



Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

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www.manawa.org.nz

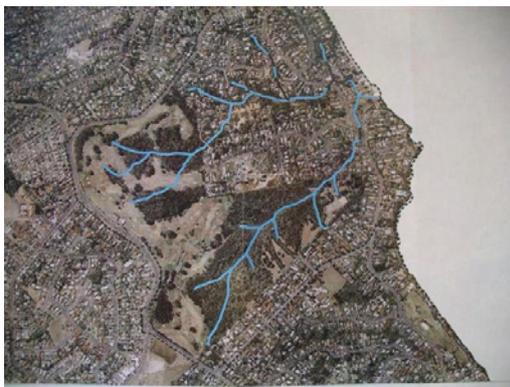
Newsletter No 64, November 2007



Name Our Mainland Island Competition

You can't miss Tiritiri Matangi Island – the world-famous wildlife sanctuary whose lighthouse winks at Campbells Bay across the water. New Zealand has several island sanctuaries and a few “mainland island” sanctuaries: Tawharanui, Ark In The Park in the Wai-takeres and Lake Rotoiti in Nelson are three.

Inspired by what volunteer planting and pest control has achieved on Tiri your Bush Society wants to create an unfenced, urban mainland island in Campbells Bay. Its heart would be Centennial Park. We believe with intensive plant and animal pest control and with your support that it's possible. Our urban sanctuary would be a first for New Zealand.



**Campbells Bay—
our future mainland island**

But we need a name. The race is on to find one.

Enter our competition by filling in the form at the end of this leaflet. The winner will receive a copy of John Salmon's stunning *Native Trees Of New Zealand*.

New Life For An Old Plan

Centennial Park's decade-old management plan is being reviewed and submissions will be called for next year. Centennial Park Bush Society has won consent to remove some wattles from the park but, despite the fact these pest plants are listed as undesirables by North Shore City Council, the old park plan protects one patch. We need an amendment to allow their removal.

In addition, in order for volunteer work on restoring Park Rise Bush (the five hectare area between the top of Park Rise and Kowhai Rd), to continue we need amendments to the plan allowing the removal of invasive weeds such as pampas, climbing asparagus, ginger, privet and wattles; also the removal of a small number of pines over a 10-year period. For forest to flourish weeds must go!

A track from Park Rise to Kowhai Rd is also proposed. It will assist with the work and will enhance the local walking network.

When the draft management plan is published please make submissions and give your support to these important amendments.

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Competition

Send in your entry to our “Name our Mainland Island” competition. Entry form on the last page.

The winner will receive a copy of John Salmon's stunning *Native Trees Of New Zealand*.

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Heritage Sites in Sight

Centennial Park has some interesting historical features.

Years ago the valley was dominated by kauri trees and the remains of a gum digger's hut are still clearly visible on the north side of the upper Kohekohe Track.

There are also two WW1 bunkers: at the 13th tee (alas partially buried by earthworks) and on a ridge off the Mamaku Track, near the Aberdeen Track.

Now obscured by 40metre pines it is hard to believe there was once a

good line of sight down the valley from these locations.

We are in the process of ensuring these historic sites are protected in the district plan and will be meeting with ARC and North Shore City Heritage officers to achieve this.

Ron Hooton, World War II expert has in-depth knowledge of the locations of defences around the NZ coastline.



Ron Hooton at the bunker in Centennial Park bush

Bush Soc Bouquets

Special thanks to the three Aberdeen Road residents who have allowed park access through their private property for planting, weeding and composting purposes. You have saved Bush Society volunteers an enormous amount of work.

Huge thanks too to the volunteers who come along to working bees. If you want to join in let us know.

We'll tell you which days we're working.

Thanks also to our donors, we love you and your money.

Thanks to North Shore City Council and to parks officers John McKellar and Angela Levet, who sadly are moving on to new jobs in council and thank you to the Golf Club for supporting our weed control activities.

A huge thank you to all our helpers and supporters

Successes

Work has finally begun on the monkey apple *Acmena smithii* replacement programme. Fourteen acmena have been replaced. *Acmena* is one of the most aggressive invaders of native bush reserves. One resident spent \$8000 on acmena removal.

