

RIVERLEA ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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From the Chair

A big thank you to all those who made a submission to Hamilton City Council requesting that new heavy industry be kept out of the Riverlea industrial area. Over 50 community submissions went in, and there is now an opportunity for all residents to support our full submission. If 200 of you could return the form delivered with this newsletter, overwhelming community support would be evident.

A society such as ours is an asset to a community. If you're keen to play a role in enhancing our local environment and keeping it as a good place to live, please consider joining our committee. You'll grow your local connections and be doing something worthy; these are important factors for personal and community well-being.

I'm conscious that we're all busy and pulled in different directions, and intend to guide the society to a situation where members' tasks are minimal.

A key part of achieving this is having the zoning for Riverlea Road tightened so that the situation there with respect to heavy industry is as stable as possible.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Andrea Graves, Chairperson

Highlighting future traffic developments

The local section of the Waikato expressway is a hot topic. Local resident Peter Simcock from the New Zealand Transport Authority will be showing and discussing plans for this roading project at our AGM on **Thursday 11th July** at 7.30pm at 27 Hudson St. A light supper will be provided.

We will also be reviewing our committee positions. New people are very welcome; please contact us using the details below if you would like to be nominated. Everyone will be accepted!

Plant more trees

If you can, come and join us this **Saturday 29th June** at 1pm for our second and final planting session for the year. It's such a satisfying couple of hours. Meet at the Balfour Crescent end of the Hammond boardwalk and bring a spade if you have one (some will be provided). Children are welcome, as are people who can only stay for an hour.



A plant nailed to a tree in Hammond bush – see over for an explanation.

Riverlea industrial area update

Our efforts to change Hamilton City Council's proposed district plan continue. We had strong community support with the first round of submissions, as well as support from several of the Riverlea businesses. Two of the businesses made submissions stating their wish for the area to remain open to heavy industry.

We need to be clear, however, that a rule change would apply to new businesses only. Existing businesses must, of course, adhere to the noise, light and dust limits of Hamilton City's industrial zones.

Our professionally-prepared submission requested that the Riverlea industrial area be treated differently to the rest of the city's industrial zones. Only light and service industrial activities should be freely allowed to set up, we argued, and heavy industry – particularly noxious or offensive activity – should need a resource consent and would need to

meet high standards. (We have been advised that an attempt to forbid it completely would be unsuccessful.)

We contend that Riverlea needs special rules because the industrial area is sandwiched between residential areas and some of the city's most significant natural areas, and has difficult traffic access, particularly for heavy vehicles.

We also requested that, unlike in other industrial zones, new residential activity be allowed if it is attached to a business, so people can live over their workshops, for example.

(The existing residents in Riverlea Road are allowed because the dwellings were created before a rule change forbade residential activity in industrial zones; we seek to partially reverse that change in Riverlea.)

Please fill out the form accompanying this newsletter to let the council know that you agree with our requests. (Those who have already submitted needn't do so again.) It needs to be in by **Tuesday 2nd July**; your support could be key to our success.

Contact us if you would prefer an email version.

Coffee shop or bakery in Riverlea Road

No, there isn't a coffee shop or bakery there, but wouldn't it be great?

Not only could business owners and employees buy snacks and lunches there, but people waiting for vehicles to be serviced and children to finish dance lessons could have a hot drink and a bite to eat. A business opportunity for someone, perhaps?

Memorial seats

This year the lives of two of our community members have been commemorated in Hammond Park. A memorial seat has been installed in memory of Justine Cameron of Malcolm Street who died last year, and a totara tree was planted in memory of Michael Hills of Howell Avenue who died in May. A seat for Michael will be installed in future.

Balfour Crescent's historic pa site

Residents on the northern fork of Balfour Crescent are in the privileged position of living on the site of the historic Te Pa O Ruamutu. It was one of the largest pre-European pa on this section of the Waikato River and was occupied during the 17th century by the great warrior and Ngāti Wairere paramount chief, Hānui. It was then used as an urupa (burial ground) until the late 18th century, and destroyed by housing development around the 1970s. The land had been confiscated by the Crown following the Waikato Land Wars in 1864.

Wiremu Puke, Ngati Wairere, is a font of local knowledge concerning the Maori history, culture and Taonga in Kirikiriroa. Wiremu would like Balfour Crescent residents who are excavating around their properties to please be on the lookout for any Taonga (treasured artifacts). Please contact

Wiremu at wiremupuke123@xtra.co.nz if you find something.

Taonga have legal protection, and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage tries to return the Taonga to the appropriate hapu/iwi. Many artifacts are then given to museums to be conserved for future generations.

Plants upon trees

You may have noticed that small plants wrapped in sphagnum moss and wire mesh have been nailed to trees along the Hammond boardwalk. These are part of the University of Waikato's Environmental Research Institute's efforts to discover the best way to reintroduce epiphytes into native bush.

Epiphytes are simply plants that depend on other plants for their structural support. There are many growing naturally in Hammond, and some of the large trees are laden with them.

The experimental epiphytes are 17 tawhiri karo and puka plants, chosen because they are missing from the city. The puka are *Griselinia lucida*, which look much like common hedging *Griselinia*, but grow as epiphytes.

They have been in place just over a year, and it was recently discovered that two puka growing on tawa trunks are sending roots down towards the ground. These two plants are on the southern side of their host trees, and the scientists suspect that their success is due to their shady location protecting them from the summer drought.

I would like to renew/add my financial support to the Riverlea Environment Society Inc. with a tax-deductible donation.

Name(s)

Address

Phone

email

Signature

Donation per household: \$20 []
 \$40 []
 \$___ []
Receipt required? []

Thank you for your support