

Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

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www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz



Annual Report 2013

1. Summary

- Membership – 171 households or businesses
- Finances are healthy with end of year balance of \$20,734 (most of which is already committed)
- Volunteer hours 2012 calendar year = 1910
- CPBS continues to work on the native forest restoration of Centennial Park in Campbells Bay, and in sites outside the park as part of the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary
- We experienced a serious drought this summer which resulted in multiple planted trees dying and significant stress on the bush
- Stan Knight continues to grow ecosourced plants
- Erosion continues to be a serious issue but we are making progress
- Volunteers constructed a new detour on the Tui track at the start of the nature trail.
- Volunteers continue to trap for possums, rats and stoats and maintain a bait line along the Aberdeen boundary.
- We continue to monitor water quality, bird life, and weed invasion

2. Membership

Current membership is 171 households (162 in 2012).

3. Finance

Our main expenditure this financial year has been

- Weed control Park Rise Bush \$862
- Weed control in Greville Reserve \$2438
- Rae Rd plants \$1099
- Treescape for felling 3 pines in main bush and 2 wattles in Park Rise Bush \$1069.50

Main income

- Devonport Takapuna Local Board Grant \$10775 for 3 years Greville Res weed control
- Lion Foundation grant \$6000 (for acmena and wattles)
- Donations \$1260
- EIF Grant \$1500 (granted but not yet paid)

4. Volunteers

“Wednesday Workers” meeting every week, weeding, mulching, planting and maintaining tracks.

“Weekend Workers” work days occur every month with excellent support of up to 20 people at a time.

Jan Knight has been supervising a crew of workers on Wednesdays who have been concentrating on weed control of our planting areas.

5. Bush restoration work in the main bush valley

5.1 Avenue of Remembrance

We have maintained low weed levels along this Avenue, fixed drainage above the tennis club and removed more agapanthus in the “Dugdale gully”

5.2 Acmena replacement program

With the full cooperation of Auckland Council staff we have paid for the last five monkey apple trees to be removed from the area near Beach Rd. Council removed one fruiting phoenix palm at the same time. Phoenix palm is a recent addition to the pest plant list as it is naturalising widely including in this

park. Planting will be by council at the arborist's discretion but with input from the society. There are now no large fruiting acmena in the park which is a major victory for the society. We now need to encourage neighbours to remove their fruiting acmena for the benefit of the bush.

5.3 Pine reduction program

The pine reduction program aims to foster natural bush regeneration. Three more "in the bush" pines were felled below the Aberdeen track.

5.4 Wattles

Two wattles in Park Rise Bush were felled by contractors paid by the Bush Society.

5.5 Wetland

We have met with the new Council weed control team and directed them to work on tradescantia and bindweed in the wetland, along the Aberdeen Track and in Park Rise Bush.

5.6 Aberdeen Track

We have met with council erosion contractors re the erosion in the Rae Rd gully and top of mamaku tk. We continue to control climbing asparagus in the Rae Rd plantation and have recently discovered naturalising *Dracaena draco* under the pines here.

We try to keep on top of a *Callistachys* infestation near the golf course.

Council contractors are supposed to be keeping on top of tradescantia along the track.

The committee would like to see a seat installed overlooking the wattle ridge area.

5.7 Kohekohe track

Selaginella is still a problem which is not being addressed. Volunteers are trying to keep this track aristeia-free.

Erosion is an issue in the upper kohekohe where we are planting carex, kie kie and parataniwha to mitigate this.

5.8 Below the 14th tee

Our planting area near the seat at the 14th tee continues to mature.

The riparian planting in the slip site on the 14th fairway is doing very well with kowhai 5m tall

5.9 Centennial Place bamboo

We have revisited this gully near Centennial Place several times to attempt to control stubborn bamboo regrowth.

At the same time we spray climbing asparagus in the pine plantations along the mamaku track.

5.10 The main bush weed sweep

Over summer we have continued a thorough systematic sweep in the main bush block from Centennial Place down the true left of the stream as far as the lower wetland. We are now moving up the true right of the stream and have reached the wattle ridge below the Aberdeen Track. This systematic bush weed control is proving very effective.

6. Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary (CBUS)

CBUS projects include weed control in the golf club lease, particularly Park Rise bush, at All Hallows church, Greville Reserve and the corner of Huntly and Red Bluff Rise. The bush blocks on the golf course have been prioritised for work.

