



Sunrise on the edge of Centennial Park

Photo: Richard Hursthouse



Newsletter No. 93

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Thanks Quiet Heroes

Covid lockdowns stopped so many Bush Society volunteer working bees last year we were worried what would happen to the park. But a number of good-hearted people quietly, and on their own initiative, chose to tackle jobs they could see needed doing. They gave time and energy, working mostly solo, on: removing aristeia and montbretia from beside tracks, constructing swales and stream-edge fencing, digging drainage pipelines across meadows which get boggy in winter, constructing and installing 50 new Nature Trail signposts, collecting rubbish and barrowing mountains of mulch. In addition, a small dedicated team lugged bottles of water from home every week, giving life-saving litres to 36 newly-planted specimen trees which, as a consequence, are surviving summer's drought. A huge amount has been achieved – we estimate about 500 hours of labour -- and the



Quiet hero Damon -- on his way home after watering thirsty trees

park's environment, wildlife, and visitors have massively benefited. Heartfelt thanks to David, Belinda, Liz & Chris, Peter, Richard, Max & Julie, Andrew, John, Jo, Stuart, Lydia & Matt, George, Claudia, Damon, Jenny, Nigel, Jill, Nadine, The Forest Guardians, ...and everyone who so generously helped Centennial Park this way.

Richard Hursthouse

Photo: Jenny Chamberlain

Diary Dates

Centennial Park Bush Society 2022 AGM - Wednesday 8 June @ 7.30pm at the Pupuke Golf Clubrooms (Covid permitting). Minimal official business; maximum interesting talks, socialising and refreshments. Mark your calendars! We would absolutely love to see you there!

Matariki Planting Day – Saturday 2 July – 9am start. Last year's massive Matariki effort was lots of fun and the plants are doing really well. This year's site, between the 8th and 9th fairways (access from Park Rise), is even more challenging. We need your help to get 650 plants in the ground! Check for details on our website and Facebook page. Friends and families welcome. Every tree makes a difference!

Family Bush Camp – 12 & 13 November, 2022. Watch website and FB for registration details.

Congratulations!

On 14 December 2021, Centennial Park Bush Society chair Richard Hursthouse and committee member Stuart George were recipients of Restore Hibiscus & Bays Volunteer Awards.

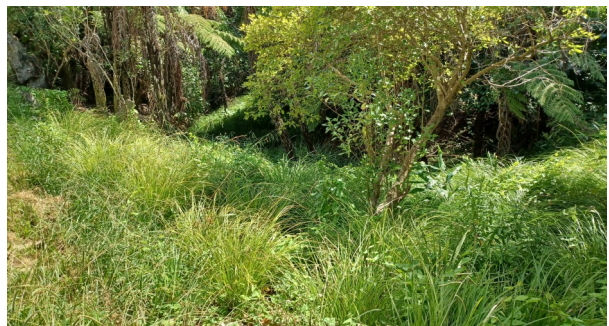
Well done both and our thanks for your outstanding and inspirational environmental mahi.



Campbell's Bay Urban Sanctuary

Stream Restoration

Clean Streams and the Beacon to Beach programmes are going well. At least eight locations along the northern branch of Campbells Bay Stream, including properties on Beach Road, Kahikatea Close, Tree Fern Trail, Huntly Road and Channel View Road, have been identified for restoration. Weeds like ginger, phoenix palms, tradescantia and many more are being removed and native plants will be going in as soon as winter rains come. This important work is made possible by our wonderful Streamsavers volunteers and the generous support of Restore Hibiscus & Bays, Million Metres and Downer. Thank you everyone! We are hoping to have a Restore Hibiscus & Bays catchment co-ordinator start soon. Meantime, if you have a stretch of stream on your property and you'd like some help restoring it please get in touch.



Stream transformation 2020 to 2022 – ginger gone and natives thriving.

Photos: Richard Hursthouse

Learning Early in Centennial Park

On Wednesday 23 February two teachers and four pre-schoolers from Campbells Bay Early Learning Centre met at Sandford Street clearing for an hour-long Bush Society guided walk. We started by sitting on a log and covering our eyes to focus on the sounds of nature: cicadas, crickets, the wind in the trees and birds singing. Then we looked at four native plants and tried to learn their names: ti kouka (cabbage tree), kahikatea (white pine), harakeke (flax) and kowhai. These four iconic species are easily viewed around the edge of the clearing. A short walk to view the park's oldest tree – the mother kahikatea at Number 13 on the Nature Trail – followed. The children enjoyed themselves, especially racing to find the bright yellow numbers on the sides of the new Nature Trail posts. They patted the kahikatea's trunk and looked at her many tall offspring which fill this area. Then back to the picnic table for morning tea.

Thanks to CBELC for your much appreciated donation to Centennial Park Bush Society. Another walk – to look at mushrooms – is planned for May.



