



2020



Ngāhere Tupu Tonu • Thriving Nature

Restore Hibiscus & Bays Strategic Plan

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This plan was first developed in 2018 by a steering group of individuals representing groups & projects involved with Restore Hibiscus & Bays. The plan was reviewed in 2020 by the Steering Group & minor revisions have been made to this second version. Different groups have had differing levels of input & many contributed significant amounts of volunteer time. All are acknowledged here.

Auckland Regional Parks Northern – Matt Maitland and Jason Maguiness
 Biodiversity, Auckland Council – Ben Paris and Chrissy Henley
 Deep Creek Society – Brian Mooney and Peter Wilson
 Department of Conservation – Katherine Lane and Miranda OConnell
 Friends of Long Bay – Mary Stewart
 Friends of Okura Bush – Lezette and Geoff Reid, and Jo Crawford
 Friends of Stillwater – Philip Wrigley and Ian Dorward
 Healthy Waters, Auckland Council – Shelley Hackett
 Hibiscus Coast Forest and Bird – Pauline Smith and Richard Chambers
 North Shore Forest and Bird – Richard Hursthouse and Jocelyn Saunders
 Auckland Council Parks – Anna Baine and Paul Duffy
 Pest Free Okura – John Warman and Neal Taylor
 Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society (SoSSI) – Peter Jackson
 Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi – Kay Milton
 Te Herenga Waka o Orewa – Rob Small
 & all those who contributed through the Community Hui

Supported by:

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

CoSynergy – Kym Burke

East Coast Bays Community Project – Sally Cargill

Community Hui Photos supplied by Geoff Reid

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Tauparapara

Mā whero, mā
pango, ka oti te
mahi. Ka ngaro te reo
tangata, kiki o manu.

By red & by black
 the work is done.
 Human voices are
 silent except the
 twittering of the birds.

