



The Waitākere 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](https://facebook.com/TheWRPS)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7 pm, Monday 29 August 2022 by Zoom video conferencing**

Earlier attempts to schedule the 2022 AGM were scuttled due to Covid 19, and because of the continuing concern about spread of the virus, we have reluctantly decided to hold the AGM by video conference. The Annual Report and a summary of the Audited Financial/Performance Reports will as usual be included in the next newsletter and posted on the WRPS website. *Members may request a copy by post, ph: 021 027 73067*

The Agenda is being sent to members by separate email.

### PRESENTATION:

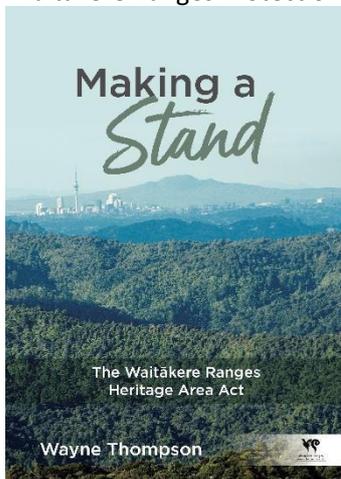
The meeting will be followed by the launch and a preview of our new e-book:

#### ***Making a Stand:***

#### ***The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act***

by Wayne Thompson

for the Waitākere Ranges Protection Society



## President's Report

Kia ora Koutou

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter 2022. Although some months have passed since our last newsletter, for the WRPS Committee it has been business as usual, which has a whole new meaning in this Covid environment. The Committee has continued its work, holding not only our monthly meetings via Zoom but extra meetings also focussed on the updating of our Rules and the strategic plan. The updated Rules will be presented to members for approval at a Special General Meeting to be held by Zoom at a date to be announced later in the year and the updated strategic plan will be uploaded to the website.

A decision was made in March that due to the Covid Omicron outbreak that the AGM would be deferred until the peak of the outbreak had well passed. It was further decided that, in the likelihood that Covid-19 is still prevalent in the community, it would be held by Zoom in August. Details of the AGM are included in this newsletter.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer, our Heritage Area Coordinator has continued her excellent work for the Society. In May WRPS submitted on the Auckland Council's proposed changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan, "Government's new housing rules: what it means for Auckland", and on the "Waitipu-Waitākere Quarry Park Service Outcomes Plan".

In July WRPS submitted on "Implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (Te Mana o te Wai) for Auckland". You can read about the main points that were made in these submissions in this Newsletter.

And we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Eva later this year and sincerely thank her for all her work for WRPS and wish her all the best for her future and her growing family. In May, at the Hearing on our submission on the Regional Parks Management Plan, our Legal Counsel, Douglas Allen spoke on WRPS's behalf, emphasising the importance of

the Waitākere Ranges for Auckland, and urged Council to concentrate recreational activities in other more suitable Regional Parks. The final plan will be presented to Council for approval in September.

The ongoing High Court Appeal relating to the Huia Watercare Treatment Plant has been deferred until September. WRPS is registered as an 'interested party', a section 274 party to this Appeal, not an appellant.

The increasing pressure from Auckland's growth is creating an ongoing issue both in the subdivisions on the Heritage Area boundaries and in the minor dwellings as a permitted activity in the Waitākere Foothills and Waitākere Ranges zones. Concerns have been raised about the new standards and compliance and we have sought legal advice about options on how to proceed.

In the last few months WRPS is pleased to have been able to support and contribute financially to two pamphlets that have been produced or that are in production. The new Visitors Welcome pamphlet published by Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance and the Heritage Area pamphlet, being produced by Sandra Coney and Peter Hosking are essential reading, providing information to raise awareness of the significance of living in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

And last but not least it is with great pleasure that we can finally announce the launch of our Ebook '*Making a Stand*' to be launched via Zoom at the upcoming AGM. This Ebook produced by the Waitākere Ranges Protection Society, has been written by Wayne Thompson and published by Oratia Media.

