

Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

Newsletter No 72, November 2011



Pat Morton

Mrs Pat Morton, our patron and founding chairman passed away in March, only 2 weeks after her husband John. Pat's imprint on Centennial Park was very significant. Under her leadership, council policy towards the scrub in the park was turned around. Instead of wanting to clear unwanted scrub, it realised that scrub is the genesis of fabulous bush. In the early days chainsaws dealt to wattles, pines, hakea and other weed trees. Big fires burned on the ridge above the tennis courts. Tracks were made; boardwalks and bridges built by volunteers. Trees such as rimu, totara, kauri, and puriri were planted in the bush and are now easily visible pushing skyward above the manuka. Pat went into battle to save the bush from destruction by golf course expansion. She also battled a flood control dam which would have seen much of the valley flooded. Centennial Park is now home to more than 26 species of birds and the morning chorus is getting stronger. The early newsletters were beautifully written by Pat and illustrated with lots of hand drawings. Pat is survived by her son Rob and daughter Claire and 3 grandchildren. The seats above the tennis club are dedicated to Pat, and are a peaceful place to remember this great lady, who gave so much to our community.
Richard Hursthouse



Pat Morton and Jake

Wise words from Pat's newsletters

"Tending has become our most important work, moving an obstruction, noting where weeds need attention, pruning around an emergent kauri. This is the sort of care no local authority could properly provide. It is an ideal role for residents who know their bush."

"The Kohekohe track is such an interesting track, along the side of the swamp, now no longer full of ginger, past the gum diggers hut site and the big kohekohe that gives it the name, through to the jewel in the crown – the big mamaku grove – in the afternoon light particularly it is quite breath-takingly beautiful." 1993

On erosion: "The western side of Aberdeen Rd has been substantially infilled over the last few years with more roofs and more concrete drives, less garden and fewer trees to sop up the water. Walk through the park after heavy rain and every gully is roaring with stormwater, the main stream is way over its banks and the mass of water raging down to the sea. The water in the bay is brown with suspended silt. It is worrying. What is happening to the sea bed when the silt is deposited? In the park the gullies are being gouged deeper and deeper with the force of the water. Scrambling down into them after ginger is getting more and more difficult and dangerous as the sides slip away with the force of the water. As is happening in the main stream too. This sort of thing must be going on all over Auckland. Not enough thought is given to the consequences of policies." 1995

Trackwork Triumphs



Julia Parfitt opens the Park Rise Bush Track

In April Local Board chair Julia Parfitt opened the new Park Rise Bush track. This track, almost entirely built by volunteers, runs from Park Rise to Kowhai Rd. The total cost was under \$10k. About 100 locals turned out to be the first to walk the newly opened track. Two special puriri were planted in honour of Pat and John Morton. Our volunteer crew have had a great time maintaining the track network this year. The combination of extraordinary rain and heavy foot traffic takes a real toll on the bush tracks. We have rebuilt the Tui track with the assistance of BNZ volunteers. The Mamaku track has had a significant realignment to avoid some steep slippery slopes and the Kohekohe track has seen significant maintenance and drainage work. This work has been carried out by our volunteer crew, with track metal supplied by the Council. Our aim is low key tracks which are usable all year. Have you walked the new track from Park Rise to Kowhai Rd yet? Its now signposted, easy for all ages and passes through a variety of bush under restoration by our team.



Spectacular Clematis



This spring the park is putting on a great show of clematis in at least three places along the northern boundary. This photo was taken at the junction of the Baylis track with the exit to Asbury Cres.. The climber is high up, covering the tops of the trees. It is also visible in the treetops at the lower end of Sandford St path and in the pines at the top end of the main gully.

In "Just Scrub" *Clematis paniculata* (puawhananga) is shown in its male and female forms. The female form is the prettier, if you can find a low-growing section.
Peter Bioletti

Fish Killed By Toxic Chemicals

Now that spring is here many people will be inspired to have a general cleanup. As you sit outside in the garden enjoying the warm sun you may notice the cobwebs and mould that have grown on your house and fences over winter. There are several options you can take but before you spring into action please consider the effects your decisions will have on the environment. A number of companies offer chemical washing services. The chemicals they use can have dire consequences on the little fish and water life in the stream that is trickling away at the bottom of your garden. Last year some Campbells Bay residents were horrified to notice that the fish they and their children took such a delight in were killed after their neighbours had their house cleaned by a company that used toxic chemicals. The company had not checked if there was a waterway nearby. Most of our stormwater drains head straight to the nearest gully, into the stream and out to sea. So before you either wash your house yourself or engage someone else to do it, please consider the larger picture.

Liz Goodwin

Meet The Candidates Evening

Where: All Hallows Church Hall, Campbells Bay

When: Thursday 10 November

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm meeting

Come and help us reinforce the importance of Centennial Park in particular and environmental issues in general. We want all the candidates to be very clear that we care about our environment and related political party policies. Bring any questions relating to Campbells Bay to hear what the candidates propose if they are elected. Take the opportunity to chat with candidates over a cuppa. For more information email bushsoc@gmail.com

Planning Submissions

The Bush Society has been contributing to, and making submissions at the various stages of Auckland local government planning. The first submission, as part of the Campbells Bay Community Association (CBCA) submission to the 2011/12 Auckland Plan in March, took the form of the Campbells Bay Community Plan 2011. If you would like a copy, email bushsoc@gmail.com.

