

# WRPS NEWS

Issue 187

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

Dear friends of the Waitakeres

I hope you are all well and have had a most enjoyable New Zealand summer.

### **EDS and the independent body to oversee the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area**

Firstly, one of the best pieces of news I have to share with you, is the publication of a new report by the Environmental Defence Society (EDS). Co-authored by EDS Solicitor Cordelia Woodhouse, lawyer Shay Schlaepfer and EDS Policy Director Raewyn Peart, *Protecting the Waitakere Ranges* examines the effectiveness of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 in protecting the nationally and regionally significant landscapes of the Waitakere Ranges.

The report is one of a series of case studies EDS is undertaking as part of a broader investigation into landscape protection in New Zealand.

It was co-funded by the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society and Foundation North.

“The Waitakere Ranges is the largest area of contiguous indigenous vegetation within the Auckland region, and it supports a wide range of flora and fauna,” said Ms Woodhouse.

“However, although the Act has been effective in heading off the threat of creeping subdivision, it has not been as effective in promoting positive changes.

“Kauri dieback disease is a major threat to the Waitakere Ranges and weeds and pests in the area are largely uncontrolled,” concluded Ms Woodhouse.

“We see the need for much more restoration effort in the Ranges,” said Ms Peart.

“We are also proposing the establishment of an independent body, with dedicated funding, to manage the Heritage Area on behalf of the public. This role could be performed by the Waitakere Ranges Local Board if it was appropriately resourced.”

The Waitakere Ranges report is available at [www.eds.org.nz/our-work/publications/reports/protecting-the-waitakere-ranges/](http://www.eds.org.nz/our-work/publications/reports/protecting-the-waitakere-ranges/).

Our Society is very happy to support this report and the proposal and look forward to discussing its recommendations.

### **The Resource Management Act**

As you are all probably aware, the Government has announced that the Resource Management Act will be rewritten and will be replaced by three new pieces of legislation. Obviously, this will take some time and we are hopeful that trees and environments like the Waitakere Ranges will be additionally protected under the new legislation.

### **Climate Change Commission**

On that note, the Climate Change Commission has called for submissions and although the report is quite high level, it explicitly states that it aims to influence local government policy. This will provide an excellent opportunity to promote the importance of special areas such as the Ranges. Following consultation, it will be presented to the Government by 31 May. The Government will then have until 31 December to decide whether to accept recommendations. If it chooses not to take on the Commission's advice, it must publish an alternative plan for addressing climate change in Aotearoa and reaching its targets.

Despite such hopeful news, the Ranges is nevertheless still under immediate threat from diseases such as Kauri Dieback and pests and weeds.

### **Kauri Dieback News**

Kauri Rescue Community Control of Kauri Dieback: Tiaki Kauri) has been promised new funding from a variety of sources and is in the process of negotiating contracts for the work to be done. That's good news for financing further work on this important project.

### **Auckland Council kauri dieback survey**

The next round of the kauri dieback surveillance in the Waitakere Ranges will begin this summer and probably be completed next summer, with the report due out before Xmas 2022.

## Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

### The latest tracks opening

The most recent tracks to have been opened are: Jubilee Walk, Mt Donald McLean Walk, Donald McLean Track, Karamatura Track, Karamatura Loop, Spragg Bush Track, McElwain Track, White Track, Ahu Ahu Track, Omanawanui and Puriri Ridge Tracks.

### Huia Water treatment plant

Latest news is that the consent hearings have been reopened. The meetings had been delayed while waiting for the monitoring report by Biosense on kauri dieback in the area. This report was provided to local groups (WRPS included) in mid-December and the groups' expert witnesses were called to a caucusing meeting with just a few days' notice. The purpose of this caucusing was to examine the results of the kauri dieback monitoring and produce "a Joint Witness Statement setting out areas of agreement and disagreement in respect of the Kauri Dieback management approach and protocols that are proposed for the site by Watercare, and reasons behind the opinion of each expert". Two of the expert witnesses were unable to attend. A formal complaint to the Council's Hearings Adviser about the short notice given to the expert witness panel was lodged by the local groups with a request that the meeting be rescheduled for a time when all experts are able to be present and contribute fully to the proceedings. The experts had been instructed by the facilitator to contribute to the development of some sort of agreed management plan for control of the pathogen to enable development on the site to proceed. The local groups' response was that if Watercare wants to develop such a document for the experts to critique and present to the commissioners then the group was happy to do that, but it would not be the authors of or contributors to such a document.

Despite the complaint it has been decided that the caucusing will not be revisited and the Hearing will proceed.

