

WRPS NEWS



Issue 183

Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc.

November 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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 Find us on Facebook facebook.com/TheWRPS

President's Report

This is the last newsletter of the year. Spring is here and summer doesn't feel so far away, especially with the hot and dry weather.

Final results of the local body elections are in and while there have been some changes we are pleased with the elected members for Council and the Local Board in Waitakere. We congratulate the successful candidates and look forward to working with them over the next three years.

Our new website will go live very soon. It will look very similar, but we had to do this as the current website is hosted in the US by a company who could no longer provide the service. It will be on a new platform and we will have access to a west Auckland IT specialist whenever there is a problem. The address will remain the same: www.waitakereranges.org.nz.

Our Environment Court case is progressing well and we were part of another court-assisted mediation in October, and there are site visits planned in November.

The Environmental Defence Society's conference "Through New Eyes: Rethinking Landscape in Aotearoa" in August was very inspiring and an opportunity to meet and network with other attendees. Videos of all the speaker's addresses are available on the EDS website: www.eds.org.nz

Thanks again to the committee for their hard work. As volunteers they all contribute what they can in time and expertise, and it has been a pleasure working with them all. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or finding out more about what the committee does please contact me.

Thanks to all our members and friends for their support. Without you the Society could not function so well. On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. I hope you have time to enjoy the west coast beaches, and walk the tracks that have been upgraded by Council. A list and map of open tracks is available on the Council website.

John Edgar ONZM

Christmas is coming...

Please see our merchandise at the end of this newsletter or visit our online store, there's something for everyone!



Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

A Resilient Piha and Resilient Karekare

In August WRPS submitted to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board on the documents outlining community action plans for natural disaster management in Piha and Karekare.

WRPS supports the increasing need for households and communities to be prepared in the events of natural disasters and weather patterns as they are becoming more severe and common. However, WRPS feels strongly that it would be most appropriate to have a wider Resilient Waitakere Ranges Plan. There are other communities and many residents within the greater Waitakere Ranges area that could also be significantly affected by natural disasters – they also need to know how to prepare for these emergency situations and what to do during and after.

The other main points raised in the submission were:

- The need for a comprehensive yet concise and easy-to-use document, not a 13-page pamphlet that is hard to navigate.
- Design that incorporates spatial organization, ease of reading, and is presented with concise and appealing information.

WRPS acknowledged the importance of community-led resilience, co-operation and preparedness in the face of natural disasters. We hope that this initiative of supporting communities to be aware and self-sufficient in times of crisis can be extended to include the wider Waitakere Ranges and the other communities that reside here.

New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy – Te Koiora o te Koiora

WRPS lodged a submission on the discussion document Te

Koiora o te Koiora, the proposal put forward by the Department of Conservation for a new Biodiversity Strategy for New Zealand. This was submitted in September, the submission focused on:

- The threat of pathogens (especially kauri dieback); the proposal recognised kauri dieback and mentioned it once, but we felt that this was not enough emphasis considering the significance of this threat to our ngahere.
- Tourism and its impact on the Waitakere Ranges; particularly in reference to spreading kauri dieback.
- The lack of mention of threatened species such as Maui dolphin and kauri in the proposal; as part of the wider biodiversity strategy we submitted that it is important to recognise vulnerable species and include them in future planning for protection and enhancement of biodiversity in New Zealand.
- Protection of the marine environment and fresh waterways; we submitted that this was another area of weakness in the document with inadequate attention focused here.
- Climate change; we commented that there was a lack of focus on climate change and its effects on biodiversity preservation and management. As well as the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Action for Healthy Waterways

The focus for October was a submission for the “Action for Healthy Waterways discussion document” put forward by Ministry for the Environment.

The focus was on the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area – lagoons and rivers, septic tanks, farm and human impacts on waterways.

The Love Our Lagoons Report and Auckland Council technical report on sources of fecal matter in west coast lagoons were extremely helpful when writing this.

The submission supported the objectives of improving storm water and wastewater systems, and in general improving the health of river, lake, and lagoon ecosystems.

However in regards to WRHA specific concerns there was a lack of mention regarding improving septic tank systems which is a significant area in need of improvement in the Piha, Karekare, and Te Henga communities.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer

Updates from our Treasurer

Claiming a Rebate for Donations from IRD

IRD has advised donors, who are NZ tax payers who wish to claim donation tax credits, that recent improvements to

the myIR service on the IRD website mean that once registered for a myIR account, you can upload your donation receipts at any time through myIR. You can upload photos or scans of paper receipts. WRPS is a registered charity and donations qualify for tax credits. Paper receipts are provided for all donations. *

At the end of the tax year you will not need to fill out and post a paper form to claim the tax credits. IRD will automatically calculate the credit and pay it into your bank account. IRD say you will get your refund sooner than if you use the paper form.

*IRD also advises that receipts received in electronic form can be uploaded directly. Unfortunately, our online system does not provide electronic receipts.

Notice to all WRPS members who use cheques (irrespective of which bank you use) to pay subscriptions, make donations or purchase books and other items from our store.

WRPS' bank (Kiwibank) will become cheque-free by 28 February 2020. Kiwibank appears to be the first bank to do this, but we understand that others will follow in due course.

If you are a Kiwibank customer, you will no longer be able to use cheques to make any payments to anybody.

If you are a customer of another bank, you will still be able to write cheques, but WRPS (and any other organisation that banks with Kiwibank) will not be able to bank your cheques.

Options available to make payments to WRPS after 28 February are:

Via Internet (online banking).

For those who have a computer or smart phone we will be setting up WRPS as a “registered bill payee”. No matter who you bank with you will just need to search for our name and our bank account details will pop up. You will then be prompted to provide reference information to let us know who you are and what you are paying for.

Phone banking / Visiting any branch of Kiwibank.

In these two cases, you will need to provide WRPS' bank account number [38-9010-0379887-01] and BE SURE to advise us by email or by phone that you have made a payment, and what the payment is for.

Setting up an annual automatic payment.

This will only be applicable to the payment of subscriptions/regular donations.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the WRPS Treasurer.

Sandra Jones
treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
09 817 2788

WRPS Merchandise

We have a range of 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.

Native Bird 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



Made from unbleached 100% Indian cotton, designed in West Auckland by Julia Moore and screen printed by Karousel.

\$17 each + p&p

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

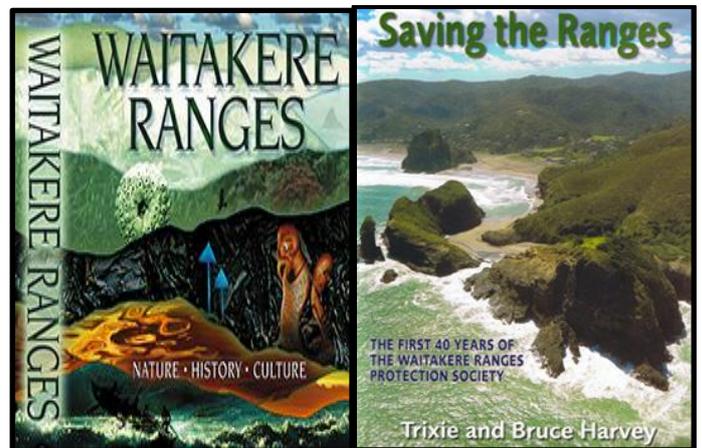
T-shirts



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.

“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.

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: [until 20 Feb 2020 only] Post your order details & cheque to:

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YOUR COMMITTEE

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