

## 6 Topic: People and communities

### 6.1 What is included in this topic

The heritage area is a unique area of public and private land. Its uniqueness is its proximity to the Auckland urban area and that there are over 20,000 people who live within it and carry on their lives there. In many respects the wellbeing of the residents of the heritage area is directly supported by their proximity to metropolitan Auckland. For many living in the foothills and bush living areas, employment, shopping, services and education are located outside the heritage area. This proximity makes access to a high level of services and facilities possible, without having many of these activities located in the heritage area. The connections between the heritage area and Auckland are therefore important to the wellbeing of those that live there.

This topic records the ongoing activities of people, community group projects and organisations who work throughout the heritage area. This includes community groups, place based initiatives (such as weed and pest control), service organisations and a myriad of other activities. It has been through the efforts and persistence of these individuals and groups that the heritage area has become what it is today.

### 6.2 Key findings

#### Relevant heritage features (section 7 of the Act): 2(j), (l)

##### Summary – people and communities in the heritage area

- The heritage area's resident population continues to grow at a rate substantially less than the rest of Auckland.
- The resident population is generally more highly qualified and has a higher proportion of people working in management and professional roles than the regional average.
- Census data over the 2012 to 2017 period confirms a trend of decline in the number of agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses in the area.
- Compared to the regional average of declining household ownership, property ownership within the heritage area remains high and stable at 83 per cent.
- Over 3360 hectares of public reserve and private land is under active community stewardship.
- There is marked stability in the function and activities of community groups in the heritage area between 2012 and 2017.
- Environmental groups in the heritage area have been subject to change between 2012 and 2017. The end of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Programme saw many groups close down. However many of the original environmental restoration groups have continued their work and some new groups have established.
- Volunteer hours in the regional park have been gradually declining since 2012. The reasons for this decline require investigation so that the council can improve volunteer

recruitment and retention.

- The opportunity exists for improved coordination and support in respect to the standards and practices of volunteers and organisations' activities in the heritage area

#### **Progress made towards achieving the objectives:**

- The communities living within the heritage area continue to thrive and play an important stewardship role in the management of the heritage area. In particular this is through their advocacy and the volunteering of their time and labour, especially through volunteer services (for example fire, surf lifesaving, community facility support and services) weed and pest control, land management, restoration and protection, and supporting the vibrant artistic and cultural heritage of the heritage area.
- The passion and commitment of the numerous community groups in maintaining the features of the heritage area is fundamental to achieving the Act's objectives and helps develop strong community relationships.

### **6.3 Changes between 2013 and 2018**

Census data can provide information on the demographic profile of the communities and certain aspects of community wellbeing. This data is strongly influenced by employment and access to services, factors which are not necessarily linked to the Act or the heritage area itself. In addition, such data does not capture the more qualitative aspects of wellbeing, such as the strength of community networks and the community's level of involvement in caring for the environment, which is a strong feature of the heritage area.

The following areas of comparison have been used indicate the changes that have taken place in the heritage area that are relevant to the objectives of the Act. These are:

- census information on community, economic and housing profiles
- Auckland-wide organisations, clubs, church groups and business organisations that contribute voluntary hours to environmental protection and restoration projects
- local community groups and local businesses
- service organisations that provide ongoing services in the heritage area
- local area plans: Promoting community-based decision-making and local responses to local needs. Local area plans are being progressively implemented through community activities and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan.

#### **6.3.1 Census changes between 2006 and 2013**

Census information on community, economic and housing profiles collected in 2006 and 2013 for the heritage area is set out in Appendix 12.

In summary the census information for the 2006-2013 period highlighted the following trends for the heritage area:

- While the heritage area's population continued to grow this was at a slow rate relative to the rest of the Auckland region.

- The median household income of \$92,600 within the heritage area has increased markedly relative to the regional average income of \$65,000.
- The resident population is more highly qualified and a higher proportion of people work in management and professional roles than the regional average.
- The home ownership level of 83 per cent in the heritage area is stable and much higher than the regional average of 61 per cent.
- The census data confirms a trend of decline in the number of agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses in the area.

### 6.3.2 Business stocktake

In September 2014 an inventory of the businesses within the heritage area identified 939 businesses<sup>26</sup>. Some of these businesses identified customers across the Auckland region and offshore, however most served customers in the local area.



Titirangi Village is the main commercial centre in the heritage area.

The stocktake was developed only from publicly available information only and is therefore not exhaustive. In 2016 the business demographic survey<sup>27</sup> data identified 2602 businesses with registered addresses in the heritage area. This would include a lot of individuals working as individual contractors but constituted as a business, and businesses registered in the heritage area operating in wider Auckland.

However the stocktake gives an analysis by name and type of businesses operating in the heritage area. There are 18 types of businesses identified, with a great proportion of these businesses having a web-based presence, especially in retail operations and information technology. Map 15 below outlines the distribution of these businesses which shows that