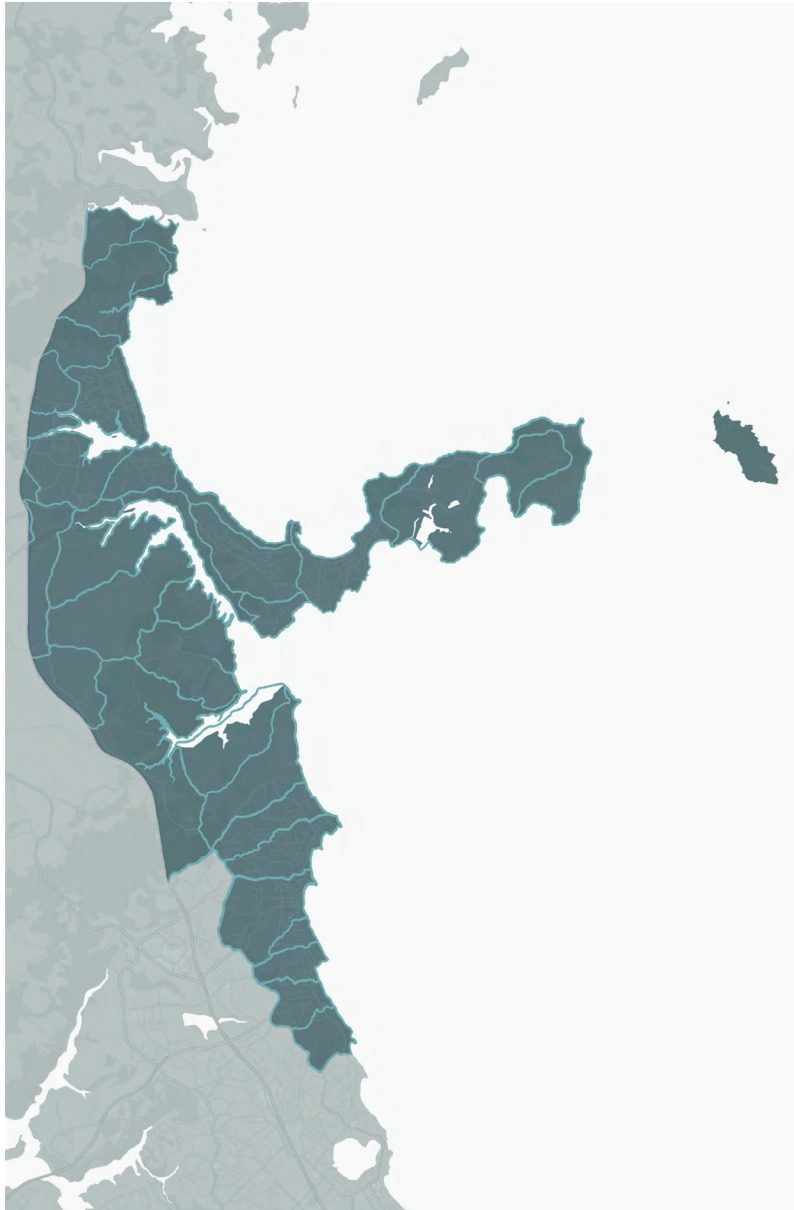


Improving native habitat and eradicating pest plants and animals in New Zealand have become increasingly important. With much of New Zealand's indigenous fauna and flora found nowhere else in the world, there is a national desire to turn the tide on declining populations of native species. Communities around the country are coming together to address this national biodiversity crisis through collaboration and collective action. They are agreeing a common agenda, aligning actions and coordinating monitoring.

In 2018, restoration groups across the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area came together to develop this biodiversity and pest free plan. With significant support from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board, the Restore Hibiscus & Bays network is committed to working collectively to eradicate pests throughout the East Coast Bays and Hibiscus Coast and to support other regional initiatives such as the North West Wildlink in connecting bush areas across Auckland.

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The Hibiscus & Bays Local Board stretches along the eastern coastline of Auckland's northern region. It is bordered by the Northern Motorway to the west and Pacific Ocean to the east. At the northern most end is the small coastal community of Waiwera and to the south the East Coast Bays suburb of Campbells Bay.

It also includes the Whangaparāoa Peninsula which reaches out into the Hauraki Gulf, and Tiritiri Matangi Island. In 2013 there were a total of 32,697 households across the area, seven per cent of the regional total. The landscape is diverse and includes many coastal communities, two regional parks (including an open sanctuary), a Gulf island, several scenic reserves and many local parks. It also includes large tracts of private rural land, some of which is under development, a small industrial park and densely populated suburban areas. Below is a list of the unique habitats identified within the Local Board area.

- Coastal margins
- Sandy beaches
- Rocky shoreline
- Rivers / Estuaries
- Mangrove forests
- Wetlands - including stormwater
- Scenic bush reserves
- Island – Tiritiri Matangi
- Marine reserves
- Mainland Island – Shakespear Sanctuary
- Kauri podocarp forest
- Streams – riparian margins
- Semi-rural areas and pasture
- Regenerating scrub
- Sand dunes
- Coastal cliffs
- Sandspit and shell banks
- Urban environment
- Roading corridors



The Restore Hibiscus & Bays network was established in 2015 with support from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and the East Coast Bays Community Project. It is a network of local community restoration volunteers and groups who come together to share their success and challenges. Within the context of increasing national and regional support for the eradication of pests, the network began discussing the potential of developing a plan to help guide and focus activities and provide leverage to source more funding. With assistance from Council's Biodiversity team more local groups and

interested parties were identified and invited to join the network. A steering group of representatives from the different groups, projects and organisations was formed. Supported by an independent facilitator this steering group met regularly to drive the process forward. A part of this process also engaged the wider Restore Hibiscus & Bays network and Hibiscus and Bays community in discussions about restoration and pest management. Two smaller groups were also formed, one focused on developing bird counts and the other focusing on engaging schools and young people.

An Integrated Ecosystems Approach

As groups in the Restore Hibiscus & Bays network align actions and integrate those pieces of work that will give a collective agenda and force, the basic tenets of sound ecological management must be respected and attended to.

Firstly, no pest within an ecosystem whether animal or weed can be seen in isolation. There is a dynamic within ecosystems that involves the interrelationship of actions. To concentrate on a single dimension such as rats for example is simply to change the ecosystem dynamics so that possums or some other pest in the ecosystem becomes the new problem. Accordingly, there should be an integrated approach to pest control that targets all pests at the same time so that no imbalance is created.

The overall strategy and integrated planning processes need to consider the most effective actions to deal with the most significant immediate threats to biodiversity loss and that will have the greatest ecological benefit.



Community Conversations

In the development of this plan Restore Hibiscus & Bays gained community input and feedback through two public engagement events. In June 2018 a community hui was held at Te Herenga Waka o Orewa, the local community marae. This event was attended by over fifty people from across the Hibiscus and Bays area. The hui hosted two expert speakers and encouraged discussion and development of community ideas and feedback. Restore Hibiscus & Bays also developed an interactive display to gain further ideas and let people know how they could become involved in their local area. This display was also featured at the East Coast Bays Community Expo hosted by the East Coast Bays Community Project and Browns Bay Leisure Centre.

