




*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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 [facebook.com/The-Waitakere-Ranges-Protection-Society](https://facebook.com/The-Waitakere-Ranges-Protection-Society)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Annual General Meeting of the Society**  
**will be held at**

**7 pm, Monday 27th March**  
**Arataki Visitors Centre, Scenic Drive, Titirangi**

**Agenda:**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Announcements**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 2016 and Matters arising**
- 5. Annual Report**
- 6. Financial Report**
- 7. Election of Officers**
- 8. General Business**

**Speaker:**

**“Clean Water for the Waitakere Ranges”**  
**Dr. Dan Ducker, Ecomatters Environmental Trust**

## President's Report

Since our last newsletter in November, I hope you have all enjoyed summer in the ranges. Whether on the beaches or walking the tracks, there is always a wonderful feeling of escape from busy city life as we enjoy the ranges with family and friends.

With the Auckland Unitary Plan hearings concluded we are currently working on our High Court appeal regarding prohibited activity status for subdivision in some areas of the ranges, and are making good progress in our pre-hearing meetings with Auckland Council counsel and planners. Our two environmental court appeals may be resolved without the necessity of hearings.

We have made a number of submissions over the past months. These will be referred to in Katherine Russell's Heritage Area Coordinator's report in this newsletter. The committee is very appreciative of Katherine's diligence in researching and drafting these submissions.

As a registered charity, we are now required by the Charities Act 2005 to lodge Annual Performance Reports. This is the first year of this new requirement. The document has been prepared and forwarded to our auditor and later in the year will be lodged with the Charities Commission and made available to the public on their website.

The committee is currently developing a five-year strategic plan to focus on the most important environmental issues in the ranges and what actions will be required to satisfactorily address them.

Plans are progressing for the 10th anniversary of the Heritage Area Act in April 2018. We plan to commission a history of the Act which will go back to the Society's beginnings in 1973 when we first mooted the idea of permanent protection for the Waitakere Ranges. We would also like to have a celebration of the first 10 years, possibly involving an art exhibition and will be seeking funding for that.

We look forward to your attendance at the Annual General Meeting in March. Our speaker, Dr. Dan Ducker has been studying the west coast streams, lagoons and beaches to establish the sources of the pollution that is making these fresh and salt water ecosystems un-swimmable and un-drinkable. All over New Zealand high levels of water pollution are occurring at an alarming rate and communities are rightly very concerned.

Thanks to all our members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2017. Without your support the Society would not flourish and the ranges would not have a strong voice.

*John Edgar ONZM*

## Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

It has been a busy start to 2017 with us following up on a number of projects and activities around the Ranges. Firstly, we have to let you know that unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing funding for our Vespula wasp project. We will do some thinking later this year about options for next summer.



At the end of 2016 we reviewed and submitted on the resource consent application for a new access-way between the carpark and the surf club at Karekare. We are now discussing the consent conditions with council that will hopefully mean the project has high environmental standards to protect the ecology of the area.

In March, hearings are scheduled for the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL) consent applications for seabed mining. We will be represented by Kiwis Against Seabed Mining and will report on the outcome later in the year.

We are also monitoring progress with the Huia Treatment Plan project. Watercare are consulting with the community on three potential sites – the current site, the adjacent land on Manuka Road, and a site around 130 Parker Road, Oratia. If you are in these communities, you should have been invited to information evenings and to give your feedback to Watercare. You can email [HuiaWTPProject@water.co.nz](mailto:HuiaWTPProject@water.co.nz).

Finally, in January we submitted on the Gap Draft Concept Plan for the new regional parkland at 29 Te Ahuahu Road, Piha. With input from the community, we identified the need to ensure the proposed tracks and infrastructure were low key and in keeping with the wilderness purpose of the Waitakere Ranges. We also advocated for better planting and weed management plans, and to ensure tracks were designed to reduce the spread of kauri dieback disease.

*Katherine Russell*

## Why like us on Facebook?

Did you know that Facebook has an algorithm to determine who sees posts? That means that not everyone who likes our page sees every post. Instead, the algorithm chooses who and how many people see each post. One of the factors is interaction, so when our post is liked or shared, the algorithm gives that post more popularity and then it is seen by more group members.

