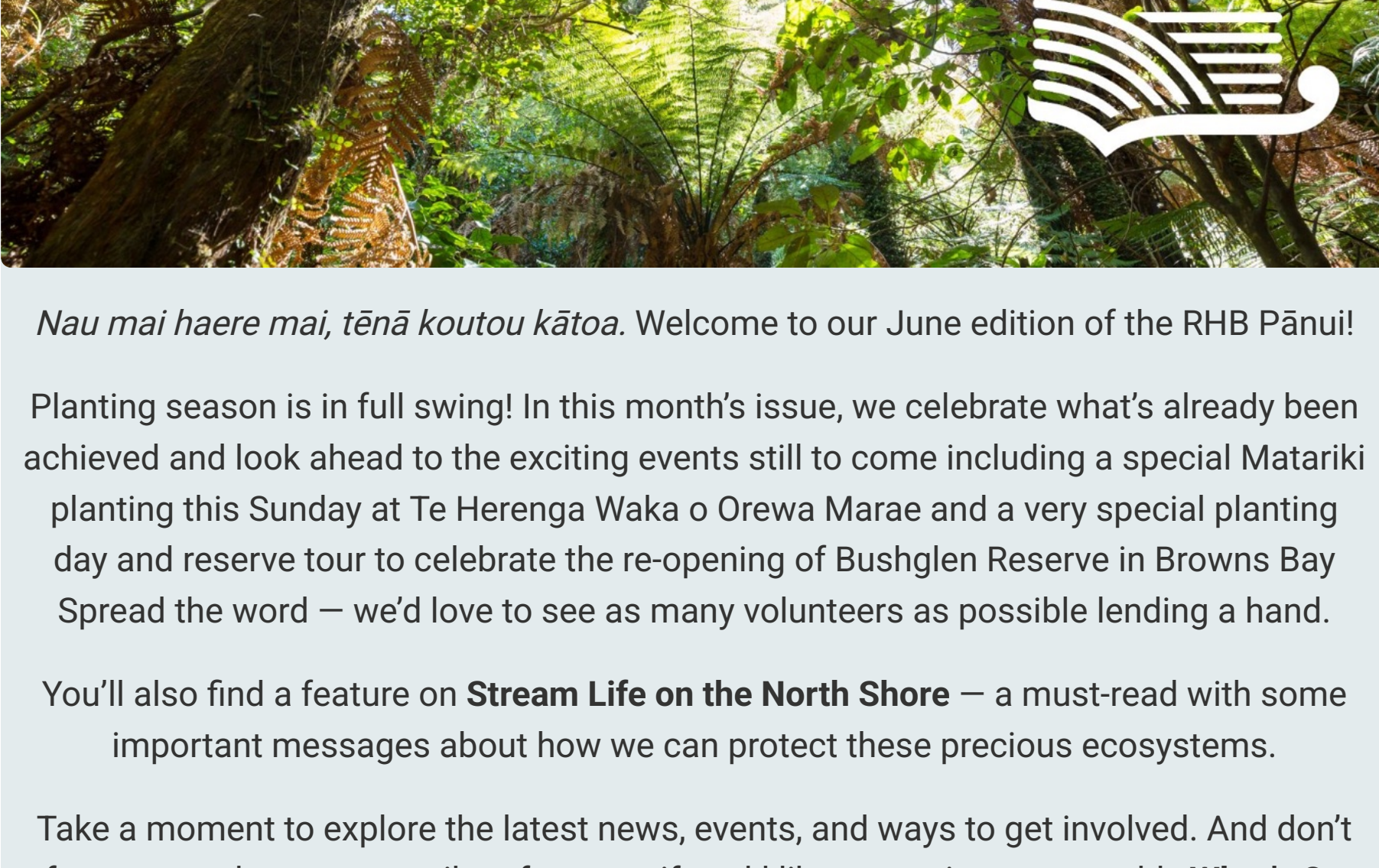




Restore  
Hibiscus & Bays

## June 2025 Pānui – Newsletter

[About](#) [Our Volunteer Opportunities](#) [Donate](#)



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

Planting season is in full swing! In this month's issue, we celebrate what's already been achieved and look ahead to the exciting events still to come including a special Matariki planting this Sunday at Te Herenga Waka o Ōrewa Mārae and a very special planting day and reserve tour to celebrate the re-opening of Bushglen Reserve in Browns Bay. Spread the word – we'd love to see as many volunteers as possible lending a hand.