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Mana Whenua

Restore Hibiscus & Bays recognises the role that mana whenua play as kaitiakitanga. Through connection with the local community marae Te Herenga Waka o Orewa, the group is engaging with mana whenua to share the kaupapa of this work.

Hibiscus & Bays Local Board

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board has made a significant contribution to the establishment of Restore Hibiscus & Bays. They recognise that this important work requires a collaborative, long-term approach and they continue to support the work undertaken by the network. The identified aspirations of Restore Hibiscus & Bays align with the 2020 Local Board outcomes:

- A Connected Community
- A Strong Local Economy
- A Protected & Enhanced Environment
- Open Spaces to Enjoy
- Transport Choices

North-West Wildlink

Restore Hibiscus & Bays supports and contributes to the efforts of the North-West Wildlink 'to restore, create and connect healthy habitats in the North-West so that our native birds and wildlife thrive once again'. Hibiscus and Bays is a key connector and 'stepping stone' between the safe breeding grounds of the Hauraki Gulf islands and the Waitakere Ranges. The work of the different groups and projects within Restore Hibiscus & Bays supports the 'Big Backyard' concept – promoting urban regeneration and community involvement, linking backyards across the area and creating safe habitat for wildlife.



The values listed below were identified as guiding principles for the network going forward.

Diversity of Views

We acknowledge different groups have different methods they employ to achieve results

Mātauranga Māori

We acknowledge Māori worldview and seek to further understand how this can be integrated into our work

Science Based

We recognise that to make good decisions we need robust information

Aesthetic Value

We acknowledge that the experience of nature contributes to positive mental health

Community Focused

We take all opportunities to bring people together through this work

Inter-Generational

We recognise this is a long-term game and young people need to be encouraged and supported to carry on the work

Ethical Responsibility

We take up the responsibility of advocating for nature and species that cannot speak for themselves

Collaboration & Partnership

We know that together all our actions make a difference



Building on our good work.

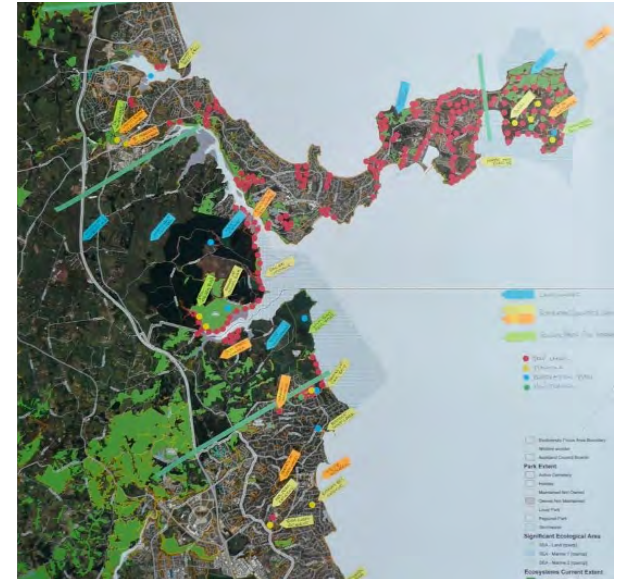
Many volunteer groups are currently active in carrying out pest management and restoration work in both reserves and on private land across the Hibiscus and Bays. All groups are at different ages and stages, some consisting of several volunteers focusing on a local reserve, others facilitating significant landscape scale projects. Many groups are supported in their work by Auckland Council rangers and other staff.

The Hibiscus and Bays is home to two regional parks, with a third, Wenderholm, bordering the northern-most boundary. Shakespear Open Sanctuary located at the end of the Whangaparāoa Peninsula is a mainland island and has kiwi, saddleback and NZ Dotterel populations as well as the largest variety of reptile species in the Auckland region. Many of these species have been trans-located from Tiritiri Matangi Island, located 4 kilometers from the end of the Whangaparāoa Peninsula. These and other sites have been recognised as areas of special ecological importance (SEAs). In 2017 Boffa Miskell carried out research identifying Biodiversity Hubs across both Hibiscus and Baysⁱⁱ. A number of groups are

currently active in and around these hubs including Forest & Bird Hibiscus Coast Branch and their Pest Free Hibiscus Coast project, Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society (SoSSI), Alice Eaves Appreciation Society (Nukumea Reserve), Friends of Stillwater (Weiti estuary), Friends of Okura Bush (Okura Bush and Walkway) and Centennial Park Bush Society (Centennial Park and Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary).