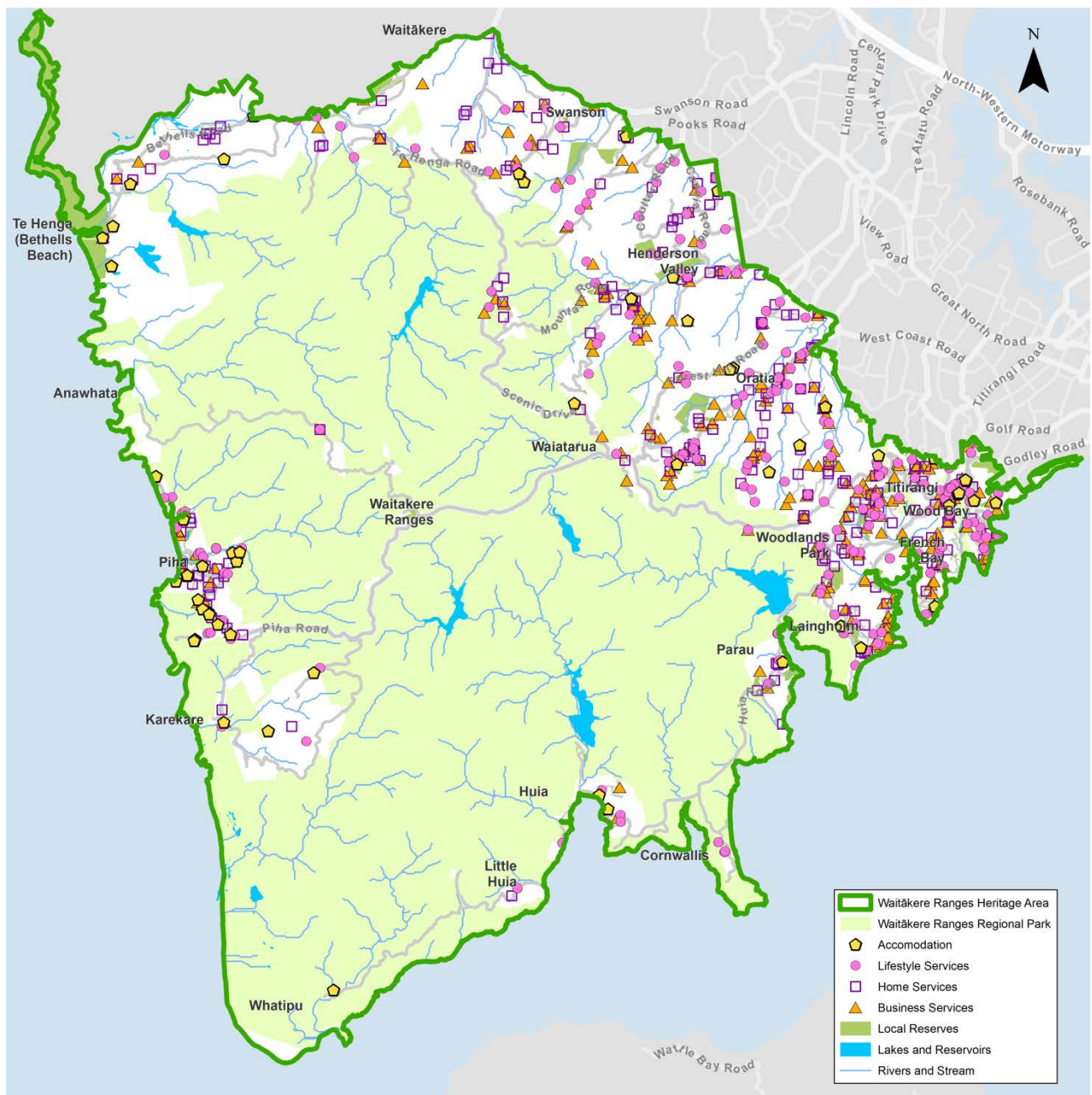
<sup>26</sup> Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Business Stocktake – September 2014

<sup>27</sup> Department of Statistics, Business Demographics Survey, 2016.



they tend to locate on the main roads in the heritage area and at Titirangi and Piha. For the purposes of this map the 18 types of business activities have been simplified into four broad categories. Further information on the business stocktake is Section 4: Recreational use of the heritage area topic.

Map 15: Business stocktake September 2014



### 6.3.3 Local resident and ratepayer groups

In 2013 there were 17 resident and ratepayer associations and related organisations identified in the heritage area. In 2017 there were 19 residents and ratepayers groups.

This change saw the Swanson Residents and Ratepayers group disbanded and replaced by another group called Celebrating Swanson. Two new residents' groups were established, one in Oratia (Oratia Heritage Society) and one in Waima (Titirangi Protection Group). Both of these were formed to voice the concerns of local residents about the replacement and location of the Huia Water Treatment Plant.

### 6.3.4 Community stewardship

The heritage area has a strong history of hands-on environmental and community stewardship. This is reflected in the numerous groups and organisations that exist, both formally and informally, across the heritage area. These are augmented by the efforts and initiatives undertaken by individual volunteers, land owners and other organisations and groups.

Key groups with a hands-on stewardship role have been identified in the heritage area. These groups were in many cases identified in the 2013 report and have continued to play their part in local projects and programmes of work. Refer to Appendix 13.

The following key changes took place in the areas of environmental stewardship between 2012 and 2017:

- Community efforts towards Waitākere Ranges-wide coordination, information sharing and fund-raising ability for environmental projects
  - Waitākere Ranges Conservation Network: The Waitākere Ranges community conservation groups set up an informal network in 2014 to organise seminars, skill building workshops and networking events, and share conservation news throughout the area.
  - Pest Free Waitākere: in 2017 a proposal to create a new platform with the capacity to coordinate and raise funds for weed and pest projects was initiated
- **The Sustainable Neighbourhood Programme** ceased to receive funding support from the Regional Environmental Programme in 2015 and from the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Programme in 2016. In 2013 31 street-based groups within the heritage area received support from the Programme. In 2017 approximately 12 former Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups continue their activities, either independently (in Piha, Swanson and Te Henga / Bethells Beach) or with continued support from the Gecko Trust (five groups in South Titirangi as part of South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network) or Ecomatters Trust (four groups in Little Muddy Creek catchment).
- **New community-led pest-free initiatives** have emerged, many of them with a long-term objective of plant and/or animal pest eradication at a relatively large scale (neighbourhood, landscape unit or catchment). The areas covered include:
  - Waima to Laingholm
  - Oratia
  - Cornwallis Peninsula
  - South Titirangi

- Titirangi Village
  - Waitākere River Valley
  - Piha
  - Waiatarua
- **Strategic weed control projects:** the Waitākere Ranges Local Board has funded two projects, delivered by Ecomatters Environment Trust, to educate, encourage and support land owners with weed management issues on their property in strategic locations surrounded by, or at the fringe of, regional parkland. These include:
    - weed control buffer zone in Henderson Valley, Oratia, Waiatarua, Laingholm
    - weed control programme (Climbing asparagus) in Piha, Karekare and Huia
  - Community-led response to kauri dieback: The **Kauri Rescue Project** was set up in 2016 to engage landowners in citizen science for the treatment of kauri dieback disease.



