



# Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter

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[www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz)

**Newsletter No 68, November 2009**



## Birdland

Campbells Bay is unique for the park at its heart. Centennial Park's 70 hectares of golf course and regenerating native bush, when combined with privately-owned remnants of magnificent kahikatea and lush coastal kohekohe forest, give this bay the largest percentage of natural cover in East Coast Bays.

It's an environment which lends itself to the establishment of **Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary** (CBUS) -- a sanctuary without a predator-proof fence, where people continue to live, work and play. The commitment of Campbells Bay residents to making the area more conducive to wildlife -- especially to birds -- is what makes CBUS possible.

The Rangitoto-Motutapu pest eradication programme is now in full swing and shortly these large islands will be predator-free. Those familiar with the success of Tiritiri Matangi will appreciate what this means for wildlife on these islands: bird and invertebrate numbers will skyrocket. Bellbird, stitchbird, whitehead, kaka, kakariki and many others will burgeon on Rangitoto. Tourists will flock there too. Because Campbells Bay is close and has its own large "island" of vegetation, birds will spill over to our bay and will establish in CBUS -- where we hope they will be safe from predators.

Campbells Bay already has a fledgling predator control program going on quietly in Centennial Park. Trappers are focussing on rats, possums and stoats. It is well known that these introduced pests eat eggs, young birds, invertebrates and native seeds and trees. To date many rats and possums have been killed, hopefully making the park safer for wildlife. What CBUS aims to do is to expand the predator control programme to cover all of Centennial Park and eventually the gardens in Campbells Bay. Property owners will volunteer to have bait stations on their land, to help further reduce predator numbers.

What about cats? We love our moggies and New Zealand has one of the largest rates of cat ownership in the world. For CBUS to work we need to think about the adverse effects our cats are having on bird populations. Keeping your moggy belled, well fed and inside at night will make a huge difference.

CBUS is about gradually making Campbells Bay bird-friendly -- involving the whole community so in time our suburb will be enriched with new and exciting birdlife.

**Get to know your bird calls** <http://whatbird.co.nz>

## Christmas Picnic

All welcome at  
**Campbells Bay's  
Christmas Party,  
Sunday 13 December,  
3 to 5pm.**

Venue: Huntly Reserve,  
Huntly Road. Lolly  
scramble, drawing  
competition, kite flying  
and a visit from Santa.  
Bring a picnic and come  
along for a couple of  
hours of low-key fun.  
This event is being co-  
hosted by the  
Centennial Park Bush  
Society and Campbells  
Bay Residents &  
Ratepayers Association  
and organised by  
Catharina Mail and  
Jackie Howell

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## Another Busy Winter

This winter has been busy again for Centennial Park volunteers. Our major planting programme is the highly visible area on Kowhai Rd. This was a joint venture, with golf club assisting with mulch spreading, council supplying most of the plants and volunteers providing the sweat. The other main site is near the golf course 15<sup>th</sup> tee -- where tradescantia, acmena, privet and giant reed were controlled. Several other sites were planted including Centennial Place and the Aberdeen track. Much time has been spent on track maintenance with volunteers spreading about five metres of track metal and ensuring tracks are well drained. Volunteers have worked more than 1600 hours in Centennial Park this year already, most of which is spent on weed control. A detailed summary of completed work can be found in the annual report on our website.



**Keen volunteers planting the Kowhai Rd restoration site in June 09**

## Plan Groans On

The revision of the Centennial Park management plan groans on. The Bush Society committee has major issues with the way this management plan is shaping up and is quietly battling in the background, hoping for a result which will be more positive for the environment -- especially the regenerating native bush in Centennial Park.

In a nutshell the main contentious issue is the management of invasive weed trees. Nobody seems to mind if we remove invasive small weeds.

For 30 years the Bush Society has been slowly removing pines from the regenerating areas. This looks likely to come to a screaming halt.

In addition we look likely to be stymied in our efforts to remove

monkey apple trees and wattles from the park.

Any sensible person we have spoken to working in ecology, weed control, or native forest restoration work cannot believe it. Nor can we.

It highlights the need to have sensible, environmentally-aware people making the decisions in our community.

## Ripping Into Rhamnus

Rhamnus, or evergreen buckthorn, is a big worry. It is a rapidly growing weed tree which you probably wouldn't recognise as a weed. DOC spends thousands of dollars a year trying to control it on Rangitoto Island. Unfortunately it is becoming widespread in properties in Campbells Bay and CPBS would like to get rid of it. One way of doing this is through the ARC's Community Initiatives Programme. This programme helps participants define an area, obtain landowner support, and then -- with hard work and possibly some outside funding -- begin to eliminate the weed from this area. Bush Society volunteers may contact you for your support to help get rid of this nasty plant.



