



**Centennial Park—2020 Recreation Aotearoa Healthy Parks Award winner**  
 John Kinloch, Liz Goodwin, Sue Rawstron, Jo Broad, Richard Hursthouse, Stuart George  
 Photo: Nikki Davidson, Channel Magazine



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## Centennial Park Wins National Award

On 18 June, Centennial Park was selected from 12 nominations to receive Recreation Aotearoa's Healthy Parks Award 2020. Commenting on the award, Recreation Aotearoa Parks and Open Spaces Manager Karl Nesbitt said Centennial Park "ticked all the boxes as to what your ideal park should look like". The park, said Nesbitt, has high community engagement, regular bush camps, pest control, beach clean-ups, school holiday activities and maintenance working bees. "Overseeing and empowering community involvement in predator control has played a key role in the management of Centennial Park." Centennial Park Bush Society chair Richard Hursthouse says, "The award recognises over 40 years' community input into this reserve with track building, tree planting and weed control. It also acknowledges productive and ongoing positive relationships between Auckland Council, Hibiscus & Bays Local Board, Pupuke Golf Club and CPBS."

An awards evening is being planned for Thursday 3 December, at Pupuke Golf Course clubrooms. Look out for details on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/campbellsbayurbansanctuary/](https://facebook.com/campbellsbayurbansanctuary/)

## Covid-19 Ups and (Lock)downs

The April 2020 issue of this newsletter was delivered on 20 March, five days before New Zealand entered a level 4 lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Seven months and a few lockdowns later, our November issue hopefully marks the beginning of happier times but it would be remiss to not record the impact the pandemic has had on our park and community. On the downside, we have lost 12 working bee opportunities in the park – equating to

approximately 240 hours of community input. Our predator control programme was briefly interrupted. On the upside none of our volunteers became ill, our planting programme was only minimally delayed and more people discovered the joys and health benefits of walking in the park. The golf course was used for biking, dog-walking, soccer and picnics and socially distant conversations. Covid-19 allowed many of us to stop and take stock of our too-busy lives and decide to begin living simpler, less environmentally-damaging lifestyles. North Shore residents have one of the country's highest per capita carbon footprints. It has to be positive for our climate that our wings have been clipped a little.

*Richard Hursthouse*

## Beacon to Beach – Stream Savers Pilot Project

It's been a busy couple of months for Stream Savers, helping the bay's streamside residents clear weeds and replant stream banks. Dramatic results have been achieved at seven properties, where weeds of varying sizes have been identified and removed and natives planted where appropriate. Many thanks to Downers for weed removal assistance! Where a



Stream Savers restored this stream, opposite The Esplanade, Campbells Bay  
 Photo: Paula Arkensteyn



Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary



stream section has an established native canopy it is often just a case of waiting for native seedlings to come up and it's great to see this already starting to happen.

Stream Savers volunteers have been welcomed onto all the properties approached and the enthusiasm for stream restoration from our diverse community - including Kiwis and owners from Zimbabwe, China and Sweden - is particularly gratifying.

Our pilot project runs from Beacon Avenue to Beach Road. Restoration sites are visible opposite The Esplanade (see photo) and on lower Channel View Road. If you are interested in helping restore your own, or a neighbouring, stretch of stream, please contact Paula on [paulaark2k@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaark2k@yahoo.com) or email [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com) for advice on getting started and what support can be provided.

Paula Arkensteyn



### Clean Streams Campbells Bay – Community Action Brainstorm – All Welcome!

Do you love our local streams, beaches and the Hauraki Gulf? Are you connected to a business or organisation keen to help clean our streams?

Be part of the Campbells Bay Urban Sanctuary vision – what are your dreams for the Campbells Bay streams?

Hear about neighbours who are already taking action through the Stream Savers Beacon to Beach pilot project.

How can we remove barriers to restoring stream sections in our own backyards and our neighbours' backyards?

How can we all contribute to raising the funds we need?

Come to our meeting on Wednesday 25 November, 7-9pm, St John's Hall, 327 Beach Road, Campbells Bay.

Clean Streams Campbells Bay is a collaborative initiative involving Centennial Park Bush Society, Restore Hibiscus & Bays and the Sustainable Business Network's Million Metres project. Find out more at: [www.restorehb.org.nz/stream-restoration](http://www.restorehb.org.nz/stream-restoration) or email [info@restorehb.org.nz](mailto:info@restorehb.org.nz).

Rachael Randal



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### Fabulous Fourth of July

Our standout planting day of the year has to be the ambitious and hugely successful 4<sup>th</sup> July seventh fairway restoration, on the edge of Park Rise Bush. One hundred and seventy people planted 1650 plants and turned this...



into this...