In May we contributed to the environmental section of the CBCA submission to the Auckland unleashed discussion document.

In August we made our own submission to the draft Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan as well as contributing the "PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT" section of the Community Association submission. Joe Greig supported our submission with a presentation in person to the local board.

In October we made a submission to the Draft Auckland Plan and again contributed to the Community Association submission. We look forward to achieving real commitments to the environment in the Hibiscus and Bays Area Plan when it is prepared later this year.

Max Thomson





Volunteer profile - Steve Phillips

Steve is a remarkable fellow. Coming all the way from his home in Birkdale, it is rare for Steve to miss a Wednesday morning or weekend work day. Retired and with time on his hands, Steve puts in a hard day's work. When he is not working for the park he can often be found at Kaipatiki Project, helping to eliminate pests from the local bush and growing plants for North Shore planting projects. Thanks for your input Steve – it is much appreciated.

Monkey Apple Trees - On Their Way Out!?

Only 5 large monkey apple (*Acmena smithii*) trees now remain in the Park. Last summer 8 acmena were removed. The Bush Society continues to weed out seedling trees as part of its regular weeding programme throughout the Park.

However, under the concept of Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary (C.B.U.S.) the Society has moved beyond the boundaries of the park in eliminating this pest tree. With the agreement of Pupuke Golf Club, support of the Council and our own funds, we have removed the last four acmena on the golf course. All the large acmena, some 40 in total, have now been removed from the golf course. With the approval of council we have paid for 8 large acmena to be professionally removed from Greville Reserve (on East Coast Road by the skateboard facilities opposite Mobil). Society volunteers have cut or pulled hundreds of seedlings. Most of the remaining trees, too large for us to handle, but in size not warranting cutting, have been professionally stem drilled. Our reasons for removing acmena is that this is a seriously invasive tree in New Zealand – it belongs in the Australian rain forests. Here it outgrows and competes with our own native bush. Greville Reserve was rapidly becoming a “mono culture of acmena”. Trimmed as a hedge before flowering and fruiting, acmena are not so much of a problem. The Society would like residents to consider removing these trees – we have already assisted and advised some residents in the bay. If you have an acmena you want removed please contact us.

Joe Greig

Rogue Rubbish Ratbags

Observers will have noted that the Council has recently put up “No Dumping” notices – such an offence could incur a \$20,000 fine. Inorganic rubbish is often dumped in the Park, but the dumping of garden waste, weeds and tree prunings is of just as much concern. Such waste can lead to the spreading of unwanted invasive plants. We ask for the support of our community. People noting the dumping of rubbish could rebuke the offenders. Note down car registration numbers and phone actionline 301 0101 immediately.

This huge pile of branches was illegally tipped in Centennial Park, and had to be removed at ratepayer expense.

Joe Greig



In Short

- 1800 plants planted this year
- 1700 volunteer hours to date this year
- \$22,600 spent last year by Centennial Park Bush Society on Centennial Park
- 23 new trees replace 8 acmena – ash, liquidamber, *Nyssa sylvatica* all known for their autumn colour, large magnolias to compliment the established magnolia present, and Japanese cedars to provide a green back drop
- 3 pines and 20 wattles removed on edge of Park Rise bush
- 8 new track signs installed
- Kowhai Rd restoration project planting completed
- Ceremonial kohekohe tree planted at All Hallows Church bush
- 20 Wattles removed by council on edge of bush below Aberdeen track
- More weeding and planting at Huntly Rd



How Can You Help?

- Join our email list for volunteer events - weed control, planting, and track work
- Join our pest control team to help keep predators under control
- If you have desk top publishing skills and can spare a few hours twice a year to put our newsletter together please contact us
- Learn about and remove invasive plants from your section – especially evergreen buckthorn and acmena
- Start trapping or baiting for rats on your property – talk to us about gear
- If you have possums talk to us – we have loan traps
- Or...

Join the Bush Society/Donate

Membership is by tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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 _____

Total enclosed _____

Send to Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

P O Box 31 677

Milford 0740

Or The Treasurer, 16 Sandford St, Campbells Bay

Or Direct Credit to Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

Account number 389001 0816766 00 and email

Bushsoc@gmail.com with receipt address details

Chairman: Richard Hursthouse 410 5339

Secretary: Jenny Chamberlain 478 6385

Treasurer: Max Thomson 479 1681



The beautiful track in Park Rise Bush – enter from near the playcentre on Kowhai Rd or from the top of Park Rise



Kowhai Rd restoration project - planting by Bush Society volunteers 2 years ago



Volunteers from BNZ help rebuild the Tui Track

Thanks To Our Supporters

Pupuke Nine Hole Social Club
Department of Conservation
BNZ Closed For A Day volunteers
Auckland Council
Milford Real Estate
and our other generous local donors

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www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz



Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary