



Bush lawyer *Rubus cissoides*

Newsletter No. 82

# Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter



November 2016

## Farewell Stan

*Sadly, Centennial Park Bush Society stalwart Stan Knight passed away on 2 September 2016.*



The first photo I took of Stan he was chopping down bamboo at a 2005 working bee. The bamboo covered about a quarter of an acre and we only made a dent in it on the day. But over the next few weeks, Stan and Peter Bioletti nailed the lot with several days hard slog. It was the beginning of Stan's 11-year productive association with Centennial Park.

Stan attended nearly every Wednesday morning and every monthly working bee, dealing to weeds, planting trees and fixing tracks and structures, dressed in his hallmark rugby jersey and peaked cap – of which he had an inexhaustible supply. Stan qualified as a Growsafe approved sprayer and would happily hoist 10 litres on his back. He put at least 2000 hours directly into working in Centennial Park and also volunteered at Tuff

Crater – where he tackled mountains of the mega weed elaeagnus with gusto.

Stan invented special tools such as a hook on a long pole to haul down moth plant pods and another tool for clearing pipes under tracks. He was meticulous about caring for his tools and despaired when I turned up with rusty, blunt or dirty equipment.

His plant-raising skills were outstanding. In 10 years Stan grew at least 5000 native plants at his home nursery for Centennial Park, many dug out of the park and stuffed into pockets to be later potted up, or grown from seed he harvested.

Stan could strike up a conversation with any passer-by. He was engaging and very funny. Hardly a week would go by without him pulling a joke from his pocket to share with everyone. Stan's savoury chilli muffins were legendary and always well received.

Stan's last big working bee was in 2015. Despite shortness of breath he was cutting down and stacking bamboo just as he had at his very first session in 2005.

Stan was a real "good sort". I nominated him for TV1's Good Sorts award but, by the time they got around to contacting us, Stan was too unwell to participate.

Stan's outstanding community work was acknowledged with an Auckland Council award in 2013.

Of course Stan could not have done all this without Jan. I am sure Jan was quite happy to have Stan employed in the garden and the bush so she could have some respite from Sky Sport.

**Thanks Stan for being such a legend.**

**- Richard Hursthouse**

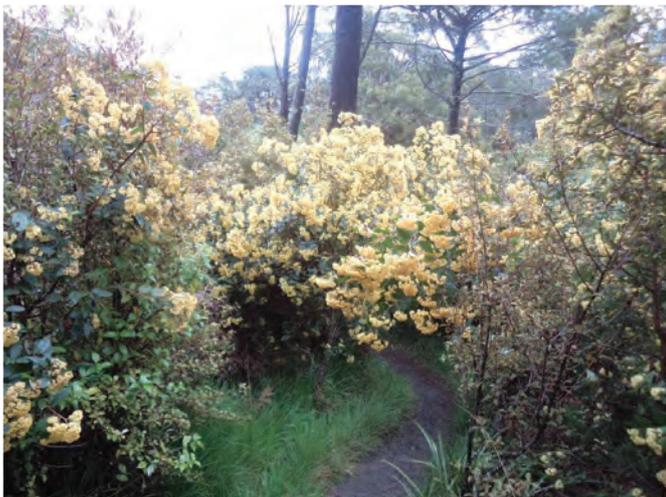
## Floods and Flowers



Spring is a fascinating time to explore the park. Flowers appear, tui noisily engage in courtship and weather alternates between warm sun and drenching rain.

When the grassy slopes below the Aberdeen Track are tinted in the whites and mauves of wild flowers, when magnolias near Beach Road bloom and kowhai flush luminous yellow, I know it's spring. A scatter of thin white petals on the bush tracks is a cue to search the canopy to glimpse spectacular festoons of native clematis.

This year, near the bottom of the Baylis Track, a sprinkle of 'confetti' on the path signalled a cluster overhead of the delicate flowers of the hooked and grasping bush lawyer vine *Rubus cissoides*.



*Kumarahou – Park Rise Track September 2016*

The colourful, creamy-yellow flower heads of the kumarahou - a leathery shrub which tolerates the poorer, clayey soils of the park and is prolific along the

scrubby sections of the Park Rise Track, are a personal favourite. Kumarahou is sometimes called 'gum digger's soap' as the flowers create lather when rubbed between wet hands.

Spring isn't all warmth, colour and harmony. Mid-morning on 2 October, drawn by the sights and sounds of a spectacular downpour, I ventured into the park.

Water flowed across the golf course slopes, gushed from storm water outlets and cascaded down every gully to the valley streams.

I heard the subdued baritone of flood waters, brown with silt, as they rose to submerge bridges and boardwalks and overflow into the surrounding bush, leaving tangled mats of debris, beds of thick silt, and tracks denuded of metal spread only days before.

