



Restore **Hibiscus & Bays**

February 2025 Pānui - Newsletter

Our Volunteer Opportunities About Donate



Nau mai haere mai, tēnā koutou kātoa. Welcome to our February edition of the RHB Pānui!

This month, we're excited to share the story behind the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary, exploring its origins and the journey it's taken over the years.

The predator pulse is in full swing this month, and we want to give a massive thanks to all our volunteers. You're a key part of an exciting puzzle, playing a vital role in a larger team working towards the important goal of reducing predators in the area. How awesome is that!

In the schools, our young environmental heroes are back at it, and we're excited to see what 2025 has in store for them.

Take a moment to read through this update and don't forget to share it with your friends and family. Stay connected by updating your email preferences so you can continue to receive our What's On newsletter each month.

Thanks for being part of the Restore Hibiscus & Bays community!



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Campbells Bay's Centennial Park - An Urban Sanctuary Delight

Centennial Park, located in the heart of Campbells Bay on Auckland's North Shore, was designated a recreation reserve in 1884, making it one of Auckland region's oldest parks. It is 73.5 hectares in area; 44.5 hectares are leased to Pupuke Golf Club and the remaining 29 hectares are regenerating native forest, managed by Centennial Park Bush Society.

The entire reserve plays a vital role in Auckland region's ecological wellbeing and is an important link in the North - West Wildlink corridor, which connects the islands of the Hauraki Gulf to many mainland conservation hotspots, including the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges.

The forest is a remarkable, species - rich haven for biodiversity in an increasingly intensively infilled urban area. It provides an oasis for native trees, smaller plants and birdlife and its lifeblood is a 6km stream network which exits into the Gulf and connects the park to the coastal environment.

The park's preservation and flourishing wildlife are the result of nearly five decades of dedicated conservation work by CPBS volunteers. Founded in 1979 by Pat Morton and chaired for the last 22 years by Richard Hursthouse, CPBS is a community driven organisation focused on the long term health and survival of the park. In 2020 Centennial Park was selected from 12 nominations to receive Recreation Aotearoa's Healthy Park Award.

A mutually beneficial relationship between CPBS and Pupuke Golf Club management has evolved over the last decade. CPBS volunteers weed and restoration plant with native species large areas of golf course land which are not useful for golf. Pupuke management help with planting - area preparation, moving piles of mulch and metal and keeping on top of some key invasives like boneseed . CPBS helps fund the removal of fallen pines and gums, weeds, plants and mulches the golf-course margins and helps manage stormwater runoff. Partly as a result of this collaboration, Pupuke won Golf Club of the Year at the 2023 National Golf Awards.

CPBS volunteer workers meet on Wednesday mornings and the first Saturday morning each month and devote thousands of hours a year to maintaining this urban forest. In Chairman Richard Hursthouse words: "We do this purely because native plants and animals can't save themselves. We owe it to them, to ourselves, to our children and great - grandchildren to conserve the remaining unique indigenous native flora and fauna special to this area."

Banded kokopu, koura, eels and kakahi (freshwater mussels) are living in the stream network. Helping them survive and thrive is critical. An important part of protecting these species is keeping dogs on leash at all times. Volunteers fence off long sections of the streams which have been consistently damaged by dogs entering and exiting the waters. We believe kokopu numbers have increased as a result of fencing. Important native grasses such as carex are now spreading naturally along the banks, providing shade and shelter for kokopu to breed and hide under. Fencing has also paid dividends in terms of bank stability; as the natives have spread erosion has considerably reduced. Restoration planting is also key. Nature needs a hand where areas have been trampled or eroded by flooding. Ti kouka, our native cabbage tree, is a definite go-to, where light permits. A recent research project entailing rigorous testing of a variety of natives revealed ti kouka has the highest tensile root strength, root depth and diameter for stabilising stream banks.

Each year CPBS volunteers plant thousands of natives – our biggest year being 2022, when 5,000 plants were put in the ground. Planting is a growing and essential feature of being a steppingstone in the North -West Wildlink corridor-allowing safe travel for wild species and providing breeding habitats.

Predator control is a huge part of the park's success. Predator Control volunteers actively maintain a complex, catchment-wide network of bait stations, monitoring tunnels and rat and possum traps –a total of more than 387 pest control devices.