Kauri Rescue stall at Titirangi Village Market, February 2018.

- **New conservation land:** In November 2016 the Matuku Reserve Trust bought 37 hectares of bush and wetland, naming it 'Matuku Link', after a fundraising campaign. The property forms a connection between neighbouring eco-restoration projects Ark in the Park, Habitat Te Henga and the Forest and Bird reserve Matuku.



- **Celebration of conservation volunteerism:** The Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Ecomatters Environment Trust partnered to deliver an awards programme for environmental volunteers (Love your Place Awards), which was organised for the first time in 2016.
- **Native plant nurseries** were established by Ecomatters Environment Trust, Waitākere Rivercare and South Tairāngi Neighbourhood Network to support community plantings.
- **Small grants:** The Waitākere Ranges Local Board provides funds that are administered by Ecomatters Environment Trust. This is a quick response grant scheme (under \$500) to support environmental and place making projects across the local board area (Love Your Neighbourhood) since 2015/16. This is in addition to the local board grant programme and Regional Environmental and Natural Heritage Grant Programme.
- **Lagoon water quality:** A number of initiatives (research, community engagement, technical advice to land owners, grant incentives and rate-based credit for a new septic tank) were funded by Auckland Council and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board during this period. These sought to encourage communities and land owners to understand the cause of e-coli contamination in the lagoons at Piha, North Piha, Karekare and Te Henga / Bethells Beach, and initiate community-led and private landowner action. A community-led initiative in Te Henga / Bethells Beach (Swimmable Waterways Te Henga) has taken the lead to continue monitoring and implement actions to encourage behaviour change.
- **The Weedfree Trust and Keep Waitākere Beautiful Trust** were incorporated into Ecomatters Environmental Trust in 2015 and many of their activities continue to be delivered by the Trust.
- **The Piha Education Trust** ceased to operate a wetland restoration and environmental education programme for west Auckland Schools on the Ministry of Education land at Piha. Auckland Council acquired the land in 2017. Subsequently in late 2017 and early 2018 the Waitākere Ranges Local Board has begun working with local community groups to restore the wetland and develop the site for other activities.

Overall, the period saw more strategic and coordinated approaches to pest control by volunteers and private land owners across larger areas. Some of these were supported by the technical and community development capability of local organisations such as Ark in the Park, Ecomatters Environment Trust, Gecko Trust and council staff, and some with funding support from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board.

These developments open opportunities for increased, improved and ongoing collaborations between community groups, Auckland Council and other potential funders across the heritage area. The newly launched Pest Free Auckland project provides opportunities to enhance collaboration through resourcing, coordination and leveraging community efforts and council spending with external funds.

The area of benefit from the organised environmental initiatives listed above totals approximately 3537 hectares. Table 25 below provides an estimate of the specific areas under active community stewardship or associated with neighbourhood initiatives in 2017.

Table 25: Estimate of specific areas under active community stewardship/neighbourhood initiatives

Reserve/Project name	Size	Administered by
<b>Ark in the Park</b>	2300 Ha	Auckland Council, Forest and Bird, volunteers, local landowners
<b>La Trobe Forest Restoration Project</b>	144 Ha	Local residents
<b>Lone Kauri Forest Restoration Group</b>	194 Ha	Local residents
<b>Matuku Reserve and Matuku Link</b>	157 Ha	Forest and Bird, Queen Elizabeth II Open Space Trust
<b>Forest Ridge Community Group</b>	89 Ha	Local residents
<b>Steam Hauler Track Residents' Group</b>	57 Ha	Local residents
<b>Te Henga Beach Care</b>	45 Ha	Local residents
<b>Friends of Whatipu</b>	561 Ha	Local residents
<b>Project Twin Streams (Upper Opanuku)</b>	4 Ha	Local residents/Auckland Council
<b>TOTAL</b>	3537 Ha	





Trees for survival planting day at Matuku Link wetland. (Source: Gail Allende)

