



Forest Guardians Lola and Freddie weed montbretia from Centennial Park stream
Photo: Viv Walker



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Stream Restoration Unites Campbells Bay

Something a Campbells Bay resident said at a recent meeting really struck a chord with me: "We all breathe the same air and we are all part of the same global village." This is the key!

We need to switch our individual view to panorama mode and adopt a wider perspective than our own backyard. If we want to make a difference to our global village we need to come together as a local community.

In Campbells Bay we are so lucky to have Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) right on our back doorstep. The majority of SEAs are within Centennial Park but some exist on private land and are biodiversity hotspots. The bay's streams, their riparian

zones and the natural gems which thrive within them all need urgent protection. Who would think that in our little bay, just 25 minutes from Auckland's CBD, exceptional native flora and fauna like kākahi (freshwater mussels), banded kōkopu, both long and short-fin eels and kōura would be thriving?

Urban intensification threatens these

areas. Campbells Bay has lost many large native trees over the past year. As our tree canopy and green spaces shrink, nature struggles to adapt, the ecological balance is altered and species start to decline.

I have been a CPBS committee member since 2021 and was appointed Restore Hibiscus and Bays' Campbells Bay Catchment Activator a year ago. I have been engaging with 35 residents whose properties border the north branch of Campbells Bay stream. Most of this stream flows through privately-owned land and the owners have been getting together and, with incredible will and determination, culling pest plants. The great wall of arum lilies and wild ginger we first encountered has gone.

We will continue to reunite for regular working bees and share the workload. Planting of native species has already begun and more will happen over the coming months. We would love you to join us. Let conservation start the conversation. Meet your neighbours and help nature



Before restoration this stream section was suffocated by arums and black stem taro.
Photo: Viv Walker



March 2025: carex planted into the stream bed, putaputaweta at high points and ti kouka stabilising the banks.
Photo: Viv Walker



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thrive at the same time. Stream restoration, pest plant removal, predator control and planting natives are all ways you can help. Email me on: viv@restorehb.org.nz

Viv Walker

Dates with Dangerous Palms

Most of the work of CPBS volunteers is dealing to pest plants. That's why we are including the latest version of Forest & Bird's Weed Control Guide with this newsletter. Pest plants are a serious problem across Aotearoa New Zealand, altering and displacing natural habitats almost everywhere.

Our ask of you is to please check your property for the pest plants listed in the Weed Control Guide. One group we are very concerned about is exotic palms: phoenix, bangalow and Chinese windmill palms. We find hundreds of these during our weekly working bees in the forest. Bangalow palms are the most common invasive palm in the bay but removing large fruiting phoenix palms, also known as Canary Islands date palms, is a priority. In addition to their invasiveness their leaves have spines which penetrate the skin and rapidly cause serious infections. Hospitals, vets and ACC report hundreds of phoenix palm injuries to humans and pets every year. If you have fruiting palms, please make a date to remove them, or at least remove the fruit before they ripen.

By contrast New Zealand's very own palm, the beautiful nikau *Rhopalostylis sapida*, which grows singly or in groves within Centennial Park, provides flowers, nectar and fruit for birds and insects, and safe hiding places for wētā.



Which one's the weed palm? Native nikau seedling on the left; bangalow seedling (right) has broader, lighter green leaves and should be removed

Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Ridding your property of pest plants - plus problematic palms - will help us all make Campbells Bay a real urban sanctuary.

Richard Hursthouse



Bangalow palm - every fruit's a potential problem

Photo: Richard Hursthouse



Phoenix palm - watch out for the dangerous spines

Photo: Richard Hursthouse

SWAT Water-care

Volunteers toting containers of water to thirsty trees, both within and on the boundary of Centennial Park, became a familiar sight this summer - inspiring appreciative thank-yous and even toots of support from drivers. Summer in the bay was exceptionally hot and dry - Pupuke Golf rain gauge, operated by greenkeeper Mat Cheer, registered just 34mm of rain for Centennial Park in January 2025, (compared with Auckland's January average of 78mm) and February 2025 was even drier with just 2mm of rain falling on the reserve. Young native trees planted in the open have to be super tough to survive more than three months without a decent drink and many species have evolved to do exactly that, but we have lost some lovely rimu, kauri, tōtara and kōwhai of late. The answer is a supply of 2-litre milk bottles, or bigger containers if you're strong, and a summer watering team (SWAT) who ensure new trees get two litres each per week, plus a protective layer of mulch. Check out the thriving Kōwhai Road kōwhai along the golf course boundary fence to see examples of SWAT water-care and, on the other side of the road, the kōwhai outside number 129a (see below).