Between Stillwater and Long Bay are large areas of rural land, Okura Bush, and the small community of Okura. Several groups and organisations are working to reduce and manage pests and restore native forest in this area including Pest Free Okura, Friends of Okura Bush and Department of Conservation. Other groups are focused around streams and their catchments or local reserves, particularly across the East Coast Bays. These groups include Restore Deep Creek Society (Deep Creek), Friends of Long Bay (Awaruku), Bush Glen Society (Bush Glen Reserve), Taiāotea Creek, Malters and Sherwood Reserve groups.

There are also a number of schools involving



students in pest management and restoration activities. Most notably this includes Northcross Intermediate as well as Silverdale Primary School and Orewa College. A full list of groups involved in pest management and restoration activities across the Hibiscus and Bays is documented in Appendix 2.

Above: Map developed as a part of the process showing the different restoration groups and activities across the Hibiscus and Bays





Restore Hibiscus and Bays Steering Group & Network Opportunity

The way forward and potential governance model and oversight of the plan will be regularly discussed with the membership. It is important that this is firmly based on a sound platform. This will need to include considerations of representation, capacity to manage finances, human resources and the capacity to speak for the member organisations with the valid imprimatur of the membership. Issues like the instrument that is used to legitimise it being a Trust, a company limited by liability, a simple Board or a society. While some of these elements can be ruled out the format warrants discussion regarding funding capacity, legal capacity and other issues. The issue of representation is also an obvious area for discussion. For the time being, the East Coast Bays Community Project will umbrella the Restore Hibiscus & Bays initiative, including funding and contracts. A Steering Group of representatives from some of the groups and projects within the network, Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation will drive the initiative, providing expert guidance, feedback and advice to the staff team.

Biosecurity Challenges

Restore Hibiscus & Bays acknowledges the biosecurity threats which exist in our region. Kauri dieback is a fungus like disease which lives in soil and infects kauri roots. There is currently no proven cure, and nearly all infected trees die. The disease currently affects forests in Northland, Auckland, Great Barrier Island and the Coromandel Peninsula. Within the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area it has been found in a number of locations including Okura Bush. Myrtle Rust is also another biosecurity threat to our native and taonga trees such as pohutukawa and ramarama. It is difficult to prevent or treat, and there is currently no known treatment to kill this disease once infection sets in. Community groups working in areas affected by these biosecurity threats will be advised to follow Standard Operating Procedures as advised by Auckland Council, MPI and DOC.



Other Identified Challenges & Opportunities

In the initial part of the planning process Restore Hibiscus & Bays and other groups were asked about current challenges and opportunities to achieve pest management and restoration outcomes. The responses were themed and form the action planning part of the process. The table presented below shows the themes and some of the issues highlighted by groups in Restore Hibiscus & Bays.

Action

- Appoint staff
- Find resources to scale up what is already happening
- Expand contractor support for weed control
- Set up new lines and engage the community
- Develop social enterprise and apprenticeships
- Provide more support for Dotterel and Godwit
- Improve use of Kauri Dieback stations: how to enforce them

Engagement & Education

- Get more people involved – need more local leaders
- Connect whole catchments to work together
- Improve communications – both across Restore Hibiscus & Bays and externally
- Get more schools involved
- Engage more actively with residents who provide a buffer zone to regional parks
- Provide more support for development of groups and help with funding applications
- Align funding – small and large groups within the area competing

