

# Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

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[www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz)



## Annual Report 2014

### 1. Summary

- Membership – 197 households or businesses
- Finances are healthy with end of year balance of \$20,869
- Volunteer hours 2013 calendar year = 2147
- 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
- Stan Knight continues to grow ecosourced plants
- Erosion continues to be a serious issue with a catchment management planning process underway
- Volunteers constructed a new detour on the kohekohe track.
- We set up a comprehensive rodent control program with volunteers monitoring bait stations and we continue to trap for possums and stoats.
- We continue to monitor water quality, bird life, and weed invasion

### 2. Membership

Current membership is 197 households or businesses.

### 3. Finance

Our main expenditure this financial year has been

- Rahopara for weed control in Greville Reserve \$2679
- Rahopara for weed control 17<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fairway blocks \$1495
- Treescape for felling 3 pines in main bush \$828
- Treescape for felling wattles on 8<sup>th</sup> fairway \$4163
- Auckland Council for acmena felling \$3018
- Dairy Plants \$216

Main income

- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Grant \$10000 tree felling in 17<sup>th</sup> block
- Auckland Council EIF Grant \$1495 for tradescantia control
- Donations \$1625 (\$1260 2013)
- Interest \$500

### 4. Volunteers

“Wednesday Workers” meeting every week, weeding, mulching, planting and maintaining tracks, including a team supervised by Jan Knight keeping our planted areas looking great.

“Weekend Workers” work days occur every month with excellent support of up to 15 people at a time.

### 5. Bush restoration work in the main bush valley

#### 5.1 Avenue of Remembrance

We have worked on the Dugdale gully, Tennis Club gullies  
Carex divulsa remains an increasing concern in this area

#### 5.2 Acmena replacement program

After council felled the final five monkey apple trees (funded by the Bush Society), all significant acmena trees are now gone from Centennial Park. We have worked with council on a replacement planting program which will be completed by council this winter.

### 5.3 Pine reduction program

Three more “in the bush” pines were felled per our consent – one below the Aberdeen track on Joe’s ridge which is just south of the wattle ridge and two small pines on the north side of the kohekohe track.

### 5.4 Wetland

The NZ Biosecurity team funded by Auckland Council continue to work on tradescantia

### 5.5 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  
We try to keep on top of a *Callistachys* infestation near the golf course.  
Council contractors are keeping on top of tradescantia along the track.

### 5.6 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 in an attempt to mitigate this.

### 5.7 Mamaku Track

The gully near Centennial Place has been visited several times to attempt to control stubborn bamboo regrowth. It continues to defy us.

We continue to spray and manually remove climbing asparagus in the pine plantations along the mamaku track and golf club margin.

Our planting area near the seat at the 14<sup>th</sup> tee continues to mature.

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

### 5.8 The main bush weed sweep

We are conducting a never ending weed control circuit of the bush. We moved from the zig zag track area west and then north and east down the Baylis. We then started west again on the south side of the CB stream and by the end of March 2014 we had got as far as the wattle ridge again. This systematic bush weed control is proving very effective with most ginger and climbing asparagus now being manually removed and placed in large council supplied weed bags strategically placed in the bush.

## 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, the corner of Huntly and Red Bluff Rise, and the dairy garden on Beach Rd and now the bush blocks on the golf course are now being weed controlled.

### 6.1 Park Rise bush (bush block priority one)

We have spent many hours in this block of bush controlling weeds in particular climbing asparagus and ginger. “Agatha”, which succumbed to the drought and was replaced near the gully.

“Park Rise gully”, which runs from the redwoods on the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway to the steep drop off to the main gully, is maintained by volunteers with Council contractors keeping the tradescantia and alligator weed under control in here.

We continue to spray climbing asparagus in the pine plantations near the playcentre and 6<sup>th</sup> fairways. The main gully still has high weed densities including arum, ginger and honeysuckle and will be a target once the block upstream is under control

The edge of Tree Fern trail is being maintained and is still looking good

We continue to maintain the Park Rise Bush Track to Kowhai Rd. Council regard this track as outside their maintenance role.