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Act which came into force in 2008 represented a milestone in the life of the Society. Wayne Thompson documents WRPS's dedicated efforts by several generations of volunteers and experts in ensuring the Ranges' survival tracing back to early conservation efforts in the Waitākere Ranges to the Act's passing in 2008.

For 53 years, Wayne Thompson was engaged in a wide variety of newspaper and magazine journalism. As a reporter for the *New Zealand Herald* he covered the citizen movement for permanent protection of the Ranges, his favourite place for recreation.

Once launched this Ebook will be available free from our Website and will be distributed on Overdrive, Kobo, Apple Books and other platforms. Please join us at the AGM for the launch.

And once again, our sincere thanks for your support of our work. We value and appreciate your interest.

If you would like or know anyone who would like to consider a more active role with us we are looking for a

volunteer secretary and we have a new opening for a paid part-time role as Heritage Area Coordinator. These are fantastic opportunities to be involved at the ground level in supporting, contributing to, and advocating for the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.

As John Edgar said "This place is a treasure that needs ever-vigilant guardians" (Waitākere Ranges Protection Society, 2006)

Anna Fomison, President

### Invitation for Expressions of Interest: WRPS Heritage Area Coordinator Role (part-time contract)

WRPS is looking for someone to fill the Heritage Area Coordinator (HAC) role. This is a fulfilling (paid) part-time role supporting a hard-working volunteer committee of an organisation that has been around for over 40 years. The role involves submission writing, drafting grant applications, research and administrative support where required, and looking after the website and social media pages. The hours are variable and flexible, approximately 5 hours a week or 20 hours a month.

For more information, a job description and contract details, email Anna Fomison  
[president@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:president@waitakereranges.org.nz).

### Subscription: Renewal Reminder

Subscription renewal notices for the period 1 Feb 2022 to 31 Jan 2023 were sent to all members in February. If you haven't renewed your subscription yet, 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 you did this than pay twice.

Sandra Jones, Treasurer Tel: 021 027 73067  
Email: [treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz)

### WRPS Merchandise

You are invited to scroll down to the end of the newsletter to find details of items of WRPS merchandise for sale. There are tea towels, t-shirts, bird prints, a Don Binney colour print "Kawaupaku, Te Henga 1967", and a beautifully illustrated book "Waitakere Ranges – Nature, History, Culture".

## Volunteer help needed

### Secretary

We have been without a secretary for nearly three years. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming our new secretary. Administrative skills and proficiency in Microsoft Word are essential, and some knowledge of Excel and PowerPoint would be helpful – and, of course, a passion for the protection of the Waitākere Ranges. Ability to work collaboratively with a small team but to take the initiative when appropriate are necessary.

If this role is of interest to you or if you want more information, please email our president Anna Fomison [president@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:president@waitakereranges.org.nz).

## 2021 Waitākere Ranges

### Kauri Population Health Monitoring Survey

<https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/2392/tr-2022-08-2021waitakere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey.pdf>

This is the third survey carried out by Auckland Council on the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park for kauri dieback disease.

Remote sensing was used to detect kauri trees >15m tall within the forest canopy of Te Wao Nui Tiriwa/ the Waitākere Ranges parkland. It is unknown how many kauri shorter than 15 m are within the Waitākere Ranges as they were not easily detectable with remote sensing technologies available in 2020/21. The research surveyed a representative sample of 2140 trees, out of 68,420 identified within the forest. The soil beneath 761 of these trees were tested for *Phytophthora agathidicida* presence.

The baseline pathogen prevalence of *P. agathidicida* detection was 76/761 (10%) in soil samples, and kauri dieback symptoms in 16.5% of surveyed trees. The spatial distribution of *P. agathidicida* from the 761 soil sampled trees showed a greater density of *P. agathidicida* detections in the northern, central-western and southern borders of the study area. There was no detection of *P. agathidicida* in the central interior areas of the Park.

