

Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

P O Box 31 677, Milford, North Shore City 0741

www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz



Annual Report 2015

1. Summary

- Finances are healthy with end of year balance of \$31,174
- Volunteer hours 2014 calendar year = 1867
- 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
- Volunteers reconstructed another section of the Kohekohe track and installed new boardwalks in the Rae Rd and wattle gullies
- We continue to have 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
- December 2014 saw one of the best pohutukawa flowering seasons in years

2. Membership

Current membership is 157 households or businesses.

3. Finance

Our main expenditure this financial year has been

- Rahopara for weed control in Greville Reserve \$2874
- Rahopara for weed control 17th and 4th fairway blocks \$1150
- Treescape for felling 3 pines in main bush \$693
- Treescape for felling dead gums in the 17th block \$10,062

Main income

- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Grant \$10,000 tree felling in 17th block
- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Grant \$10,000 for weed control in the 5th fairway block over 3 years
- Auckland Council EIF Grant \$1150 for tradescantia control
- Donations \$4672
- Interest \$629

4. Volunteers

“Wednesday Workers” meet every week weeding, mulching, planting and maintaining tracks, including a team supervised by Jan Knight.

“Weekend Workers” work days occur once a month.

Volunteer hours are declining and sometimes turn out is very low. Please consider if you can put some time into helping out with the work needing doing in the park.

5. Bush restoration work in the main bush valley

5.1 Avenue of Remembrance

We have worked on the Dugdale gully and tennis club gullies as well as dealing to bulbous watsonia in this area.

5.2 Acmena replacement program

Two large pohutukawa were planted by council in this area. The other native trees we have planted in this area continue to do well.

5.3 Pine reduction program

Three more “in the bush” pines were felled per our consent

5.4 Wetland

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

5.5 Aberdeen Track

As part of our ongoing weed sweep we spent a lot of time on Joe's ridge and the Harvey Ridge, south of the wattle area.

Council contractors revisit tradescantia along the track.

We have been trying to control arum in the lower Harvey gully and have planted many riparian species here to help with water quality.

Of note is the sale of Dorothy Anderson's property next to the flame trees for \$1.8 million. All trees including ricker kauri and other interesting exotic trees have been felled to make way for 3 houses. The taraire tree which is an important food source for kereru would doubtless have gone the same way had we not nominated it for notable tree status.

The two large poplars on the Aberdeen Track were felled by council as these were deemed a risk to the neighbouring properties.

We planted and mulched a 3m strip along the new fence between Joe's and the Harvey gully.

We installed some drainage pipe near Rae Rd to help dry out the track.

5.6 Kohekohe track

We have done a thorough search for weeds along the valley. Sellaginella is still an intractable problem. Kiekie flowered again for the second year in a row.

5.7 Mamaku Track

The bamboo gully near Centennial Place has been checked once.

We have sprayed climbing asparagus in the pine plantations along the mamaku track and golf club margin.

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)

"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 with Council contractors keeping the tradescantia and alligator weed under control.

We spent 2 months of working bees in this block. We continue to spray climbing asparagus in the pine plantations near the playcentre and 6th fairways.

We have received another grant from the local board which will be used to pay a contractor to keep on top of the weed situation in this block.

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

We planted near the chipping green and on the pine ridge near the 7th fairway. We also planted a lot of riparian plants in the lower gully near Tree Fern Trail.

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 11th tee fence line is doing well. Blue passion flower - an invasive climber - requires annual control here.

Dumping of garden refuse by the neighbour here is an issue.

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 16th tee

The 16th tee restoration project is maturing well. The totara there are finally taking off.

6.5 17th fairway plantation (bush block priority two)

We have funded weed control in the golf club 17th fairway plantation near the Forrest Hill roundabout with a \$1150 council Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) grant as well as spending significant volunteer hours there. The dead gums were felled with local board funding, topped up with Parks funding. We planted here in 2014 but most were eaten by rabbits. Rabbits have now been controlled by the golf club and we will be planting there this year.

6.6 15th tee/old workshop area

The planted area below the old workshop and adjacent to the 15th tee is in weed maintenance mode. We have spent time removing some of the bamboo here.