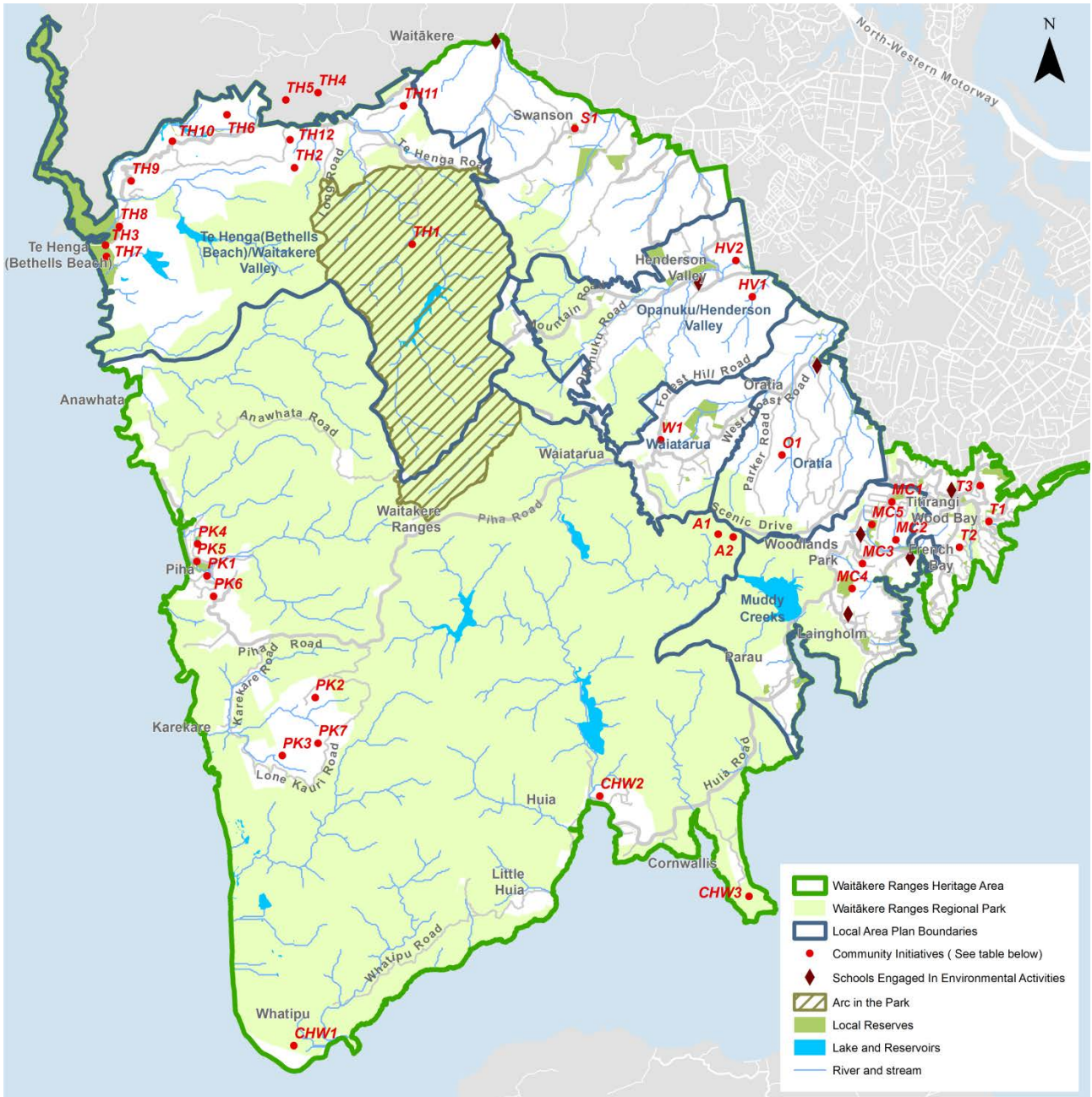


Trapping workshop by Ken Harrop at Matuku Link. (Source: Annally van den Broeke)



Map 16 below shows the location of most of the community pest plant and animal control initiatives (refer to Table 26) within the heritage area between 2013 and 2018.

Map 16: Community pest plant and animal control initiatives



See Table 26 below for description of community initiatives identified on this map.

Table 26: Community pest plant and animal control initiatives 2013 to 2018

Community pest plant and animal control initiatives 2013 to 2018		
Map 16 legend reference	Name of project or group	Focus of activity
<b>TH</b>	<b>Te Henga / Bethells Beach, Waitākere Valley</b>	
TH1	Ark in the Park	Approximately 2300 hectares. Pest animal control and biodiversity monitoring.
TH2	Ark in the Park buffer zone	Pest animal control (rats, mustelids and possum control) in 800 hectares
TH3	Te Henga / Bethells Beach Care Group	Dune restoration plantings
TH4	Forest Ridge Community Group	Pest plant and animal control (approximately 140 hectares)
TH5	Matuku Link	Pest animal control (rat and mustelid), pest plant control (37 hectares)
TH6	Matuku Reserve	Pest animal control (rats, stoats, ferrets and possums) (approximately 120 hectares)
TH7	Te Henga / Bethells beach dotterel protection programme	Pest animal control (rats and mustelids)
TH8	Te Henga / Bethells beach Track Environmental Group	Pest plant and animal control and track maintenance
TH9	Te Henga / Bethells beach weed control projects	Pest plant control
TH10	Habitat Te Henga	Pest animal control (mustelids), introduction of threatened bird species (pāteke), wetland biodiversity monitoring
TH11	Steam Hauler Track residents	Pest plant and animal (rat, possum)
TH12	Waitākere Rivercare	Pest plant control and riparian planting, eco-sourced native nursery, environmental education
<b>S</b>	<b>Swanson</b>	

S1	Swanson Sustainable Neighbourhood	Pest plant and animal control
<b>HV</b>	<b>Henderson Valley / Opanuku</b>	
HV1	Anamata Stream Restoration	Pest plant control and riparian planting
HV2	Project Twin Streams - Opanuku Stream	Stream restoration
<b>W</b>	<b>Waiatarua</b>	
W1	Waiatarua Weed Action Group	Pest plant control
<b>O</b>	<b>Oratia</b>	
O1	Oratia Native Wildlife Project	Pest plant and animal control
<b>A</b>	<b>Arataki</b>	
A1	Friend of Arataki	Fundraising for volunteer activities, environmental education
A2	Arataki Gateway Sanctuary	Pest animal control
<b>T</b>	<b>Titirangi / South Titirangi</b>	
T1	Otitori Sanctuary Project	Possum, rat and mustelid control in South Titirangi
T2	South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network	Pest plant and animal control, native vegetation planting
T3	Titirangi Village Restoration Project	Rubbish removal, pest plant control and native vegetation planting
<b>MC</b>	<b>Muddy Creeks Waima/Woodlands Park/ Laingholm/Parau</b>	
MC1	Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Zone	Pest animal control
MC2	Little Muddy Creek/Gill Esplanade	Pest plant control and native vegetation planting
MC3	Minnehaha Neighbourhood Conservation Group	Pest plant control and native vegetation planting
MC4	Owens Green/Muddy Riders Club	Pest plant control and native vegetation



		planting
MC5	Waituna Action Group	Pest plant control and native vegetation planting
<b>CHW</b>	<b>Cornwallis/Huia/Whatipu</b>	
CHW1	Friends of Whatipu	Beach clean-ups, native vegetation planting, seed collection, education, biodiversity monitoring
CHW2	Huia Weed Warriors	Pest plant control and native vegetation planting
CHW3	Cornwallis Petrel Heads	Pest animal control
<b>PK</b>	<b>Piha/Karekare/Anawhata</b>	
PK1	Beach Valley Road Sustainable Neighbourhood	Pest plant control
PK2	La Trobe Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project	Pest animal control (rodent and possum) (approximately 144 hectares)
PK3	Lone Kauri Forest Restoration Group	Pest animal and plant control (approximately 194 hectares)
PK4	Piha Coast Care Group	Supply of stoat traps, re-vegetation and monitoring of dunes, education and advocacy on dune protection
PK5	Pest Free Piha	Development of a pest plant and animal eradication strategy
PK6	Rayner Weeders	Pest plant control
PK7	Karekare Landcare	Pest plant control
<p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>This information does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actions of individual landowners on their own property, other than those undertaken with support from the above projects/groups</li> <li>• actions of regional park volunteers</li> <li>• actions of groups other than those listed in the table above, which could not be identified during this work.</li> </ul>		

### 6.3.5 Local area plans prepared under the Act

Auckland Council and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board have completed five local area plans (LAP's). These and their date of completion are listed below.