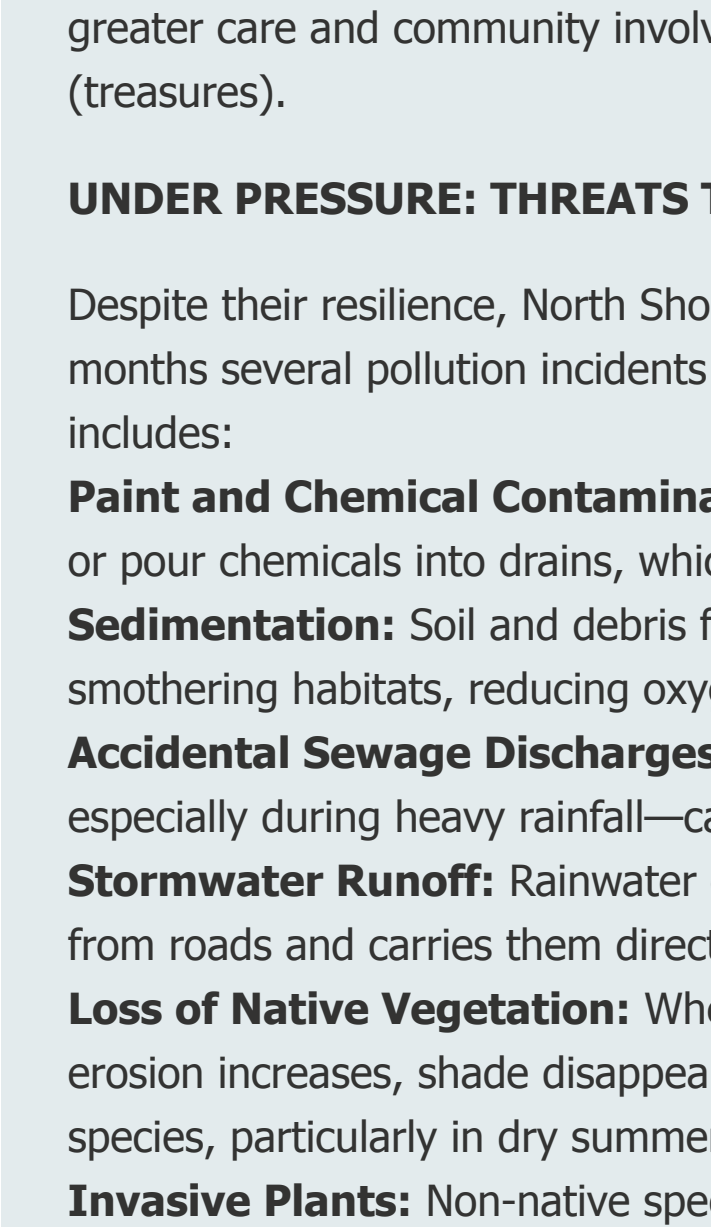
You'll also find a feature on **Stream Life on the North Shore** – a must-read with some important messages about how we can protect these precious ecosystems.

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.

