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Restore Hibiscus & Bays

Ngahere Tupu Tonu • Thriving Nature

November 2023 Pānui - Newsletter

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

This newsletter is packed to the brim with updates, stories and highlights from the last month at RHB. Take note that we are still looking for people to help us look for birds, in our November bird count. We also have a couple of invites in there, so keep an eye out for: our End of Year Party invite, and our Community Weeding Bee with Whangaparāoa College. Finally, we have 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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November Bird Count

We're determined to know our impact, and you can help!



Each year our volunteers put over six thousand hours towards restoring and protecting restoration sites across Hibiscus Coast and East Coast Bays. Together we trap hundreds of pest predators, eradicate thousands of pest plants, and plant over 10,000 native trees each year. We know exactly what we put in, so what do we get out? What is our impact on the native ecosystems?





To help answer part of this question, we are monitoring bird numbers each year to track any significant increase or decline in numbers and diversity in the areas we work. If you have two eyes and share our vision to restore nature and protect bird life across Hibiscus and Bays, consider joining our November Bird Count. It's not too late to sign up, and we will provide you with any support or training you might need.

[Sign up now](#)

Celebrate with us!



We appreciate you Jenny 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!

AGM Update



A number of people attended this years AGM, which was a great opportunity to share some of the inner workings, challenges and accomplishments from the year passed. We

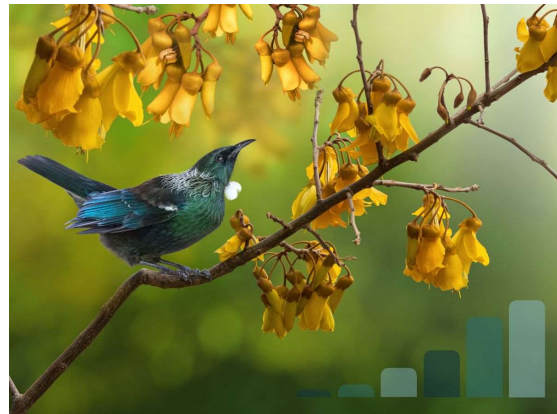
said goodbye to some of the committee and welcomed new members in. We also welcomed new staff, and connected with some of our most committed supporters. If you weren't able to make it to the event, please see our Annual Report below for some of the highlights that were covered at the AGM.

We also had the great pleasure of welcoming Dr Dianne Brunton from Massey University, who gave us a captivating, detailed and incredibly insightful presentation on some of her local research on "The cultural evolution of bird song". Her talk included up-to-date research on birds living in the Hauraki Gulf, their unique forms of communication, and also the impact of human beings and predator control within our region, making it all highly relevant to our work at RHB. Thank you Dianne!

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](#).



Northcross Intermediate Enviro Class

Kel Hartell's enviro students have started tackling a forest of wattles. These wattles have crept into Northcross Reserve from the previously completely infested development site bordering the school grounds. To stop their further spread the students have learned how to take them down or ring-bark them safely.

The group has made great progress already and plenty of native plants now have the space and light to thrive.

Another group of students have been busy clearing the upper part of the reserve of highly invasive jasmin that is smothering many ferns in that area. Plenty more work to do and the students are displaying great commitment and team work!



Mulch and Flax at Whangaparāoa College

The mighty kaitiaki students at Whangaparāoa College have rolled up their sleeves once again, to further improve the status of their restoration site by their courts.

They were kindly donated A LOT of mulch and mature flax plants by the local community and the Penlink Project. What an impact this makes, adding nicely to the hundreds of plants that have already been planted previously.

RHB will be hosting a community working bee at this site on the 18th of November to join forces with the students. It will be lots of fun, and there will be lots of food, so don't miss out!

[Find out more here.](#)



EVENT:

 **Whangaparāoa College -
Community Working Bee**

18 NOVEMBER 2023 | 10am - 12pm



Tradescantia Weeding with Kingsway College

Twenty year 10 students from Kingsway College got stuck in and removed a whole tradescantia meadow to relieve the existing mature native vegetation. They learned how this extremely invasive plant can choke a whole ecosystem by completely taking over, and they took no prisoners!

The students filled a whole composting bag with this weed in no time at all. The bag will be left on site until the plants have composted down into soil which can then be emptied out safely after about 12 months.

With the school being located along the Orewa Estuary this will be an especially meaningful project for the students going forward and a great way of helping their local community and environment. Well done team!



Persistence Pays off at Freyberg Park

More planting has been carried out in Freyberg Park, Browns Bay. It was wonderful to finally get the trees in the ground after three attempts, and to have these strong members of the community there to get the job done!

The next step here will be to keep the weeds at bay and mulch the area to give the new plantings their best start in life.