6.1 Golf club acmena

One acmena remains in one of the bush blocks but will be killed before too long. Acmena replacement planting is doing well.

6.2 16th tee

The 16th tee restoration project is maturing and the 3 totara there are growing well now and kowhai are 3m tall. The blue cedars on the edge of the 16th fairway planted to replace acmena are doing very well.

6.3 17th fairway bank and plantation

We are now funding weed control in the golf club 17th fairway plantation near the Forrest Hill roundabout with council Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) grant. We have a quote to fell the dead gums there but lack funding so far. This area is bush block priority one.

6.4 15th tee/old workshop area

The planted area below the old workshop and adjacent to the 15th tee is in weed maintenance mode. One of the three giant redwoods has died from the drought.

The golf club has approved removal of all the remaining invasive bamboo.

6.5 The 4th fairway plantation

A contractor is required to control tradescantia before we replant the gully. This plantation is priority two.

6.6 The 8th fairway plantation

There is plenty to do here with ladder fern, ginger, wattles. A contractor is currently felling the wattles here. Bush block priority three.

6.7 The 5th fairway plantation

This is the weediest block which drains into "Park Rise Bush". It is priority four.

6.8 Park Rise access path

At the top of the path leading uphill from the cul de sac the planting site is growing well.

At the 11th tee fence line, the 2007 planting is doing well.

Blue passion flower - an invasive climber - requires annual control here.

The committee would like to see a seat installed overlooking the 8th fairway.

6.9 Park Rise bush

Natural regeneration is flourishing. We spent many hours in this bush controlling weeds in particular climbing asparagus.

"Agatha", a 2m tall kauri planted near Park Rise succumbed to the drought.

"Park Rise gully", which runs from the redwoods on the 7th fairway to the steep drop off to the main gully, is maintained by volunteers. Council contractors have been asked to keep the trad under control in here. More plants were planted here last year.

The edge of Tree Fern trail is still looking good

The Park Rise Bush Track to Kowhai Rd receives a lot of use and positive comment. We continue to maintain this track.

We planted more below the 7th green and near the playcentre.

The two puriri planted in honour of Pat and John Morton at the lowest point on the track are going well.

We continue to spray climbing asparagus in the pine plantations near the playcentre and 6th fairways.

6.10 Kowhai Rd restoration

This area was planted 2009, 2010 and 2011.

A large dying gum behind the 3rd tee was removed by council at our request and we planted this area last winter.

Jan's crew are doing a wonderful job of controlling the weeds here.

6.11 All Hallows Church bush

This is now in weed maintenance mode with one site visit in the past year and volunteer control of tradescantia. The kokekohe tree planted in 2011 is surviving. A focus has been on trying to protect this bush in the Unitary Plan.

6.12 Huntly Rd

The bank on the corner of Huntly and Red Bluff Rise is another CBUS initiative. It is now in weed maintenance mode, requiring one wattle to be removed.

The council planting below Huntly Rd bridge is doing very well.

We have a planting plan for the broken retaining wall on the other side of the stream at the beach.

We would also like to see better planting at the cul de sac near the toilets.

6.13 **Greville Reserve**

We have made dramatic progress with the monkey apple forest in this reserve. Most of these are now felled or dead. Acmena seedlings are numerous and targeted by volunteers. We have planted native trees in 2011 and 2012.

We are now funding a contractor to control ground weeds with funding from Devonport Takapuna Local Board over the next three years. The Bush Society will plant those weed controlled areas.

6.14 **Campbells Bay School**

Campbells Bay School removed a row of large acmena trees in 2010. The titoki they planted are struggling in the clay soil but miraculously survived the summer drought. We have assisted with work and advice on the Community Forest restoration project.

6.15 **Rhamnus**

Rhamnus alaternus or evergreen buckthorn is a nasty pest plant widespread in the private properties in Campbells Bay with increasing numbers cropping up in the park. Volunteer resource is focussed on the park and we have been unable to make progress on removing rhamnus from private properties.

7. **Ecosourced plant propagation**

Stan Knight continues to grow wonderful ecosourced plants on his property. John Chapple in View Rd is also helping out with about 50 plants. Last year we planted about 1800 plants in Campbells Bay.