Now autumn rain is on the radar, on behalf of the trees, a huge THANK YOU to (in no particular order): Belinda, Max & Julie, Liz & Chris, Andrew, Mark, Joe, Michaela, Marilu, Jenny, Lydia & Matt, Hannah, Trisha & Vijay. And thanks to Campbells Bay Tennis Club and Pupuke Golf for letting us refill our containers when we ran out.

Jenny Chamberlain

Watch These Spaces

It's not easily visible now but in the winter of 2024, volunteers planted a small area at the top of the Baylis Track, on the Pupuke Golf Course boundary, with a range of natives, including: karamu, ti kōuka (cabbage tree), lacebark, mānuka,



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māhoe, karo, harakeke (flax), koromiko and coastal kōwhai. The area was weeded and mulched in spring 2024 and now the weeds have returned in force and... are seemingly swamping the new trees? Not so! The trees are still there and still growing unaided, apart from regular SWAT water-care for the four kōwhai along the edge.



Cared-for Kōwhai road kōwhai



Kōwhai Road tree in recovery - thank you Michaela!



Recycled bottles to the rescue

This is climate change push-back in action - restoring our precious urban forest by turning (sometimes very large) unused, or seemingly unusable, areas of grass back into carbon-sequestering native cover. Led by Richard Hursthouse, and before him by Pat Morton, CPBS volunteers have been reforesting these spaces for decades. In 2024 volunteers dug



The 15th fairway slip before 2013 remediation... and ten years later
Photos: Richard Hursthouse

1,161 native plants into the reserve. Our best-ever planting year was 2013 when 2,500 went in, with 1,200 of those going into the major slip remediation on the edge of the 15th fairway - an area which is now stunning forest margin.

How can you help? By coming along to working bees, clearing your backyard of weeds (consult the *Weed Control Guide*) and keeping your dogs on-leash on tracks, by streams and in SEAs.

Jenny Chamberlain

Kākahi - Stream Cleaners

Stream restoration coordinator Viv Walker was “truly excited” to discover three populations of threatened kākahi, freshwater mussels, thriving in a covenanted stretch of Campbells Bay stream.

Kākahi are endemic bivalve molluscs which once formed large beds in New Zealand’s lakes, rivers and streams. They filter freshwater, oxygenate sediment, create habitats for other native species and were once an important food source for Māori. Native fish like kōkopu and bullies are critical to kākahi. Larvae released from the female molluscs attach to the fish until they mature and fall into sediment or are transported to different areas. Auckland Council senior Healthy Water specialist Maddison Jones says the kākahi in Campbells Bay stream “appear to be the *Echyridella menziesii* species which has a DOC threat status of At Risk-Declining, so it’s a location worth monitoring and protecting. Kākahi at peak filtration rate, can filter 1.5l of water per hour, so in numbers well into a hundred, as seen in this stream, they will be filtering a whole lot of water and improving the stream’s water quality.”



Kākahi in Campbells Bay stream

Photo: Viv Walker

Award Week

CPBS chair Richard Hursthouse finally received his June 2024 Forest & Bird Old Blue in person at the F&B Regional Gathering on March 1 2025. The award was presented by Tauranga-based F&B president Kate Graeme. The following Monday F&B North Shore branch took it to the next level and presented him with a blue-iced



Richard Hursthouse and Kate Graeme
Photo: Karen Brook

celebration cake. That same week Richard was made a Life Member of Pest Free Kaipātiki restoration society, one of several environmental enterprises he has been instrumental in setting up.

From your CPBS home team, Richard: ka pai! Congratulations and, from our hearts, thank you!



Photo: Karen Brook

Please Come to Our AGM

Everyone is seriously welcome to attend our friendly AGM at Pupuke Golf clubroom on Wednesday 18 June 2025, 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Enjoy an inspirational speaker (check our



Mark Woodward hunts montbretia
Photo: Richard Hursthouse

Facebook page for more details), a cuppa and a chat. Sadly for CPBS, two talented and hardworking committee members are leaving their CPBS roles at the AGM: founding treasurer Max Thomson and pest control coordinator Jo Broad. We will miss their expertise and rock-solid support very much. Jo is gradually handing over to working bee stalwart Mark Woodward.

Contact Us

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Committee: Liz Goodwin, Joe Greig, Victoria Morris, Jo Broad, Vivienne Walker and Mark Woodward.

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

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