### Ebook and the AGM date

Our new E-Book publication *Making a Stand: the history of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act* is now in the final stages of production with the indexing and final editorial processes underway. It is expected that the publisher will be able to give us an approximate publication date in the near future, and in the hope that the launch of the e-book could be timed to coincide with the AGM, the Society has proposed that the AGM be held in April, the actual date to be set at the March committee meeting.

Finally, a belated Happy New Year to you all. Wishing you all the best for both 2021 and the Chinese Year of the Ox. And now that we're rolling on towards autumn, wishing you a very happy Matariki as well.

Thanks to you, our members and supporters and looking forward to another challenging but productive year ahead.

Anna Fomison  
President

December and January were quiet months for the HAC role, but as we jump into 2021 there are some really important draft consultations that WRPS will be putting forward submissions on.

### The 10-year Budget 2021-2031 (long term plan) consultation

Some of the main focuses of this 10-year-Budget are: protecting the environment and responding to climate change, investment at regional and community levels, and water quality. All of these areas strongly impact the wellbeing and protection of the Waitakere Ranges so we will be sure to address these in the submission.

### Climate Change Commission's first package of advice to government

The CCC draft states that planting native forests is a better way of storing carbon long-term than exotic forestry, which WRPS strongly supports. However, the draft fails to recommend the rehabilitation of degraded and cut-over native forest by means of fencing and pest control. These are two areas that are relevant and important that we will focus on.

A thorough summary of the issues covered in both of these submissions (and any others that come up) will be in the next newsletter.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer

## 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](http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz).

Thank you for your continued support.

### 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.

## Prints



Three unique Native Bird Prints, artwork by Mandy Patmore  
[www.mandypatmore.com](http://www.mandypatmore.com)  
[www.facebook.com/mandypatmore.artist](http://www.facebook.com/mandypatmore.artist)  
 Limited run printed on quality paper.  
 Tui and Heron on A3 for \$40 each.  
 Tomtit on A4 for \$30.  
 To order please email:  
[treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz)

## Mugs & Bowls

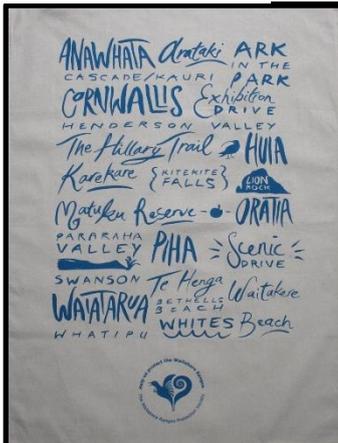


Hand painted by Lynda Harris

Tui, keruru, pukeko, kokako, kiwi, kakariki, kaka, takahe, torea pango (oyster catcher)  
 All mugs and bowls are priced at **\$35 each + p&p**



## Tea Towels



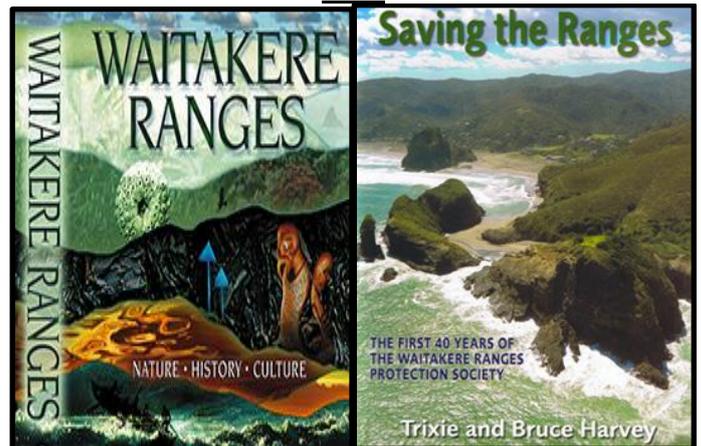
Place names of the Ranges



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**

## Book



“Waitakere Ranges: Nature, History, Culture”  
 Ed. Bruce & Trixie Harvey  
 Special for WRPS members: **\$85 (includes p&p)**  
 For non-WRPS members: **\$95 (includes p&p)**

## Order / Payment

[Book]: Kiwibank Acc No. 38-9010-0379887-02  
 [Other items]: Kiwibank Acc No. 38-9010-0379887-01

**Paying by direct credit:** After making your payment online, email your order information to [treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz)

**Paying by telephone banking or over the counter at the bank:** Phone the Treasurer (09 817 2788) to confirm your order details.

## 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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