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Restore Hibiscus & Bays

Ngahere Tupu Tonu • Thriving Nature

December 2023 Pānui - Newsletter

Nau mai haere mai, tēnā koutou kātoa. Greetings and welcome to our Restore Hibiscus & Bays (RHB) November 2023 Pānui.

Our year is coming to an end, and we'd like to wish you all a very happy and rejuvenating festive season! Get the rest that you need, connect with loved ones, go out and enjoy nature and come back ready for a new year of restoration impact and growth.

What's in this newsletter: If you haven't already, please sign up to attend our [End of Year Party](#), where we celebrate the year gone by and acknowledge all the amazing work put in by our community of volunteers. Scroll down to see some great stories of restoration wins in your area, check out our pest plant of the month and other general information that you might find handy as a restoration enthusiast on the shore.

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Celebrate with us!



We appreciate you Daniel and we invite you to join us at our End of Year Party. Celebrate with us the year gone by, connect and share some kai. We'll hear stories from some of our restoration groups, and take the time to pat each other on the back for the hard mahi we've all put in over the year. Of course, we'll also be hosting the *prestigious* annual RHB Volunteer Awards, in recognition of the outstanding work being done by volunteers in our communities.

- 📅 12 December 2023
- 🕒 06:00pm - 08:30pm
- 📍 180 Centreway Road, Orewa Catholic Church
- 💰 Free

We would prefer it if you could register for this event using the link below. If you don't register though, please don't let that stop you from joining us on the evening if you can make it! Ngā mihi nui.

[Register Now](#)

Report your volunteer hours and win!

Well done on all of the great work you've done this past month, helping to restore and protect our native ecosystems! Now don't forget to record your hours so that we can keep track of your awesome efforts. Having accurate data for volunteer hours is so important because it helps us:

- ✓ track what we've achieved so far,
- ✓ know how to plan ahead,
- ✓ secure ongoing funding to keep the great mahi (work) going,
- ✓ and choose our bi-monthly winner of foliar spray, of course!

Our winner for August/September was Jeff Kennedy of the Campbell Glade volunteer group. Well done Jeff, keep up the great work! Remember - it isn't the number of hours that you report that wins, simply reporting your hours gets you in the draw.

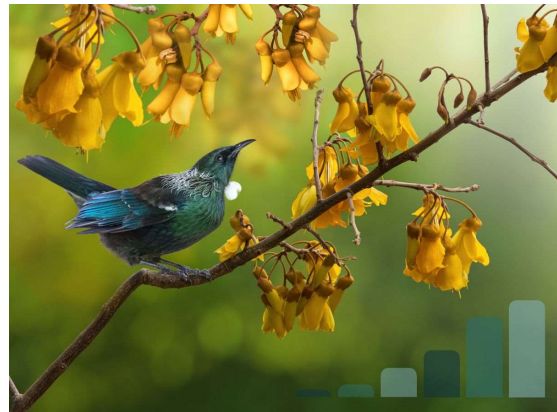
If you have any difficulties at all completing the form, please email your hours to info@restorehb.org.nz and we will enter it for you. All we need to know is the activity type, the hours you spent, the land type (public or private or both), and the month in which you did it. Too easy!

Report and Win!

Annual Report

Predator control: 550 volunteer hours
Pest plant control: 4000 hours
Planting: 1773 hours
School workshops held: 118
Sites attended by volunteers: 60+
Trees planted (2022): 13,120

More info in our [full annual report](#).





Taking on Climbing Asparagus in Otanerua

Otanerua Reserve once faced a significant climbing asparagus infestation, prompting RHB to allocate funding for eco-contractors over the past two years. If you know climbing asparagus, you'll know that it's not over yet!

While progress has been made, the persistent nature of this weed means ongoing efforts are essential. In a positive turn, Colin, who recently completed his Growsafe course (courtesy of Auckland Council), joined Deborah in a targeted spray session at the reserve this November. Luckily, Tori, the community group leader for Otanerua Reserve has been logging her hours, because she secured a volunteer reporting prize of 3 hours of foliar spraying last month! This fuelled the efforts of Deborah and Colin, who were able to cover a lot of ground, and keep the pernicious climbing asparagus at bay.



Browns Bay Primary

Browns Bay Primary eco warriors have been busy weeding their rongōa garden, after weeds had taken over during the last holidays. It's been a work in progress, but many (little) hands make light work, and you can see how much they enjoy the process.



Long Bay Market Stall

RHB had a stall at the November Sunday Christmas Market at Long Bay this year, thanks to Kirianne Nicholson from Winstones Cove, who made the suggestion and organised a 'spot'.

Armed with bait stations and traps, and Mary Stewart's taxidermic pests and native birds in nests, it was enough to attract people to our table!