Community engagement and local support are also essential. Invasives like arum lilies and montbretia would be suffocating streams and stranglers like Japanese honeysuckle and morning glory would be smothering native trees without our weed warriors. We are so grateful so many residents care for the whenua.

There is no doubt working bees can be hard yakka but the endorphins are running, the korero is meaningful and engaging and we share a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the wellbeing of the park. And morning tea is a great reward for the mahi - the best chocolate cake, biscuits and fresh coffee or tea for whoever lends a hand. We always welcome more volunteers.

To sum up, our long term dream is to wake up one day to hear the sounds of bellbirds and saddlebacks and see kaka flying over the treetops. Plus many more! We would love them all to call Centennial Park home.



MAP OF CENTENNIAL PARK & NATURE TRAIL

RHB Community Restoration Efforts

New boardwalks and paths for Bushglen

After much anticipation, it is great to be nearing the completion of new boardwalks, paths, and a stunning new bridge in Bushglen Reserve, Browns Bay. This longawaited work will be vital to protecting our precious swamp maire trees, ensuring they remain undisturbed while still allowing the community to enjoy this special area. The new bridge over the main stream from the Helvetia Street entrance is even bigger than expected, stretching impressively across the clearing at the bottom of the hill. Excited? We are.

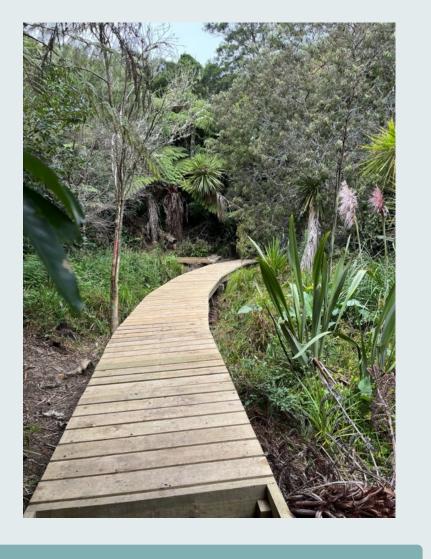
For those who missed it, the helicopter operation to remove the pine trees from the middle swamp was a spectacle in itself —efficiently removing the trees in just 45 minutes, leaving no trace behind except a few pinecones.



We are grateful to Auckland Council for bringing this project to fruition.

And there's more good news-later this year, Kathy and the team at Bushglen will be celebrating the official reopening of the upgraded tracks!

Stay tuned for details on the launch event and get ready to explore our rejuvenated green spaces.



FIND OUT MORE DETAILS OF **BUSHGLEN'S VOLUNTEER MORNING'S**

RHB Reminders

Return empty weed control bottles

A friendly reminder to return your empty Bamboo Buster and Metgel bottles so we can refill them and keep the restoration work rolling! By refilling the bottles, we reduce waste and make sure these tools are always available for the next round of weed control.

Simply email us at info@restorehb.org.nz or get in touch with your favourite RHB contact to arrange a drop-off or pick up. Every bottle returned helps us keep costs down and resources flowing for everyone in the network.

Community Tool Library

Our RHB tool libraries offer equipment like tools, herbicides, bait stations, traps, and more for pest control and native biodiversity restoration projects. These tools are available for use on both public and private land within the local board area.

We have two tool library locations – one in Browns Bay and one in Whangaparāoa.

<u>Complete the request form</u>, and we'll arrange drop-off or collection. Not sure what you need? Just tell us your goal, and we'll guide you!

Introducing the People, Cities & Nature Greenscape Benefits study

This report shares findings from the People, Cities & Nature Greenspace Benefits study, which explores how New Zealanders connect with and value local green and blue spaces. The programme, a collaboration between New Zealand and Australia, focuses on restoring indigenous biodiversity in urban areas. Through research in ten cities, it aims to establish best practices for urban restoration that benefit both ecosystems and human health, contributing to global restoration goals.

READ THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Restoration Triumphs: Kids in Action!

Hands-on learning at Glamorgan Kindergarten

The tamariki at Glamorgan Kindergarten have learned lots about pest plants and pest animals and why they are such an issue for our country.