We have nominated Park Rise Bush for “significant ecological area” designation in the Unitary Plan.

### 6.2 Park Rise access path

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

The 2007 planting at the 11<sup>th</sup> tee fence line is doing well. Blue passion flower - an invasive climber - requires annual control here.

The committee would like to see a seat installed overlooking the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway.

### **6.3 Kowhai Rd restoration**

This area was planted in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Jan's crew are doing a wonderful job of controlling the weeds here.

### **6.4 Golf club acmena**

The acmena replacement planting is doing very well. The blue cedars on the edge of the 16<sup>th</sup> and first fairways are doing particularly well as are the claret ash near the 6<sup>th</sup> fairway.

### **6.5 16th tee**

The 16<sup>th</sup> tee restoration project is maturing well and has been the subject of routine weed control maintenance.

### **6.6 17th fairway plantation (bush block priority two)**

We have funded weed control in the golf club 17<sup>th</sup> fairway plantation near the Forrest Hill roundabout with a \$1500 council Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) grant as well as spending significant volunteer hours there. We have initiated the felling of dead gums with local board funding, topped up with Parks funding. This has been a drawn out process with the contractor coming and going. The site will be a good planting area for 2015 if not before.

### **6.7 15th tee/old workshop area**

The planted area below the old workshop and adjacent to the 15<sup>th</sup> tee is in weed maintenance mode. The golf club has approved removal of all the remaining invasive bamboo but this is a low priority for us.

### **6.8 15<sup>th</sup> fairway planting**

We prepared the site and planted about 1200 council supplied plants on the lower side of the fairway below the 15<sup>th</sup> green. Despite a dryish summer these plants have done very well. Jan's crew have maintained this site as well.

### **6.9 The 4th fairway plantation (bush block priority three)**

This is "Peter's patch" and we have spent volunteer time here. John Barber of Rahopara is controlling tradescantia before we replant the gully.

### **6.10 The 8th fairway plantation (bush block priority four)**

All the black wattles and Sydney golden wattle on the uphill side of the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway were felled with Bush Society funds. These areas were replanted last year mainly with plants grown by Stan Knight. Numerous wattle seedlings sprout in these areas which are maintained by Jan's crew. We completed a comprehensive sweep of this plantation over Dec/Jan including spraying copious ginger and climbing asparagus through the plantation.

### **6.11 The 5th fairway plantation (bush block priority five)**

This is the weediest block which drains into "Park Rise Bush". Interestingly it has a council SEA designation. We have secured a \$10k grant from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board to bring this plot under control over the next 3 years. There will be much riparian planting here when the weeds are under control.

### **6.12 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 after we failed to get a tree protection designation of the bush. A major concern is the status of the church which is likely to be sold. We work to protect the bush block there.

### **6.13 Huntly Rd/ Red Bluff Rise corner**

This is now in weed maintenance mode, still requiring one wattle to be removed. The council planting below Huntly Rd bridge is doing very well.

We planted along the broken retaining wall on the north side of the stream at the beach – these plants have not done well. It is a tough site and butt ugly to boot.

#### **6.14 Greville Reserve**

Most of the monkey apples here are now felled or dead. *Acmena* seedlings are numerous and targeted by volunteers. We have planted native trees in 2011, 2012 and many last year along the housing boundary and near the pumping station.

John Barber continues to control ground weeds with funding from Devonport Takapuna Local Board

#### **6.15 Campbells Bay School**

We have assisted the school with volunteer hours and advice on the Community Forest restoration project including spraying of climbing asparagus.

#### **6.16 Rhamnus**

*Rhamnus alaternus* or evergreen buckthorn, a nasty pest plant widespread in the private properties in Campbells Bay with increasing numbers cropping up in the park, remains a goal we have been unable to make progress with.

### **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 100 plants. Last year we planted about 2000 plants in Campbells Bay.

### **8. Erosion**

We are making slow progress. We placed some council supplied rock in the eroded area on the downhill side of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway and in the “tennis gully” below the tennis club. We will continue to request more rock to place in eroded gullies.

