



# Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter



Newsletter No. 81

April 2016

## Native Bush Destruction Proposed



One of Auckland's largest daycare centres is proposed for the All Hallows Church and bush site at the bottom of Park Rise, at 218-220 Beach Road, Campbells Bay. The proposed centre will provide places for 150 pre-schoolers, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

The proposed centre is a non-complying activity and contravenes many district plan (town planning) rules for this activity in this residential 4A zone. Almost all the existing mature trees will be removed. The resource consent is **publicly notified** – meaning **ANYONE** may make a submission to Auckland Council on the proposal.

Please consider doing so. Why?

Here are some important reasons:

**All Hallows native bush pocket** and wildlife habitat, which have been cared-for by Centennial Park Bush Society for many years, will be destroyed, leaving only

two large pohutukawa. Mature kahikatea, puriri and karaka will go. This piece of bush is protected under the current planning rules. Removing these trees will have a hugely negative impact on the landscape.

The development plans show a large bank intruding into public space. In these times of intensification we need to preserve all public spaces from commercial development.

**Traffic volumes** at peak hours at the already busy Park Rise exit onto Beach Road have the potential to increase by up to 600 vehicle movements per day.

This exit is close to a pedestrian crossing and two busy bus-stops. It has poor visibility at the best of times and at morning and afternoon peak flows it becomes a dangerous bottle-neck for: cars, primary school children, secondary school children getting on and off school buses, Walking School Bus children, pedestrians and cyclists. Hundreds of additional daycare-related vehicle movements have the potential to make this one of North Shore's worst traffic black spots.

**Parking** up Park Rise, along the side-streets off Park Rise and at Huntly Reserve, down by the beach, may increase. On-site carparking proposed for parents and daycare staff will not alleviate the increased demand.

**Noise levels** will increase significantly.

More information can be found on our website [www.campbellsbayurbansanctuary.org.nz](http://www.campbellsbayurbansanctuary.org.nz).

The plans and responses are all on the council website under "notified consents".

The arborist report has been superseded by “updated plans”. This clearly shows the extent of bush destruction proposed.

If you care about the impact these changes will have on the life of this quiet suburb please send a submission to Auckland Council by **5pm Wednesday 4 May 2016**  
Attn: Joan Bartley, Auckland Council, Private Bag, 92300, Auckland 1142. Visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) for information about making submissions, the submission form and online submissions.

A copy must also go to: Deanne D’Souza, Campbells Bay Holdings Limited, C/- Mt Hobson Group, PO Box 37964, Parnell, Auckland 1151.

Indicate on the submission that you DO wish to speak to your submission. **Do it today. This isn’t going away.**

**Richard Hursthouse**

## Heron Heroes



*White-faced heron puddling in the pond.*  
Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Bird records have been kept continuously in Centennial Park since November 2007 and white-faced herons were infrequent visitors at first but have become more regular recently.

The first record was in January 2009, 14 months after we began our monthly bird walks. A 19-month heron drought ensued until our second record in July 2010, but since then herons have become a more common sight.

In general we felt they were more attracted to the park when the ground was soft, and they could forage for worms, i.e. during wet winter months.

This pattern was maintained until last year when a pair of birds appeared in July and, to our surprise, they have remained ever since. We don’t always see them both, but one or both have been noted every month since then. We wondered if they might have bred but no

evidence of this was found.

The golf course pond has held water all summer and this might have helped; last month we watched a single heron “puddling” with one foot in the mud, capturing tiny creatures disturbed by the action. We look forward to a long occupancy by these, our elegant resident *Egretta novaehollandiae*.

**Alan Emmerson**

## Ridding Centennial Park of Pests

Our campaign to reduce and eventually clear the park of rats, mice, possums and stoats continues. As our bait lines enter their third year, ‘persistence’ is the basis of our strategy to make Centennial Park such a safe habitat for birdlife that one day it may welcome less common species like bellbirds.

We have 90 bait stations set out along seven bait lines through the main Centennial Park and Park Rise bush areas and a block on the golf course. Volunteers check



the stations every few weeks, noting the number of baits eaten and refreshing the supply if necessary.

Since June 2015, volunteers have spent over 100 hours in the bush on this task. More than half the baits consumed are from a bait line close to Park Rise and its side roads - a clear indication rats are coming into the park from park-rim properties. To reduce rats in the park, we must reduce the rat population in the local community. We are developing a plan to achieve this and hope to have it underway before spring 2016 bird-nesting season.

Since January 2014, 39 possums are no longer chomping pohutukawa shoots, stealing garden fruit, and raiding bird nests. Only nine of the 39 possums caught were trapped in the park itself. The rest were trapped in Beach, Asbury, Sandford, View and Channel View roads by dedicated folk who have borrowed Bush Society Timms traps.

