

HIBISCUS COAST BRANCH OF FOREST & BIRD
AGM – Wednesday 25th May 2016
CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The past year has seen a huge amount of activity especially in the last 6 months.

Most importantly we have 6 wonderful people put their hands up. We now have our Treasurer, Marion Fraser; Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rhiannon Thomas; Newsletter editor, Ian Clark and Education Liaison, Richard Chambers; Also Prue Bell returned to continue as Secretary & Katie Lucas has returned as our communications & media guru.

So what have we achieved over the past 12months?

- A couple of days in July & August we had YMCA international students & law cadets from Simpson Grierson do planting & weeding at Karaka Cove
- November was exceptionally busy as we put on the very successful Feather & Fin exhibition in conjunction with our series of 3 walks & talks and we also ran our own Bird Survey on the Peninsula
- December & January saw us complete the 4 major choke lines across the Peninsula; at KC-G/D; SB-AB; M-M; FR-GH as well as put in predator control at Cochrane Ave & Ferry Rd Reserves,
- These support established ongoing pest control at Whangaparaoa Golf Club, Pacific Parade, Alice Eaves Bush, Stillwater, Redwood Estate, Matakatia & Raroa Reserves, Archers Bush, Crocodile Island & the many residents' own properties. Hopefully you're all on our PPPmap
- Our latest lines went down just last weekend on 2 large landholdings on Tindalls Bay Headland 3 volunteers placing 66 baitstations & 7 traps, and also recently The Crescent has a small number of residents participating.
- The over 500 bait stations and traps laid down have now been GPS located and mapped
- We liaise with AU Stat Dept to record all data received on their Catch IT programme
- We have provided free training sessions for all our volunteers doing the monitoring and now have about 48 people doing a brilliant job. Our new Volunteer Co-ord Rhiannon will be in touch if she hasn't already – so please say hello to her tonight
- We've set up displays in both Orewa & Wgp libraries
- Had great support from Terry & her team at Hibiscus Matters
- Held Public meeting for PFP
- Presentation to Montessori school Silverdale
- Participate in Bimonthly F&B Chairs meetings for Ak Region & Northland
- Regular attendance at Shakespear Working Group meetings
- Writing submissions for Te Muri Park; protecting native bush/fauna against land developments; etc
- But the payoff for all this work comes in the numbers:
 - Possums over 150 taken off the Peninsula to put it nicely
 - Rats – thousands considering 1 bait block serves 5 rats but remember 1 pair can breed 15000 in one year alone
 - Stoats 2 (but a plan to grow that number significantly this year is in the pipeline)

Going forward this year

As part of funding received for private land predator control will go down on GHCC through this month and Peter Snell Village soon after. Other SEA's identified in the AC's Boffa Miskell Report like

Roberts Road – Hobbs Rd and Weiti River/Riverhaven, Little Manly Headland & Chenery Lane area will also be pursued some with great local community support ready & waiting. We will continue to place baitstations and trap lines on Council's Parks & Reserves focusing on Te Ara Tahuna Walkway around the estuary here.

We don't only do predator control though it sounds like it!

We also propose planting on D'Oyly Reserve with KCC & the local schools running their Enviro Schools programme

We are organising planting days at Karaka Cove June 18th & 26th always a great community get together so put it in your diaries

Our Kids Conservation Club has a full calendar as well having run a Rocky Shore Explore hatfields beach, an Orewa Beach clean up and learning to compost/recycle. They've participated in the local libraries holiday programme and are looking working with them and Bunnings to install a sensory garden.

We also fully support the Landcare bird survey happens June 25th – July 3rd - To literally make the local data count Whangaparaoa Peninsula needs a minimum of 200 participants – all it takes is to sit for 1 hour one day between 25/6-3/7. So I hope you will participate this year.

We also are taking over the support for the Weiti Wildlink Group in Silverdale from June

Discussions with Shakespear Park Working Group on a plan for stoat eradication. Understanding their behaviour will be a big part of this plan so tonight's talk is very timely.

I wish to ask if you would consider volunteering on our Committee we have a couple of vacancies available one is the Secretary and the other is a Team Leader for our Weed eradication programme we wish to establish. Please see me or one of the Committee members if you think you would like to join us.

I wish to thank the Committee for their commitment and work on the projects they run and working behind the scenes keeping the accounts, bait/trap sales, writing newsletters, getting funding, writing submissions, planting, weeding, organising and supporting the exhibitions etc; your efforts are appreciated.

I also want to extend our thanks to the driving force behind the PFP project by long standing committee member Pauline Smith with her vision & knowledge and drive we are making great progress towards our aim of making the Peninsula predator free by 2025.

Anne Graham
Chairperson
Hibiscus Coast Forest & Bird