Myrtle Rust in Browns Bay A good news story



Bushglen Reserve main maire stand



Precious swamp maire berries/ seeds

Bushglen Reserve in Browns Bay is home to approximately 20 highly mature and a dozen juvenile endangered swamp maire trees (*syzygium maire*, maire tawake) and is one of the very few large, accessible stands of such trees on the North Shore.

In 2021 myrtle rust was discovered in one of our trees, and since then many of our mature trees and all our juveniles were severely affected and for most of this year it appeared that many were dying. Working with various myrtle rust experts we have been monitoring the trees and spraying them regularly with a fungicide to control the myrtle rust and we're finally starting to see some progress! Most of the trees that showed huge leaf loss now seem to be recovering and looking healthy again, and we have just collected the first berries we have seen in 3 years.

The seeds of these trees do not seem to self-start or propagate easily, so we've collected many berries in order to grow some plants ourselves, and have passed some of the berries on to others to propagate too. They are in safe hands, and we hope to see them grow into strong little trees within the next few years!

With the weather warming up again, we will have to keep a close eye on the myrtle rust in case it returns and devastates our trees again. We'll continue to monitor and spray these, whilst also monitoring local lillypilly hedges to see how badly myrtle rust affects these plants and the possible effects of aerial contamination into Bushglen Reserve.

Introduction to Awaruku Predator Halo

A community-driven initiative making remarkable progress



A small but dedicated group came together recently, to learn about the work we are carrying out in the Awaruku catchment area. Hosted at the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC), the event served as an excellent platform to share valuable insights, exchange ideas, and celebrate the collective achievements in safeguarding our

native ecosystems. We were also able to rally more volunteers to join in this vital project.

This community-driven initiative has been making remarkable progress, thanks to the unwavering commitment of a group of local residents. Through such collaborative and community-led endeavours as this, the Awaruku community is well-positioned to make a substantial impact in preserving our natural environment for future generations.

The Awaruku catchment area, for those who don't know, feeds into the Awaruku Creek. Starting near Stredwick Reserve behind Glamorgan School, the catchment area borders Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Long Bay Regional Park and ends at Long Bay Beach, right where MERC is situated.

Corporate Groups Update

When it comes to local restoration, these groups mean business

Deloitte at Campbell Glade



A huge thanks to Deloitte, who arranged a team of 14 of their employees to help with restoration work around Campbell Glade this October!

In just one day, the group managed to cut and paste the majority of the agapanthus in the area and a huge amount of velvet groundsel. After these areas were tackled, they moved on to the Taiwanese cherry trees, Turks cap and bamboo in the area. The difference in the glade is amazing, we were lucky to have such an energetic team joining us for the day!

We're happy to say that all areas worked on by the Deloitte crew are regularly maintained by a local group of volunteers, so the advantage gained is sure to hold!

Eroad at Okoromai-Clansman Reserve



These legends from Eroad volunteered with us at Okoromai-Clansman Reserve in Army Bay this October and made some great progress!

The reserve we worked lies adjacent to Shakespear Regional Park and contains a potential wetland which is classified as a Significant Ecological Area. It is currently very weedy! Although less so now. The team from Eroad put in a solid 5 hours and controlled huge numbers of arum lilies, Japanese honeysuckle and montbretia.

You are welcome back any time!

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: Notorious Moth Plant



Unmistakeable moth plant seed pods. Margaret Donald, [Araujia sericifera 04](#), [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Moth plant, also known as cruel vine, is a particularly nasty pest plant as it spreads so quickly and will strangle and smother anything in its path, including our native bush. It is poisonous to people (and Monarch butterflies!) and its sap can irritate our skin! That's why this pest plant is among the most notorious in our part of the world!

From early spring, the vines form bell-shaped creamy coloured flowers, occasionally with pink streaks (see picture below). Over the coming months, these flowers will turn into large, green, pear-shaped pods, which each release thousands of fluffy parachute seeds into the air infesting more and more of our gardens, parks and bush.

That's why now is the time to take action - it is a much smaller and easier job to deal with moth plant before it has formed pods!

If you notice moth plant on your property or in your nearby parks, please follow these guidelines asap:

- Dig out any small seedlings, including roots
- For larger vines, find the the stem where it goes into the ground, cut it near the base and immediately paste a thin smear of MetGel onto the cut stem (it can be purchased at any hardware store or garden centre)
- Dispose of the flowers, roots and any pods in your rubbish bin to go to landfill, securely tied inside a plastic bag - to stop it spreading to other areas. Unfortunately, they can't be composted.
- Leave the cut vine hanging in the tree to die
- Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to take action too!

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



Moth plant in flower. Now is the best time to get rid of them, while they are easy to identify and easy to dispose of before any seeds can form.

In Place of Moth Plant: Scented Clematis



Sarah Richardson, [Clematis Foetida](#), [CC BY 4.0](#)

In places where Moth Plant thrives, you might find that the NZ endemic plant, scented clematis (*Clematis Foetida*) might also thrive. 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.

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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