6.7 15th fairway planting

This area near the 15th tee is in maintenance mode with strong growth of the native species planted in 2013. Kikuyu is controlled by volunteers to stop it smothering desirables.

6.8 The 4th fairway plantation "Peter's patch" (bush block priority three)

John Barber of Rahopara is controlling tradescantia before we replant the gully.

6.9 The 8th fairway plantation (bush block priority four)

The plantings where wattles were felled are slow to grow. This seems typical of ex wattle sites. The ground is very hard and dry. Numerous wattle seedlings sprout in these areas which are maintained by Jan's crew. We have not revisited the main block but will do so this year.

6.10 The 5th fairway plantation (bush block priority five)

This weedy block which drains into "Park Rise Bush" has now had two visits by Rahopara to control ginger, arum, honeysuckle and climbing asparagus. This is funded by a \$10k grant from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board. We will be riparian planting here this year.

6.11 All Hallows Church bush

The sale of the church to private interests means we are no longer involved in the bush restoration here. We tried hard to obtain some measure of protection of the bush without success.

6.12 Huntly Rd/ Red Bluff Rise corner

This is now in weed maintenance mode, still requiring one wattle to be removed.

6.13 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, 2013 and 2014 along the housing boundary and near the pumping station.

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

6.14 Campbells Bay School

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

6.15 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. Removing buckthorn 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 plants. Last year we planted about 1250 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 7th 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. We have been liaising with the Stormwater Department over a plan to protect this gully.

9. Rae Rd Entry

The area is maintained and mulched by volunteers.

10. The track network and signs

Volunteers continue to do most of the track maintenance in the park.

We rebuilt a section of the Kohekohe track near the kohekohe tree and a section of the Aberdeen Track near the 16th tee.

We installed a new bench seat on the Baylis track and completely rebuilt the picnic table at the carpark.

We installed a bird water trough on the kohekohe track which can be watched from a nearby seat.

We liaised extensively with council over the content, style and placement of signs at all entry points to the park. These have been very successful.

We also purchased and installed five interpretive entymology signs.

11. Communications

We completely revised the nature trail guide and after a long delay this was reprinted and is now in use. 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 and has had a facelift.

12. Animal Pest Control

Volunteers continue to maintain a comprehensive rodent control bait station network of about 90 bait stations. 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.

13. Wildlife monitoring

Monthly bird counts continue by Alan Emmerson, Jenny Chamberlain, Liz Goodwin, Sue Rawstron, and occasionally Richard Hursthouse. We loaned a bat detector but failed to find any presence of bats over three nights in March 2015.

14. Mowing

Recreational Services has the contract to mow the grass. Areas are left unmown where wildflowers and grass seed are plentiful.

15. Thankyou

Our genuine thanks to:

- Council parks officers Paul Duffy, Shane McNeill, Chris Burgess and Tony Hart for their support with plants, spray gear, tools, contractors and materials
- Parks arborist Ben Free
- Recreational Services for help with track work and weed pile removal
- 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, 17th and 4th plantations
- Julia Parfitt and the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board and the Devonport Takapuna Local Board
- Auckland Council EIF fund
- Garry Browne of Print Advisor Ltd and Henry Norcross of Norcross Print
- Our committee and the hard core of volunteer workers
- Stan and Jan Knight for giving up your garden for our plants
- Arnold Elley - our honorary auditor
- Liz & Chris Goodwin, Dick Downing, Peter Aimer, Joe Greig, Bob Fairbairn and Julia Adams who form the pest control team
- All our wonderful donors.

16. Goodbyes

We were sad to lose Steve Phillips this year to Whangarei. Steve has travelled from Birkdale for many years to help with our Wednesday and Saturday working bees. He has put in many many hours for the park as well as volunteering for Kaipatiki Project. We wish Steve all the best for his retirement in Whangarei.

We also farewell Bruce Rogers from our committee. Bruce has been associated with Centennial Park as a mowing and weed control contractor for decades. He has been a valued member of our committee who will be missed greatly. Bruce has volunteered to keep up the rodent monitoring three times a year.

Richard Hursthouse
Chair
May 2015