We had several people consent to hosting bait stations on their property, others wanted to receive our newsletters (welcome!) and we were surprised and encourage at the number of people we spoke to who already had a bait station or flipping timmy in the Awaruku area. It appears that RHB are becoming known in Awaruku/Long Bay and we are very grateful that people are engaging with us on our mission.

Big thanks to Kirianne, Mary and Bree, who all helped on the day.



Orewa Primary's war on the weeds!

Three year 5 and 6 classes from Orewa Primary joined forces this month and cleared an entire slopy section on their school grounds of a mountain of weeds.

They tackled wattles, woolly nightshade and arum lilies and didn't shy away from removing thick pockets of gorse. This in fact turned out to be their favourite weed to attack and they just couldn't get enough of it!

The students also weeded around a track leading to a stream surrounded by native bush which opened the door to further restoration and educational activities on this high potential site. Well done everyone!



Orewa Primary students weeding along the water's edge.

Whangaparaoa School- the Weedbusters are back



Julia from RHB and Debbie Thompson from Whangaparaoa School were joined by eager students this month, as they cleared a native plant site on the school grounds of some pesky weeds that had crept in since the school's last weeding bee. There is plenty of tradescantia and ivy to remove and next on the list will be arum lilies.

The students reported back that they "hadn't thought that weeding could be this much fun!"

They especially enjoyed filling their new composting bag with the collected weeds and jumping up and down on them to speed up the composting process.

The site will look absolutely fantastic after a few more sessions and will provide a great outdoor learning space among the growing totara and puriri.



Toolshed closed over the holidays

Please note that our community toolshed will be closed over the holiday period.

Close: 20 December 2023
Open: 12 January 2024

If you'd like to use any of the tools before or during this period, please put in your requests soon! Thank you.

Toolshed Closed: 20 December 2023 - 12 January 2024

Pest Plant Disposal Bins



We have pest plant disposal bins outside both our tool libraries:

- 📍 [712 Beach Road, Browns Bay](#)
- 📍 [719 Whangaparāoa Road, Stanmore Bay](#)

These bins, just like the tools in our community tool libraries, are for anyone in our community to use!

The bins are for the disposal of certain parts of some pest plants that pose the greatest threat to our indigenous bush. Correct disposal of seeds, seed pods, seed heads and roots greatly reduces the risk that the pest plant will spread to other areas after removal. It's an important part of effective restoration work.

Please use these bins for the following pest plant parts only, securely tied inside a plastic bag to ensure they break down properly:

- MOTH PLANT – Seeds, pods, roots
- ARISTEA GRASS – Seeds
- WILD GINGER – Seed heads
- CAPE IVY – Seeds only
- WOOLLY NIGHTSHADE – Seed heads, flower heads
- JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE – Roots, and stems if seeds present
- CLIMBING ASPARAGUS – Roots, or whole plant if seeds present
- MADEIRA VINE – Aerial nodules, seeds, seed pods, roots
- ARUM LILY – Seed heads only
- BONESEED – Seed heads only
- BANANA PASSIONFRUIT – Roots and seed pods only
- AGAPANTHUS – Flowers, seed heads
- COTONEASTER – Seeds

Please do not put anything in this bin that is not listed above. For other pest plant species, or if you have any questions, please get in touch with us at info@restorehb.org.nz and we can advise on pest plant disposal options for your site or project. Alternatively, visit our [website](#) for further guidance on effectively getting rid of pest plants.

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Pest Plant of the Month: Japanese Honeysuckle



Japanese Honeysuckle in full flower.

Japanese Honeysuckle is a crawling/climbing vine that is capable of shading out and smothering native seedlings, as well as causing canopy collapse by forming dense mats on top of the trees. It is very hardy, tolerant of salt and frost, and invades bush margins, disturbed forests and river networks. Japanese honeysuckle also supports habitat for faster growing weeds such as Moth Plant. Light green growth appears in early spring, and this is a good time to control using the methods detailed here:

