



Aderant volunteers moved 12 cubic metres of mulch onto a newly-planted slope in November 2018. A mighty effort, thank you Aderant! Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Newsletter No. 87

# Centennial Park Bush Society Newsletter



April 2019

## On The Right Track



New steps on the Mamaku Track

Photo: Richard Hursthouse

If you've walked in Centennial Park recently you will have noticed some changes. Contractors engaged by Council worked for several months over summer on track improvements. The old uneven and broken concrete path leading through the arboretum has been rebuilt. The surface and drainage of the Walking Bus Track have been renewed (we have some reservations about the drainage and it will be interesting to see how it stands up to winter rains). For me a big plus is the formation of a new track surface from Rae Road along the Aberdeen Track. This was previously just grass, poorly drained and boggy in winter; it is now hard-surfaced through to East Coast Road, at the top of the golf

course. However, I do question why the new surface has not been continued from the newly built section onto the old section which is still in a relatively poor state. In considering the cost of doing this, it should be mentioned the Bush Society saved Council many thousands of dollars of total expenditure by recommending the gully track between the Aberdeen and Mamaku tracks be closed rather than upgraded.

Overall, and notwithstanding the above comments, it is great to see the quality and extent of the work done: the reconstructed stairways, bridges, timbered walkways and the timbered retaining edges to paths.

This work ensures walking through the green lungs of Campbells Bay is safe, easy and enjoyable. The growth and regeneration of the bush continues almost unnoticed until you pause and look at it. Thank you to Council for these improvements and for the support given to the Bush Society for the work we do in Centennial Park.

Joe Greig

### Centennial Park Bush Society 2019 AGM

Wednesday 19 June, at 7.30pm

Campbells Bay School - All welcome!



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## Talking Trees at Campbells Bay School

During the final term of 2018, Centennial Park Bush Society volunteers ran five Wednesday lunchtime Tree Walks at Campbells Bay School -- designed to encourage students to learn the names of the many native trees which grow in the school grounds and Community Forest. Up to 14 students participated in each walk. We ate lunch first, then set off,



Photo: Sue Rawstron

worksheets flapping in the wind, to study trees, shrubs, lichen, moss, a few weeds and even leafy greens growing in vegetable plots and flowers in the perennial borders. Students were endlessly curious, asked some really challenging questions and soaked up the knowledge. Some can now identify quite a few trees and all finished the course with a better appreciation of New Zealand's precious native flora. We plan to resume our Tree Talks programme in the final term of 2019.

**Jenny Chamberlain**

## New Walking Routes

Campbells Bay Community Association has been clearly requesting a safe walking link from the top of Park Rise to East Coast Rd for some years. So, in March, it was a big surprise to the Bush Society to learn Council had advanced plans for an alternative route. We learned Council was planning a new three-metre wide concrete path and cycleway along the eastern side of East Coast Road, along the full length of the golf course margin. Also planned was a concrete path on the west side of Kowhai Road down to the

playcentre; a significant widening, with steps, of the Park Rise Bush Track and safety improvements from Park Rise cul de sac to join the Baylis Track via the golf course. (These include renewal of the steps at the cul de sac and protection from golf balls near the 10<sup>th</sup> tee.) While we support the proposed safety improvements from Park Rise to the Baylis Track, the Bush Society does not support the other measures and has made a submission to this effect.

The proposed three-metre wide footpath and cycleway along East Coast Road would add 2000 m<sup>2</sup> of new concrete in the catchment, which is already suffering from the consequences of stormwater erosion and siltation. The proposed new cycleway would also require the felling of multiple mature trees and likely an ugly new fence – like the wire fence along Kowhai Road – to protect pedestrians, cyclists and motorists from golf balls. We believe Park Rise Bush Track is fit for purpose and provides a unique natural oasis of calm in an increasingly hectic world.

Meanwhile we have asked the Community Association to continue promoting the option of a safe link from Park Rise to East Coast Road.

