



# RIVERLEA

## environment society

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### From the Chair

*As incoming chair of RESI we seem to have a lot on our plate at the moment. However we are well positioned thanks to our past chair, Anne Ferrier-Watson, who did a fantastic job for us over the past 3 years. Thank you so much, Anne.*

*One of the issues we face is that the scope of RESI's work has greatly increased, especially since we established our Conservation Co-ordinator position, initially with Adrienne Grant and now Paula Smith. On November 3, for example, it was a privilege to go on a tour arranged by Paula to three properties where restoration has been undertaken and to see the fantastic outcome of consistent weed clearance, pest control and replanting.*

*Another highlight was meeting Stephen Hamilton, the founding RESI chairperson, at the September working bee in the park.*

*Important decisions will be made in the near future about the Peacocke subdivision across the Waikato River from Riverlea, and on the cycle way which is proposed to transit Hammond Park. I'm going to find it impossible to match Anne's dedication and energy, but with the help of the committee I'll do my best.*

*Allan Pearson, RESI chair*

### Peacocke development

RESI submitted to Hamilton City Council on an application for resource consent to develop a part of Peacocke, called "Amberfield", across the river from Hammond Park. We called for a broad bush reserve along the riverbank to boost biodiversity and protect Hammond Park.

The Amberfield applicant's report confirmed that both Hammond Park and the Amberfield area are heavily used by long-tailed bats, which have been upgraded to the highest-risk category of extinction threat (threatened – nationally critical), and that the subdivision could cause them to stop using both sites.

A 100-metre wide reserve opposite Hammond Park was made part of Peacocke Structure Plan in 2009 for ecological reasons. The Amberfield developers have instead placed a road and housing within seven metres of the riverbank. We are advocating that Amberfield's



*Allan Pearson, new RESI chair*

northern zone should be developed last to give new planting time to establish.

Our submission was supported by 116 community individuals and households, and many made individual submissions. Thank you to all those people.

Three commissioners will decide after a hearing whether the subdivision may progress as proposed currently. The applicant has delayed the hearing until April next year, partly to allow more time to develop their terrestrial ecology strategy.

We contracted a planner, lawyer and bat ecologist, who added great value to our submission. Their fees totalled almost \$5000, which put significant strain on our limited financial resources. Please do help us by making a tax-deductible donation of whatever you can afford using the details overleaf.

We are very grateful to those who have already donated. Your generosity validates the considerable time and effort volunteered by the committee members who responded immediately and effectively to the Amberfield issue. Their efforts have been outstanding.

There will be ongoing costs and this is an opportunity for those who haven't donated yet but would like to contribute. At the April hearing RESI will be represented by our bat and ecological experts.





*The proposed Amberfield site is to the left of the river; Hammond Park is to the right.*

It is essential we have the best representation and we are fortunate that these people are happy to advocate for us. Donations towards their fees would be much appreciated.

#### **Kereru**

Many people spotted a pair of kereru in Riverlea this spring. They're not known to breed in Hamilton, so if you see them climbing high towards the sky then diving fast towards the ground, please let us know because means they are breeding!

Possums and rats eat kereru eggs, as well as leaves and fruit the birds could otherwise eat and feed their chicks.

#### **Pest-Free Riverlea**

Riverlea seems to have around half the rats it did this time last year: our latest round of tracking had rat sign in 12% of tunnels. But a possum has been sighted in Hammond bush – are you a neighbouring resident willing to place a trap in your property?

Limited numbers of Goodnature traps are now available to non- gully residents for the discounted price of \$50 (still \$30 for residents with gully properties). We currently have 56 of these self-resetting traps in the community, plus 61 Victor rat traps in tunnels and 17 Trapinator possum traps. More are available from John Paul Oliver (859 3156; [johnpaulonz@gmail.com](mailto:johnpaulonz@gmail.com)). We hope to extend coverage, especially to the west end of Howell Avenue, parts of Riverlea Road, and Mangaonua Gully.

We ran an evening bat tour on 2<sup>nd</sup> November for supporters, but unfortunately saw no bats although the glow worms were out in force.

We have joined the Urban Rat Project to make checking your trap, reporting your catches and finding out what your neighbours caught convenient and fun. Our trappers have received an email about this. More at [ratproject.org](http://ratproject.org).