Early Learning Centre learners pat the park's oldest tree.

Jenny Chamberlain

Photo: Catherine Hamlin

Stream Champion Viv Keeps On Keeping On

A November 2021 park stream survey by Briar Broad from Whitebait Connection showed banded kokopu, koura (freshwater crayfish) and long fin eel in Campbells Bay's stream network. It is fairly unique to find these native species living in a city park and reaffirms the importance of caring for the waterways – ensuring these species' environment isn't decimated by dogs and pollution. Look and you will see the damage being done to the stream by playful dogs.

All dogs in the forest should be on-lead at all times. They can be off-lead in the grassy meadows, where they can roam and enjoy the space.

The plan moving forward is to block dogs accessing the waterways in certain areas of the park by constructing fences and allowing carex, flax etc to thrive, creating a natural



barrier to the streams. More planting on stream edges will happen in winter.

Viv Walker



Dog-detering stream-edge fencing

Photo: Viv Walker

Marvellous Muehlenbeckia

Pohuehue, or wire vine (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*), is a marvel. It climbs over banks, rocks and walls, forming a dense mat of wire-like stems, tiny round light-green leaves and sweetly-scented flowers. It suppresses weeds and, as these magnificent plantings at Campbells Bay beach show, it tolerates harsh coastal conditions. Its fruit are eaten by skinks and birds and it's an important host plant for pepe para riki, copper butterflies, which lay their eggs in its foliage. More pohuehue plantings are planned for the beach and if you want the spectacular orange and black butterflies to visit your garden, plant a few pohuehue yourself -- with nectar plants for butterfly food nearby.



Muehlenbeckia complexa on the rocks at Campbells Bay beach.

Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Braemar Reserve

My first experience of native forest restoration was working on the Community Forest at Campbells Bay School in the 90s. A natural extension is the restoration of the stream between CBS and Braemar Reserve which runs through eight private properties before arriving at the filtering swamp at Braemar Reserve and joining the Castor Bay Stream. Landowners are on board and with local board, council and local residents' association support, we are slowly transforming the stream from weeds to healthy native ecosystems. Sign up if you want to help out.

Richard Hursthouse



Derek Craig delivering plants with Stuart Smith, long time Braemar Reserve guardian

Photo: Richard Hursthouse



Dense ginger in the stream bed now coming under control

Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Ten Top Native Trees

How many of New Zealand's iconic trees can you identify? Ten of New Zealand's tree-mendous native trees are easily seen in the Arboretum – the triangle of trails, trees and smaller mixed plantings which begins at the Beach Road entrance to Centennial Park.

Up for a challenge? Follow the route below and spot ten top trees we've marked with green ribbon. Once you get your



eye in you'll recognise these trees everywhere.

Starting at the Beach Road entrance, facing into the park, take 30 steps. On your left (watch out for cars!) are two giant and one small **titoki** (*Alectryon excelsus*) leaning over the roadway. Another 30 steps and you're under the first of the double row of mighty **pohutukawa** (*Metrosideros excelsa*) which form the Avenue of Remembrance – planted in the 1940s. From here, pick up the concrete path which curves down into the shade. On the right is a stand of **nikau** (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) – our native palm and the only one we want in the park. Keep walking the curving track and you'll come to a grand old multi-trunked **totara** (*Podocarpus totara*) leaning elegantly over the path. A few more steps and you're entering an avenue of **kowhai** (*Sophora microphylla*) – six young trees and seven mature ones. Come back in spring when they're flowering and walk their corridor of gold. Across the grass, beyond the last and tallest kowhai, are graceful **rimu** (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) – one is stressed from lack of rain. Keep on the path and at the end of the wooden boardwalk is a magic grove of **ti kouka** (*Cordyline australis*) tall cabbage trees, growing among tall **kahikatea** (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), with their distinctive conical shapes. On the left are three very fine young **kauri** (*Agathis australis*), one with round seed cones. Just past the kauri, tucked into the greenery are many **ponga** (*Cyathea dealbata*) – New Zealand's famous silver fern.

These trees and many more are listed in the guide, which you can find at the start of the Nature Trail, at Sandford Street clearing.

Jenny Chamberlain

Contact Us

Chair: Richard Hursthouse 021 216 1296

Secretary: Jenny Chamberlain 021 057 6167

Treasurer: Max Thomson 479 1681

Committee: Liz Goodwin, Joe Greig, Sue Rawstron, Victoria Morris, Fiona Davies, Jo Broad, Stuart George, John Kinloch and Vivienne Walker.

Centennial Park Bush Society Inc.

Email: bushsoc@gmail.com

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

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

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THANK YOU!!

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Kristina Clarke

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



Lika De Vito

Mob: 0275 833 655
email: ldevito@barfoot.co.nz



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