



RIVERLEA

environment society

Newsletter 23
July 2019
ISSN 1178-4393

From the Chair

This year RESI has been heavily involved with the development of plans for the Amberfield subdivision. A resource consent was sought by Weston Lea Ltd in September 2018 that included roads and housing down to the Waikato river edge immediately across from Riverlea and Hammond Park. The original proposal would most likely have caused the long-tailed bats from this area to disappear.

Thanks to robust community support RESI has engaged fully in the resource consent hearing that will conclude in September with a final decision to be made by three commissioners. We have already achieved considerable improvement to the original proposal, including a much broader riverbank reserve opposite Hammond Park. RESI committee members put in long voluntary hours to prepare submissions and present at the hearings. At considerable expense we engaged an environmental barrister, a planner and a bat ecologist. The expenses are far beyond our normal operating budget, and when the outcome is known we will appeal to the community to help cover these costs. However, as this development will impact on the quality of life in Riverlea and on the sustainability of Hammond Bush, it was essential that the voice of Riverlea residents was heard loudly and clearly. We have achieved this.

Allan Pearson

Please join us for our 2019 AGM this month

Date: Wednesday 31 July

Time: 7–9 pm

Where: Riverlea Theatre lounge, 83 Riverlea Road
Amberfield presentation - Be up with latest developments!

Supper afterwards, and a great opportunity to meet someone new from your local community.

RSVP by Monday 29 July to riverlea.soc@gmail.com

RESI Committee Comings and Goings

Don Burns and Tania Macdonald are stepping down following many years of service. As valued members of various sub-committees and regulars at working bees, they will be greatly missed. Tania has been invaluable in advising us on all matters Māori including moving Hammond Bush towards Wāhi Tūpuna status. We look forward to Tania's continued advice, and future contributions to our newsletter.

Our grateful thanks to the committee, conservation co-ordinator Paula Smith, and volunteers. Their enthusiasm for Hammond Bush is bringing about visible positive change!

Committee 2019: Chair Allan Pearson, Don Burns, Tania Macdonald, Bruce Winders, Graham McBride, Jane Landman, John Badham, Robert Welch, Tim Cavanagh and Trish Macky.



Retiring RESI committee member and former resident of Riverlea (25 years), Don Burns, says he "greatly enjoyed participating in the gradual and continuing improvements achieved in Hammond Bush". Don has been keen to share his enthusiasm for the future of Hammond Bush, recognizing its importance as a thriving remnant of original vegetation within the city boundaries.

Whakatauki

By Tania Macdonald, Tainui, Te Arawa, Tuhoë

The aka/te akatea (climbing rata) can be found growing in Te Ngahere o Ngā Tūpuna o Neherā (Hammond Bush).



Vines growing next to the boardwalk.

It features in many pakiwaitara (legends) and whakatauki (proverbs) of the Māori.

1. “*Kei hopu tōu ringa ki te aka tāepa, engari kia mau ki te aka matua*”

This whakatauki urges people not to take hold of the loose vine (te aka tāepa) but to hold fast to the parent vine (te aka matua).

According to legend, Karihi and Tāwhaki, grandsons of Whaitiri who guarded the vines that formed the pathway into the sky, wanted to climb to the heavens to obtain the baskets of knowledge. Karihi was known to be headstrong and impulsive, and he wanted to be the first to climb the aka (climbing rata). Without thinking he took hold of te aka tāepa (the loose vine) and was flung to his death. However, Tāwhaki, who was known to be cautious and meticulous, took hold of te aka matua (the parent vine) and was able to continue his ascent into the Heavens to obtain the baskets of knowledge. My Māori elders would often repeat this whakatauki to remind their mokopuna to hold fast to reliable and firm information (te aka matua) that would hold them in good stead, and not to listen to unreliable and loose information (te aka tāepa) that would lead them into trouble.

2. “*Rangitihi ūpoko i tākaia ki te akatea*”

“Rangitihi whose split head was bound with the akatea vine.”

This whakatauki not only places great importance on

the ūpoko (head) and leadership skills of a fighting (chief) but also the wisdom, valour, bravery and courage displayed by soldiers in battle. Rangitihi was a famous Te Arawa chief whose head was bound with te aka/te akatea vine after it was split open by an adversary's patu (weapon). He rallied his warriors and continued to fight until he and his men were victorious. Rangitihi's Te Arawa descendants have a reputation for their fearsome fighting skills, which they displayed during the various overseas campaigns.

Would you like to be more involved with RESI?

We are looking to recruit new volunteers for the RESI committee and/or our subcommittees at the 2019 AGM on 31st July. We would be keen for anyone to join us who is willing to contribute their experience and local knowledge to a community organisation that has made a difference to this corner of Hamilton over the past 12 years. For example, anyone with web experience or who could spend an hour or two a week to help us with our email inbox would be especially welcome at the moment. Committee membership is not a big commitment and can be tailored to your availability. The committee has a monthly two-hour meeting with refreshments afterwards. We also have subcommittees that meet as required (Contracts, Pest-Free Riverlea, Communications, Liaison) which focus on specific local issues that may be of interest.

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

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Email

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.*