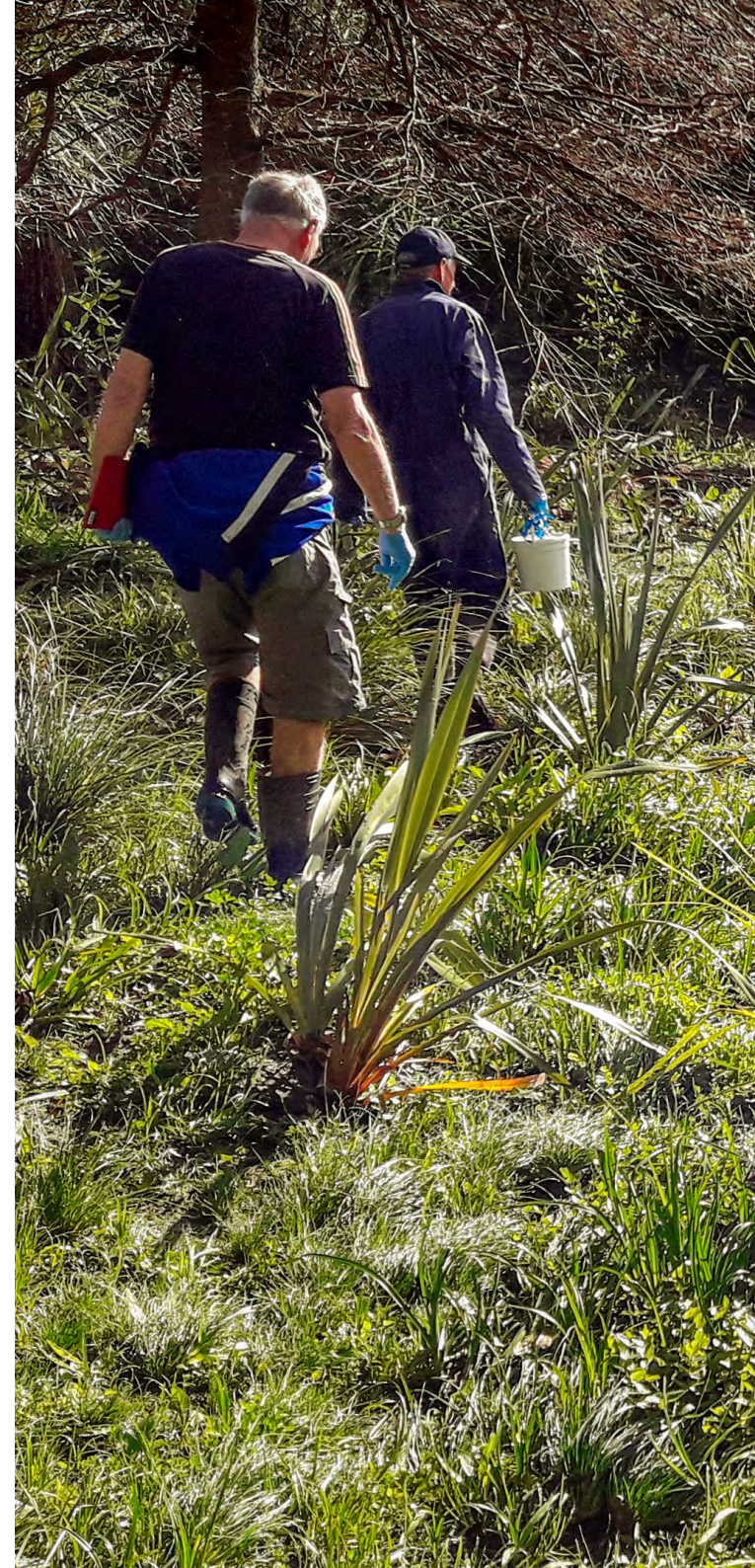
Process Improvement & Regional Connection

- Engage more Hibiscus groups in the network
- Map out who is doing what and where
- Identify collective outcomes
- Develop a plan with some key actions
- Align with Local Board and community priorities
- Improve monitoring – everyone loading data into different places – more time and people for monitoring



The following section outlines the outcomes and objectives, strategic approach and actions identified by Restore Hibiscus & Bays and the wider community.

The aspiration is that the plan guides collaboration and future sustainability and furthers the development of all the good work currently undertaken across the Hibiscus and Bays, and supports the establishment of new groups and initiatives going forward.



Outcomes: what we want to see

Healthy Nature – Our Hibiscus and Bays are a series of unique habitats, connected by the coast and is a destination for birds from the Gulf islands. We value nature and understand that everything is connected. There is an abundance of diversified native species and the bush acts as the lungs for a healthy environment.

Community – Our people are empowered and engaged in their own communities and all our small actions add up to the big picture. Our young future leaders are nurtured and nature literate, connected through bush experience – geared up to continue this inter-generational work

Connected – We share data and make decisions based on good information and continually find creative solutions to inspire, involve and bring people together. We work collectively to play our part in the North-West Wildlink, contributing to our region's abundant biodiversity.

Objectives: what we are aiming for

Predators – Control animal pests effectively and enhance the density and diversity of native birds and reptiles.