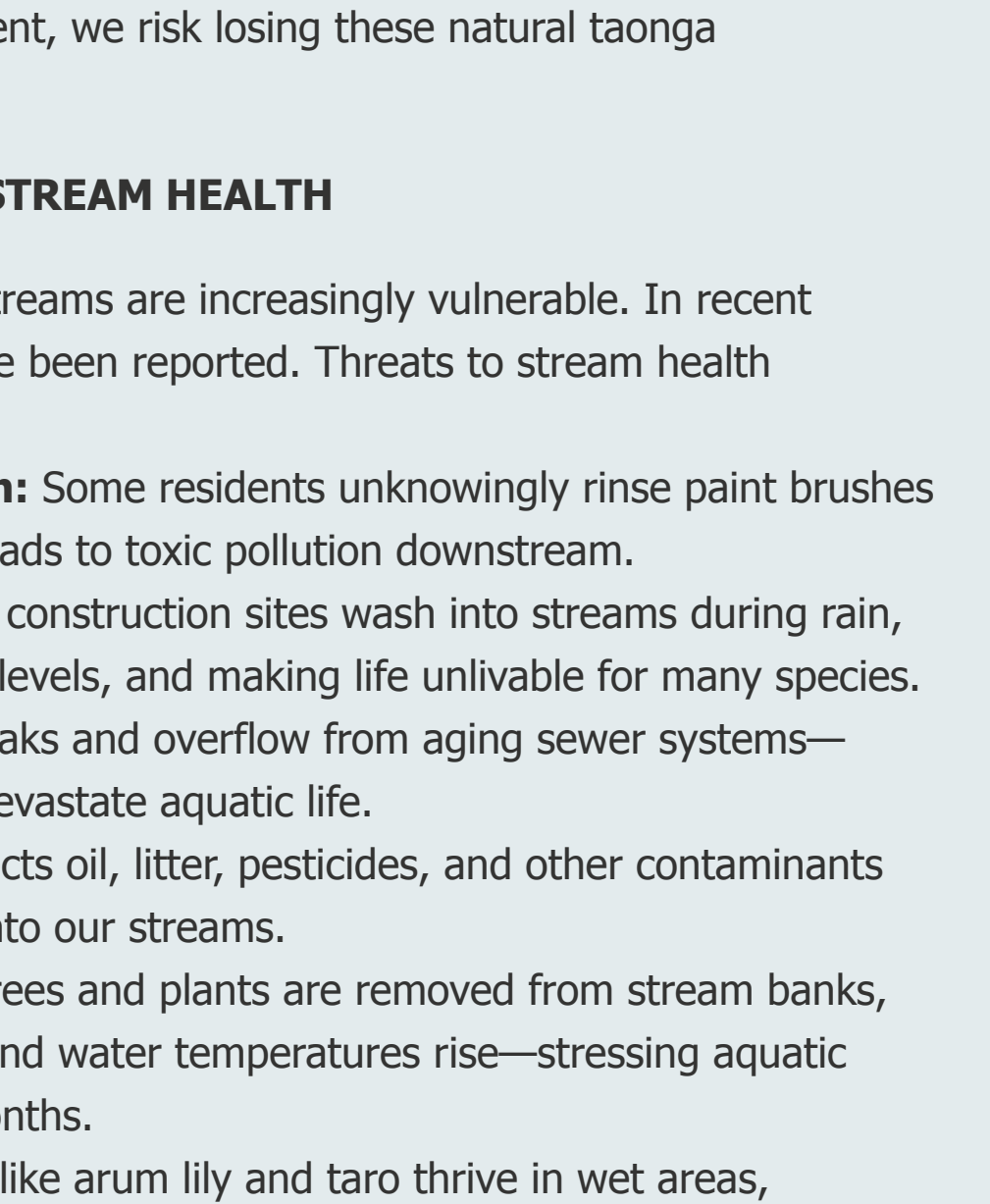
### PROJECT OF THE MONTH



#### STREAM LIFE ON THE NORTH SHORE: WHAT LIVES IN OUR STREAMS & HOW TO PROTECT THEM



Recent stream pollution Campbell Bay



Recent point pollution in a storm water drain, Browns Bay

The North Shore is celebrated for its sweeping coastal views, but just inland, a quieter kind of beauty flows beneath our feet—our freshwater streams. Winding through suburbs, reserves, and parks, these waterways are vibrant ecosystems teeming with life. Native insects, birds, and aquatic creatures thrive in these habitats, playing a crucial role in maintaining local biodiversity.

Yet, as urban development accelerates, our streams face growing threats. Without greater care and community involvement, we risk losing these natural taonga (treasures).

##### UNDER PRESSURE: THREATS TO STREAM HEALTH

Despite their resilience, North Shore streams are increasingly vulnerable. In recent months several pollution incidents have been reported. Threats to stream health includes:

**Paint and Chemical Contamination:** Some residents unknowingly rinse paint brushes or pour chemicals into drains, which leads to toxic pollution downstream.

**Sedimentation:** Soil and debris from construction sites wash into streams during rain, smothering habitats, reducing oxygen levels, and making life unlivable for many species.