8. **Erosion**

We are making progress. We have had several site meetings with council engineers and stormwater planners. We have secured some rock deliveries which we have used to bolster an eroded gully below the 13th fairway and more recently the gully below the tennis club. This system of volunteers moving rocks provided by council is a winning formula. Council also placed some rocks in the eroded Harvey gully on the Aberdeen track. We will continue to request more rock to place in eroded gullies. Some of this work will need to be done by contractors.

The erosion in the Asbury gully is severe. Large amounts of clay have been spewed out at the beautiful glade near the large kahikatea on the Kohekohe track. Clay and silt is a pollutant with negative effects on stream life and the Hauraki Gulf. This erosion is a direct result of the sheer volume of water coming off the Park Rise subdivisions. Council has commissioned an engineering firm - Morphem - to propose a way to mitigate this erosion. The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board have funded a new boardwalk in this area to allow continue walking in winter. We continue to advocate strongly for work to be done to stop the erosion in this gully.

9. **Rae Rd**

The landscaping project here is complete. The planting has been disappointing with most of the *Libertia* and many of the *Astelia banksia* dying. We will be replanting with hardier plants this winter. Otherwise if is maturing well

10. **The track network**

Volunteers have worked hard on the track network again this year continuing to do most of the track maintenance in the park.

We completely redug the drains on the Zig Zag track. We built a detour at the start of the nature trail to bypass a low area which regularly floods.

11. **Nature Trail**

The nature trail guide has been reprinted with new council colours with photos supplied by the society.

12. **Communications**

We put out a 4 page newsletter twice a year, now in full colour, thanks to sponsorship through Garry Browne of Print Advisor Ltd. The printing has been sponsored by Crucial Colour and now Kale Print. We are very grateful for this wonderful sponsorship.

We send out an email once a week to those on the volunteer lists.

Our website at www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz has had a major revamp. You can now sign up to receive alerts when it is updated.

13. Animal Pest Control

We have two trap lines, patrolled by 4 volunteers, covering about 40 rat traps, 6 possum traps and 2 stoat traps in the main valley. Bruce Rogers has set up a network of monitoring tunnels. Council is funding a professional pest control plan for the park. Hopefully we will have a full network of poison bait stations through the park by spring.

14. Bird Counts

Monthly bird counts continue by Alan Emmerson, Jenny Chamberlain and Liz Goodwin. People can join this early morning walk if they would like to.

15. Mowing

Council rationalised all its contracts this year so we lost our long time grass mower Bruce Rogers. Bruce has worked tirelessly over many years keeping the park looking great. Things will never be the same with a corporate mowing firm. Thanks Bruce.

16. Looking ahead

Our main focus for the coming year will be to get the pest control program going. Once this is set up we can spread this out to private land in the CBUS catchment. We need more funding for control of invasive weeds especially to bring the golf club bush blocks under good control. Our volunteer effort continues apace.

17. Thankyou

Thanks to Laurie Flynn and Mat Cheer of the golf club. Thanks to council parks officers Paul Duffy, Paul Cliffe, Danielle Hancock for their support with plants, spray gear and supplies, tools, contractors and materials. Thanks to Adrian Lamont, parks arborist, who has been supportive of our goals to remove pest trees. Thanks to Recreational Services for removing multiple piles of weeds. Thanks to our new council contractors NZ Biosecurity and to John Barber of Rahopara who is doing the weed control in Greville Reserve and the 17th plantation. We particularly appreciate the support of Julia Parfitt and the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board as well as Chris Darby and the Devonport Takapuna Local Board.

Special thanks to our committee, the hard core of volunteer workers, especially Stan and Jan Knight for giving up your garden for our plants. Thanks to Jenny Chamberlain for her secretarial and newsletter skills, and Max Thomson and Marg Palmer for handling the funds and Arnold Elley our honorary auditor. Our regular crew of Bob and Daphne Fairbairn, Stan and Jan, Joe Greig, Steve Phillips and Peter Aimer form the backbone of the workers in the park. Thanks too to Cathy Roughan, Liz Goodwin and Dick Downing.

Thanks to the pest control team – especially Bruce Rogers, Peter Aimer, Dick Downing, and Julia Adams.

Richard Hursthouse
Chair
June 2013