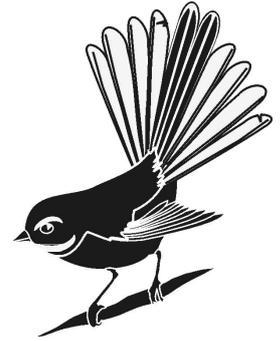




Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

P O Box 31 677, Milford, 0740
www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz

Newsletter No 69, March 2010



Having Vision Is Not Enough

“Having vision is not enough. Change comes through realising the vision and turning it into reality.” Sir Peter Blake

It’s All Happening In The Park

Bush Society’s weed team works Wednesday mornings and one weekend a month. We can always use more hands so please, if you have a little time, come along. We’ll show you the goodies and the baddies and how to deal with them. Summer’s main efforts have included a weed control sweep from the Tennis Club up the south side of the valley, targeting ginger, privet, wattles, acmena, pine seedlings and many other weeds. We have a second, slightly slower-paced, crew working most Wednesday mornings – contact Jan Knight 478 5518. Jan’s crew does a fabulous job keeping planted areas weed-free. Some volunteers are watering young trees while this extremely dry weather takes its toll. Growsafe qualified volunteers have been spraying climbing asparagus in Park Rise Bush area and in the plantation near Kowhai Rd. The results are very pleasing.

Management Plan Blues

The Bush Society is unimpressed with the Centennial Park Management Plan review. Despite an ecologist report supporting our work, Takapuna Community Board, particularly Jan O’Connor, Fay Freeman, and Mike Sheehy, appear to be working hard to overturn our weed tree resource consent by removing land owner consent. If Council approves the amended plan not one pine will be allowed to be removed from Centennial Park. The reversal flies in the face of a 35-year pine reduction programme. The latest *New Zealand Geographic* features an article on the devastation wilding pines cause on conservation land. Bush care groups like ours, DOC and ARC all remove pines from native bush. Our DOC acmena-removal funding may also be in jeopardy.

Important Dates



Kowhai Rd Metal Moving
Sat April 10, 8.30am
At playcentre

Bush Society AGM
Centennial Park Bush Society AGM will be held on Wed June 9th 7.30pm at All Saints Church, corner Park Rise and Beach Rd

Kowhai Rd Planting Day
10am Saturday July 3,
Kowhai Rd



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Bush Society members protest the TCB decision to stop a 35-year pine reduction programme in Centennial Park



Top Marks Campbells Bay School!

Campbells Bay School gets 10 out of 10 from Bush Society. The school cares for its community forest, has committed to invasive weed reduction and has signed the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary accord. To cap it all the school's board of trustees has agreed to remove a row of acmenas on the northeastern side of the playing field and replace them with native trees. This is a brilliant decision. It will considerably shrink the bay's acmena seed source and help both the community forest and Centennial Park. **CBS – you ARE the best!**



Acmena before removals and how the area might look in a few years' time as native trees thrive.

Weedbusting Your Garden

Even if you can't come weeding with us you can support CBUS. Many invasive weeds spread into the park from private properties. The most serious? Ivy, jasmine, Chinese privet, ginger, climbing asparagus, rhamnus and acmena. Why? Because these are the weeds we see most often in the park and which our volunteers try to keep on top of. There are many up and coming ones, including bangalow

palm, wild cherry, and Chinese windmill palm. These are now becoming common weeds in the bush. If you are not sure about what weeds you have at your place please ask and one of our volunteers will gladly come and

advise you. More information on the website, where you will also find more about our projects, plant lists, track maps and much more.

Visit our website

www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz

Pest Control

Visitors to Tiritiri Matangi, or any island refuge, marvel at the abundant bird life. One big difference between Tiri and Campbells Bay is our plethora of predators: rats, hedgehogs, stoats, cats and dogs. Every year our baby quail and ducklings disappear one by one, not to mention baby piwakawaka (fantails) -- eaten by predators. Predator reduction makes Campbells Bay more welcoming to birds and other wildlife like geckos and skinks. In response to our last newsletter, four locals volunteered to check trap lines in the park. There is one line up the Kohekohe Valley and one parallel to it, between the Aberdeen and Kohekohe Tracks. The trap network needs to be expanded for maximum effect. If you can spare some time each week to monitor a trap line please give us a call or email. In addition, we are looking for property-owners along the Aberdeen Road boundary of the park to host bait stations in their properties. A bait station is a safe plastic unit with rat poison (as sold in supermarkets) under cover. If you want to host one, give us a call. One unit every 50 metres along the boundary line will be effective in keeping rat numbers low.



