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Restore Hibiscus & Bays

Ngāhere Tupu Tōnu • Thriving Nature

March 2024 Pānui - Newsletter

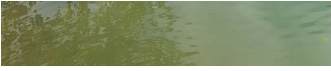
Nau mai haere mai, tēnā koutou kātoa. Greetings and welcome to our Restore Hibiscus & Bays (RHB) March 2024 Pānui.

Our restoration groups have been out making progress at our many projects around the Hibiscus & Bays area. The weather is still being kind to us so we have been making the most of it.

Keep reading to find out more about what we have been up to.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH Restore Deep Creek: *Champions of Torbay's Natural Beauty*





Nestled in the heart of the Torbay area in Auckland lies a hidden gem - the Deep Creek Stream. The banks of this tranquil waterway are not just a picturesque sight; it's also a testament to the dedication and hard work of Restore Deep Creek.

For years, this group of passionate volunteers has been tirelessly working to restore and protect Deep Creek and its surrounding environment. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and today, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Restore Deep Creek for their invaluable contributions to the Torbay area.

One of the primary focuses of Restore Deep Creek has been the removal of pest plants that threaten the native flora and fauna of the area. Through their hard work and commitment, volunteers such as Arda van Kyuk tirelessly suppress the pest plants in the area to allow the native plants to regenerate.

But their work doesn't stop there. The society is also actively involved in waterway management and advocacy for the stream, ensuring that Deep Creek remains a haven for wildlife and a source of enjoyment for the community.

So, here's to Restore Deep Creek - thank you for all that you do. Your work is truly making a difference, and we are grateful for your commitment to preserving the beauty of the Torbay area.



**RESTORE HIBISCUS & BAYS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
TO HELP OUR PROJECTS
DONATE NOW**

**THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING
IN FEBRUARY!**

Let us know your volunteer hours with us and win!

Well done on all of the great work you've done this past month, helping to restore and protect our native ecosystems! If you could help us by recording your hours so that we can keep track of your awesome efforts we would appreciate it. 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!

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!

FEBRUARY'S WINNER: Congratulations to Tori Christie who volunteers at Ōtanerua Reserve. Thanks for your hard work Tori.

LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HERE AND WIN!



HELP US REMOVE THE ABANDONED WAKATU FROM THE WEITI RIVER

The Wakatu, once a proud vessel, has been abandoned, left to decay, obstruct and leak harmful pollutants into the Weiti River.

Restore Hibiscus and Bays needs your help to raise \$10,000 to remove the Wakatu.

This fundraising campaign is not just about removing a rusty vessel; it's about preserving the natural beauty of our environment, protecting the wildlife that calls it home, and ensuring a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come.

Please donate to our Givealittle page <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/weiti-river-restoration-project-wakatu>



THE NORTHCROSS ENVIRO GROUP HELP TACKLE THE WEEDS!

The Northcross enviro group is back on! Plenty of invasive weeds such as woolly nightshade have popped up over the summer break so it's a good time to get back into Northcross Reserve to tackle them.

In their first session the new year 7 students got to know one of the worst invasive weeds in our native bush reserves: Tradescantia. Introduced from South America as an ornamental plant, it can now be spotted in most parts of Northcross Reserve where it is completely smothering all native vegetation at ground level.

The students learned how to easily remove it just with their hands and how it can be turned into fertile soil by placing it into a composting sack. While the students were quickly filling up the sack they discovered some bronze-coloured tradescantia leaf beetles. They learned how these tiny insects are already making quite a difference since they were

released in NZ in 2011 as a biocontrol agent. Evidence of them munching away on their host plant was clearly visible.

Once the beetles become more widespread, and tradescantia is more under control, dormant native seeds will germinate and reclaim the reserve. Watch this space!



OUT AND ABOUT: OTANERUA RESERVE WITH THE FOREST SCHOOL

All the Forest School students and their teachers decided to go afield with Julia and Deborah and spend a morning in beautiful Otanerua Reserve in Hatfields Beach.

They all got the opportunity to learn about the eels in the stream, to tackle a whole island-shaped infestation of plectranthus (nicknamed plecky by the children) and to do some stream water testing. They learned how to measure the water clarity using a clarity tube and how to look for and detect some of the little critters/ macroinvertebrates that have made the stream their home. It took them a while to see them but when they finally spotted the little freshwater shrimps and snails they didn't want to part with them.

Another session is planned for later on this month so let's see what else we'll find!

HILTI GROUP VOLUNTEERS COME OUT IN FORCE TO SUPPORT US

In February, RHB were extremely fortunate to have not one, but three corporate groups volunteering from the same organisation. Thank you, Hilti for your support! Our native plants and reserves no doubt will thank you in their own way too!

Six energetic Hilti staff joined Anne and tackled the Taiaoatea Reserve, next to the Air Scouts hall on Beach Road. The group cut and pasted Arum lilies and pulled out knotweed on one side of the stream. They also got to work on getting rid of the arums on the other side, but we decided to leave some of this work for the next group.





Image: Hilti Corporate volunteer group - Left: RHB Anne group Right: RHB Becky's group

The following Friday, another group of 7 volunteers from Hilti joined Vineeta and continued the arum lily and knotweed eradication, along with a few other invasive species.

The group released many of the young trees that were planted last year and continued to grow despite being nearly strangled by weeds. During the day, a small eel paid a visit, and several tui and fantails were also spotted. The Taiāotea Reserve looks so much better now, all thanks to these super volunteers.