Our goal is to rid the entire bay of pest predators. To do that we will need your help. Please get in touch.

**Peter Aimer**



### Do you want to volunteer in the park?

We hold regular work mornings every Wednesday. We have a group who venture off trail and do harder bush bashing weed control and track work as well as a small group who help weed some of our more accessible places and planting sites.

We also have a working bee on the first Saturday of every month except January. To help out or go on our email list please email [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com).

### COME PLANTING - Planting Days Are The Fun Part of The Bush Society's Work

**WHERE:** Greville Reserve, Forrest Hill Road (by the skateboard park opposite the service station)

**WHEN:** 9am, Saturday 4 June 2016.

This is our fourth year of planting -- you will see how our earlier plantings have developed and also see significant native regeneration, now that many pest plants have been removed. We will be planting the bank near the pumping station

#### AND AGAIN...

**Where:** Huntly Reserve (by the stream at Campbells Bay Beach)

**When:** 9am, Saturday 2 July 2016. We will be adding to the existing riparian planting along the edges of the stream (gumboots could come in handy!!)

We always have nice morning teas at our plantings *thanks to those who are good at scones and other goodies*. See you there!

Joe Greig

### Futureproofing Centennial Park

Centennial Park was gazetted a public recreation reserve in 1884. It is one of Auckland's least-known, oldest and most important green spaces. The park's 28 hectares of regenerating native bush, network of walking tracks and open grassy spaces, plus 40 hectares of land leased to Pupuke Golf Club form a single, integrated natural habitat – an ecological green heart which pumps life into a huge range of native trees, shrubs and fungi, bird species, native fish and multitudinous small invertebrates from moths, wetas, spiders and skinks to native bees and glow-worms.

Ever wondered why moreporks call at night in Campbells Bay? Or why this intensively-developed

suburb has such a deafening dawn chorus in spring? The answer is Centennial Park. And the answer to the park is good-hearted volunteers like the people in our picture, who help ensure tracks are maintained, trees and shrubs are planted, pests are controlled, birds can feed and breed and the bush blocks aren't engulfed by wattles, monkey-apples, climbing asparagus, honeysuckle, wilding pines and palms...(the list is long) and an army of rats, mice and possums.

Hands-on help from you – a few hours a month, if you can manage it, or a couple of hours at a monthly Saturday working bee (check the website) or one of our special 2016 planting days (see this newsletter) will futureproof this irreplaceable regional treasure – for all Aucklanders and for our children and grandchildren and their children to come.



*Bush Society volunteers enjoying a well-earned morning cuppa – from left: Paul Brosnahan, Siobhan Cooper, Sue Rawstron, Joe Greig, Peter Aimer, Bob Fairbairn, Lee Brosnahan. Photo: Richard Hursthouse*

### Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend our short AGM on Wednesday 15 June, 7.30pm at Campbells Bay School in the staffroom.

Following the AGM we will have a talk from Auckland Council stormwater ecologist and planner Scott Speed who is working on stormwater remediation in Campbells Bay and across the North Shore. Tea and coffee supplied.





### Paw Patrol

Dear Doggie Visitors,  
You are welcome in Centennial Park - we are happy to see you there. Some of us have our own dogs. When in the park there are some simple rules to help encourage wildlife, protect streams and safeguard water quality.

Auckland Council bylaws say that when you are in open grassy areas you can be off your leash but under control - yippee! But if you are in the bush itself, on one of the paths, your boss must have you on a leash. Staying out of streams is a must to help protect the native fish and little critters in the water!

Finally, if you are a bigger breed and happen to be around when the Walking School Bus is coming through - do bark to go on the leash, cos little kids find big dogs scary even though most of you aren't!

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### Contact Us

**Chairman:** Richard Hursthouse 410 5339  
**Secretary:** Jenny Chamberlain 478 6385  
**Treasurer:** Max Thomson 479 1681

**Secure bait stations and discount rat bait:** Dick Downing [dick.d@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dick.d@xtra.co.nz) 478 737.

**Rat traps, secure rat trap tunnels and Timm's traps for trapping possums:** Peter Aimer [p.aimer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:p.aimer@xtra.co.nz) 478 8252.

**Committee:** Jan Knight, Liz Goodwin, Joe Greig, Sue Rawstron, Bob Fairbairn.

### Centennial Park Bush Society Inc.

P O Box 31 677, Milford 0740

Email [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com)

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

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### Your donation helps a lot!

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Send to PO Box or direct to 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](mailto:Bushsoc@gmail.com) with receipt address details.

### We acknowledge the generous support of:

- Auckland Council Environmental Initiatives Fund
- Hibiscus & Bays Local Board
- Devonport Takapuna Local Board
- Auckland Council Parks Department
- Lion Foundation

