
Unfortunately, Joanna Silver is not standing again for the committee. We thank her for the work that she has done to give the Society a more professional approach to strategic planning, cloud-filing systems, taking excellent minutes and being proactive on many issues. We will certainly miss her input.

Sadly, during the year four members passed away. Past president John Lewis is remembered for his vision and commitment to the ranges conservation and leading the restoration of historic Winchelsea House at Karekare. Committee member Trixie Harvey (2002-2013) and editor together with husband Bruce, of two major publications for the Society; her contribution to the Society will be greatly missed. Foundation member Dave Harre, historian and activist, was involved in the protests against the Te Henga

tip that started the Society. And John Lusk, long-time supporter and husband of Barbara who is here tonight with her friend Bobbie Woodward. Our thanks to these four members for their support and our condolences go to their families and friends.

To the members and friends who were there when the society was founded in 1973, and the many others who have since joined we would like to express our thanks for your support. The society has a proud history, but our work is not done. Your support in the coming years will be more important than ever.

John Edgar ONZM
President, The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.



Introducing Our New Heritage Area Co-ordinator Eva Wrassky-Bulmer



Eva lives in Oratia and has always been in love with the West Auckland coast and bush. She has always been passionate about the environment and has had a variety of roles working with other environmental organisations. She is really excited to be supporting the work of the WRPS and loving the HAC role so far. Eva is

currently in her final clinical year completing a Bachelor of Natural Medicine, previously has also studied permaculture and holds a degree in Political Science and International Relations. She is a passionate gardener so can usually be found there, if not out walking with her partner and son at a West Coast beach.

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

Waitakere Ranges Track Plan

In March we submitted feedback to the Auckland Council regarding the track plan for the Waitakere Ranges 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.

Submission on the Proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw

In February we put forward a submission on the Proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw highlighting the concern around freedom camping in the WRHA due to offensive behaviour and environmental damage resulting from freedom camping, and supporting a blanket approach completely prohibiting freedom camping across the WRHA.

Submitting Feedback on the Waitakere Ranges Track Plan

In March we submitted feedback to the Auckland Council regarding the track plan for the Waitakere Ranges 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.

Engaging in the Kauri Dieback Consultation Round Three

In March we submitted on the third round of the kauri dieback consultation process.

We were pleased to see that most of the concerns we submitted on in Round 2 have been addressed by the draft National (Kauri dieback) Pest Management Plan (NPMP) put forward in this third round of consultation. However, the NPMP as proposed has a number of deficiencies.

In our submission WRPS stated that we do not support a Government Department as the Management Agency. Nor however do we support a not-for-profit company running the programme. To date, MPI has failed at managing kauri dieback disease. DOC on the other hand does not have any jurisdiction over private land. The company model however implies that stakeholder input will be optional and advisory only with no seat on the governance board guaranteed for Maori, community, landowners, nor DOC. Neither of the two proposed options will be able to apply for philanthropic funding to support kauri. This is a serious deficiency and will leave the government having to pay for everything.

A serious concern is the exclusion of tangata whenua and the public as decision-making stakeholders in the protection of kauri. The Waitakere Ranges rāhui placed over Te Waonui ā Tiriwa (the forested area of the Waitakere Ranges) by Te Kawarau ā Maki in December 2017 has been regarded as a success by MPI, yet in the NPMP there is no defined role for tangata whenua, nor is there any description of how the management agency will consult with or engage iwi/hapu.

Up-coming work

Auckland Council's New Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw – May 16th

WRPS will be putting forward a submission this month. We support no change to current dog access rules; however, we support the Council's ability to temporarily change some access rules when necessary to protect wildlife, flora and fauna. We support more clear and consistent communication of information to the public through better signage and coherence of information on the Council websites.

- Walking Access Act 2008 review (Public consultation May)
- Charities Act 2005 review (Submission deadline 31st May)

RMA reform

The government plans to introduce an amendment bill to parliament this year to review the resource management system and reform the Resource Management Act. WRPS will be keeping an eye out for the opportunity to submit on this process.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer

New Committee Member Monique Olivier



Monique has lived in the Waitakere Ranges ever since she arrived from the Netherlands in the early 1980s, first in Piha, then in Oratia, where she still lives. Monique has

always been active in the community, serving as secretary of the Piha R&R, editor of the Piha Community News and Community Board member for the 04-07 term. She currently works as a language teacher at Western Springs College. She has two adult children and has recently become 'oma' to two young mokopuna. "I tend to worry these days about the world we will leave for them" says Monique. She has an interest in politics, sustainable living and organics and is in her happy place pottering in her garden. "I feel very blessed to be living in the beautiful Waitakere Ranges. The WRPS has always played a vital role in protecting this very special place. I hope to be able to make my modest contribution to this important work as a committee member".

2019-2020 Subscription Renewal Notice Reminder

Subscription renewal notices for the period 1 Feb 2019 to 31 Jan 2020.

These were sent to all members in February. If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, by post or online, could we urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you aren't sure, feel free to email me or phone me to check. I'd rather that you did that than pay twice. If you've lost/mislaid your invoice, we'd be pleased to send you another.