The erosion in the Asbury gully continues to be severe. Council has commissioned an engineering firm - Morphem - to propose a way to mitigate this erosion. To date nothing has been done.

We await the catchment management plan and will be agitating for action on this. Previous erosion management plans have gathered dust.

### **9. Rae Rd Entry**

We replaced what was left of the *Libertia grandiflora* (which did very poorly here) with *Libertia cranwellii* which is doing much better. *Astelia banksii* also did poorly and has been replaced with *Astelia chathamica*. The area is maintained and mulched by volunteers.

### **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.

In conjunction with the BNZ we built a significant detour on the kohekohe track to bypass an area which regularly floods. Council supplied wood and concrete and volunteers did the rest.

We also hosted a team from DHL Canon who helped reconstruct a section of the mamaku track.

The regular Wednesday team did a lot of work on the mamaku track near the 14<sup>th</sup> tee. We also installed three new bench seats on the kohekohe track and one replacement on the Tui track.

### **11. Nature Trail**

The nature trail guide is in the process of being revised again. A full version with photos is now on the website. This can be accessed on a smartphone with a QR code link at Rae Rd and at the Nature Trail start.

### **12. Communications**

Our 4 page colour newsletter is published in April and November. We appreciate the sponsorship through Garry Browne of Print Advisor Ltd and Norcross 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 is at [www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz).

### **13. Animal Pest Control**

We have worked with council to plan a comprehensive rodent control bait station network of about 90 bait stations. After installation and appropriate training we now have a team of 6 volunteers maintaining 6 bait lines. The bait take is recorded accurately and maintained on a database by Peter Aimer. Peter also controls several possum traps and 2 stoat traps in the main valley.

Bruce Rogers is monitoring a network of 20 monitoring tunnels which are checked for rat presence three times per year.

We now have bait stations, traps and trap covers for use in surrounding properties. We have had some success with this, in particular assisting residents with possum control. We are selling rat bait at cost to local residents.

### **14. Bird Counts**

Monthly bird counts continue by Alan Emmerson, Jenny Chamberlain and Liz Goodwin, now joined by Sue Rawstron and occasionally Richard Hursthouse.

### **15. Mowing**

Council rationalised all its contracts last year so we lost our long time grass mower Bruce Rogers. The replacement contractor Recreational Services has performed variably. We have had two site meetings with them to try to improve the standard. One worker was convinced by a local that it was necessary to mow through a stand of one metre high manuka on the Rae Rd ridge. The contractor has since replanted this area.

### **16. Looking ahead**

Now we have good pest control set up in the park we need to maintain momentum of the volunteer work force on this. We need help and ideas on ways to get CBUS residents trapping or baiting for rats and possums. We look forward to ongoing improvements in the ecology of the park bush blocks and some action on erosion.

### **17. Thankyou**

Our genuine thanks to:

- Council parks officers Paul Duffy, Tony Hart for their support with plants, spray gear, tools, contractors and materials
- Parks arborists Martin Weaver and now Ben Free
- Recreational Services for removing multiple piles of weeds and trying hard with the grass
- Laurie Flynn and Mat Cheer of the golf club
- NZ Biosecurity for council funded weed control
- John Barber of Rahopara for weed control in Greville Reserve, 17<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> plantations
- Julia Parfitt and the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board
- Devonport Takapuna Local Board
- Auckland Council EIF fund
- Garry Browne of Print Advisor Ltd
- Our committee and the hard core of volunteer workers
- Stan and Jan Knight for giving up your garden for our plants
- Jenny Chamberlain for her secretarial and newsletter skills
- Max Thomson and Marg Palmer for handling the funds
- Arnold Elley - our honorary auditor
- Our regular crew who form the backbone of the workers in the park.
- Steve Phillips for refilling countless bottles of vigilant gel
- Liz & Chris Goodwin, Dick Downing, Peter Aimer, Joe Greig, Bob Fairbairn and Julia Adams who form the pest control team
- And all our wonderful donors.

Richard Hursthouse  
Chair  
June 2014