20 pines were skilfully dismantled in the bush. The gaps have been replanted and will bounce back in no time. Wednesday workers and weekend working bee volunteers have planted over 2000 plants this

winter. Huntly Reserve has been transformed by its streamside restoration planting. Two families of ducks, each with about 10 young, as well as quail and numerous other birds have been spotted.

The Kohekohe Track is now "all season" with a bypass built and paid for by council.

The Morton Way road reconstruction is complete and is being planted.



Planting the stream at Huntly Reserve





What You Can Do

Remove invasive weeds from your section. Lots of information is available from the ARC, and those near streams can call Kaipatiki project for practical assistance. Target acmena in particular.

Control possums and rats on your land. Yes, they are there! We will help more when the Campbells Bay Project revs up.

Don't plant bangalow palms or other invasive palms

Join the Bush Society – be as active

or inactive as you want – your membership is an important show of support

Donate money – we can use as much as you can throw at us

Wash your car on grass, or at a carwash – suds spoil streams

Help with communications – we need a website and help with printing a project brochure to help spread our message

And hey thanks for the chocolate muffins and scones which support our working bees!



Timms trap used to control possums which eat our bush, our birds' eggs and our native insects

Dream Stream Report

We have two volunteers testing the water in both the north and south branches of the Campbells Bay stream. Megan Beard, council Waicare coordinator sent this October report: "Thought I'd let you know of the fantastic results. We found a couple of small banded kokopu, an elver (baby eel),

damsselfies, many shrimp and snails and, most suprising of all, heaps of stoneflies and a couple of mayflies. These latter two bugs are the top indicators of high quality water as they are very sensitive to pollution, they need cool, clean, well-oxygenated water and are usually found under rocks or

submerged logs next to rapids. The presence of those bugs and the general high diversity of species found is a testament to the good hard work that has gone into the protection of the surrounding bush. They wouldn't be there without the shade, habitat and runoff absorption the native bush provides for the life in the stream."

Weed Alert

Each year more garden plants are jumping the fence and multiplying in reserves, roadsides and coastal areas.

Now we're digging out palms -- in particular more and more bangalow palms, phoenix palms and Chinese fan palms.

The ARC's regional pest management strategy will soon make selling phoenix palms illegal.

However bangalow palms will still be for sale.

Our plea is: please DON'T buy bangalow palms and if you already have, get rid of them or remove the seeds before they are carried off by birds into the bush.

For more information see www.weedbusters.org.nz.



**Archontophoenix cunninghamiana
bangalow palm**



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Centennial Park Bush Society was formed in 1976. We are involved in 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, Pat Morton 410 6848, Cathy Roughan 478 1909, Liz Goodwin 479 4485, Margaret Palmer, Roland O'Driscoll 410 5456, Joe Greig 410 9987, Jan Knight 478 5518, Peter Bioletti 478 1402



Competition Entry Form

Send to our address above or to 16 Sandford St or email entry to richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (please) _____

My name suggestion for Campbells Bay Mainland Island

Project is _____

Membership (optional) by tax deductible donation

Donation _____

Existing member yes no

I would like to be notified about working bees yes no

I would like to receive newsletters only yes no

Please send me ___ copies of *Just Scrub* the story of Centennial Park bush \$10 each yes no

Total enclosed _____



Volunteer Profile

One of our keenest volunteers is Stan the man. Not content with turning up to most working bees, Stan is one of our trappers - regularly checking possum, rat and stoat traps.

His green fingers grow dozens of ecosourced trees and shrubs from the park for future planting. He has grown at least 150 kahikatea seedlings to planting stage and now is focusing on cabbage trees and coprosma.

Stan provides his truck for carting mulch and gear at no cost and he is often seen tending to areas in his own time.

A keen rugby follower Stan was not too impressed when our last

working bee clashed with the World Cup final!

Thanks Stan.

Stan Knight planting at Huntly Reserve this winter