- Waiatarua Local Area Plan – December 2009
- Oratia Local Area Plan – December 2009
- Henderson Valley / Opanuku Local Area Plan – October 2010
- Muddy Creeks Local Area Plan – February 2014
- Te Henga / Bethells Beach and the Waitākere River Valley Local Area Plan - October 2015

The local area plans provide an important resource for communities and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board to hold the local vision aligned to the Act and an outline of actions to achieve this. The local area plans also provide an official record that is useful in advocacy for funding so that the actions within them can be initiated in the future.

### 6.3.6 Historical and cultural groups

The historical and cultural groups within the heritage area undertake a variety of activities and events that include history, music, literary and visual arts (refer to Table 27).

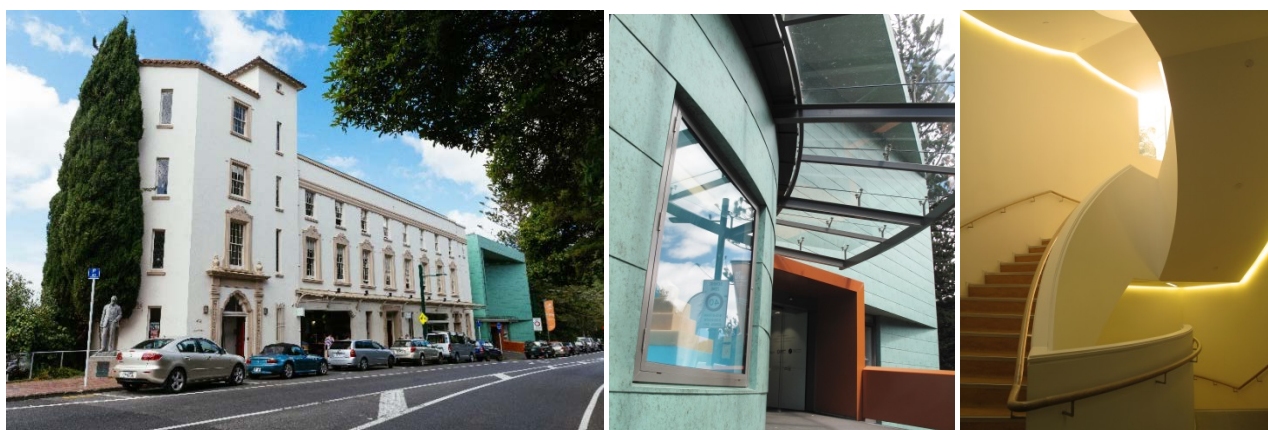
Table 27: Historical and cultural group activities 2013 to 2017

Name of organisation/group	Notes on activities since 2013-2017
Lopdell House	\$20m upgrade and extension to existing building 2012-2014 creating Te Uru Gallery, café/restaurant, upstairs gallery, gift shop, offices and meeting rooms.
Oratia Folk Museum	Ongoing. Open every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday, monthly, and by arrangement.
Going West Trust	Continued, annual programme of literary arts.
Huia Settlers Museum	Museum open to public Saturdays and Sundays, and for events and commemorations.
McCahon House Trust	Annual residence awards and public viewing.
Protect Piha Heritage Society	Heritage information events, Piha mill gala day, publications, advocacy.
Donner House	Restoration of Donner House.

Titirangi Community Arts Council Incorporated	Upstairs Gallery established in Lopdell House in 2014.
Titirangi Festival Trust	Supports and organises regular Titirangi Festivals including the 2016 Titirangi Music Festival.
West Coast Gallery	Piha Gallery and events programme.
West Auckland Historical Society	Historical talks, re-enactment of history of Henderson Mill, participation in Twin Streams Project (Opanuku Stream).

Key changes to community-based cultural heritage activities since 2013 have been as follows:

- \$20m upgrade and extension to Lopdell House building in Titirangi in 2012-2014 creating Te Uru Gallery, café/restaurant, Upstairs Gallery, gift shop, offices and meeting rooms.
- Titirangi Music Festival in 2016 by Titirangi Festival Trust.
- The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Conference October 2016 and 2017, with funding from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. It provides an opportunity for local experts in history and iwi to share their knowledge of the cultural heritage of the heritage area.
- A local Te Henga / Bethells Beach group (Swimmable Waterways Te Henga) was set up in 2017 and initiated the design of an information and interpretation feature, with support from iwi, at the entrance to the beach.
- The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society received a local grant to publish a history of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act, to be launched at the 10-year anniversary of the passing of the Act in April 2018.
- Waitākere Open Studio weekend organised annually since 2015, funded by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. This event enables local artists to promote and exhibit their creations in their studio setting. The event has grown in popularity both in the number of artists participating, and number of visitors.



Lopdell House and Te Uru Gallery, Titirangi. Upgrade and extension undertaken 2012-2014.

