

# Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

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



## Annual Report 2016

### 1. Summary

- Finances are in a healthy state
- Volunteer hours 2015 calendar year = approx. 2000
- 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
- Erosion continues to be a serious issue
- Volunteers reconstructed a section of the Aberdeen track and Park Rise Bush Track
- We extended our rodent control program to include the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway block

### 2. Membership

Current membership is 157 households or businesses.

### 3. Finance

End of year bank balance \$30,720. Most is committed or linked to grant conditions but approx. \$9000 is uncommitted.

#### Main income

- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Grant \$10,000 over 3 years for weed control in Park Rise Bush
- Auckland Council EIF Grant \$2500 for tradescantia control
- Lion Foundation Grant \$1730
- Donations and interest \$ 7273

Our main expenditure this financial year has been

- Removal of pines main block and Greville Res \$2700
- Weed control contractors \$14500

### 4. Volunteers

We now have two teams working in the park. The Bush Rescue team and the Wednesday weeders supervised by Jan Knight meet every week weeding, mulching, planting and maintaining tracks. Often the two teams work together

“Weekend Workers” work days occur once a month on the first Saturday of each month.

We hosted a team from BNZ again this year to rebuild a very wet section of the Aberdeen Track

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

#### 5.1 Avenue of Remembrance

We have continued work on bulbous watsonia and removed a block of bamboo above the tennis club.

#### 5.2 Acmena replacement program

Native and exotic trees in this area continue to do well. Regular volunteer weed control is needed

#### 5.3 Beach Rd entry

We are removing agapanthus and ladder fern near the Beach Rd entry and will be planting here this season.

#### 5.4 Pine reduction program

Three more “in the bush” pines were felled per our consent . Our 10 year consent for pine removals has expired. We are applying for resource consent to continue this program of removal of 3 pines per annum to maximise bush regeneration. This program is supported by the park management plan.

#### 5.5 Wetland area

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

## 5.6 Aberdeen Track

Council contractors revisit tradescantia along the track.

It is disappointing to see that the development of Dorothy Anderson's property next to the flame trees has resulted in limb removal from the only protected taraire in the valley and construction within the drip line of this tree. This tree is an important food source for kereru. Silt pollution has occurred from this site affecting the whole stream.

## 5.7 Kohekohe track

Selaginella is still an intractable problem. Kiekie flowered yet again for the third year in a row. This is a sign of low rat numbers. More riparian planting done. Upper section fenced off from dogs to allow stream to recover from trampling.

## 5.8 Mamaku Track

Track maintenance work.

## 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 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.

We now have John Barber of Rahopara carrying out weed control in this block with good results. It is a big piece of land and our volunteer team cannot keep up with the ginger and climbing asparagus and tradescantia here.

We have nominated Park Rise Bush for "significant ecological area" designation in the Unitary Plan and it looks like this will be accepted.

We rebuilt a section of the track between the chipping green and the main gully mainly improving drainage.

### 6.2 Park Rise access path

Dumping of garden refuse by the neighbour here is still an issue and wattles try to assert themselves after 10 years!

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

Numerous wattle seedlings sprouting in areas where wattles were removed and removed by Jan's crew. John Barber has done some climbing asparagus work in this block.

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

This weedy block which drains into "Park Rise Bush" is now under good weed control. We did a lot of riparian planting last year and plan to plant an area on the edge of the bush next to the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway this season. We now have a bait line in there as well.

### 6.5 Kowhai Rd restoration

The Wednesday weeders are doing a wonderful job of controlling the weeds here. We have sprayed out ladder fern, gorse and bulbous watsonia. Last year we planting flax and totara along under the gums.

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

John Barber of Rahopara is controlling tradescantia and we replanted the gully. We engaged Treescape to remove all the dead trees in here this year. This work which cost approx. \$11500 was funded by the local board and Lion Foundation. We will now plant more native trees in this block.

### 6.7 17th fairway plantation (bush block priority two)

The dead gums were felled last year with local board funding, topped up with Parks funding. We planted here in 2014 but most were eaten by rabbits. Similarly in 2015, the rabbits had a field day on our plants. We are using rabbit protectors this year.

### 6.8 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. We have removed more bamboo here.

### 6.9 16th tee

The totara there are finally taking off.

## 6.10 15<sup>th</sup> fairway planting

This area near the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 6.11 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 before the sale without success. Attention is now focussed on opposition to an industrial scale child care centre and the Bush Society has submitted opposing the resource consent application. Plans indicate destruction of all the bush except 2 pohutukawa. Already the new owner has laid waste to much of the native vegetation on the site.