On the same day, a further group of six volunteers from Hilti joined Becky, they worked hard and released a previous planting at Freyberg Park that had been covered by flood debris. They also worked on freeing several harakeke across the stream from the nasty Black Eyed Susan, and thankfully she is now a brown heap.

We have been trying to tidy up this area, and finally, a start has been made, thanks to this wonderful group from Hilti! Ka pai!



Image: Hilti Corporate volunteer group - Left: RHB Vineeta's group Right: RHB Becky's group - Creepers being dealt with

If you know of any corporate groups that would love to get involved and volunteer with RHB, please [contact us](#).

PEST PLANT OF THE MONTH: Madeira Vine



Madeira Vine with its distinctive heart-shaped leaf with reddish stems.

This pesty creeper has reddish stems with small irregular 'warty' aerial tubers. The leaves are heart shaped, glossy, clammy to the touch, and arranged alternately on the stems. It's flowering about now, with lots of slender, drooping, cream-coloured flowerheads about 18 cm long.

Madeira Vine forms dense long-lived infestations that smother native plants and dominate the bush at medium to high canopy level. It can even topple small trees.

Take action as soon as possible:

- Pull out roots
- Collect all aerial tubers
- Put all parts in a securely tied black plastic bag and leave to 'cook' in the sun
- For larger stems, cut near to the ground and immediately paste a thin film of MetGel on the cut stem - can be purchased at most garden centres or hardware stores.
- Follow up will be required as it is incredibly persistent.

- Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to take action too!
- Report madeira vine on Council Land to: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-it

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

PEST PLANT DISPOSAL BIN

Browns Bay – 712 Beach Road, next to the Bahai' Hall
Whangaparāoa – 9 Main Street, outside library entrance

Please use our pest plant bin for the following pest plant parts only, securely tied inside a plastic bag:



MOTH PLANT
Seeds, pods, roots

ARISTIA 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 VINE
Roots, or whole plant if seeds present

MADEIRA VINE
Aerial nodules, seeds, seed pods, roots

ARUM LILLY
Seed heads only

BONE SEED
Seed heads only

BANANA PASSIONFRUIT
Roots and seed pods only

AGAPANTHUS
Flowers, seed heads

COTONEASTER
Seeds



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Do not put anything in this bin that is not listed above.

Parts of some pest plants can instead be composted in a black pest plant bag, available from our tool library. Get in touch for further advice.

restorehb.org.nz
info@restorehb.org.nz

WE HAVE A PEST PLANT BIN & A TOOL LIBRARY FOR ANYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO USE.

DISPOSAL BIN FOR ANY PEST PLANTS

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.

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](http://www.restorehb.org.nz) for further guidance on effectively getting rid of pest plants.

TOOL LIBRARY

Restore Hibiscus & Bays runs two community tool libraries, Browns Bay and Whangaparāoa.

Groups and individuals can borrow tools, herbicides, predator bait and bait stations, traps,

composting weed bags, pod pluckers and other equipment to use on public or private land within the local board area on projects aimed at controlling pests and restoring our native biodiversity.

To find out more and to complete the [Tool Library Request Form](#).

WHAT'S ON



REGULAR VOLUNTEER DAYS

- ✿ Bayside Drive Reserve, Browns Bay - 8am - 10am. Join us every first Saturday for environmental action.
- ✿ Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary, Campbells Bay - 9am-12pm. Contribute to this thriving native ecosystem by participating in restoration every Wednesday and every first Saturday of the month.
- ✿ Pacific Parade Coastal Reserve, Army Bay (10am - 12pm). Join us for hands-on activities every first Saturday, creating a positive change in your local reserve.
- ✿ Winstones Cove, Waiake (9-11am). Discover the joy of restoration! First Sundays in Waiake are for community-led restoration activation.
- ✿ Deep Creek Reserve, Waiake (9-11am), Come help preserve the beauty of Torby, every 2nd Saturday of every month.
- ✿ Longmead Reserve, Browns Bay (10 - 11.30am)
- ✿ Otanerua Reserve, Hatfields Beach (10am - 12pm). Contribute to thriving native ecosystems by participating in restoration mahi every Wednesday.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAYS WITH AUCKLAND COUNCIL

Growsafe 1-day courses (max 15 per course)

This basic Growsafe course provides essential training and certification for park volunteers wanting to learn more about and the use of herbicide products (cut and paste and knapsack spraying) in our local parks. Theory component delivery by Dean Bowden and the practical component delivered by NZ Biosecurity. Timing: Theory 8.30am – 1.30pm Practical component 2pm-4pm

Option 1: Tues 9th April – Warkworth, Rodney

Option 2: Wed 10th April - Central Auckland, Epsom

Lunch and light refreshments are provided.

Introduction to pest plants (weeds) workshops (max 20 per workshop)

The Community programme ranger and pest plant experts are offering three upcoming

introductory pest plant workshops. These workshops are aimed at new and existing park volunteers and residents who would like to upskill in the area of pest plant identification and manual control in their local park or back yard.

Bookings are essential and people need to go through [Calendly to book](#):

[Greenhithe - Fri 15 March](#), 10am - 12.30pm, Wainoni Park North, 56 Churchouse Road

[Mount Eden, Fri 5 April](#), 10am - 12.30pm, Windmill Park, 48 Windmill Road

[Eastern Beach, Fri 3 May](#), 10am – 12.30pm, Macleans Park, 67

The Esplanade, (delivered in both Mandarin and English).

Volunteer training days and workshops March-June 2024 For bookings and more information please email: anna.baine@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

RESTORE HIBISCUS & BAYS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
TO HELP OUR PROJECTS
DONATE NOW

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



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!

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