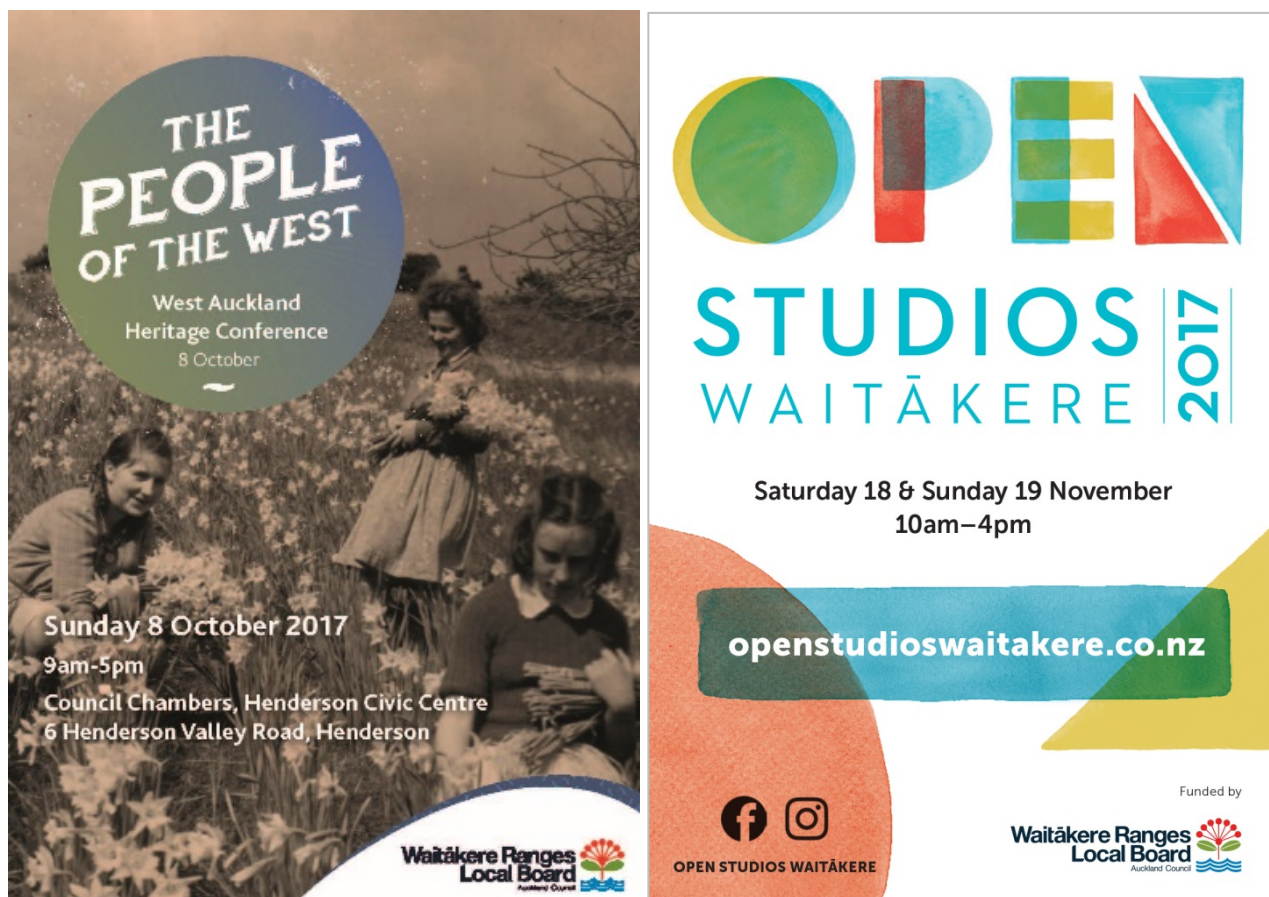


Image on left: Brochure for West Auckland Heritage Conference (2017). Image on right: Brochure for Open Studios Waitākere (2017).

### 6.3.7 Community facilities

The service organisations of the heritage area are diverse and support the heritage features of the heritage area. The organisations and their facilities, whilst supporting their core functions, are often hubs around which community and social activities also take place.

Appendix 14 lists the facilities, principally within the heritage area, that are available for community social and/or recreational use owned or partially owned by the Auckland Council and others. Significant changes since 2008 in those facilities (other than maintenance) are recorded in Appendix 14.

There have been no significant changes to community facilities since 2012, apart from internal refurbishment or small additions to existing facilities. Notably, the Laingholm Village Hall and Titirangi Memorial Hall were both damaged by fire in 2014 and 2017 respectively.



### 6.3.8 Environmental stewardship in schools

Enviroschools is a growing network of schools, early childhood centres and communities who aim to make a positive difference to our environment. Schools create an environmental pathway which they move along and each Enviroschools journey is unique. The Enviroschools programme is based around five guiding principles – Empowered Students, Māori Perspectives, Sustainable Communities, Respect for Diversity and Culture and Learning for Sustainability.

Students are given the opportunity to connect with their own environments through a range of resources and are encouraged to explore how they can take action on global issues. These global issues have been separated into five overlapping themes which are Energy, Zero Waste, Water Life, Living Landscapes and Ecological Building.

There are 13 of the 14 schools that serve the heritage area participating in the Enviroschools programme, as well as a number of early childhood centres. These are:

- Glen Eden School
- Henderson Valley School
- Kaurilands School
- Konini School
- Laingholm School
- Lone Kauri Community School
- Oratia School
- Prospect School
- Swanson School
- Titirangi School
- Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School
- \*Titirangi Kindergarten
- \*Waitākere Primary School
- Woodlands Park School

\*New schools or early childhood centres which have joined Enviroschools since 2013.

### 6.3.9 Fire services

Throughout the heritage area is a network of facilities and associated equipment providing fire and emergency services (e.g. motor vehicle accidents, oil spills and storm damage). These services are supported on a voluntary basis and are established in the following locations:

- Huia
- Waiatarua
- Laingholm

- Karekare
- Te Henga / Bethells Beach
- Piha
- Titirangi.