**Accidental Sewage Discharges:** Leaks and overflow from aging sewer systems—especially during heavy rainfall—can devastate aquatic life.

**Stormwater Runoff:** Rainwater collects oil, litter, pesticides, and other contaminants from roads and carries them directly into our streams.

**Loss of Native Vegetation:** When trees and plants are removed from stream banks, erosion increases, shade disappears, and water temperatures rise—stressing aquatic species, particularly in dry summer months.

**Invasive Plants:** Non-native species like arum lily and taro thrive in wet areas, outcompeting native plants and disrupting stream ecosystems.

##### WHAT YOU CAN DO: SIMPLE ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

**Ownership & Observe** – The awa (stream) belongs to all of us! —It is everyone's! As a community, we all need to protect and preserve our local streams and surprisingly – it does not require expert knowledge! Just a commitment to some awareness. Do you live on a stream? Does your daily walk pass your local stream? Observing and noticing what the stream usually looks like, will help you notice when it has become polluted.

Does it smell unusual today? Is it cloudy or discoloured? Does it have foam or oily sheen? If you see pollution – take photos for evidence and report it immediately!

**Pick Up Litter:** Every piece of rubbish you remove from streets and parks is one less pollutant entering our waterways and eventually the ocean.

**Dispose Responsibly:** Never pour paint, chemicals, or any waste down storm drains or near waterways.

**Join Local Planting Bees:** Participate in community stream restoration events. Check Restore Hibiscus & Bays' 'What's On' calendar for upcoming planting days.

**Report Pollution:** Call the Auckland Pollution Hotline at 09 377 3107 (available 24/7). A compliance officer typically responds within one to two hours. Also notify Restore Hibiscus & Bays at [info@restorehb.org.nz](mailto:info@restorehb.org.nz).

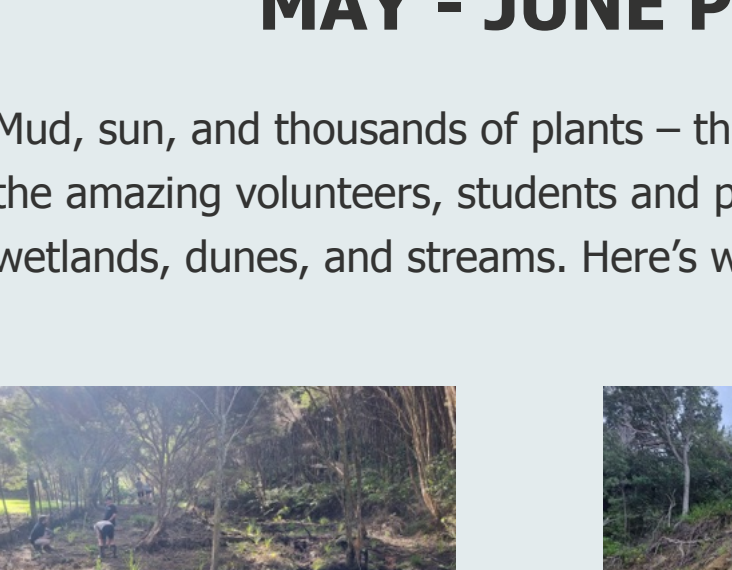
##### MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED: THE LIFE BENEATH THE SURFACE

Our local streams are home to an incredible array of native species—many of which are rare or under threat: Kākahi (Freshwater Mussels), Whitebait (Inanga), Kōura (Freshwater Crayfish), Aquatic Insects, Tuna (Longfin and Shortfin Eels) and Banded Kokopu.

##### FINALLY, OUR STREAMS, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The streams of the North Shore are more than scenic features—they are living, breathing ecosystems deserving of our care. With every planting day, every piece of litter collected, and every report made, we move closer to restoring the health and vitality of these precious waterways.

Together, as a community, we can ensure that our streams continue to support life—for today, and for generations to come.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

**Kākahi (Freshwater Mussels):** These natural water filters can purify over a litre of water per hour, playing a critical role in maintaining stream health.

**Whitebait (Inanga):** These tiny native fish lay their eggs in streamside vegetation and are a vital part of New Zealand's freshwater food web.

