



Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

P O Box 31 677, Milford
www.manawa.org.nz

Newsletter No 65, March 2008



Cornerstone Roots Concert In The Park, March 29

Cornerstone Roots, plus guests Sonz of Zion, will be playing in the Park off Rae Rd on Sat March 29, at 1pm. Cornerstone Roots is a well-travelled seven-piece Raglan-based original roots reggae group who formed in 2001. They combine a mix of soul, deep roots skank and heavy bass riffs. Although their music is deeply rooted in the Jamaican reggae, they put their own spin on the traditional sound and give it an infectious, distinctly New Zealand feel. Members of Cornerstone Roots also run Raglan's annual Soundsplash Music Festival. Cornerstone Roots have recently released their new album *Free Yours*. This promises to be a very popular concert, especially with younger people, with a very different feel to the last few years. See you there.



**Cornerstone Roots
Concert in the Park
1pm March 29.**

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Support the Management Plan changes:

- remove wattles
- gradual pine reduction
- Park Rise to Kowhai Rd track

Successes

We have secured ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund and Lion Foundation funding for weed tree removal.

Contractors have removed 28 *Syzygium smithii* (aka *Acmena smithii* or monkey apple) and two large *Ligustrum lucidum* (tree privet) from the golf course and one large acmena from the Mairangi Playcentre in Kowhai Rd. In addition the playcentre has removed loquat, privet and acmena. Contractors have removed 32 wattles from the periphery of Park Rise bush and we are on track to remove 20 more scattered pines in the bush and four more acmena from the Beach Rd acmena grove. Extensive replacement planting will occur over autumn/winter.

We have carried out more track work on the Mamaku Track, so that we should finally have an all-year track system come winter. Council has carried out dead wooding on the historic Avenue of Remembrance pohutukawa. Bush Society volunteers clocked up well over 1000 hours last year on weed control, planting, trapping and track work. In the last two months our focus has been a clean-up along the Aberdeen Track, as well as ensuring planted areas are weeded and mulched.

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Volunteer Profile

When Joe Greig moved into Campbells Bay 17 years ago, the previous owners of his house told him if he wanted to meet people and do something rewarding for the community he should join Centennial Park Bush Society. Since then Joe has been an active member of the weed-busting, planting and maintenance crew, who work most weeks in the park. Joe sees the park's weed menace first hand, and has especially

noticed the emergence of new weeds like bangalow palms. A keen golfer, Joe commonly fits in a round of golf AND a hard working bee in one day. His passion and contribution are invaluable - including growing natives from seed for planting in the park. He is also to the fore when it comes to dealing with Council, the Environment Court and other tricky jobs. Thanks Joe.



Joe Greig after huge Centennial Place clean-up.

Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary

Finally we have a name for our bay-wide ecology project, the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary (CBUS). We had no naming competition winner so will be donating an ecology book to Campbells Bay School library. CBUS progress so far includes council removing a number of weed trees from the roadsides,

including acmena, brazilian pepper tree, and euonymus all of which are on the National Pest Plant list for good reason. In addition we have had a huge clean-up in the All Hallows Church bush on the corner of Park Rise and Beach Rd. Your help removing weed trees and plants from your property will make a big difference in the long

Support CBUS by removing pest plants from your property.

term. We are very lucky to have Milford Rotary offering to help with weed control and track work in Park Rise bush.

Rhamnus Survey

The rapid proliferation of evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) in this area has been of concern for some time. After submissions from Centennial Park Bush Society, the ARC is carrying out a survey of 150 properties in Aberdeen and Beach Rds to check for and control this plant. Rhamnus is a potentially disastrous weed for native bush areas and we fully support this work.

Rhamnus - a potentially disastrous weed for native bush areas.





Weed Alert—Climbing Asparagus

Climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*) is probably our worst weed.

It seems to particularly like living under pine trees. Originally a pot plant sold widely, it is now banned from sale. Its little orange berries are eaten and the seeds spread by birds. Once established it forms dense mats on the ground and climbs up trees.

There is a particularly bad infestation in the pine plantation

near Mairangi Playcentre on Kowhai Rd. Council has funded its control. Park Rise bush is also badly infested.

If you have it in your place PLEASE remove it so it cannot spread into the bush. Glyphosate (Roundup) kills small plants but larger ones need metsulfuron (Escort) or digging out.



Climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*) is probably our worst weed.

Bioblitz

This year's Landcare Research-run intensive 24-hour survey of biota in a large urban area takes place at Smith's Bush reserve (Northcote Road) from 3pm on Friday April 4, until 3pm on Saturday April 5.

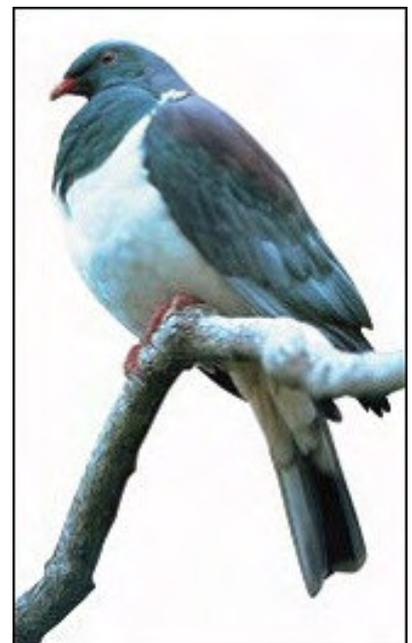
The public are welcome to visit the Bioblitz Base Camp marquee on

Onewa Domain – where up to 80 biologists will be busy identifying hundreds of species of plants, insects and other wildlife. Bugs bagged in the bush can be peered at down microscopes, there will be creepy crawly demonstrations and trips to check out nearby pond and wetland habitats.

Things On Wings

The park's winged residents have been receiving special attention from bird and moth enthusiast Alan Emmerson since November last year. Alan, deputy chair of North Shore Forest & Bird and a keen bird-watcher and moth-collector, leads groups of volunteers on early-morning and late-evening bush forays – hunting things on wings. Thus far 21 species of birds have been spotted – the most numerous being blackbirds and finches but fantails, kingfishers,

kereru, moreporks and grey warblers have been observed. Light-trapping at the bush edge in February resulted in 26 moth species including *Agrotis infusa* – which Alan says is a "vagrant from Australia" and the beautiful *Chalastra aristarcha* – a New Zealand moth which feeds on silver fern. Alan's reports will eventually form part of a detailed picture of the park's wildlife. Our thanks to Alan for his expertise and patient input.



A fungal foray, to be lead by Landcare Research mycologists, is planned for mid-June.



Donation/Membership Form

Centennial Park Bush Society Inc
 P O Box 31 677
 Milford
 E-mail: richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz

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, 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

Membership is by tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (please) _____

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

Donation _____

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

Total enclosed _____

Or Direct Credit to Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

Account number 389001 0816766 00

and email Bushsoc@gmail.com with receipt address details.

We appreciate the support of North Shore City Council, Takapuna Community Board, Lion Foundation, ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund, Pelorus Trust and our local donors.



Collect a nature trail guide at the Rae Rd entrance to the park (or from our website on page 1) and learn heaps about the native plants in this regenerating native bush environment