So what can you do? Like us on Facebook and like, react, or share our posts. That helps us get better visibility and spread the word about key events, issues and ideas for the Ranges. You can also let us know on [HAC@waitakereranges.org.nz](mailto:HAC@waitakereranges.org.nz) if you have something you think we should post.

## Te Henga quarry update

I recently visited the Te Henga quarry site to see the progress on rehabilitation and observe the current use, and associated issues, of the site. The site is currently closed, but is being used by a number of people, primarily for swimming. This has resulted in parking issues on the road and rubbish accumulating on site, along with safety issues with the way people are using the site. We are now

following this up with Panuku Development Auckland and the local board.



On the positive side, the land has been recontoured, the tracks are well formed for walking and many of the trees planted last winter are surviving the hot summer.



There is some weed control underway, but it could certainly be better and there are some potential weed sources around the edges – particularly wattle trees. We have asked Panuku for further information on the weed control and will monitor to ensure replanting of lost trees occurs this winter.

*Katherine Russell*

## Lagoon water quality

You may have seen the permanent signs installed at Laingholm, Wood Bay, north and south Piha lagoons, and Bethells Beach lagoon, all warning that the water is not safe for swimming. For most, the news about poor water quality at these lagoons won't be a surprise, but the poor water quality is still a significant issue for the Waitakere Ranges.

What is the issue? While there are a number of possible sources of contamination of the lagoons, EcoMatters has found that the main culprits are malfunctioning septic tanks and long drops from houses in the immediate area. Poor systems mean chemical residues (e.g. from cleaning) and untreated human waste entering the lagoons. This



affects their ecology as well as our ability to enjoy the lagoons.

In Te Henga, there is also strong evidence of contamination by livestock, meaning better management (such as fencing) of the catchment could help improve the lagoon quality.

So, what can you do? Well, come along to our AGM and hear Dr Dan Ducker, EcoMatters, talk more about the issue. You can also help spread the word and make sure that people maintain and check their septic tank. Check out the Love our Lagoons website: [www.ecomatters.org.nz/campaign/love-your-lagoons](http://www.ecomatters.org.nz/campaign/love-your-lagoons)

*Katherine Russell*

## **KAURI RESCUE™ PROJECT RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS**

A new project team comprising scientists, social scientists, iwi and community groups has gained two-year funding from the Government's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge [www.biologicalheritage.nz](http://www.biologicalheritage.nz) one of only six successful projects out of 111 applications.

Their exciting new project Kauri Rescue™ otherwise known as the Community Control of Kauri Dieback: Tiaki mō Kauri seeks to engage the public in refining a new citizen science tool for the treatment of Kauri Dieback Disease, which is decimating kauri forests in northern New Zealand.

The project was officially launched in Titirangi in early February where an audience of over 100 attendees heard about how kauri dieback is killing kauri, the promising results of the research work to date using phosphite as a treatment and the social science and Mātaurangi Māori elements of the project. Locals were encouraged to join the project and begin treating their own trees as part of the trial of the methodologies.

In December the project team undertook a community survey in Titirangi to gauge public attitudes towards kauri, the disease and control measures to date. Almost 300 people have completed the survey to date, which is still live online at [www.kaurirescue.org.nz](http://www.kaurirescue.org.nz)

The Kauri Rescue project team is currently recruiting private landowners to join the pilot group, which will test and refine the methodology and instructions given to participants before the second phase of the project. Anyone who already has had kauri dieback confirmed on their property can join the pilot group and should contact the team immediately. This stage will be completed by April. Anyone who suspects they have kauri dieback but

has not yet had it confirmed should contact Auckland Council's Biosecurity Department and book in for free soil testing to confirm the disease. They will then be able to join the second phase of the project.

By April the methodology will be robust enough to extend the project into a second phase with a much larger group of landowners based across northern New Zealand. This group will work alongside scientists to treat their own trees with a chemical called phosphite, which has shown great promise in Kauri Dieback Programme-funded scientific trials, by enabling kauri to fight back against the *Phytophthora agathidicida* pathogen that causes the disease.

The project will also encourage landowners to test other treatment techniques, encouraging both western science and mātauranga Māori methods. One of the requirements of landowners joining the project is that they agree to rigorously collect monitoring results and data on all treatments so that their efficacy can be determined. The aim of the project is to develop a suite of tools effective at controlling kauri dieback disease that can ultimately be released to the public via the Kauri Dieback Programme.