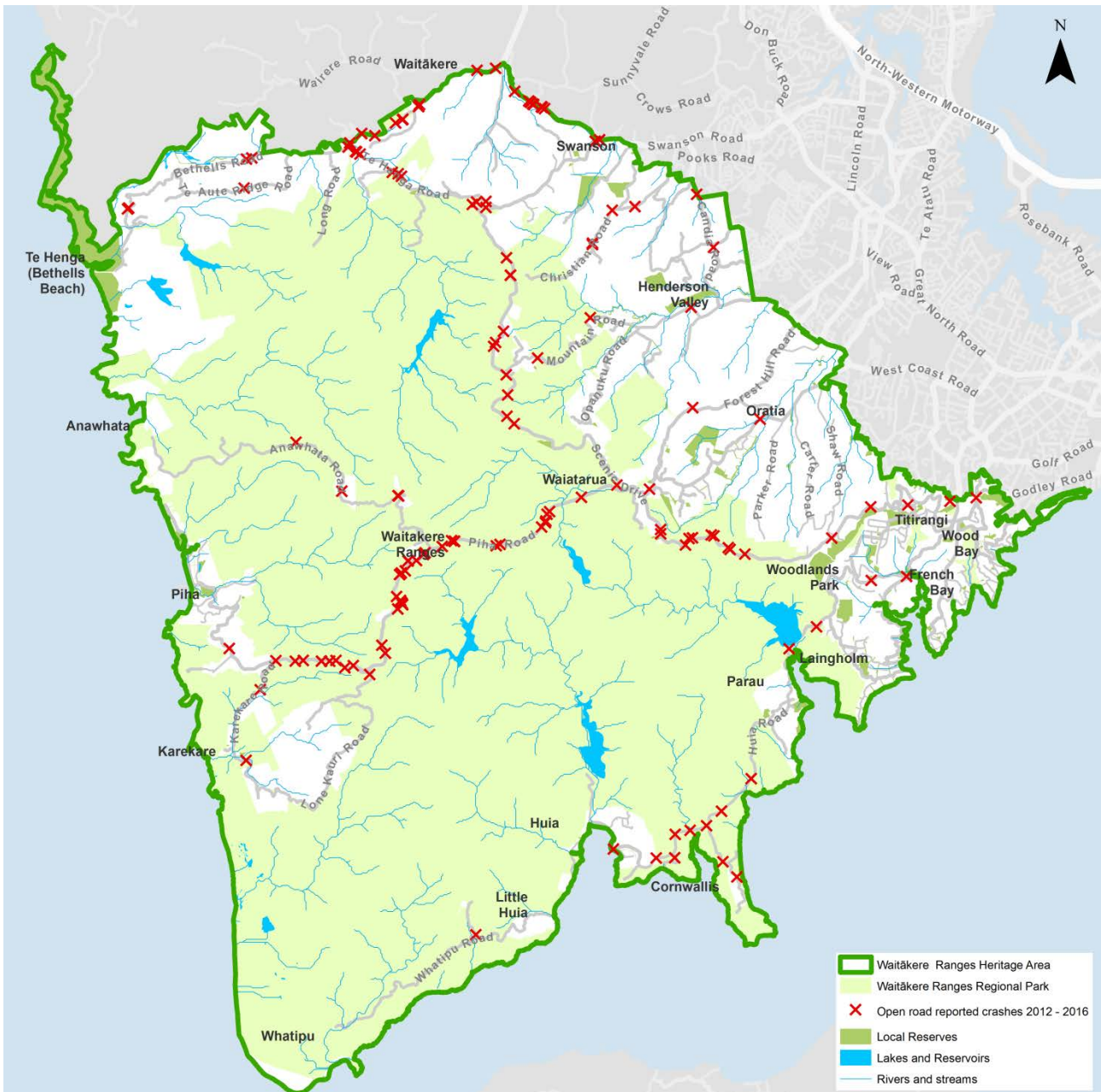
Additionally over this period two community response groups were established in Laingholm and Te Henga / Bethells Beach. These join other such groups and aim to perform an emergency management role in these local communities.



**Image on left:** Bethells Valley Fire Station. **Image on right:** Titirangi Kindergarten.

Reported motor vehicle accidents are recorded into a New Zealand Transport Agency's database (Crash Analysis System). Map 17 and Table 28 below show the location and number of reported crashes between 2012 and 2016. The light blue highlight shows that Piha Road has the most reported crashes, followed by Scenic Drive, Bethells Road and Huia Road. Anecdotal evidence indicates that there are a significant number of motor vehicle accidents that are not reported.

Map 17: Open road reported crashes 2012 to 2016



See Table 28 below for further information about the location and number of reported open road crashes.

Table 28: Open road reported crashes 2012 to 2016

Location of Crash	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Anawhata Road		1	1	1	1	4
Bethells Road	1	1	5	3	2	12
Candia Road		1				1

## STATE OF THE WAITĀKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA 2018

Christian Road	1			2		3
Cornwallis Road		2				2
Donald McLean Road			1			1
Duffy Road					1	1
Forest Hill Road	1					1
Henderson Valley Road	1				1	2
Huia Road	1	5		3	2	11
Kaitarakihi Road			1			1
Karekare Road		1				1
Lone Kauri Road		1	1			2
Mountain Road	1	1				2
O'Neills Road		1			1	2
Piha Road	13	6	9	7	7	42
Scenic Drive	11	4	7	4	6	32
Te Aute Ridge Road				1		1
Te Henga Road	1	1	4	1		7
Titirangi Road		1				1
Wairere Road	1	1	2	1	4	9
Waitākere Road	1		1	2		4
West Coast Road	1		1			2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>144</b>



### 6.3.10 Surf lifesaving clubs

Local and other volunteers support a network of surf clubs that maintain regular patrols of beaches during the summer months. These are key to the safe public enjoyment of these beaches for visitors and local residents. These clubs are located in the following locations:

- Bethells Beach
- United (North Piha)
- Piha (southern end of Piha Beach)
- Karekare.

### 6.3.11 Local news media

The following media regularly provide information on local history and heritage, weed and predator management, local initiatives, community events, local business advertising and other local news. Increasingly, these media are also found online on community-run websites and they are complemented by community Facebook pages.

