



RIVERLEA

environment society

Newsletter 31
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From the Chair

Kia ora neighbours and friends of RESI, I hope you're having a healthy winter and enjoying the tūi and other birds in Hammond Park. I've been seeing a kererū on Hudson Street, which is a treat.

We can expect more such pleasures thanks to the enthusiastic trappers who have been working energetically in Hammond bush. Only some are committee members. There are always rewarding roles for people who are interested.

The committee has been successfully keeping down the administrative workload so that we keep RESI enjoyable and enduring. We no longer have a conservation co-ordinator, and we've used our funding remnants to supply native plants to residents whose properties adjoin Hammond bush, in order to effectively extend the area.

I hope many of you will keep up Riverlea's environmental gains by doing pest control on your properties and, if you're considering new planting, do consider eco-sourced native plants. If you're out walking, feel free to tug on a weed!

If you're someone who's comfortable using a spreadsheet and knows a bit about GST, would you consider being RESI's treasurer? The committee would be very grateful. We keep our financial activity to a minimum. Jane Landman kindly took on this role last year, having been chairperson for the previous year, and it's time to pass the baton.

Ngā mihi,
Andrea Graves, chairperson

Our AGM: 25th July

You're invited to RESI's AGM on Thursday 25th July at 7 pm in the Riverlea Theatre lounge as usual, followed by a light supper. This year our speaker will be Hamilton City Councillor Anna Casey-Cox. She'll speak on 'Nature in our city'.

We're keen for new committee members. If that piques your interest, please get in touch using the details below. To assist your decision, we can send you a short primer on what's involved.



Post-working bee cuppa hosted by Anne Ferrier-Watson is becoming legendary.



Children at working bees – there's usually a role for them, and they're welcome.

New rules

A recent law change means all incorporated societies must revise their rules. The RESI committee (particularly Chris Eames) has worked hard on this, and there will be a vote on the rules at an AGM. Feel free to check the rules online at bit.ly/3LbJMAT%20 and get in touch with any suggestions. You can also scan the QR code at the top of the page.

Hammond Park boardwalk

The boardwalk was rebuilt a last year by Hamilton City Council contractors. It took longer than expected due to the discovery of rot in some pilings, but the replacement seems excellent. The Council kindly installed extra gates to facilitate access for working bees and trapping.

The contractors were careful not to trample the ground in order to spare the fragile aerial roots of our special swamp maire trees. These specialised roots poke up into the air to obtain oxygen.

Amberfield across the river

Keen eyes may have been watching for signs of the Amberfield development progressing. You may remember RESI went to the Environment Court to help make this development bat-friendly.

There seems to have been no progress on the site since two small patches of riverside planting undertaken some years ago. Recent reports say the new Peacocke bridge will be open by mid-August.

Pest control revamp in Hammond Park

The trapping project aims to protect birds, bats and more. The boardwalk area now hosts 67 traps! Over 100 pest animals have been removed this year.

Hamilton City Council supports this effort. It installed traps near Malcolm St that are mainly managed by the Cumberpatches, who continue to be indefatigable weeders and help with working bees. Council contractors also trap below Balfour Crescent and along the Mangaonua pathway.

The trappers (Terry McDonald, Tim Cavanagh, Justine Young and Trish Macky) would welcome more volunteers to share this critical task. The traps are simple and safe to manage. A volunteer to co-ordinate and engage residents to trap on private properties, and to seek funding, would be particularly appreciated. Please get in touch.

Te Awa River Ride

The ride is an asset, but the committee is concerned about how many cyclists ride their bike along the boardwalk, a 'walk your wheels' section for safety reasons. RESI continues to oppose pressure from the Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust to allow cycling on the boardwalk. We estimate about half the cyclists dismount. Many others use the on-road diversion. Unfortunately planned safety upgrades for walking and cycling along this route and in wider Riverlea were cancelled by the new government.

If you have a dangerous encounter with a cyclist, please phone Hamilton City Council (838 6699) or click 'Report it' on their website homepage. The Antenna App is also excellent for reporting issues.

Restoring Hammond bush (i.e. working bees)

Planting in Hammond bush this winter has been somewhat reduced due to limited plant availability. But the bush needs more people on the ground. Can you help? Working bees are advertised on noticeboards at either end of the boardwalk and run from 10–12 o'clock:

- Every second Thursday (see noticeboards)
- Last Saturday of every month

Please email riverlea.soc@gmail.com to receive email reminders with details.



Children in nature

There are enormous benefits to immersing children in nature. A Peachgrove Intermediate student recently worked on a science fair project with trapper Terry McDonald, checking traps and discussing finer details of rat ecology. Children are welcome to accompany their caregivers at working bees (they must be supervised).

Donate to RESI

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. Alternatively, hit the 'donate' button on our website. Thank you for your support.*