Thanks to the fantastic Golf Club team who prepped the site so beautifully, the CPBS crew who laid out plants, organised the day and supplied fabulous refreshments. Thanks also to NZ Bio contractors who helped lay out plants, Scrubgrowers who grew them, Auckland Parks and Hibiscus & Bays Local Board who funded plants, flyers and signs, *Channel* magazine who took photos and published a story and Lulu and Georgia who organised a team of 115 St Cuthberts students who travelled over from the city and worked alongside 50 or so local champs. This planting benefits wildlife, helps store carbon, helps stop flooding and improves water quality in our streams and the gulf. It was also lots of fun.

(Sadly, the rabbits were also thrilled with the results, necessitating several working bees to install rabbit protectors. The rabbit plague is a whole other story).

Richard Hursthouse



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## Dogs Out Of Streams

Park users may have seen some friendly hand-made notices reminding dog-owners to keep their pooches out of the stream network. Love them though we do, doggie paddlers in the park's waterways damage the delicate stream edges and stir up mud and silt which in turn kill fish and other aquatic life. We love our dogs but we love our streamlife too. Five local children felt so strongly about this topic they made the signs and fixed them in key spots to remind us all how vulnerable nature's waterways are. Sadly they have all been removed.



Young sign makers, Freddie, Lola, Stella, Paige and Chantelle

## Male Quail



Photo: Julius Yang

Julius Yang Aberdeen Road bird photographer snapped this fine male California quail in his garden in July.

Quail are becoming less common in CP but clearly some are finding enough cover in the park, along waterways and in backyards to mate and raise

young. A male quail was spotted in a Sandford Street garden in early October. It's heartening to know these elegant birds are holding on.

## Baiting Blip

Covid-19 lockdowns disrupted both the April and August baiting pulses. Some members of our growing 23-member baiting team managed to complete their schedules, some were caught out early or mid-pulse; several lines were not baited at all. The Covid-19 "blip" in our data will remind us of an eventful year and, sadly, prevents meaningful analyses. But some baiting did get done, so the rats did not have a clear run and they won't in November when our team will be back in the field. November is the year's most important baiting month because birds are nesting.

However we can report other progress. Our mapping and

data recording are moving to TRAP.NZ, an online data system which will simplify data capture and interpretation.

We hate to think how many rats would be in the park and near our houses if our baiters did not give their time and energies for us all. Thank you!

*Peter Aimer and Jo Broad*

## Possum Programme Progress

There are an estimated 30 million possums in New Zealand - way fewer than the mid-80s estimate of 50 to 70 million - but, alarmingly, just 20 possums can consume two tonnes of vegetation, invertebrates, eggs and chicks a year. Dead eucalypts are often the result of possum foraging.

CPBS possum control team now operates 40 Trapinator traps across the park and golf course, including in the stands of eucalypts - where, thanks to Stuart George, 12 have been caught in trap 037 and eliminated. We have caught a total of 29 possums since January - 0.0001% of the national population.

Council recently supplied an additional 20 traps, allowing us, once we have owner consent, to create a new halo extending out of the park and into neighbouring private properties. We know haloes work because sole possums have been caught in the traps along the Avenue of Remembrance halo boundaries. Thank you John Roughan, for your persistence through the colder winter months.

Do possums sniff? It seems they do. We apply a blaze of flour, milk powder, icing sugar and cinnamon powder to the tree trunk below the trap to entice them. Check out <https://youtu.be/QZAnmM5jBag> to see this fellow hanging on and enjoying a free feed. Unfortunately we did not catch him and we wondered why? This fellow was eating the bait and not tripping the trap. We now have a rodent bait station at the base of the tree. [https://youtu.be/B\\_n1eAtsONA](https://youtu.be/B_n1eAtsONA)

*John Kinloch*





## Are You Getting Our Mailchimp Newsletters?

Some people have stopped receiving our email newsletters about Wednesday and Saturday events. If this is you here's what to do:

Check your promotions or spam box

Check your spam settings

Add [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com) to your contacts list

If problem persists check with us that you are still on our email list.

## Contact Us

**Chair:** Richard Hursthouse 021 216 1296

**Secretary:** Jenny Chamberlain 478 6385

**Treasurer:** Max Thomson 479 1681

**Committee:** Peter Aimer, Liz Goodwin, Joe Greig, Sue Rawstron, Victoria Morris, Fiona Davies, Jo Broad, Stuart George and Mette Rossaak.

**Centennial Park Bush Society Inc.**

P O Box 31 677, Milford 0740

Email: [bushsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bushsoc@gmail.com)

Find out more and **sign up to our mailing list at**

<https://campbellsbayurbansanctuary.org.nz/>

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Kakabeak or ngutukākā flowering on Rae Road  
Photo: Richard Hursthouse



Dracophyllum sinclairii, Baylis Track  
Photo: Richard Hursthouse

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## We acknowledge the support of:

**Devonport Takapuna Local Board** for funding weed control at Campbells Bay School.

**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

**Kristina Clarke**  
 Mob: 021 082 79272  
 email: k.clarke@barfoot.co.nz

**Lika De Vito**  
 Mob: 0275 833 655  
 email: l.devito@barfoot.co.nz




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