



RIVERLEA

environment society

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From the Chair

If you're new to Riverlea, I hope this newsletter welcomes and inspires you as it did me when I arrived in 2011. Read on to learn about our new Conservation Co-ordinator, Paula Smith, and for updates about our working bees, the Te Awa River Ride, Hammond Park's Wāhi Tūpuna status, Pest-Free Riverlea, developments at Peacocke (Amberfield), and a chance to be involved.

Anne Ferrier-Watson, RESI Chair

Please join us at our AGM on Thursday 26 July, 7–9 pm, 28 Hudson Street. Hear guest speaker, local resident and ecologist David Pattemore discuss native plant pollination, myrtle rust, and Pest-Free Riverlea. There's supper afterwards. RSVP by Tuesday 24 July to riverlea.soc@gmail.com.

Committee Comings and Goings

Andrea Graves has stepped down after 11 years. RESI profited from Andrea's talents, dedication and passion. She continues with Pest-Free Riverlea.

Long-time committee member Allan Pearson will shortly replace Anne Ferrier-Watson as chair.

We welcome new committee members; if you're interested, get in touch or indicate your interest at the AGM.

Hillcrest newcomer Tim Pearson has commenced doing Hammond Park pest control.

A huge thank you to our committee and all volunteers – our regulars and our one-offs, we're all making a difference! Committee 2018: Anne Ferrier-Watson, Bruce Winders, Allan Pearson, Andrea Graves, Don Burns, Graham McBride, Jane Landman, John Badham, Robert Welch, Tania MacDonald.

Wāhi Tūpuna Status

We nominated Hammond Park to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga for Wāhi Tūpuna status. It signifies places that are important for Māori ancestral significance and cultural and traditional values. The nomination was well received, but won't be processed until at least 2019. It was supported by valuable historical iwi information kindly provided by local kuia Tania MacDonald.



Conservation Co-ordinators: farewell to Adrienne Grant (left) and welcome to Paula Smith (right). More overleaf.

Volunteer Roles

We need help with the below for 2–3 hours on the last Saturday of each month; job-sharing welcomed.

- Working bee afternoon tea organiser (supplies provided).
 - Kids' working bee co-ordinator.
 - Pest control buddy in Hammond Park (to help Tim; last month Anne helped him reload the park's 24 Goodnature traps).
 - Photographer of working bees.
- Please get in touch for more information.

Te Awa River Ride through Hammond Park

The proposal to widen the boardwalk for the Te Awa River Ride to run through Hammond bush has been largely dropped in response to the RESI committee's objections based on harm to Hammond's ecology and the safety of cyclists, walkers and pets.

A compulsory dismount section is instead planned through the old-growth forest, between the bridge over the Hudson Street Gully and the boardwalk entrance at the Malcolm Street end. For cyclists not wishing to dismount, an on-road diversion along Riverlea Road, Hudson Street and Howell Avenue is being investigated.

The option of boardwalk widening from the Balfour Gully to the bridge is still being pursued. The committee submitted against this widening to Hamilton City Council's 10-year plan process,

and presented to a full council hearing in May. We believe that any widening would discourage dismounting and involve unnecessary costs.

The Te Awa board and HCC are developing an engineering report on the options and costs, and have invited RESI to a September meeting to consider it. Stand by for feedback.

Amberfield Subdivision at Peacocke

An application has been made to HCC for a 105-hectare development (www.amberfield.co.nz) in the Peacocke area, across the river from Riverlea. It is for 1000 residential sections and a commercial and retail centre, parks and reserves and pedestrian and cycling pathways, and could take place over the next 7–10 years.

The earthworks underway to connect Cobham and Wairere Drives will support a new bridge to it.

This provides an opportunity to expand Hammond bush's forest and biodiversity across the river, and the committee requested years ago that Peacocke riverside land be reserved for this. This was incorporated into the plan, but in the developers' proposal it has now been dropped.

We expect the developers' application to require public notification, and submissions to be invited around November. Please get in touch if you would like to support RESI's submission.

New Conservation Co-ordinator

To help Hammond Park flourish, we need to eradicate weeds and pests and to plant natives on private properties adjoining the park. Adrienne Grant pioneered this role for two years, but leaves us due to her other work commitments. She worked with about 26 landowners to develop planting plans for their sections, and helped establish Pest-Free Riverlea.

In June we welcomed Paula Smith, who looks forward to maintaining Adrienne's momentum and working with more residents. She has 20 years of landscaping and horticultural experience, a diploma in arboriculture, is studying environmental planning at Waikato University, and is restoring her own Mangakotukutuku gully property.

"There are many fantastic people contributing to the achievements at Hammond Park. It will be rewarding to see this continue. I feel privileged to have a role working with those who are enriching our natural environment," says Paula.

Paula has created a simple reading resource on native revegetation. Please contact her (details

below) if your property adjoins Hammond Park or Hudson gully and you would like support to revegetate it, and/or a reading resource.

Weekday Working Bees

Paula runs these sessions every second Thursday morning from 10.15–12.15 (next one 26 July). This group has cleared 648 square metres of *Tradescantia*, allowing native plants to regenerate! To take part or for more information, contact Paula Smith (details at page bottom).

Pest-Free Riverlea

Spring is coming, which is nesting season. Rats and possums eat birds' eggs, so please consider placing and maintaining traps on your property. We can help!

We have well-priced traps available: Goodnature and Victor traps (inside cat proof-tunnels) for rats, and possum "trapinators".

Please record your catches at bit.ly/Pest-FreeRiverlea.

For those with Goodnature rat traps (A24s), we will soon be in touch to advise you when and where to collect new gas and lure; it's time to reload.

In April we organised an evening bat tour in Hammond Park to remind everyone what fantastic biodiversity we are protecting, and to thank our volunteers. Due to heavy rain we had to postpone. We'll try again in spring, and will advertise on Facebook and email.

For trap advice, please contact Paula Smith.

I would like to support to the Riverlea Environment Society Inc. with a tax-deductible donation.

Name(s)

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Suggested donation per household: \$40 per year, or any other amount of your choosing.

Our bank account is 03 1559 0110053 000. To donate online, please use your surname as the reference, and email us stating the amount, your name and address so we can issue a receipt. Thank you for your sup