## 6.12 Huntly Rd/ Red Bluff Rise corner

This is now in weed maintenance mode. We removed one wattle from here.

## 6.13 Campbells Bay Reserve

We are liaising with Love Our Bays staff to plant around the edge of the stream this year.

## 6.14 Greville Reserve

Most of the monkey apples here are now felled or dead. Acmena seedlings are numerous and targeted by volunteers. The planting along the southern and eastern boundaries is growing well. We have sprayed ivy in various places. John Barber continues to control ground weeds with funding from Devonport Takapuna Local Board and we have been awarded a further grant. We paid to fell pines near the pumping station and this area was recently replanted with native species.

## 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 and tradescantia. The school engaged John Barber to help get on top of a burgeoning pest plant issue. The result is dramatic and we look forward to assisting with restoration there. We have developed a rodent monitoring plan for consideration by the board, involving the children, aiming for a trapping program in there in due course. We have received a grant from the Local Board to assist with contractor weed control in the Community Forest.

## 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.

## 6.17 Trees around the course

We are liaising with the golf club regarding a tree planting program

## 7. Ecosourced plant propagation

Stan and Jan Knight, John Chapple and Eric Martin continue to grow wonderful ecosourced plants. Last year we planted about 2140 plants in Campbells Bay.

## 8. Erosion

We are making some progress working with council stormwater ecologists. We hope that some remedial work will happen in the next year or two. Meantime we continue to plant stream beds and edges to help prevent erosion.

## 9. Rae Rd Entry

The area is maintained 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 Aberdeen Track with the BNZ volunteers and a section of the Park Rise Bush track.

Bob has cleaned and stained all the macrocarpa benches in the park.

Council has replaced the seats on Morton Rise (finally) and also installed a new table at the entrance to the nature trail.

We have been liaising with Parks staff re an upgrade of the track from Rae Rd to the gully under the Avenue of Remembrance. This is being delayed by stormwater outflow issues.

## 11. Communications

Our 4 page colour newsletter is published in April and November. This is now sponsored by Barfoot & Thompson and Benefitz. We send out an email once a week to those on the volunteer lists. We are also now using Facebook (group) and Neighbourly as well as Mairangi News.

Our website is at [www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz).

## **12. Animal Pest Control**

Volunteers continue to maintain a comprehensive rodent control bait station network of about 100 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 tunnels in Park Rise Bush as well. Rat presence is very low.

We have bait stations, bait, traps and trap covers for use in surrounding properties and we are aiming to set up a new line north of the park in private land.

There are 3 rabbit bait stations in the park monitored by council contractors. We are investigating with council a comprehensive rabbit control program.

## **13. Dogs**

Dog bylaws were reviewed 2 years ago and we still do not have appropriate signage to inform owners of these rules. Dogs should be on lead in the bush tracks and we have been asking council for signs for more than a year.

## **14. Wildlife monitoring**

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

Mairangi Bay School are involved in Waicare water quality monitoring. The children of the school created a fabulous sign to raise awareness of aquatic wildlife and to encourage dog owners to keep their dogs out of the water.

## **15. Other groups**

Hibiscus & Bays Local Board has set up a restoration network which meets 5 times per year. This means we are now linked up with local groups such as Bush Glen, Okura, and Forest & Bird Hibiscus Coast Pest Free Peninsula. These groups are part of a network of sites which collectively make up the North West Wildlink.

## **16. Thankyou**

Our genuine thanks to:

- Council parks officers Chris Burgess, Ashley White 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, 17<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> plantations
- Julia Parfitt and the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board and the Devonport Takapuna Local Board for funding support
- Auckland Council Environmental fund
- Barfoot & Thompson and Benefitz
- 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
- Marg Palmer who has banked all your donations for many years but is sadly resigning from this role.
- Liz & Chris Goodwin, Dick Downing, Peter Aimer, Sue Rawstron, Bob Fairbairn, Stuart George and myself who form the pest control team and Bruce Rogers for monitoring
- All our wonderful donors.

## **17. Recognised for his efforts**

Peter Aimer was recognised by the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board for his commitment to Centennial Park, CBUS and in particular his coordination of the predator control program over many years.

## **18. Goodbyes**

Sadly Stan Knight has no longer been able to work in the park due to "getting old". We really could do with more volunteer support.

Richard Hursthouse  
Chair  
June 2016