An interesting finding was that kauri seedlings and saplings were surviving in soils where *P. agathidicida* was confirmed. This study provides a consistent cohort of monitored trees that can be remeasured to understand change in disease and pathogen prevalence over time. The results supported the precautionary approach taken since 2018 and continued measures to stop the spread of *P. agathidicida*.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer, WRPS Heritage Area Coordinator

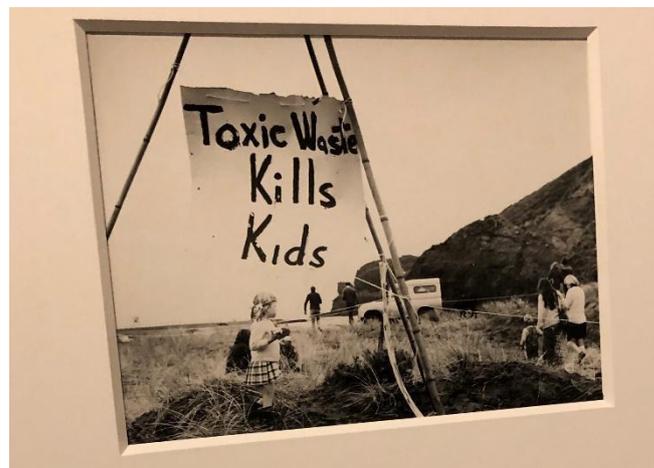
## Olaf Petersen

Nature Boy: The photography of Olaf Petersen.  
Auckland Museum  
Open now – until March 2023.

WRPS is proud that Olaf Petersen (1915–1994) was one of the founding members of the Society.

His photographic exhibition currently on the Auckland Museum captures the West Coast's rugged nature and wild beauty. It is well worth a seeing (at least once!) and will remind visitors of the wonders we strive to protect.

Article by Sandra Coney:  
<https://thespinoff.co.nz/books/21-04-2022/remembering-olaf-petersen-one-of-new-zealand-photographys-best-kept-secrets>



Olaf Petersen

A Field Day at Te Henga, 1973, protesting (successfully) against a proposed rubbish dump in the upper reaches of the valley. This was the birth of WRPS.

## Welcome Pamphlet for New Residents

and

### Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Pamphlet

A welcome pack that will be going out to new residents in the Heritage Area is almost complete. It has been put together by the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance, with financial support from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board, as a way of introducing new residents to the Heritage Area, stressing its value and importance, and providing a guide to further information.

The Heritage Area Pamphlet is another project, being undertaken by Peter Hosking and Sandra Coney. It is a comprehensive 12-panel pamphlet that will be available at places such as Arataki Visitors Centre, libraries, and other areas where visitors to the Ranges as well as residents will be able to be informed.

## West Auckland Heritage Conference

The conference is to be held live and in person again this year, on Sun 13 Nov at the Titirangi War Memorial Hall. Our President, Anna, will give a “pitopito korero”: a short talk on ‘*Making a Stand*,’ the Ebook produced by the Society that will be launched at the AGM.

## SUBMISSIONS

### Government’s New Housing Rules: what it means for Auckland

Main submission points:

WRPS acknowledges that the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is already included in the Auckland Unitary Plan as an existing overlay, and thus is exempted from the Medium Density Residential Standards. WRPS also notes that a qualifying matter includes those matter(s) required to give effect to the WRHA Act 2008. However, we believe that it is important that the WRHA itself be included as a qualifying matter, and that extra protection is ensured against any development occurring in the HA, due to its significant national heritage status.

Areas of national importance such as streams, lakes, wetlands, significant ecological areas, and areas of outstanding natural character, as well as notable trees and all current reserves and parks should also be considered qualifying matters as well as be ensured permanent protection from development.

### Waitipū–Waitākere (prev. Te Henga) Quarry



Photo: from Auckland Council website

Main submission points:

WRPS strongly supports

1. considering the Waitākere Stream catchment as a whole;
2. ongoing weed and pest control and monitoring.
3. developing the water catchment area as a wetland for the following reasons:
  - There are two semi-connected wetlands within the Quarry Park at the head of Te Henga valley. A short section of Waitipū Stream flows through them.
  - The wetlands are dominated by raupō.
  - Raupō has a regional IUCN threat status of endangered.
  - Raupō reedlands and wetland habitat supports a diverse range of native birds including: pāteke (brown

teal), mātātā (fernbird), koitareke (marsh crake), pūweto (spotless crane), moiweka (banded rail), kāhu (harrier), matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern), the latter under threat of extinction due to the extensive loss of their wetland habitat and ongoing pressures such as predation. This species is now ranked as Nationally Critical (the same threat level as kākāpō).