Project Team Leader Dr Ian Horner of Plant & Food Research is delighted at the opportunity to take his research to the next level and engage the public in actively developing the treatment tools themselves.

"We hope that people will find this opportunity empowering and a positive step forward in the fight against Kauri Dieback Disease. Working together to develop and test these tools and feeding results into a wider research pool will accelerate development of robust methods. Thus, in the near future we could have effective treatments that the public can apply themselves and support others in their community to treat their own trees" he said.

However the Kauri Rescue team wants to make it clear that the use of phosphite or other treatment techniques is not a cure for kauri dieback, and nor does it immunise trees against future re-infection. The most important message that the team is promoting is that we must stop the continued spread of the disease to new areas by diligently applying the hygiene protocols. Dr Ian Horner says "there is hope that by developing these treatment tools we can save individual trees and keep them alive, but we all need to work together to stop the spread of the disease if we are to save kauri as a species. Scrubbing and spraying our footwear, staying on the track, keeping dogs on a lead and respecting closed tracks are essential measures that we must all do if we are to save our kauri from this terrible disease. Kauri dieback is like AIDS for



plants - we can't cure it, but we can stop its spread by being scrupulously hygienic and changing our behaviour. Educating others about how important this behaviour is is something we can all do to help".

To get involved in the Kauri Rescue™ project - join the team: <http://www.kaurirescue.org.nz/newsreel/join-the-team>

Contact Kauri Rescue™:  
<http://www.KauriRescue.org.nz/contact.html>

Links:

<http://www.KauriRescue.org.nz>  
<https://www.facebook.com/kaurirescue>  
<https://twitter.com/KauriRescue>  
<https://www.instagram.com/kaurirescue/>  
Biological Heritage National Science Challenge  
announcement: <http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9b724d771a17140109b492677&id=a95ba1caa9&e=d8d491950c>

The Kauri Rescue™ Team is:  
Dr Ian Horner - Team Leader, Plant & Food Research  
Dr Mels Barton - The Tree Council  
Lee Hill - Project Manager  
Dr Nick Waipara - Māori Kaihautū, Science Leadership Group, Ngā Koiora Tuku Iho Biological Heritage National Science Challenge  
Waitangi Wood - Wai Communications  
Pete Graham - Northland Regional Council  
Dr Marie McEntee - Aranovus Research  
Jason Roxburgh - Coromandel Kauri Dieback Forum

Media Comment:

Dr Ian Horner - Team Leader, Plant & Food Research 021 226 8170  
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## WRPS Merchandise

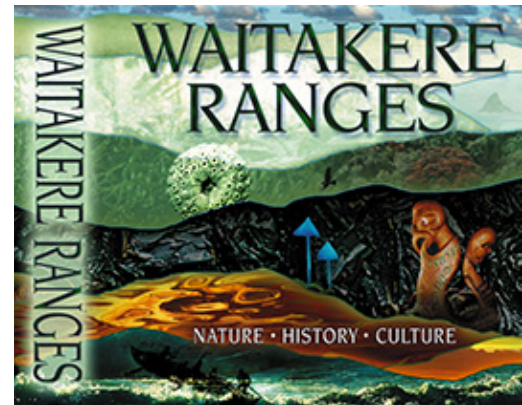
We at WRPS have a range of quality merchandise ranging from high quality reference books to t-shirts and uniquely hand crafted mugs and bowls.

For more details of the Society's merchandise (publications, pottery, casual wear and a Don Binney poster print) please refer to the WRPS online shop at:  
[www.waitakereranges.org.nz](http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz).

The following images offer a sneak peek into what is available on our website. Thank you for your continued support.



*Pictured above is the ultimate supporters set and will complement any household (individual prices are available on the WRPS website).*



*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.*

Edited by Bruce and Trixie Harvey



*Saving the Ranges tells of the many people who have contributed to the conservation and protection of the Ranges.*





*WRPS supporter's T-shirts are available in male and female cuts with a variety of colours and sizes in stock.*



*Please see our website for all merchandise, additional information and membership subscriptions:  
[www.waitakereranges.org.nz](http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz).*

## **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](mailto:wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz)). You will have the added advantage of being able to view the photographs in full and glorious colour.



## 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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