View online | Join a Bush Care Group near you Restore Hibiscus & Bays

# July 2025
# Pānui – Newsletter

About | Our Volunteer Opportunities | Donate

Kia ora Team Leaders, Bush Care Groups, Volunteers and Friends of Restore Hibiscus & Bays!

Winter planting season is in full swing, and there are still plenty more chances to get your hands dirty and make a difference in our community planting days coming up – so grab your gloves, round up your whānau, and help out.

Our August Planting Pānui is just around the corner – read all about it and be sure to check out the incredible results from the last pānui in this edition. Every hap checked and taken notice! is making a difference!

We're also showing a spotlight on Kath Hopper Reserve, where volunteers have been working hard to transform a boggy, weed-choked corner into a thriving planting site. Plus it's time to take the progress for yourself.

Take a moment to explore the latest news, events, and ways to get involved. And don't forget to update your email preferences if you'd like to receive our monthly What's On newsletter straight to your inbox.

## PROJECT OF THE MONTH

### WINNING THE WEED WAR: A REMARKABLE SALTMARSH COMEBACK IN OREWA

BEFORE: PHOTO BY

BEFORE: PHOTO BY

AFTER: PHOTO BY

AFTER: PHOTO BY

Nestled at 72 Kath Hopper Drive in Orewa, right beside the popular Te Ara Kauri Shared Path, sits a small but mighty saltmarsh that's been quietly doing its thing for years (and years and years). It's a precious saltmarsh, designated a Significant Ecological Area (SEA). Saltmarshes are crucial ecological powerhouses, they form on the edge of tidal zones and act as natural buffers, filtering water and trapping pollutants. They are regularly covered by seawater, acting as nurseries for juvenile fish, and providing essential feeding and breeding grounds for a variety of birds.

SEAs, like this one, are identified areas of significant indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna, either on land, in freshwater, or in the coastal marine area. SEAs are protected under the Resource Management Act, recognising their importance for biodiversity, and their role as stepping stones or buffers for migration.

Despite its ecological importance, the particular saltmarsh was once entirely overwhelmed by invasive weeds, especially tenacious arum lilies. But thanks to the dedication of our community, its fortunes are rapidly changing!

AFTER: PHOTO BY

AFTER: PHOTO BY

This journey began in August 2021 when Dancourt Park ERNZ Community led restoration efforts, starting with focused working bees to cut and poison the relentless arum lilies. The transformation really took root in the winter of 2022, when a Saturday community planting day saw 1000 native grasses and rushes kindly planted into the cleared areas by Orewa Rotary Club members. Orewa Rotary returned for planting volunteers with a delicious lunch that day.

The effort didn't stop there. Regular weekly working bees were established, tackling the monumental task of removing persistent arum lilies and protecting our precious native plants.

Now, it's time to celebrate!

Join us for a celebratory planting day at this year's site, the results are clear! There are hundreds of new plants, ready to thrive in the saltmarsh, creating vital habitat for birds and other wildlife. Bring your whānau, friends, and neighbours to support local wildlife and future generations. Come along and stay as long as you can – every hand counts!

- When: Saturday 19 August, Between 9am – 12pm
- Where: Kath Hopper Reserve, Orewa
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: At Grassland Place
- Find out all the events details: Facebook event page.

**Wharengarara Catchment Planting Day**
- Saturday 26 July | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Wharengarara Catchment, Stanmore Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside Wharengarara Reserve, Stanmore Bay
- Find out all the events details: Facebook event page.

**Stanmore Bay Community Centre**
- Saturday 26 July | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Stanmore Bay Community Centre, 12 Kiln Street, Whangaparaoa
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Stanmore Bay Community Centre, 12 Kiln Street, Whangaparaoa
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay**
- Saturday 26 July | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay**
- Saturday 26 July | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Whangaparaoa College Wetland Planting Day**
- Sunday 3 August | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Whangaparaoa College, Stanmore Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Whangaparaoa College, Stanmore Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay**
- Sunday 3 August | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Longridge Reserve, Browns Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay**
- Sunday 3 August | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Okoromai Classroom Reserve, Arrow Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Whangaparaoa College Wetland Planting Day**
- Sunday 3 August | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Whangaparaoa College, Stanmore Bay
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Whangaparaoa College, Stanmore Bay
- Find out more: Facebook event page.

**Stanmore Bay Community Centre**
- Sunday 3 August | 10 – 12pm
- Where: Stanmore Bay Community Centre, 12 Kiln Street, Whangaparaoa
- Bring: Gloves, sturdy shoes, and a spade if you have one
- Meet: Outside the Stanmore Bay Community Centre, 12 Kiln Street, Whangaparaoa