**Richard Hursthouse**



CPBS supports safety improvements in the red and light blue sections



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## Two Interesting Plants

The large lone ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*) in the swamp, next to the bridge on the Kohekohe Track is the only

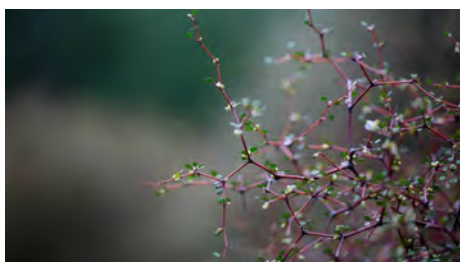


Ramarama in Centennial Park

Photo: Paul Duffy

known specimen of this species in the park. Ramarama is an endemic species of evergreen myrtle which grows to a height of 8 metres. Its leaves look like blisters (or bubbles) – hence its Latin name *bullata* (meaning bubble). It is believed to have medicinal properties and its leaves were sometimes used to treat bruises. The fruit, produced throughout the summer months, taste a little like guava. Ramarama poles were highly prized by Whanganui River canoeists on account of their toughness. Ramarama wood was also used for carved panels, beaters, digging sticks and humming tops for children.

Have you noticed the green roof on the new Campbells Bay Early Learning Centre and the building's surrounding plantings?



The roof plant is *Muehlenbeckia astonii*

*Muehlenbeckia*

image - [www.aucklandzoo.co.nz](http://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz)

*axillaris* and among the landscaping plants is *Muehlenbeckia astonii*. *Muehlenbeckia* is the host plant of our native copper butterfly group. Both these *muehlenbeckias* are native to New Zealand but not specifically to the Auckland area. In Auckland we have *Muehlenbeckia complexa* var. *complexa* (often growing over fences along the coastline) and *Muehlenbeckia australis* which is a rampant growing climber. *Muehlenbeckia* fruits were considered a great treat by Maori youth.

As most of our New Zealand copper butterflies don't travel more than 50 metres from their host plants, *muehlenbeckia* is a great option when looking for small shrubs and climbers for the suburban garden. It would be great to have a copper butterfly highway stretching across Campbells Bay's Urban Sanctuary.

**Paul Duffy** (Team Leader, Volunteering and Programmes, Community Parks)

## Campbells Bay Water Quality Project

The Bush Society's next major focus is to build on the great stream gully reinforcement work Council has funded in Centennial Park. There are many stormwater channels across the golf course which are eroding and releasing silt into the streams, onto our beach and into the Hauraki Gulf. We are working on a plan to identify and manage these areas to improve water quality and potentially reduce flows. The first steps are a thorough survey and the development of a toolbox of solutions for implementation. This plan, to be undertaken by environmental engineering consultancy Morpium, will cost \$10,937. **We need to source funding for the project and would be very grateful for your generous donations to enable work to proceed.**

**Yes - I would like to donate \$100, \$200, \$500, \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support clean water!**

**Please send your cheque to PO Box 31 677, Milford, 0740 or**

**Donate online to 38-9001-0816766-00 and send us an email with your details for a tax deductible receipt.**  
Your donation is much appreciated.

**Richard Hursthouse**

## Our Third Bush Camp

We held our third annual Family Bush Camp in Centennial Park in March. Our campers went on a guided bush walk with ranger Anna Baine, learnt about the Campbells Bay



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Stream courtesy of ecologist Fiona Davies, and got stuck in to some fabulous bushcraft, led by the legendary Om from Craftlab. Later families dined *al fresco* on a delicious BBQ, followed by “bush donuts” cooked on the campfire. The evening concluded with a torch-lit bug hunt, before campers retired to their tents for the night. Huge thanks to the marvellous team who helped to make this unique event happen: Centennial Park Bush Society volunteers, our Auckland Council partners, Om from Craftlab NZ and Sea Week for their support.

**Victoria Morris**



Happy bush campers learn fire safety

Photo: Victoria Morris

## We acknowledge the support of:

**Devonport Takapuna Local Board** for funding weed control in Greville Reserve.

**Auckland Council Parks Department** for supplying plants, track metal, rat bait, herbicide gel and equipment for volunteers.

**Hibiscus & Bays Local Board** for funding weed control in Golf Course bush blocks.



## Contact Us

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Find out more and **sign up to follow our blog at**  
[www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz](http://www.centennialparkbushsociety.org.nz)

## Stream Restoration Project – first report

Centennial Park Bush Society fish monitoring team, headed by ecologist Fiona Davies, ran its first fish survey in March – at two sites, one on the north branch of the stream and one on the south. Fiona presented her first report later that month. Eels, banded kokopu, bully and common smelt were among the species found and overall the results indicated the water quality and habitat conditions were good on the south branch and fair on the north branch. After the results were recorded the fish were returned carefully to their habitats. A second survey will be conducted in May.

Please do not remove or disturb the wildlife living in our delicate stream environment. Please consult the Bush Society if you would like to help us conserve, protect and enhance this precious wild habitat.

**Jenny Chamberlain**

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