A rat caught on camera predated a fantail nest





Bad (Monkey) Apples

It's open warfare on monkey apple, aka acmena. This Australian native is a serious pest in New Zealand bush. It produces thousands of fast-growing seedlings which soon smother our natives. This is why we want all Campbells Bay's fruiting acmena eliminated. We have removed most of them from the park near the Beach Rd entrance and nearly all of them from the golf links. We'd like to help you remove yours. If you have an acmena tree on your property and want rid of it, please contact us. We will register

the tree -- then either you or we will obtain a quote for its removal. Resource consent is not required. If you cannot afford the removal cost, we can apply for funding assistance on a 50:50 basis. We will also give you a suitable tree to plant in its place. Download an application form from our website, or give one of us a call. Please note: well-trimmed acmena hedges are not a problem -- they produce very little fruit.



***Acmena smithii* (monkey apple) fruit are eaten by birds and spread into the bush.**

Park Rise Bush

The recently-formed makeshift walkway from the top of Park Rise to Kowhai Rd passes through Park Rise Bush -- one of our most important restoration sites. Walkers will notice significant weed control happening here and huge natural regeneration in place of privet, cotoneaster and wattle. The idea of a bridge over the gully

was back-burnered when we discovered a formed causeway over the creek -- previously obscured by 3 metre high ginger.

A January bush fire in the gully highlights the fragility of our precious bush. Gully weed control is being funded by a DOC Community Conservation Fund grant. We will be spreading metal

on this track on **Saturday April 10**. If you want to help, come along to the Kowhai Road end at 8.30am.

Community Rhamnus Project

Rhamnus, or evergreen buckthorn, is a highly invasive pain-in-the-neck plant, difficult to identify. It's even got the committee foxed. Park rim properties, particularly on the Aberdeen Rd, Beach Road boundary, have plenty of rhamnus.

We will be door-knocking some Aberdeen Road properties to request assistance with rhamnus control. With your agreement, we will help with identification and removal -- by you, volunteers or contractor.

Numbers 116 to 168 Aberdeen Road will be approached first. Your assistance will be much appreciated.



***Rhamnus alaternus* (evergreen buckthorn) One of the most serious weeds.**



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Centennial Park Bush Society Inc
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Centennial Park Bush Society Inc was formed in 1976, and carries out native forest restoration work in Centennial Park, Campbells Bay. This involves removing invasive weeds, planting native plants, trapping animal pests, track maintenance, advocacy with council, and raising community awareness.

Your committee – if you have any queries or comments please phone one of us

Richard Hursthouse - chair 410 5339, Jenny Chamberlain - secretary 478 6385, Max Thomson - treasurer 479 1681, Cathy Roughan 478 1909, Liz Goodwin 479 4485, Margaret Palmer, Joe Greig 410 9987, Jan Knight 478 5518, Peter Bioletti 478-1402, Bruce Rogers 473 5189, Robert Fairbairn 478 6871

Yes, I want to support the Bush Society

Membership is by tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (please) _____

Existing member yes no

Please notify me about Wednesday work days yes no

Please notify me about weekend work days yes no

I would like to receive newsletters yes no

Please send me ___ copies of *Just Scrub* the story of Centennial Park bush \$10 each

Donation _____

Send to our address above or to **The Treasurer, 16 Sandford St, Campbells Bay**

Total enclosed _____

Or Direct Credit to Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

Account number 389001 0816766 00

We appreciate the support of North Shore City Council, ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund, Pupuke Nine hole social club, Signtech, Department of Conservation, Karleri Photography and our local donors.



Kowhai Road Planting Day

Last year's Kowhai Road planting effort, near the golf club workshop, is doing really well. Stage two of this restoration project has begun with volunteers spraying kikuyu and convolvulus at Kowhai Road. This year's main planting day is: **Saturday July 3 at 10am**. Everyone loves planting so come along and join the fun. We guarantee a sumptuous morning tea when the work is done. This work is also funded by the DOC grant and this is another CBUS project.

Free Stream Help

North Shore City Council, in partnership with the Kaipatiki Project, offer free consultations and native plants to people with streamside properties. If you are struggling to work out what to do with your stream bank area, are confused about which are weeds and which are natives, or which are the right natives for stream boundaries, or you have erosion issues please ring the Kaipatiki Project for a Streamside Consultation appointment: ph 482 1172, email restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz, or visit www.kaipatiki.org.nz