Habitat – Reduce pest plants to low level infestation and protect and improve habitats for native species on both public and private land.

Water Quality – Advocate for, protect and enhance water quality and biodiversity in our waterways and at our beaches.

Key Focus: responding to our challenges

Action – We will support effective animal and plant pest control and best practice restoration planning across our Local Board area, sustaining the many diverse groups and increasing the number of areas under effective pest control.

Engagement and Education – We will inspire, encourage and educate more people to actively engage, participate and value healthy nature. We will nurture future leaders, especially young people.

Process improvement & regional connection – We will share systems and processes recognizing the different needs and stages of development of local groups and connect, leverage and access regional and national resources and support.

Initial Priorities: how we will start

- Seek funding, develop a role description, and appoint staff
- Seek funding and establish a method of making bait stations and traps available to groups and residents

- Develop a communications and engagement plan
- Identify schools currently engaging in pest management and restoration activities and explore opportunities to support those initiatives

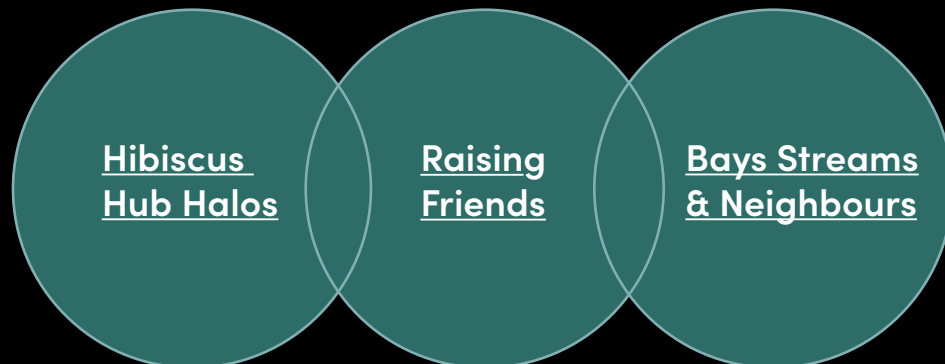
- Develop a governance structure for Restore Hibiscus & Bays and establish clear communications across the network
- Establish a collective environmental and social monitoring and reporting framework including citizen science



Identifying a strategic approach across such a large and geographically diverse area has been a challenge. Restore Hibiscus & Bays recognises that to achieve the vision of Restore Hibiscus & Bays 2045 will require many helping hands over a long period of time.

To be sustainable, the purpose and the work will need to be championed and shared by the wider community, funders and other supporters. Central to this conversation has been the idea that while raising funds is important, raising friends is imperative.

The strategy of Raising Friends is therefore central to this work and at the core of our approach. It involves educating, inspiring and engaging as many people as possible to the purpose and action, including neighbours, friends and visitors, as well as funders, government and non-government agencies and other stakeholders. Raising Friends is supported by two geographic focus areas – Bays Streams and Neighbours and Hibiscus Hub Halos.



