



RIVERLEA

environment society

Newsletter 29
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From the Chair

Kia ora Neighbours and Friends of RESI

Our AGM was held on 28 July. Thank you to all those who attended. At the AGM our Chairperson of the past four years, Allan Pearson, resigned and I agreed to take on the role.

During Allan's tenure he was a constant advocate for the protection of Hammond Park's indigenous flora and fauna, and human users. Particularly in the face of threats posed by urban development across the river at Peacocke and the construction of Te Awa River Ride. With his softly spoken and diplomatic style Allan provided strong leadership, and an able and articulate voice for the organization. We are hoping to catch our breath for the next while focussing on our core business of restoration and predator control.

A big thank you to our hardworking conservation coordinator, Gabrielle Woodd, the RESI Committee and volunteers.

If you want to give back to your community in the biodiversity space, come along to our monthly working bees held every other Thursday morning and the last Saturday of the month, or talk to us about joining our committee.

Merry Christmas
Jane Landman



The new children's playground at the Malcom street end.

RESI Committee Comings & Goings

Jane has been a Riverlea resident for 20 years, and involved in RESI since its inception. She is passionate about community initiatives, sustainability and the environment. She brings leadership skills from 21 years as manager of Waimarie: Hamilton East Community House.



RESI's new Chairperson, Jane Landman.



Outgoing RESI Chairperson Allan Pearson.

Graham resigned from the committee at the AGM. Graham was a superb minute taker and his caring and quietly witty presence is also missed. We wish him well as he takes the opportunity to spend more time with his grandchildren



Retiring, Graham McBride..

We welcome the return of past Chairperson Andrea Graves to the committee. Andrea's support of RESI causes is legendary, spending countless hours researching, writing submissions and liaising with experts and stakeholders. We also welcome new committee member, Justine Young. Justine is an environmental policy consultant and says she's inspired by the RESI committee's work "to make our local environment better for people, birds and bats".

Peacocke Planning Rules

In September Hamilton City Council held a hearing for Plan Change 5, which is the planning framework that will underlie the Peacocke area's urbanisation. RESI made a submission on this plan change, advocating that the outcomes of the Amberfield Environment Court decision must be extended to all of Peacocke in order to protect long-tailed bat habitat. Some of these outcomes, such as retaining vegetated corridors of land connecting key sites, had already been proposed by Council staff.

A key omission is any provision to screen bat habitat from vehicle headlights. Committee member, Andrea Graves, presented to the hearing commissioners about this.

The Department of Conservation was also active in the hearing process and is concerned that the urbanisation process will cause local extinction of the bats. The hearing was concluded and a decision from the commissioners on the plan change is expected in early 2023.

Te Awa River Ride

The Te Awa River Ride, which runs through Hammond Park and through to Tamahere, is expected to officially open in March 2023, although the route is largely open already.

People on cycles and scooters are required to 'walk their wheels' on the boardwalk. RESI has worked closely with Hamilton City Council to design signage and gates to facilitate this and to signpost the on-road alternative route cyclists can use to stay on their bikes. Early reports suggest many people are nevertheless cycling on the boardwalk, which is unsafe given its narrowness and poor visibility. The Council has assured RESI it will revisit signage and structures if problems arise, and the RESI committee will keep pressing for a safe outcome.

If you see a cyclist riding on the boardwalk, please email riverlea.soc@gmail.com with the date and a brief description of what happened. The committee will compile the reports and pass them to the Council. You can also phone the Council (838 6699) or click 'Report it' on the homepage of their website.

Pest Free Riverlea

Over the past few years, in part due to Covid 19 limitations, our collective trapping efforts have suffered. As a result, RESI is once again prioritizing the elimination of pests from Riverlea.

Two new trap lines have been set up in Hammond Bush recently, with an average strike rate of 40%. While these are great results, it also means there are

plenty of predators around, including rats and possums.



RESI Conservation Coordinator, Gabrielle Woodd, checking a trap counter and refreshing the lure - blue paste rats love.

I will be contacting Riverlea residents with automated GoodNature A24 rat traps to collect strike data, restock the lure and gas cylinders and check their placement.

RESI can supply predator control traps at heavily subsidized prices so please email me with your enquiries. conservation@resi.org.nz or phone 027 773 4727.

Together we can achieve our goal of protecting the peka-peka-tou-roa/native long-tailed and the increasing bird life.

Gabrielle Woodd, RESI Conservation Coordinator



Success! Another rat stopped from preying on our native birds and bats. Help us in the fight against these destructive little vermin.

Donate to RESI

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

Name(s)

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Phone

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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.*