- The Roundabout (previously Laingholm Roundabout)
- Window on Swanson
- Piha Community News
- Waiatarua News
- The Fringe (formerly Titirangi Tatler).

### 6.3.12 Local books and articles

Over the monitoring period further books and articles recording the natural and community history of the area have been published. This is an extensive list and while not exhaustive has been compiled into a bibliography that is attached as Appendix 15 to this report.

### 6.3.13 Regional Park volunteers

Auckland Council has an extensive programme partnership with community groups across the region that provide volunteer hours and resources to maintain and improve public open space assets. This is particularly true of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and aggregated volunteer hours are set out below in Table 29. A decline in volunteer hours since 2012 is noted.

Table 29: Volunteer hours in the regional park

Period	Volunteer Hours
May 2008-April 2009	8000
May 2009-April 2010	12,572
May 2010-April 2011	16,114
May 2011-June 2012	26,808
July 2012-June 2013	17,857
July 2013-June 2014	19,093
July 2014-June 2015	18,159
July 2015-June 2016	15,432
July 2016-June 2017	15,325

## 6.4 Funding support services in the heritage area

The Regional Environmental and Natural Heritage Grant Programme (RENH) provides grants, practical support and advice to members of the community to help them protect and enhance their local environment and heritage. This fund is open to applications from throughout Auckland. Since 2015 this fund has mainly been granted to larger projects that are deemed to be of regional significance. Applications for local environmental projects are now considered under the local board's local grant programme.

Table 30 below shows the amount that was approved for spending since 2012 to support environmental initiatives within the heritage area.

Table 30: Approved spending from 2012 to 2017

2012/2013	2013/14 (Environmental Initiatives Fund)	2014/15 (Environmental Initiatives Fund)	2015/16 (RENH)	2016/17 (RENH)
\$15,343	\$14,450	\$31,900	\$63,000	\$25,000

### Waitākere Heritage Fund

This fund has been replaced with the Regional Heritage Grant programme and Local Grant/Quick Response grants from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board.

### Waitākere Ranges Local Board discretionary funds

These funds assist groups to provide activities, projects, programmes, initiatives, and events that make a positive contribution within the local board area. Funds are provided particularly where the activity gives effect to the priorities in the Local Board Plan - such as environmental, cultural, arts, community development, recreational and heritage initiatives, and supporting youth and Māori.

### Local Grants and Quick Response Grants (Waitākere Ranges Local Board)

The following table (refer to Table 31) shows the amount that was approved by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board to support environmental initiatives within the heritage area.

Table 31: Local Board funding

2015/16	2016/2017
\$7440	\$46,486

### Community weed bins

The community weed bins provide a free environmental weed disposal service to residents at six sites throughout the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area. The desired outcomes of the free service are that more households will control their environmental weeds if disposal is easier and cheaper, and there will be less incentive to illegally dump weeds in places such as council reserves. The number of weedbins provided between 2014 and 2017 is shown below in Table 32.

A challenge for this programme has been the ongoing inappropriate use of the bins. A range of non-target materials are dumped, leading to higher disposal costs. The budget has needed to be increased year-on-year since 2013 to manage this. The funding was for \$60,000 in 2014/2015, \$88,500 in 2015/2016, and in \$90,000 in 2016/2017 with an additional \$10,000 made available when the project went over budget.

In the 2016/2017 year the Kauri Loop Road and Kowhai Reserve bins were changed to being available for only one day a month. They were attended by staff that could advise on weed control and monitor what was placed in the bins. This reduced costs and the

dumping of non-target material in the bins. In 2017/2018 this service continued, with two permanent bins at Piha and Huia, and four rotating bin sites (Western Road, Kowhai Reserve, Kauri Loop Road and Mountain Road).



Community weed bin at Piha Domain.

The 'War on Weeds' is a complementary programme that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board funds in partnership with the Henderson-Massey Local Board. In March each year, green waste bins are placed at a number of extra sites across Waitākere and Henderson-Massey Local Board areas. An awareness campaign is run to encourage people to remove environmental weeds from their property. The War on Weeds relies somewhat on the existing network of community weed bins to achieve good coverage.



Table 32: Numbers of weed bins provided between 2014-2017

Period July to June by year	Number of weed bins provided
2014-2015	127
2015-2016	243
2016-2017	238
Total 2014-2017	608

### Project Twin Streams (PTS)

This is a large-scale environmental restoration and storm water management project. Engages local residents in the project through partnering with local community organisations to deliver the streambank restoration programme, and to deliver community development benefits within the catchment. Within the heritage area, the PTS project works with landowners along the upper Opanuku Stream in Henderson Valley.

### Restoration planting and sand dunes

Council coastal engineers have assisted with advice on dune restoration, coastal erosion and specialist input for dune management programmes. The Council's Biodiversity team assist with restoration advice.

### Beach clean-ups

This is largely provided by regional park staff and community groups such as Sustainable Coastline or SeaWeek.

## 6.5 Suggestions for the future

- Undertake a follow up Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Business Stocktake report by 2022. This stocktake would provide benefit by being repeated prior to the next monitoring report in 2023.
- Complete the local area plans programme as funding permits over the period 2018-2023.
- Greater coordination and support for the various community and volunteer groups, including best practice techniques for the work they undertake. This could be part of a wider coordinated and integrated approach for all stakeholders and activities within the heritage area.
- Investigate the decline in volunteer hours in the regional park so that council can improve volunteer recruitment and retention.

## 6.6 Funding Implications for the future

- The Business stocktake review in 2022 will require approximately \$15,000 to be completed.
- The completion of the local area plan programme will be largely supported by council but will require a budget to support technical analysis, public engagement and production costs.
- Greater coordination and support of various community and volunteer groups will require resources and funding. This could initially be scoped, to map out the elements requiring coordination and identify options for further investigation. This may be part of wider coordination of activities across the heritage area (i.e. council, council-controlled organisations, iwi, community groups)



Image on top: Bethells Café. Image on bottom: Huia Store Café.