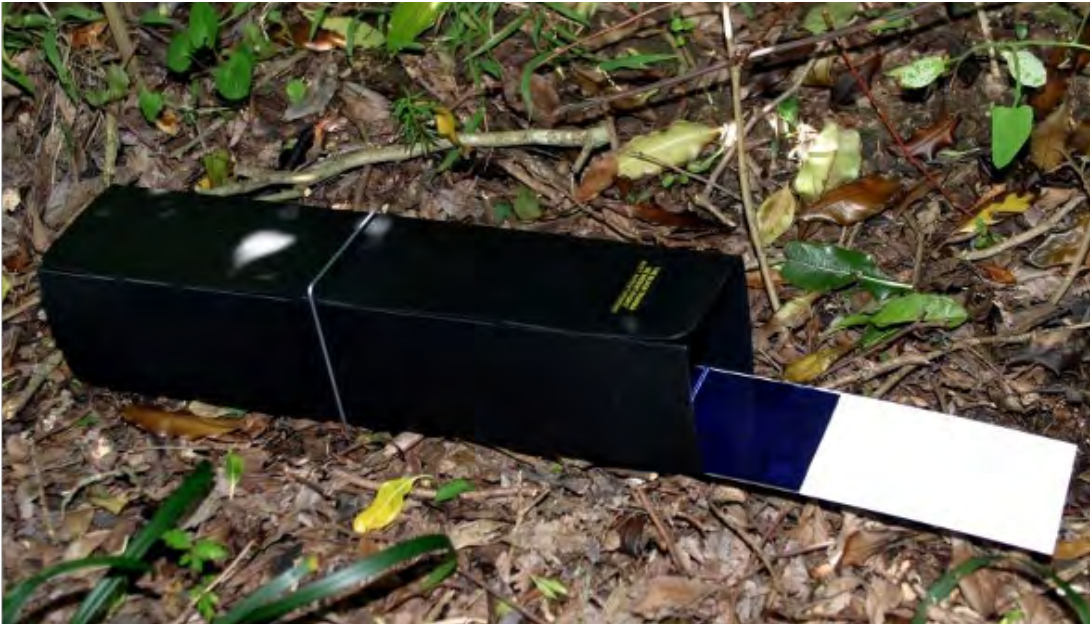
Hibiscus Hub Halos

Biodiversity hubs are areas of high ecological value. The Hibiscus Hub Halos approach focuses on supporting and developing the good work already undertaken in these areas.

Bays Streams & Neighbours

Hibiscus and Bays is a series of catchments. This focus is on the eradication of pest plants and animals along streams as well as enhancing water quality and developing halos.

Monitoring



Monitoring and reporting against outcomes is an important part of the process of pest eradication to show results and effectiveness. To this end Restore Hibiscus & Bays is very keen to establish some baseline data. There is also enthusiasm for establishing and developing integrated bird monitoring across the Hibiscus and Bays. Many groups are currently involved in bird monitoring and Restore Hibiscus & Bays recognises that

this is a good way to engage and involve the community in a positive activity. A small working group has been established to develop this further. Going forward other forms of monitoring may also be considered including chew card or tracking tunnel information to establish baseline data that can further inform the approach and activities and encourage new and improved ways of meeting the objectives.

Review

The development of this plan has been an evolution of ideas and relationships. These will continue to grow and change over time and it is therefore intended that this is a living document that can also grow and change to reflect the learnings and experiences along the way. Restore Hibiscus & Bays also sits within a changing regional and national context, and so with a shared agenda is in a better position to respond to opportunities as they arise. To remain flexible and responsive Restore Hibiscus & Bays will review this plan every 2 years.



Appendix 1

List of current restoration plans across the Hibiscus and Bays area:

1. Okura Walkway Restoration Plan
2. Orewa Walkway Weed Control Plan
3. Orewa Estuary Te Ara Tahuna Community Restoration Plan
4. [Centennial Park Reserve Management Plan](#)
5. Deep Creek Ecological Management Plan
6. Awaruku Wetlands Restoration Plan
7. Northcross Reserve Restoration Plan
8. Bush Glen Restoration Plan

These individual restoration plans will be superseded following adoption of the final [Hibiscus & Bays Local Parks Management Plan](#) in November 2020.

Appendix 2

List of acronyms:

NWWL – North-West Wildlink

AC – Auckland Council

H&B – Hibiscus and Bays

CBUS – Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary

SoSSI – Supporters of Shakespear Urban Sanctuary

ECB Community Project – East Coast Bays Community Project

DoC – Department of Conservation

Waipora – Waiwera Residents Association

FoOB – Friends of Okura Bush

CatchIT – Online monitoring software



Appendix 3

See the [Restore Hibiscus & Bays website](#) for a list of current organisations and project areas across Hibiscus & Bays.

Kaupapa
About

Tatou Rohe
Our Area

Tatou Taiao
Our Environment

Whakauru
Get Involved

Kete Aronui
Resources

E Wawara
What's Happening

Tatou Rohe
Our Area

Map & Project Areas

The Hibiscus & Bays Local Board area stretches along the coastline from Waiwera in the north to Campbells Bay in the south, along the peninsula to Shakespear Regional Park and out into the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi to Tiritiri Matangi. It encompasses 34 stream catchments bounded by hills from which water flows into streams and rivers and ultimately down to the Gulf. The boundaries of each of these stream catchments are shown on the map below.

If there isn't a current project in your area of interest or if you would like to add a project to the map, please get in touch at info@restorehb.org.nz. We would love to support you in whatever way we can.

Click on the project areas, highlighted with an orange outline, to see more information on the local community group or project working to protect and restore native wildlife and habitats in your area.

i <https://www.northwestwildlink.org.nz/>

ii [North-West Wildlink Prioritisation Report; Boffa Miskell; April 2017](#)

