

WRPS NEWS



Issue 175 Newsletter of The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc. November 2017

The Waitakere Ranges Protection Society Inc. is a registered charitable entity in terms of the Charities Act 2005. Registration No. CC46103

PO Box 15668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640
Email: wrps@waitakereranges.org.nz
Website: www.waitakereranges.org.nz
 facebook.com/TheWRPS

President's Report



With spring has come a wonderful flowering of heketara (*Olearia rani*) in some parts of the ranges. As I drive to Karekare over the Waiatarua saddle and onto the Piha Road, the land rising to the north has large areas of creamy white flowers showing just how many tree daisies are growing there. I don't remember seeing such a profuse flowering of heketara before.

Wayne Thompson is researching and writing the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act history and we expect a first draft this month. We are planning to have the digital book published in time for the tenth anniversary of the passing of the Act in April 2018. Wayne has interviewed many people who were crucial in our long-time goal to permanently protect the ranges. We are grateful to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board and Foundation North for grants, and to Joy and Denis Hanna and family for their donation to this project.

Our appeal to the High Court regarding Council's decision to remove Prohibited Activity Status for subdivision in some areas of the ranges has been upheld and consequently all submitters to the Unitary Plan hearings on this matter have been directed to file notices of appeal with the environment court by October 31.

We wish to acknowledge two new pest eradication initiatives in the ranges. Pest Free Waitakere convened by

Robert Woolf has given Predator Free Auckland an expression of interest for funding to see the ranges become pest free, and Pest Free Piha, begun by Peter Hosking, has received funding that will allow its volunteers to start working on the huge problem of weeds and pests at Piha. Both these projects are great examples of local community action towards a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050.

You will see in this newsletter that we have added two new tea towel designs to our merchandise range. One design has selected place names of the ranges and the other a maori proverb. Thanks to Julia Moore for the art work. They can be purchased online from our website.

John Edgar ONZM

Heritage Area Co-ordinator Report

With elections on, it's been a quiet time for consultations. We've been continuing to monitor issues we have submitted on such as the policy and concept plan for Taitomo, which has hearings in November, the Local Board Plan and the National Policy Statement on Freshwater.

There are a number of issues that we expect to be out for consultation later this year and in early 2018 such as the local board's greenways plan and local parks design guidelines. Auckland Council will also be consulting on key issues such as the Long-term Plan, the Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Auckland Plan refresh in early 2018. We also anticipate that there will be a number of issues that the new government will put out for consultation over the coming months.

Finally, don't forget to keep an eye out for any signs of Myrtle Rust over the summer months, both in your garden or out and about. It generally attacks new growth including leaves, shoots, buds, flowers and fruit. Symptoms to look out for include:

- bright yellow powdery eruptions appearing on the underside of the leaf (young infection)
- bright yellow powdery eruptions on both sides of the leaf (mature infection)
- brown/grey rust pustules (older spores) on older lesions.
- grey, 'fuzzy' spore growth on undersides of leaves.

If you think you've seen myrtle rust, don't touch it, take a photo, and call 0800 80 99 66. Find out more at www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust

Katherine Russell

Salvinia in Te Henga (no more!)



Back in December 2014, a large infestation of the aquatic weed salvinia was found in the Te Henga wetland. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) undertook a major eradication response following in 2015 and have continued monitoring and controlling the weed since.

In July this year, a comprehensive kayak-based survey of the wetlands took place. For the first time since MPI initiated the response, no salvinia was detected – a significant milestone in this operation. Surveillance at Te Henga will need to continue with five years of no salvinia detections to confirm eradication.

Those undertaking the survey also noted that vegetation on the margins of the wetlands now show no signs of any treatment and look very healthy – demonstrating both the regenerative capacity of the vegetation, as well as the non-systemic nature of the treatment used. The survey team also reported back on the birdlife seen or heard; fernbird, banded rail, pukeko, black swan, Canadian goose, paradise duck, mallard duck, magpie, swallow, kaka (one flying over), harrier, kereru, and fantail.

Katherine Russell

Matuku Link Update

Matuku Link was bought exactly one year ago by the trustees after a period of hectic fundraising and with the help of many of you. One year later, we can look back on our efforts and results, as there are many: over 200 people came in groups from schools, clubs and supporters, more than 400 people visited our Open Day in February and our ten working bees were well attended with an average of 35 people each, planting over 2000 plants, building our nursery and protecting the forest.

