

Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

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www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz



Annual Report 2017

1. Summary

- Finances are in a healthy state
- Volunteer hours 2016 calendar year = approx. 2100
- Erosion continues to be an ongoing serious issue
- Volunteers reconstructed sections of the Kohekohe track
- We are now starting a halo rat control program

2. Membership

Current membership is 168 households.

3. Finance

End of year bank balance \$34,589. Most is committed or linked to grant conditions but approx. \$7000 is uncommitted.

Main income

- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Grant \$10,000 over 3 years for weed control
- Devonport Takapuna grant \$7081 for weed control in Greville REserver
- Devonport Takapuna grant \$5000 for weed control in the Campbells Bay School Community Forest
- Donations and interest \$ 7485

Our main expenditure this financial year has been

- Park maintenance weed control \$15485

4. Volunteers

We have two teams working in the park who often work in the same place. The Bush Rescue team and the Wednesday weeders supervised by Jan Knight meet every week weeding, mulching, planting and maintaining tracks.

Often the two teams work together

“Weekend Workers” work days occur once a month on the first Saturday of each month.

We hosted a team from BNZ again this year to build a connection from the top of the Baylis track around to the Park Rise cul de sac track and another team from Fonterra who helped with track maintenance.

5. Bush restoration work in the main bush valley

5.1 Avenue of Remembrance

Ongoing maintenance weed control. Drainage above tennis club fixed

5.2 Beach Rd entry

We planted this site in winter 2016 with a mix of exotic and native species after removing agapanthus and ladder fern.

5.3 Pine reduction program

Three more “in the bush” pines were felled per our consent . We were granted another resource consent to continue this program of removal of 3 pines per annum for five years to maximise bush regeneration. This program is supported by the park management plan.

5.4 Wetland area

The council contractors, NZ Biosecurity Ltd, visited the park twice to target tradescantia. It is not clear where they went. Communication has been poor. This contractor has been replaced with new contracts starting in July 2017.

5.5 Aberdeen Track

Council contractors revisit tradescantia along the track.

The Parks manager signed off on encroachment into the height to boundary of development at 54 Aberdeen Rd. The Bush Society believes such encroachment devalues the park and should only be approved by the full local board after consultation with the Bush Society.

5.6 Kohekohe track

Kiekie flowered yet again for the fourth year in a row. We replaced dodgy board walk with a small bridge and a revamped track.

5.7 Mamaku Track

Track maintenance work.

6. Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary (CBUS)

CBUS projects include weed control in the golf club lease, particularly Park Rise bush, Greville Reserve, the corner of Huntly and Red Bluff Rise, and the dairy garden on Beach Rd. All the bush blocks on the golf course are now being weed controlled.

6.1 Park Rise bush

We now have John Barber of Rahopara carrying out weed control in all this block with good results. This block was accepted as a "significant ecological area" designation in the Unitary Plan. We continue to maintain the track through this area. We were disappointed to see clearance of park vegetation by a park neighbour and are still working with council on reinstatement.

6.2 Park Rise access path

Maintenance. We facilitated a new seat overlooking the 8th fairway, funded by the family of Marie Goodyear-Smith.

6.3 The 8th fairway plantation

John Barber is also now doing weed control in this block. We have investigated a new track through this bush to East Coast Rd.

6.4 The 5th fairway plantation

Riparian planting is slow to establish and we will plant more in here this year. The bait line is actively managed. We planted a gully on the edge of the 4th fairway.

6.5 Kowhai Rd restoration

We have revisited weed control under the gums and planted more natives there.

6.6 The 4th fairway plantation "Peter's patch"

John Barber of Rahopara is controlling tradescantia. Following the tree work here last year we planted natives in there.

6.7 17th fairway plantation

We are yet to see how the rabbit protectors worked. Maintenance by John Barber.

6.8 15th tee/old workshop area

A real mess. We are investigating the possibility of a major tidy up and planting in this area.

6.9 16th tee

Maintenance.

6.10 15th fairway planting

Growing well. Kowhai established well. Ongoing track maintenance around here.

6.11 All Hallows Church bush

Bush destruction at this site means we are no longer involved there.

6.12 Huntly Rd/ Red Bluff Rise corner

Maintenance.

6.13 **Campbells Bay Reserve**

In conjunction with "Love Our Bays" staff we planted and mulched the edge of the stream. Most of the plants were vandalised. The planting was not what we would have planned to do. This year we are planting more there in a smaller area. We have continued to weed the planting at the cul de sac.

6.14 **Beach Rd**

We removed privet and *Dracaena* from the Beach Rd road reserve and planted 8 coastal maire.

6.15 **Greville Reserve**

John Barber continues to control ground weeds with funding from Devonport Takapuna Local Board and we have been awarded a further grant. The area near the pumping station was planted last year has taken well. We have removed more acmena on the southern boundary and will be planting this year.