Sandra Jones, Treasurer

treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz

09 817 2788



Looking north from above Piha

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
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 a 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)



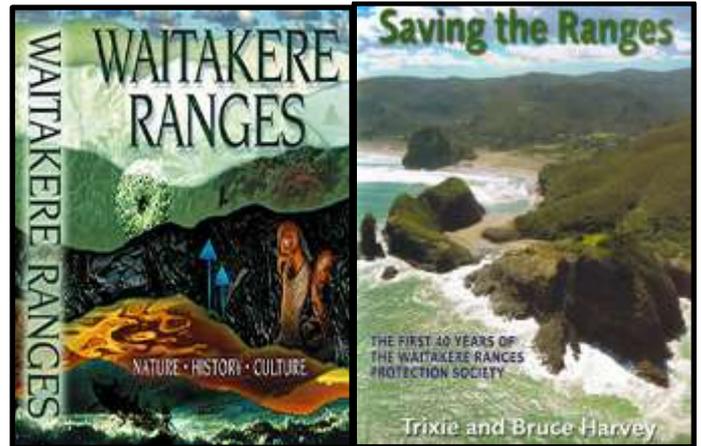
T-Shirts



All T-shirts are 100% cotton except the grey marle which is 85% cotton/15% polyester.

Available in a variety of colours, sizes and cuts for men and women. Please refer to our website for more details.

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.

Financial Report to the AGM

Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Incorporated
Statement of Financial Position, as at 31st January 2019

As a Registered Charity, we must submit an Annual Return to Charities Services (Department of Internal Affairs) using a template that they provide. In addition to the Financial Statement, this Return includes a non-financial Statement of Service Performance. The full Annual Return including the Audited Financial Statements may be viewed online on the Charities Register. Copies are also available on request from the Treasurer Ph: (09) 817 2788, Email: treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz

Auditor: McGregor Bailey, Chartered Accountants

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS “How we were funded” and “What did it cost to run WRPS”

	<u>31.1.2019</u>	<u>31.1.2018</u>
	\$	\$
OPERATING RECEIPTS (Money In)		
Donations (\$4018), Grant receipts (<i>Foundation North \$3900; Akl Cncl/WRLB \$3500; TTCF \$7829</i>)	19,247	19,060
Subscriptions	4,487	4,700
Sale of goods (<i>books \$220, other goods \$755</i>)	975	2,051
Interest from investments	4,723	8,296
Other	22	886
Total Operating Receipts	29,454	34,993
Operating Payments (Money Out)		
Buying goods for sale (<i>t-shirts, tea-towels, mugs & bowls</i>)	764	1,669
Donations paid (<i>2018: KiwisAgainstSandMining</i>)	-	200
Other operating payments	24,337	12,031
Total Operating Payments	25,101	13,900
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	4,353	21,093
Increase / (Decrease) in Bank Accounts and Cash	4,520	21,093
Bank accounts and cash at start of F/Y	203,788	182,695
Bank accounts and cash at end of F/Y	208,308	203,788
Represented by:		
ASB - Fast Saver (<i>Interest from Term Deposit</i>) Closed in Aug 2018 & transferred to Kiwibank	-	306
ASB - Short Term Deposit (<i>Neil & June Smith Fund</i>) Closed in Aug 2018 & transferred to Kiwibank	-	20,000
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (<i>Visa Debit card</i>)	23	10
Kiwibank Business Edge Account <i>Term Deposit interest, Neil & Jean Smith fund</i>)	867	-
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (<i>H.A.C - Heritage Area Coordinator, supported by grants</i>)	3,372	3,646
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (<i>Operating</i>)	6,932	5,959
Kiwibank Business Edge Account (<i>WRPS publications</i>)	20,273	18,728
Kiwibank Short Term Deposits (<i>Books \$108501, Land \$36159, H.A.C. \$5000, N&J Smith \$27181</i>)	176,841	155,139
Total Bank Accounts and Cash at the End of the F/Y	208,308	203,788

STATEMENT OF RESOURCES & COMMITMENTS - “What WRPS owns” and “What WRPS owes”

Schedule of Resources	31.1.2019	31.1.2018
	\$	\$
Bank accounts	208,308	203,788
Money Held on Behalf of IRD		
GST Receivable	494	666
Other Resources		
Inventory on hand at cost (<i>This consists primarily of stocks of ‘Saving the Ranges’ and ‘Waitakere Ranges’</i>)	19,449	19,134
Office Equipment	2	2
Plant and Equipment (<i>includes equip. purchased in 2009 from NZ Lottery Grants Board & ASB Community Trust grants (laptop, data projector/screen, digital recorder, mobile display)</i>) Note: Under the Reporting Standards introduced in 2015 (Tier 4, Cash Accounting), depreciation is not regarded as a cash transaction, so there is no change in value since then.	15,555	15,555
Total Resources	243,808	239,145

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	John Edgar Phone: 812 8555	president@waitakereranges.org.nz
Vice-President:	Anna Fomison Phone: 838 9665	amfomison@gmail.com
Secretary:	Position vacant	
Treasurer:	Sandra Jones Phone: 817 2788	treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
Newsletter Editor:	Orhan Er	orhaner8@gmail.com
Committee Members:	Mike Sweeney Mandy Patmore Monique Olivier Heather Tanguay	mikesweeney41@gmail.com phatworx@hotmail.com moniekolivier@gmail.com heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz



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



The Waitakere Ranges Protection
Society
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