**Kōura (Freshwater Crayfish):** These shy, nocturnal crustaceans help clean streams by feeding on decaying matter.

**Aquatic Insects:** Mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies are indicators of good water quality and essential food for larger species.

**Tuna (Longfin and Shortfin Eels):** Our streams serve as nurseries for these remarkable creatures, which migrate thousands of kilometers to the Pacific Ocean to breed—a journey that few complete.

**Banded Kokopu:** A small native fish, one of the smallest of the five species when they are whitebait. Kokopu are an integral part of the Kākahi lifecycle.

### COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS

#### Stredwick Reserve, Torbay

Saturday 14 June | 10am–1pm

Help us plant 590 native trees alongside the stream and pond at this beautiful site. With over 1,400 trees already planted here since 2022, your mahi continues a thriving restoration journey.

Meet: 36 Caversham Dr

**Keen to join us?** All the info you need is on the [Facebook event page](#).

#### Taiaotea Reserve, Browns Bay

Saturday 14 June | 10am–12pm

We're planting 530 native trees with help from Taiaotea Air Scouts! A great family-friendly morning supporting stream health and local biodiversity.

Meet: Next to 700 Beach Rd (by Scout Hall)

**Find out all the events details:** [Facebook event here](#).

#### Te Herenga Waka o Ōrewa / Matariki Planting

Sunday 15 June | 10am–1pm

Celebrate Matariki with us this Sunday. Join efforts to replant and stabilise the riverbank where the derelict Wakatū tug boat once lay. Ōiwi and sea primrose plantings, plus more river cleanup to do!

**Find out more:** [Facebook event here](#).

#### Amorino Park, Red Beach

Sunday 22 June | 10am–12pm

Help transform a boggy patch into lush native bush with views over the Ōrewa River. Hundreds of natives going in, continuing an awesome community-led restoration started in 2022.

Meet: Walkway between 32 & 36 Amorino Dr

**Find out all the events details:** [Facebook event here](#).

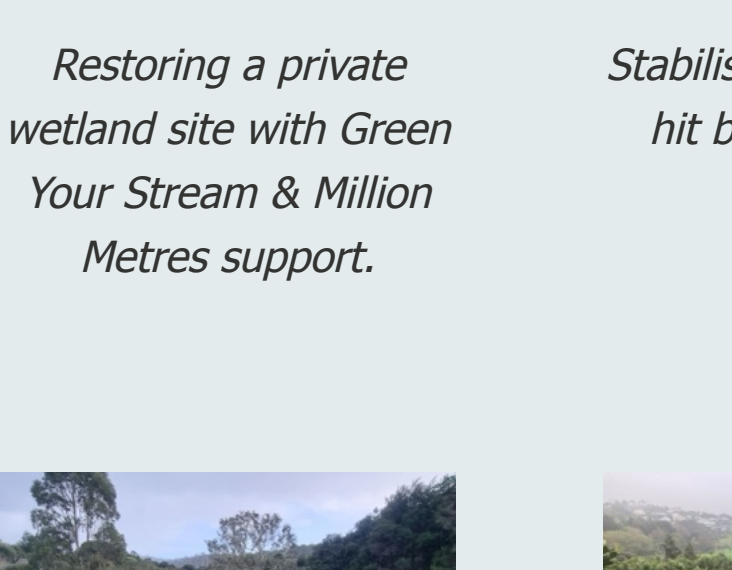
#### Bushglen Reserve, Browns Bay - Planting Day and Reserve Tour

Sunday 29 June | 10am–1pm

Celebrate the reopening of this special reserve! Come for a guided tour and help plant natives to support rare species like swamp maire and continue the fight against myrtle rust.

Meet: 36 Helvetia Dr

**Keen to join us?** All the info you need is on the [Facebook event page](#).



#### ARKLES BAY

**2,000+ wetland plants**

**16 volunteers**

**7-hour epic effort**

**Muddy but rewarding!**

*Restoring a private wetland site with Green Your Stream & Million Metres support.*



#### FAIRHAVEN WALK

**784 natives planted**

**14 locals**

**Landslip restoration**

**Highlight: Morning tea magic!**

*Stabilising a steep slope hit by 2023 storms.*



#### BIG MANLY BEACH

**560 dune plants (Spinifex & Muehlenbeckia)**

**40 volunteers**

**Dotterel habitat protection**

**Perfect planting weather**

*With Forest & Bird Pest Free Hibiscus Coast & Big Manly & Tindalls Dotterel Minders.*