Predators are active too, migrating into the park in anticipation of a bounty of birds, eggs and chicks. So please keep those rat traps baited and set in your garden -- especially near your compost heap.

This year, spring has brought flowers and flood, celebration and set-back. Flowers and birds are flourishing but it will take time to restore those water-scoured tracks.

- **Peter Aimer**

## Family Camping In the Park

Plans are underway for a family camp in Centennial



Park this summer -- 2017. The aim is to give young children in our community the opportunity to get out into nature and experience a night in the park, with their parents, and away from technology! More details will follow as plans develop but ideas so far include a glow-worm hunt, storytelling, stargazing and even a campfire! The Bush Society is working closely with Auckland Council to make this event a reality.

- **Dick Downing**



## CBUS Progress

The Bush Society is making progress with the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary predator control programme.

We have a bait station grid throughout the main valley and in Park Rise Bush. We now want to extend predator control to the whole catchment.

We know there are rats and possums throughout the bay, as many residents are already trapping and baiting and getting regular catches and bait-take.

Chew card monitoring is a new initiative. This involves nailing small pieces of peanut butter-impregnated corflute plastic cards to suitable spots, for one or two nights, -- in representative areas of the bay. Rodents, possums and mice snack on the cards at night and then we retrieve and interpret them. They will give a good idea of pest animal levels.



We now have a bait station gridline map, with lines 100m apart and bait stations every 50 metres on these lines.

In the not too distant future we hope to start placing these bait stations, concentrating first on the areas just north and south of Centennial Park.

The lines will be managed by bait line volunteers. Some residents in these areas will receive a notice, or friendly visit from one of our volunteers in the next few months.

With Pest Free initiatives taking off around New Zealand it will be good to see Campbells Bay take a lead.

**If you are interested in hosting a bait station, or volunteering to maintain a bait line, please email Richard on [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com)**

**- Richard Hursthouse**

## Penguin Project

Centennial Park Bush Society and Campbells Bay Community Association are combining on a *Love Our Bays* initiative to enhance Campbells Bay Reserve and its stream and make the area more wildlife friendly. On Saturday 2 July, 21 people planted 550 plants and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other and

share an amazing morning tea.

At low tide, the rock pools at this end of the beach are regular swimming spots for rescued little blue penguins, with watchful dog Missy acting as penguin protector.

Penguins have been brought to swim here for around 50 years, so it was decided some penguin statues and a dog would be an appropriate way of recognising a key feature of Campbells Bay life and acknowledging the fine work done by "Bird Lady" Sylvia Durrant and "Penguin Lady" Annwyne Standish.



Stage 1 of the joint venture was launched at the Campbells Bay Community Association AGM in July and now six penguin statues have been generously funded by local donors. Sculptor Samantha Lissette has been commissioned to create six life-size penguins for late summer installation.



Stage 2 will require around \$25,000 for a bronze dog to eyeball one of the penguins. If you would like to help kick-start stage 2 you can credit Centennial Park Bush Society Kiwibank account 38-9001-0816766-03 and enter "Dog" and your name for the bank statement. Send an email to [info@campbellsbay.nz](mailto:info@campbellsbay.nz) with your name and address so we can send you a charitable donation receipt for your tax rebate. Alternatively use the form on the back of this newsletter.

**- Max Thomson**



### Daycare Update

The application to construct a 150-child daycare centre on the busy intersection of Park Rise and Beach Road went before an Auckland Council hearing committee in early October. Of 228 submissions received only one partially supported the scheme.

Forty eight locals spoke to their submissions, plus Stop Daycare landscape architect Geraldine Bayly and planner Brian Putt.

The commissioners may wait until the new Unitary Plan is finalised before reporting. The Stop Daycare committee said they were blown away with the number of locals who supported the fight against this development.

“Not only the people who spoke so eloquently, and who had researched their submissions so extensively, but also those who took a few hours out of their day to come to the Council chambers and sit in support of us.

“The passion shown towards protecting the quality of our lifestyle in Campbells Bay, and the courage to speak out were nothing short of incredible.”

*-Jenny Chamberlain*

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**Chairman:** Richard Hursthouse 410 5339  
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**Committee:** Peter Aimer, Jan Knight, Liz Goodwin, Joe Greig, Sue Rawstron, Bob Fairbairn and Dick Downing.

### Centennial Park Bush Society Inc.

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Email [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com)  
Find out more and **sign up to follow our blog** at [www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz)

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### We acknowledge the generous support of:

- Auckland Council Environmental Initiatives Fund
- Hibiscus & Bays Local Board
- Devonport Takapuna Local Board
- Auckland Council Parks Department
- Lion Foundation

**Secure bait stations and discount rat bait:** Dick Downing [dick.d@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dick.d@xtra.co.nz) 478 737.  
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