- More wetland area would provide a valuable function in filtering out sediment from the stream as it flows downstream to Waitākere River, Te Henga wetland, and on to Te Henga beach.

- Te Henga is one of the most significant natural wetlands in Tāmaki Makaurau.

### Implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (Te Mana o te Wai) for Auckland



Lake Wainamu, Te Henga

Photo: Sandra Jones

Main submission points:

WRPS strongly supports the Government’s overall mandate to manage water as set out in the 15 Policies in the NPS-FM. The areas of freshwater that are relevant and of importance to the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are the rivers, streams, and wetlands that occur within the area.

Freshwater environments in all non-natural areas, including urban, forestry and farming environments, are heavily polluted. The MfE 2020 report notes that any changes to freshwater environments “are slow to reverse, and some are irreversible. Loss of species and ecosystems could have significant impacts on our identity, wellbeing, cultural values, and economy.”

Freshwater concerns specific to the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area that should be addressed with the incorporation of the NPS-FM into the Auckland Unitary Plan include:

- No further loss of wetlands and the active protection of wetlands and freshwater lakes from invasive weed and animal pest species.
- Addressing the pollution of lagoons, rivers and streams.
- Better management of stormwater, wastewater and septic tanks.

Eva Wrassky-Bulmer, Heritage Area Coordinator

## WRPS Merchandise

We have a range of quality merchandise ranging from a high quality book to t-shirts, tea towels, uniquely hand-crafted mugs & bowls, a Don Binney poster print and bird prints by Mandy Patmore. Some of the items we have in stock are illustrated below.

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 support.

### T-Shirts



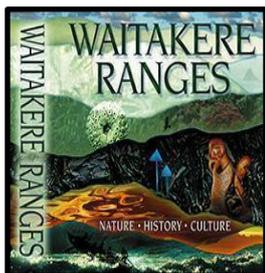
All T-shirts are 100% cotton except the grey marle which is 85% cotton/15% polyester. Available in a variety of colours (black, white, army green, grey), sizes and cuts for men and women. Please refer to our website for more details.

### Bird Prints



Three unique Prints. Limited run printed on quality paper. Tui and Heron (A3) \$40 each. Tomtit (A4) \$30. Artwork by Mandy Patmore [www.mandypatmore.com](http://www.mandypatmore.com) [www.facebook.com/mandypatmore.artist](http://www.facebook.com/mandypatmore.artist)

**Book:** *Waitākere Ranges: Nature, History, Culture*



Ed. B. & T. Harvey. 541 pages, generously illustrated. Special for WRPS members: **\$85 (includes p&p)** For non-WRPS members: **\$95 (includes p&p)**

### Tea Towels



Place names of the Ranges



Māori 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 Wārena Taua for permission to use it. **\$17 each + p&p**

### Mugs & Bowls



*Hand painted by Lynda Harris*

Tūi, kerurū, pūkeko, kōkako, kiwi, kākāriki, kākā, takahē, tōrea pango (oyster catcher)

All mugs and bowls are priced at **\$35 each + 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 [jsandra378@gmail.com](mailto:jsandra378@gmail.com)

**Paying by telephone banking or other means:** Phone the Treasurer (021 027 73067) to confirm your order details.

Note that the Society can no longer accept cheques in payment

## YOUR COMMITTEE

<b>President:</b>	Anna Fomison Ph: 021 163 7492	president@waitakereranges.org.nz
<b>Deputy President:</b>	Sandra Jones Ph: 021 027 73067	jsandra378@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Position vacant	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandra Jones Ph: 021 027 73067	treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
<b>Committee members:</b>	Heather Tanguay Tim O'Shea Rob Taylor Susie Vincent	heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz tim.oshea@outlook.co.nz rob@taylored.co.nz susannevincent@outlook.com

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



**The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society Inc.**

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