#### NUKUMEA STREAM

**200 riparian natives**

**15 volunteers incl. Ōrewa College students**

**Strengthening stream edges**

*In collaboration with Mountains to Sea.*



#### WHANGAPARAOA COLLEGE

**Students and staff came together**

**Awesome turnout and atmosphere despite it being stormy**

**School grounds enhanced with native planting**

**These students will get to watch the wetlands thrive during their time at college.**

*(Check out our Facebook page for the full story!)*



#### CHECK OUT OUR WHAT'S ON CALENDAR

**WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED - FIND ALL OUR PLANTING DAYS IN THE AREA**

**EMAIL US TO GET INVOLVED**

### PREDATOR CONTROL

#### TRAPPING WITH CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

We're running a **"Trapping with Confidence" workshop:**

**Saturday 5th July**

**Stredwick Reserve**

10am

Want to learn more — or brush up your skills? Thinking about getting involved in predator control, or need a refresher on safe and effective trapping? Join us for our "Trapping with Confidence" workshop!

This workshop is designed for anyone interested in learning more about predator control, particularly focusing on the safe and effective use of traps. While it won't be a full introduction to the "why" of predator control, it will equip you with the practical skills and confidence needed to set and manage traps effectively.

**Interested?** Flick Simon an email at [simon@restorehb.org.nz](mailto:simon@restorehb.org.nz)

Let's keep building smart, informed predator control together!

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR PREDATOR CONTROL VOLUNTEER TEAM

