



Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

P O Box 31 677, Milford, 0740
www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz

Newsletter No 66, November 2008



Our New Patrons — John and Pat Morton



John Morton sharing his plant knowledge

In 1976, when East Coast Bays council started to fell manuka near the tennis club to “tidy up the park”, Pat and John Morton knew better. They knew the area council called “just scrub” was the beginning of a new native forest. With their guidance, Centennial Park valley has been nurtured, weeded, planted and vigorously defended from assault. The result is thriving, emerging bush, brimming with interesting native plants and teeming with birds – a calm oasis in a hectic world. We are proud to have Professor and Mrs Morton as the patrons of Centennial Park Bush Society – and we are profoundly grateful to them. They continue to inspire us to work, play and protect the park.

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Pat Morton planting ginkgo

Progress On The ground

With the help of Milford Rotary we made a big dent in the climbing asparagus in Park Rise Bush. We made a start on the Kowhai Road restoration project, removing privet and wattle and spraying pampas grass. Twenty more pines were professionally felled and replaced by Bush Society volunteers with 200 native plants. Four more acmena were removed near Beach Road. Council planted large grade trees and volunteers followed with mulch and 130 smaller plants. The golf course has several project areas: 16th tee, 15th tee, 4th fairway and others. More than 300 trees have been planted on the course where acmena (monkey apple) have been removed. Total park plantings are 1300 plants this year -- throughout the park. Some of the most important planting is invisible because it's in the gullies. These are seriously affected by rain run-off and we plant to mitigate erosion. Pine plantation light wells are also top priority – volunteers plant kauri, totara, rimu, rewarewa and kanuka in these, so that as the pines age and die they are replaced with natives. Our regular team works on Wednesday mornings -- an expanded band works monthly on weekends. New workers are always most welcome. Join our mailing list—see back page.

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Invasive plants to target on your property

- Acmena (monkey apple)
- Ivy
- Privet
- Bangalow palms
- Climbing asparagus

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Volunteer Profile

While Peter Bioletti lived in Australia, he was an active member of an environmental protection group focussing particularly on eradicating a weed called bitou bush. On returning home it didn't take Peter long to find that bitou is widespread on the Shore. Its other name is boneseed or *Crysanthemoides monilifera*. Boneseed and Peter's other enemies -- gorse and pampas -- have taken big hits ever since.

Peter is often to be found pottering around on the edge of the golf course, slowly making a difference, weeding and planting. When not working in Centennial Park, he is protecting the coastal cliff top walkway and Awaruku bush. Thanks Peter for your great work and support.



Peter Bioletti planting at Campbells Bay Reserve

Website and New Nature Trail Guide

We share our new website with the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary project. It's a blog format, so you can enter comments or add to the history of the park. You will find information on all current projects, plus maps, nature trail guide, bird and plant lists and much more. Bush Society has worked closely with the Parks Department during

the year, re-writing the nature trail guide.

Copies available soon at Rae Road and in libraries and information centres – or download it from the website. The nature trail starts below the tennis club and winds around the

Visit our new website

www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz

valley past 50 stations of interest. A highly recommended walk if you are interested in native bush.

Freedom

The box sitting in the corner of our car contained a morepork that was injured on the road two weeks earlier. The wind was blowing as we made our way down to the green on the golf course. Everyone was silent, flash lights guiding the way. We heard nothing from the box, when we reached the tall pine tree, we all said our farewells. The moon shone brightly, I opened the box and without a moment's hesitation the morepork flew upwards into the dark. We headed up the hill wondering what would happen next, to our feathered fellow.

Sam Bell, Year 7, Northcross Intermediate





Ecology Surveys

Around 20 Landcare Research scientists and Bush Society volunteers gathered on 14 June for our first fungal foray – the latest layer in our ecological survey programme. The results stunned everyone – 74 species of fungi found, including the rare *Gliophorus fumosogriseus*. Thank you Paula Wilkie and Clive Shirley for your time and expertise. A visiting mycologist from Chicago was blown away at discovering such rich diversity so close to housing. Monthly bird counts

continue -- 31 species recorded, including California quail and, on one memorable morning, six kereru playing tag near the golf course. Moth monitoring will happen over summer and next year we'll start insect investigations. Again, thanks to North Shore Forest and Bird chairman Alan Emmerson for his ongoing help. In addition you will find lists of native plants and invasive plants on the website.



***Mycena mariae* - one of many fungi found in Centennial Park.**
Photo: Clive Shirley

Team Effort

Bush Society work would not happen without team effort. The team includes leader Richard Hursthouse and his hardworking 11-person committee. It also includes those who regularly work in the park, those who grow plants from locally-sourced seed and seedlings, those who donate so

generously, those who make submissions in support of Bush Society proposals, those who provide food and sustenance for working bees, those who kindly allow us to access the park through their properties and those who work hard on their own properties controlling invasive weeds so they

cannot threaten the health of the bush. Our team effort includes support from council and council contractors. It also includes those who generously provide expert advice.

What can you do to help the team make a positive difference in Campbells Bay?

Weed Alert—Privet

Two forms of privet occur locally: *Ligustrum sinensis* (Chinese privet) and *Ligustrum lucidum* (tree privet). Both are incredibly invasive and grow vigorously in our bush. Chinese privet has smaller wrinkly leaves and is flowering right now. Tree privet, with camellia-like leaves, is much faster growing. We cut out privet every week in Centennial Park. Seed is spread by birds from bushes in the park and on private land. Control privet by cutting it

down and poisoning the stumps with woody weed killer or Vigilant gel. Take care to use minimal amounts to avoid damage to desirable plants. Alternatively cover stumps with thick black polythene to exclude the light – they will die. If you have privet on your land please do our bush a favour and remove it.



Tree privet



Chinese privet



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Centennial Park Bush Society Inc was formed in 1976, and carries out native forest restoration work in Centennial Park, Campbells Bay. This involves removing invasive weeds, planting native plants, trapping animal pests, track maintenance, advocacy with council, and raising community awareness.

Your committee – if you have any queries or comments please phone one of us

Richard Hursthouse - chair 410 5339, Jenny Chamberlain - secretary 478 6385, Max Thomson - treasurer 479 1681, Cathy Roughan 478 1909, Liz Goodwin 479 4485, Margaret Palmer, Roland O'Driscoll 410 5456, Joe Greig 410 9987, Jan Knight 478 5518, Peter Bioletti 478-1402, Bruce Rogers 473 5189

Yes, I want to support the Bush Society

Membership is by tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (please) _____

Existing member yes no

I would like to be notified about working bees yes no

I would like to receive newsletters only yes no

Please send me ___ copies of *Just Scrub* the story of Centennial Park bush \$10 each

Donation _____

Send to our address above or to The Treasurer, 16 Sandford St, Campbells Bay

Total enclosed _____

Or Direct Credit to Centennial Park Bush Society Inc

Account number 389001 0816766 00

and email Bushsoc@gmail.com with receipt address details.

We appreciate the support of North Shore City Council, Takapuna Community Board, ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund, Pupuke Nine hole social club, Signtech and our local donors.



Collect a nature trail guide at the Rae Rd entrance to the park (or from our website on page 1) and learn heaps about the native plants in this regenerating native bush environment