To monitor bird numbers in Riverlea, we recently tried doing five-minute bird counts, reporting what we saw and heard. Let's just say not all of us were good at it! If you'd like to take part in these and learn about bird calls, get in touch. If you know your bird calls, definitely get in touch! Contact Paula: T. 021 749 892 or E. [conservation@resi.org.nz](mailto:conservation@resi.org.nz).

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

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Name(s)

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Address

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Phone

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Email

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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 support.*



**RANGINUI AND PAPATŪĀNUKU AND THE PŪRĀTOKE (GLOWWORMS) OF TE NGAHERE**

**O NGĀ TŪPUNA O NEHERĀ (HAMMOND BUSH)**

***Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.***

*If you go on a warm summer's evening through the Hudson Street entrance into Hammond Park otherwise known as Te Ngāhere o Ngā Tūpuna o Neherā (The Forest of the Ancestors of Ancient Times) you will be greeted by the beautiful lights of thousands of pūrātoke (glow-worms).*

*In Māori mythology it is said that the Pūrātoke (glow-worms) had lived long before light had entered Te Ao (The World). According to Māori legend Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatūānuku (Earth Mother) were so tightly embraced that no light could either enter or escape. Growing in the darkness were the many sons of Ranginui and Papatūānuku, one of whom was Tāne (Life-Giver). The sons became angry about having to live in the dark, tight space between their parents with the only available light being that of the pūrātoke (glow-worms). Eventually the brothers devised a plan to separate their parents. Most wanted to separate them by cutting the supplejack that bound them together. However their brother Tūmatauenga (God of war, aggression, fearlessness, strength, courage and bravery) wanted his parents to be killed. On the other hand Tāwhirimātea (God of the wind, thunder, tornados, heavy storms, lightning, rain and hurricanes) was adamant that his parents should remain in tight embrace for all eternity. Fights and squabbles broke out between the brothers until Tāne (Life-Giver of mankind and of all living things) made the decision to separate his parents on his own in the most compassionate way possible. Some tribes believe that before Tāne had separated his parents he had gently turned his mother face downwards to spare her the pain of seeing her husband being wrested from her arms. After this was done, Tāne lay on his back and with both feet he pushed his father faraway into the heavens. At that point daylight entered the world. Today, Māori people all over recite these ancient words in recognition of the time when light first appeared in the world.*

***..... ā ka puta ki te whaiāo ki te ao mārama!" (..... and the world of daylight and light appeared)***

*Ranginui continues to shed his tears for his beloved Papatūānuku (Mother Earth) which are the gentle rains that nurture and assist in the growth of the forests, the birds, the plants, the creatures, the pūrātoke and the many insects that have made Te Ngāhere o Ngā Tūpuna o Neherā (Hammond Bush) their kainga (home).*

*Tāwhirimātea, who lives in the heavens alongside his father, Ranginui, continues to be bitter about the separation of his parents. He shows this by sending thunder and lightning, hurricanes, tornados, heavy storms and ferocious winds that fell and uproot ngā rakau (the trees) and plants in Te Ngāhere o Ngā Tūpuna o Neherā (Hammond Bush) and elsewhere.*

*Meanwhile, Tūmatauenga continues to demonstrate his human and warrior-like characteristics by acts of aggression, fearlessness, courage, strength and bravery. The Māori Battalion, and indeed the New Zealand Army is known as Te Hokowhitu- ā-Tumatauenga (The War party of Tūmatauenga).*

**HE WHAKATAUĀKI (PROVERB)**

*Early one morning a large brown kākā (native parrot) was spotted by a resident of Riverlea feeding on the seeds of a native rākau (tree) in Te Ngāhere o Ngā Tūpuna o Neherā (Hammond Bush).*

*The Kākā is known as Te manu kekekeke o Te wao nui a Tane (The chatterbox of the Forest). It is also a very sociable parrot and has a loud raucous voice and enjoys nothing better than to gossip and chatter with other Kākā either in the morning or late in the evening. Like its whanaunga (relation) the Kea, it is not only inquisitive but very mischievous.*

*This ancient proverb or whakatauāki is often recited by men when listening to the chatter of women in the Whare Tūpuna (Meeting House).*

***"He wahine ki te kainga He kākā ki te ngāhere" "A woman to the home, a parrot to the forest".***

*No reira tēnā koutou katoa.*

*By Tania Macdonald, Ngāti Mahanga, Ngāti Ngāmurikaitaua, Ngāti Ruru, Ngāti Koura, Ngāti Tahinga, Waikato/Tainui*

*RESI November 2018*