### YOUTH IN ACTION

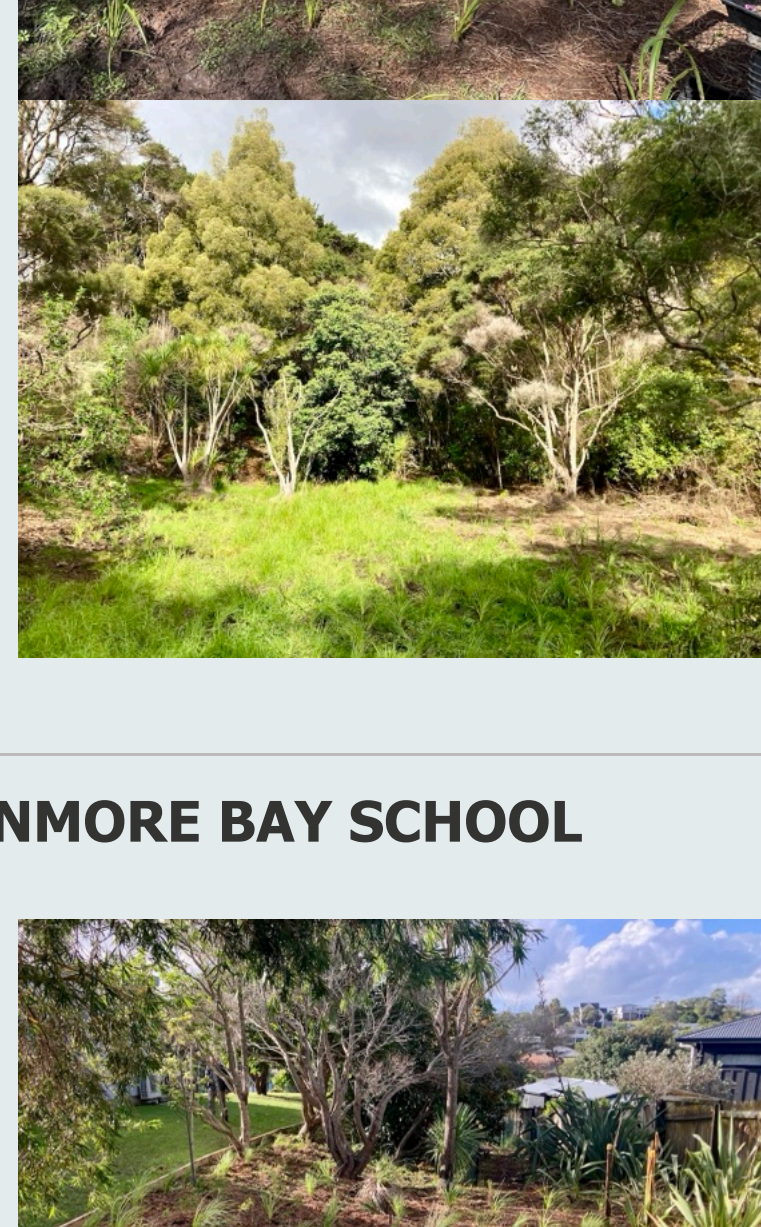


#### THE WEEDBUSTERS IN PLANTING MODE

Debbie Thompson's enviro group at Whangaparaoa School have added over 100 native plants to their native garden area making it look more beautiful than ever!

The new boardwalk track through the garden and a good layer of mulch will ensure that the plants will grow beautifully.

What a difference a dedicated teacher and group of students can make! Ka pai everyone.



#### PLANTING TIME AT STANMORE BAY SCHOOL

Eight senior classes from Stanmore Bay School managed to get over 400 plants into the ground along the eastern side of their school grounds.

They carefully planted natives such as hebe, manuka, ti kouka and carex into a well prepared area that was already weeded, fully mulched and boarded off.

Thanks so the amazing efforts of the students, teachers and principal Matt Sides over 400m<sup>2</sup> of their school grounds will now provide valuable habitat for our native animal species.

We look forward to seeing how this area will develop over the next few years and there is still plenty of space to extend it further!

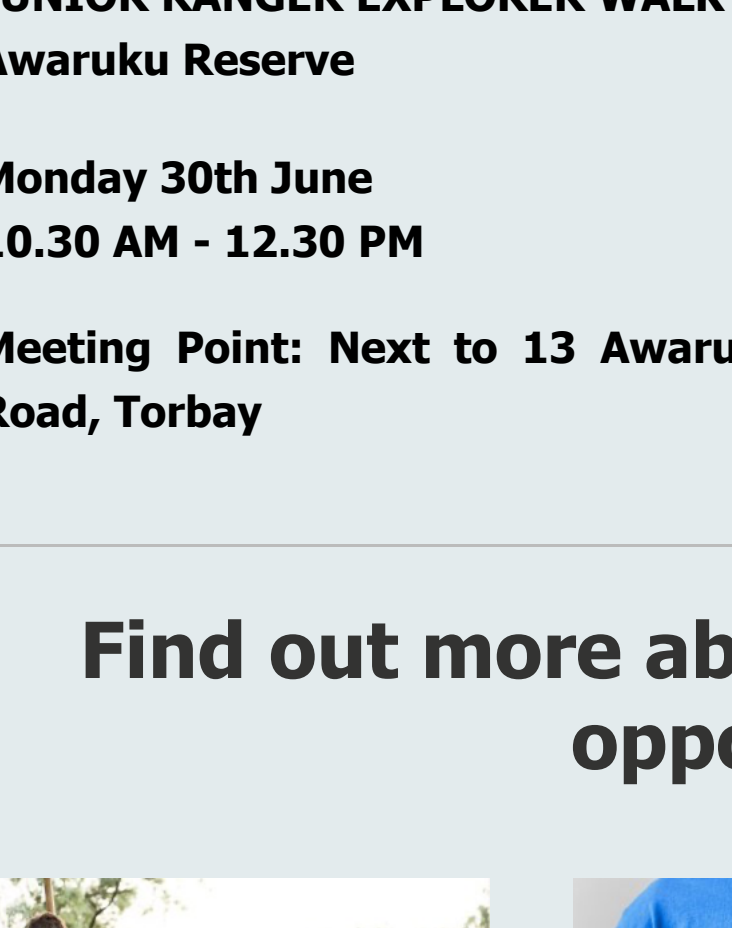


#### GLAMORGAN SCHOOL GETS GREENED UP!

The Torbay Sailing Club, the Awatuna Sea Scouts and Glamorgan School joined forces to plant around 350 native trees and shrubs on a slope of their school grounds that had previously been infested by agapanthus.

In a record time of just 45 minutes all plants were in the ground and another hour later the whole site was fully mulched and boarded off with logs.