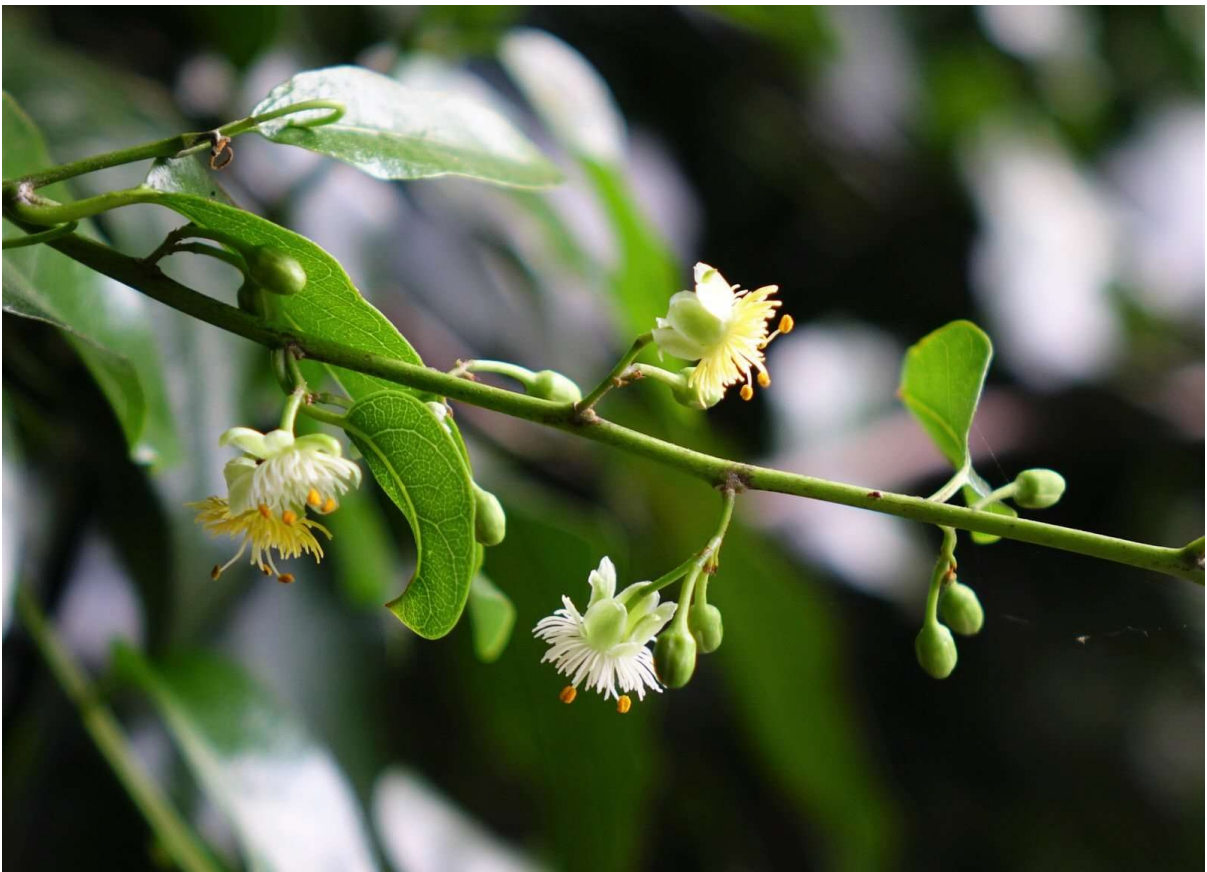
- Dig out small infestations, trying to remove all parts of the root system – Japanese honeysuckle can regrow from stem fragments that are left in the ground.
- Hand release off native trees where possible. Make a cut at the base of the stem and apply a thin film of Met Gel to both ends of the cut stem.
- Large vines can be left on the tree after applying Met Gel to both ends of the cut stem.
- For large/mature infestations and ground cover, foliar spray with 0.5g/L metsulfuron plus penetrant. Always wear appropriate Personal Protection Equipment and read the manufacturer's label for guidelines and recommendations. Talk to our Restore Hibiscus & Bays Ecological Restoration Advisor for further guidance.
- Follow up in three months to reapply herbicide and ensure all regrowth has died (mature infestations usually need multiple applications).
- Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to take action too!
- Download a printable leaflet/poster about japanese honeysuckle and other pest plants from the Restore Hibiscus & Bays website:
<https://restorehb.org.nz/resources-pest-plants/>

Please email Restore Hibiscus & Bays with any questions at info@restorehb.org.nz



Mature Japanese Honeysuckle vine, sprawling and taking over. These plants are capable of growing 15 metres in one year!

In Place of Japanese Honeysuckle: Kohia



In places where Japanese Honeysuckle thrives, you might find that Kohia (Tetrapathaea Tetrandra), our NZ native passionflower, might thrive instead. Once an area has been cleared of a pest plant, replacing it with a similar native is often a great way to fill the ecological niche that the pest plant was once exploiting.

This plant was valued by early Māori because oils in its fruit make it burn slow and reliably, this property allowed them to carry fire with them on their travels.

Don't forget to sign up as a member of Restore Hibiscus & Bays



Membership is free!

Restore Hibiscus & Bays is an Incorporated Society with charitable status. We encourage you all to sign up as a member of the Society, which will give you voting rights at our AGMs and special general meetings.

Please contact us if you would like to become a member. If you've been forwarded this newsletter and would like to sign up as a member of Restore Hibiscus & Bays, please sign up to our contact list using this [online form](#), and then contact us about membership: info@restorehb.org.nz

If you've been forwarded this newsletter, please sign up here.

Connect with an existing group or project

Make a donation to RHB



Did you know that when you like, follow or share our work and stories through these channels, it is like a donation to RHB that doesn't cost you a cent!



712 Beach Rd, Browns Bay, Auckland, 0630

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