To find out more go to www.matukulink.org.nz

The Whatipu Bioblitz Citizen Science in action



On 27-28th October, Friends of Whatipu hosted a bioblitz, a citizen science initiative. The initiative came from Dr Peter Maddison, who led the science side of the operation. The project, nearly a year in the planning, was nurtured by a very able team from Friends of Whatipu Inc.

Scientists from the Auckland Museum, Landcare Research and other institutes came to observe and record all the biota from their various specialities found in the Whatipu area. Helping them observe and collect were senior biology students from two local high schools, Kelston Boys College and the Titirangi Steiner School, and international tertiary students from EcoQuest near Kaiaua. Helping to feed, house and record were members of the Friends of Whatipu.

The weather was the great unknown and the morning was not promising. However, many crowded into Whatipu Lodge out of the rain to participate in the opening by Te Kawerau a Maki kaumatua George Taua and iwi representatives. Waitakere Ranges Local Board members Greg Presland, Sandra Coney, Saffron Toms, MPs Chris Penk (Helensville) and Deborah Russell (New Lynn), and Community Trust Chair Councillor Ross Clow were there. Christine Rose, Auckland Council Kauri dieback coordinator, reminded all to take preventative measures to combat kauri dieback, and attention was drawn to hazards in the environment. When the skies cleared groups ventured out to the beach, the caves, the streams and the

tracks. Many scientists did preliminary work in the previous month, taking samples of sand, sea and fresh water for tiny organisms, and installing insect traps. Samples were examined with microscopes in the Lodge and some were taken away for further study. Students learned how to take samples and identify plants and birds. The bird watching group saw New Zealand dotterels with a newly hatched chick, Hochstetter's frogs were seen in the streams, and marine samples yielded several previously unknown species.

At the Lodge, Friends of Whatipu prepared refreshments, and recorded the results into a database which has not yet included many late observations.

During the afternoon, three short talks were given, on the history of Whatipu, the changing landscape of the sands and wetland, and New Zealand's biodiversity. In the evening, the scientists staying at the Lodge enjoyed dinner and a talk by Dr Mels Barton on Kauri dieback in the Waitakere forest. Two evening excursions were made, one by a team with bat locators, and the other to identify nocturnal moths. The presence of long tailed bats at Whatipu was definitely confirmed. Work continued into Saturday, with the Auckland Botanical Society, coming to record wetland and sand flat plants.

Despite the weather the bioblitz was a great success. The participating schools learned and enjoyed the experience, the scientists gained much valuable information, and the final results will help Auckland Council's biodiversity team to manage and protect this important wild place. Full results and certain conclusions will be published in the near future.

Bruce & Trixie Harvey

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. These make the perfect gift, including our NEW TEA TOWEL additions. Get yours in time for Christmas!

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



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



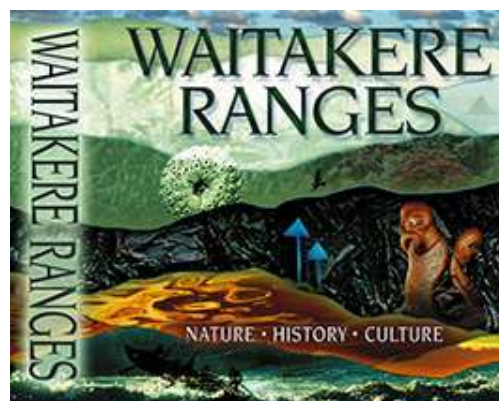
'Place Names of the Ranges'

*The latest additions to the WRPS merchandise.
100% unbleached Indian cotton. 700 x 500mm*



'Maori proverb'

100% unbleached Indian cotton. 700 x 500mm



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

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.

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	John Edgar Phone: 812 8555	president@waitakereranges.org.nz
Vice-President:	Anna Fomison Phone: 838 9665	amfomison@gmail.com
Secretary:	Joanna Silver	joanna.silver@stitchbirdconsulting.com
Treasurer:	Sandra Jones Phone: 817 2788	treasurer@waitakereranges.org.nz
Newsletter Editor:	Orhan Er	orhaner8@gmail.com
Committee Members:	Mike Sweeney Jean Berry Christine Rose Janet Thomson	mikesweeney41@gmail.com jean.jigby@gmail.com christine.rose25@gmail.com janet@planetjanet.co.nz



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



The Waitakere Ranges Protection
Society
PO Box 15668, New Lynn
Auckland 0640