A huge thank you to over 50 dedicated adults and children who made this happen! A special shout out to principal Anna-Marie McAleer, enviro lead Richard Lane and caretaker Ian for being so incredibly supportive with this project.



#### GET IN TOUCH WITH JULIA TO DISCUSS RHB WORKING WITH SCHOOLS >

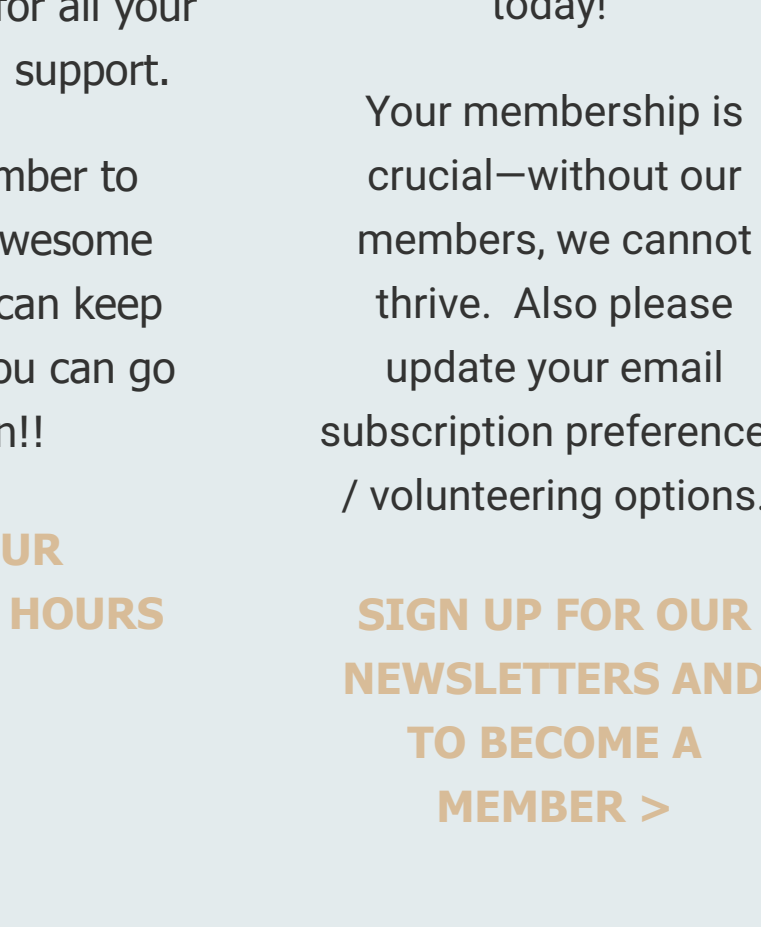
#### JUNIOR RANGER EXPLORER WALK

**Awaruku Reserve**

**Monday 30th June**

**10.30 AM - 12.30 PM**

**Meeting Point: Next to 13 Awaruku Road, Torbay**



**MORE EVENT DETAILS**

#### 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!



To all our volunteers, thank so much for all your hard work and support.

Please remember to record your awesome efforts so we can keep track and so you can go in to win!

**LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS >**



Become a valued member today!

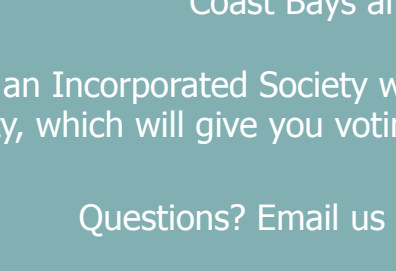
Your membership is crucial—without our members, we cannot thrive. Also please update your email subscription preferences /volunteering options.

**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS AND TO BECOME A MEMBER >**

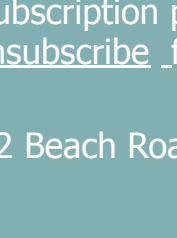
#### FIND OUT WHAT'S ON WITH RESTORE HIBISCUS & BAYS

Regular volunteer opportunities, events & workshops

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



Restore  
Hibiscus & Bays



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 [info@restorehb.org.nz](mailto:info@restorehb.org.nz)

Please [click here](#) to update your subscription preferences /volunteering options. [Click here](#) to unsubscribe from our updates.

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