After 2 indoor pest-chats they ventured outside to see which pests might be lurking on the kindergarten grounds. They hand-pulled an abundance of exotic plant seedlings in their beautiful native garden and set up tracking tunnels around the grounds.

As it turned out, some hedgehogs and mice call their kindergarten their home but also some weta which was great to see!

This year the tamariki are excited to be involved in a new restoration project in Stredwick Reserve, adding many native plants along the stream. This will improve the habitat for our native birds and insects and also stabilise the stream bank.

We will keep you updated!





Mulching time at Orewa College!

Sarah O'Donnell and her enviro group braved the hot summer temperatures to protect the native plants on their restoration site from getting overgrown by invasive kikuyu grass.

Luke from Tree King kindly donated a whole truck load of mulch which the students then spread around the site around each plant.



Well done everyone and see you again for more weeding, planting and mulching soon!



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT RHB WORKING IN SCHOOLS >

Auckland Council Rubbish and Greenwaste Collection Guide for Volunteers

Got some rubbish or greenwaste on your local park or reserve? Auckland Council's got you covered! Here's a quick guide on what will and won't be collected, plus some tips for making sure everything gets sorted.

What Council will collect:

If you spot any dumped material on parks, reserves, footpaths, or berms, Council will take care of it! However, if it's clear that a specific household or individual is responsible, Council may send a reminder letter about proper rubbish disposal—and in some cases, fines may be issued.

What Council won't collect:

If the rubbish is on private land, it's up to the property owner to handle it. Also, greenwaste eco-stacked by contractors as part of maintenance or pest plant control won't be picked up.

How to report dumped rubbish and greenwaste:

For small amounts (under 250 litres or around 4 black bags), use the "report a problem" tool.

For larger dumps (over 250 litres or items like trolleys or tyres), call the 0800NODUMP hotline.

When reporting, make sure to note the location, time, and any details about whether it's causing a hazard or blocking paths. If you can, jot down any vehicle details too.

Collection timelines:

Council aims to resolve most issues within 5 working days. However, it might take longer for remote locations or bigger clean-ups. You can check the status of your reports by calling the Council or using the myAUCKLAND app (but not for 0800NODUMP jobs).

Planning a clean-up?

If you're organising a clean-up event, here's how to get Council support:

For small clean-ups (under 250 litres), email the Community Ranger ahead of time, and they'll arrange for collection by Ventia or Green By Nature.

For larger clean-ups (over 250 litres or with big items like tyres), email info@restorehb.org.nz so RHB can enquire about flexibins for your event.

Greenwaste tips:

Whenever possible, eco-stack greenwaste on-site during weeding events—it's great for the environment, helps soil health, and gives invertebrates a place to thrive. If you can't eco-stack (like when clearing large woody debris), just let the RHB know info@restorehb.org.nz, that help is needed with removal.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR RHB DISPOSAL BINS >

Find out more about RHB Volunteering opportunities



Find out what volunteering activities are coming up around the East Coast Bays and the Hibiscus Coast.

From weeding, tree planting, pest control and monitoring.

We would love for you to join us!

> WHAT'S ON CALENDAR >



To all our volunteers, thank so much for all your hard work and support. Please record your awesome efforts so we can keep track and so you can go in to win!!

LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

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Become a valued member today. Your membership is crucial-without our members, we cannot thrive. Also please update your email subscription preferences / volunteering options.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS AND TO BECOME A MEMBER >

FIND OUT WHAT'S ON WITH RESTORE HIBISCUS & BAYS Regular volunteer opportunities, events & workshops

Thanks to our supporters who help make what we do possible.





Hibiscus & Bays

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Restore Hibiscus & Bays

Restore Hibiscus & Bays is a community-led, not-for-profit initiative that aims to bring together, empower and grow the network of restoration groups, neighbourhoods, individuals, schools, businesses and other organisations working to eradicate pests, restore native habitats and improve water quality across the East Coast Bays and Hibiscus Coast.

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 and our AGM's and special general meetings. Questions? Email us at <u>info@restorehb.org.nz</u>

Restore Hibiscus & Bays | 712 Beach Road, Browns Bay, Auckland 0630

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