**Rhamnus must go, before it is too late for the bush**

**Stop Press:**

**Both shining and long tailed cuckoo heard in park recently**





## Team Effort

The Centennial Park Bush Society is a team of wonderful people, who support the park in so many different ways. Firstly we have our donors – too many to mention but we are extremely grateful for so many donations, some very generous indeed. Stan is our main plant propagator. His backyard is packed with hundreds of native plants, growing until they are big enough to be planted in the park. Joe is our 2IC, with plenty of energy to take on the weeds and the politics around them. Jan and Wendy work quietly on their own maintaining the planted areas free of weeds. Max does the books and pays the bills. Jenny is our secretary and wordsmith. Marg banks the money. Cathy keeps us supplied with sensible advice. Liz, Jenny and Alan do monthly bird surveys. Richard keeps us focussed and organises work-days and contractors. Bruce mows the grass but also does a huge amount of volunteer work. Steve and Peter A help on the ground. Veronica from South Africa is very keen and is learning the weeds fast. Peter B has pampas in his sights and supervises PD workers. Brian gives us botanical advice. Steve does most of the contract weed control and is very generous with his weed management advice. Nicki from council helps with tools and materials. Parks Officer Paul assists with track maintenance and funding for weed control. The Recreational Services team take away our weed piles. Tony gives us a good deal on tree work. Mardi and Baukje test stream water for Waicare. Pat and John are our patrons and keep us motivated. Ewen identifies botanical mysteries. Matt, Laurie and Dave help with golf club issues. Martin tries to keep the Takapuna Community Board on track. Daphne makes fantastic shortbread and Chris makes amazing scones. Ray keeps Milford Rotary in the loop so they help out occasionally. Catharina makes sure we keep smiling. Jackie canvasses the neighbours. Bob keeps us supplied with stuff. Karel is our photographer. Someone on Kowhai Rd baked us a huge cake – thankyou!! Helen and Lesley provided landscape advice. Geraldine has done a professional landscape plan for the Rae Rd entrance, as well as recommending species for golf course acmena replacement. Mike provided botanical expertise for an exotic tree inventory. Eric, John and Joe are also growing plants. Val keeps the cannas under control. Corrections Department supplies young fit workers to help out. Paul has developed a proposal to enhance the Avenue of Remembrance. David supplied high quality discounted plants. In September Richard was the recipient of a North Shore City Council Civic Award in recognition of his contribution to the environment.

So you see we have a great team. You are welcome to join us.



**Peter, Bruce, Joe and Bob: part of the team**

## Willing Workers Warmly Welcomed

Put your hand up if you would like to help with: Wednesday Workers—our Wednesday morning working group; Weekend Workers—our monthly weekend working group; pest trapping in your own time; weed control in your own time; fundraising; supervising less skilled workers; training for Growsafe accreditation; pest monitoring; talking to neighbours about rhamnus... even an hour makes a difference!

**Roger and Gareth chew the fat over a brew at the Kowhai Rd planting**





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[www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz)

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, Joe Greig 410 9987, Jan Knight 478 5518, Peter Bioletti 478 1402, Bruce Rogers 473 5189, Robert Fairbairn 478 6871

## 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 join Wednesday workers yes no

I would like to join Weekend workers 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 postal 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](mailto:Bushsoc@gmail.com) with name, address details for receipt.

**We appreciate the support of North Shore City Council, Pupuke Nine Hole Social Club, Signtech, the Department of Conservation Community Conservation Fund and our local donors.**

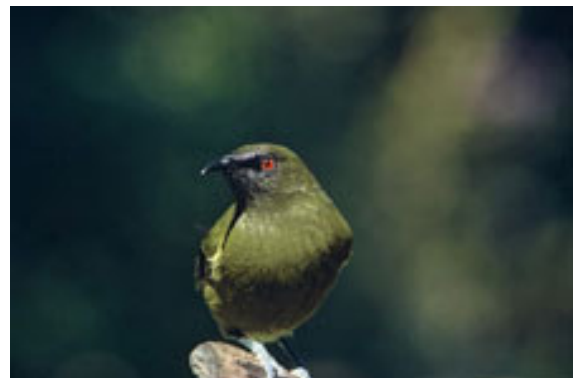


## Pest Control Programme

Currently we have traps on the Kohekohe Track targeting possums, rats and stoats and regularly catching rats and possums. We are hoping to expand this trap network with another line of traps on the Mamaku Track and another midway between the Aberdeen Track and the Kohekohe Track. Trapping doesn't need to happen all year round. The most important time is from August to December -- when most birds are nesting.

Before we can expand the trap network we need volunteers to help. Traps need twice-weekly checking. This job would take 30 minutes to an hour, depending how many you want to take on. Full training in trap operating will be provided. Volunteers need to be fit and not mind dealing with dead rats!! This could suit students from high school onwards.

If you think you might be interested please phone Richard on 4105339 or email [richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz)



**One day bellbirds will find their way back to Campbells Bay, aided by our pest control programme**

**Learn more**

[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)   [www.arc.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity](http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity)   [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)