6.16 **Campbells Bay School**

We have engaged John Barber to help get on top of a burgeoning pest plant issue in the Community Forest with a grant from the Local Board. In addition we have had some working bees in there.

6.17 **Rhamnus**

Rhamnus alaternus or evergreen buckthorn, a nasty pest plant widespread in the private properties in Campbells Bay with increasing numbers cropping up in the park. We need a rhamnus program.

6.18 **Trees around the course**

The golf club now has a tree committee which is planting trees around the course.

7. **Ecosourced plant propagation**

John Chapple and Eric Martin continue to grow wonderful ecosourced plants. Last year we planted about 1570 plants in Campbells Bay.

8. **Erosion**

Progress is punishingly slow. We are told that stormwater is working on stormwater issues along the Avenue of Remembrance and the Aberdeen Track. There is a disaster looming on the edge of the 13th fairway and more major erosion in the Kohekohe gully.

There was a major slip on the slope below the Morton seats. We are investigating whether this should be planted or not.

9. **Rae Rd Entry**

The area is maintained by volunteers.

10. **The track network and signs**

Volunteers continue to do most of the track maintenance in the park.

We built a connection from the Baylis Track to the top of Park Rise with the BNZ volunteers. Fonterra also came to help out with track maintenance.

We have rebuilt a section of the Kohekohe track after a significant slip.

We have been liaising with Parks staff re an upgrade of the track from Rae Rd to the gully under the Avenue of Remembrance. This is being delayed by stormwater outflow issues.

Council is working on some major track upgrade planning at present – in particular the walking bus track, the top of the Aberdeen track, parts of the mamaku and Putaputaweta tracks all need work.

We have had a very wet late summer/autumn which means all the tracks are very wet for so early in the winter. We will try to keep up with track maintenance.

11. **Communications**

Our 4 page colour newsletter is published in April and November. This is now sponsored by Barfoot & Thompson and Benefitz. We send out an email once a week to those on the volunteer lists. We are also now using Facebook (group) and Neighbourly as well as Mairangi News.

Our website is at www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz.

12. **Animal Pest Control**

Volunteers continue to maintain a comprehensive rodent control bait station network of about 100 bait stations. The bait take is recorded accurately and maintained on a database by Peter Aimer. Peter also controls several possum traps and 2 stoat traps in the main valley.

Bruce Rogers is monitoring a network of 20 monitoring tunnels which are checked for rat presence three times per year. We now have tunnels in Park Rise Bush as well. Rat presence is very low.

We have bait stations, bait, traps and trap covers for use in surrounding properties.

A new development is 8 bait lines in private land on Aberdeen Rd, Beach Rd and Park Rise as a halo around the reserve. This is about to kick off this winter.

There are 3 rabbit bait stations in the park monitored by council contractors.

13. Dogs

We have installed appropriate signage to inform owners of the dog bylaws. Dogs should be on lead in the bush tracks.

14. Wildlife monitoring

Monthly bird counts continued by Alan Emmerson, Jenny Chamberlain, Liz Goodwin, Marilyn Gulliver, Sue Rawstron, and occasionally Richard Hursthouse. Alan Emmerson moved to the UK this year and his expertise and humour is sadly missed.

Mairangi Bay School are involved in Waicare water quality monitoring.

15. Other groups

We attend the Hibiscus & Bays restoration network five times a year to share successes and challenges.

16. Park Camp

We held a very successful camp in the park in February. About 20 families pitched tents, went on bush walks, investigated bugs in the stream, played games, and toasted marshmallows on the fire. We even had a night bug hunt. A massive thanks to the camp subcommittee and to Paul Duffy and Anna Baine from council.

17. Council restructure

Council parks management has had a major restructure. We are left with a maze of people to deal with. New contractors start in July and we await liaison with them about park management.

18. Thankyou

Our genuine thanks to:

- Council parks officers Ashley White and Anna Baine for their support with plants, spray gear, tools, contractors and materials
- Recreational Services for help with track work and weed pile removal
- Graye Allnutt, manager, and Mat Cheer head groundsman of the golf club
- NZ Biosecurity for council funded weed control
- John Barber of Rahopara for weed control in Greville Reserve, 17th and 4th plantations
- Julia Parfitt and the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board and the Devonport Takapuna Local Board for funding support
- Barfoot & Thompson and Benefitz
- Our committee and the hard core of volunteer workers
- Arnold Elley - our honorary auditor
- The pest control team and Bruce Rogers for monitoring
- All our wonderful donors.

19. Goodbyes

Sadly Stan Knight passed away last year. We really miss his great sense of humour and dedication to the reserve.

Richard Hursthouse
Chair
June 2017