



**Forest & Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice

## **Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Timeline to 2006 – April 2020**

**2006-8** Planning, resource consent for the Fence at Shakespear Regional Park.

Forest & Bird Hibiscus Coast Pauline Smith, chairperson invited to participate in the Steering group meetings.

**2011** Eradication of pests from Shakespear Regional Park

F&B HBC developed concept of **eradicating pests outside the fence**, to reduce incursions into the Park. Project known as Pest Free Peninsula or Paint the Peninsula Purple (on the map). Selling point to communities was Fantails in my Garden

- Auckland became a Super City and Hibiscus Coast became part of Auckland City.
- The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board was established.
- Auckland Council began to provide assistance to community volunteer groups.

**2014** January 29<sup>th</sup> first line of bait stations laid at Karaka Cove.

- Within one week the first possum was trapped on the bank of the Weiti River.
- Hibiscus and Bays Local Board provides practical and technical support to the project.
- Further lines laid at Pacific Parade, Archers Bush.
- 4 Choke points identified and established with bait lines at Fisherman's Rock to Gulf Harbour,
- Tindalls Bay to Matakatia, Stanmore Bay to Arkles Bay, and Glenelg Reserve to Karaka Cove.

**2016** F&B HBC applied for \$2000 to buy equipment for Private Properties.

- Auckland Council provided, additional to the \$2k grant, monetary grant to F&B HBC supporting the North West Wild Link.
- Significantly large private properties were then brought into the programme, Whangaparaoa Golf Club, Gulf Harbour Country Club, Peter Snell Youth village, Tindalls Bay Headland.
- Redwoods Residential subdivision at Arkles Bay, funded their own pest control under guidance from F&B HBC.
- Further infill lines established as volunteers came forward. Using by line in community correspondence... Bellbirds coming to...(your) reserve
- Silverdale's Flexman Reserve and the Oxbow Reserve, on the bank of the Weiti River, came under our management after being established by Volunteer New Zealand.
- Fight for Flight exhibition held at Estuary Art Centre, raising awareness of the predators in the environment, and the need to eradicate them.

**2017** Hibiscus and Bays Local Board commissioned the writing of a restoration plan for Orewa Estuary (private contractor). This was at the request of F&B HBC.

- HBLB provided \$10,000 for pest control actions and restoration work around the Estuary under management of F&B HBC. Grant was repeated 2 more years.

- Waders and Wonders Exhibition held the Estuary Art Centre., raising awareness of the Orewa Estuary birdlife.
- Online data recording system build by Paul Wilkinson based on Google Sheets and housed on a Wix website for volunteers. All trap and bait station data now recorded.

**2017-18** Collaboration between restoration groups in the HBLB area, coordinated by the HBLB. A plan was written by the Steering group for this, including F&B HBC (Pauline Smith).

**2018** The Pest Free Peninsula had grown, 60 volunteers and over 1000 bait stations, the committee was struggling to manage the project.

- Forest and Bird National Office provided funding application support to advertise for a paid coordinator.
- Name was changed to **Pest Free Hibiscus Coast** as the project now included Silverdale, Orewa and Hatfields Beach.

**2019** Funding applications successful and job description written, advertised and candidates interviewed resulting in a very successful appointment of Jenny Hanwell, as Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Coordinator, 20 hours per week. Appointment commenced 22 July. Her 2019 contract was for 6 months to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

- HBLB provided \$10,000 for Orewa Estuary and Rhiannon Thomas appointed as the OE coordinator time contract condensed to 6 months. Additional 12 hours per week offset from PFHC funds. To bring better results with more hours per week for a shorter period of time.
- Forest & Bird nationally office receives funding from Foundation North to support conservation projects over 3 years, PFHC allocated funding as the second highest priority project.
- Jenny Hanwell wrote a 3 year Project Plan in consultation with the committee and partners.
- More funding applications, aiming to provide continuity of staffing.
- Pauline Smith awarded the Ti Kouka award by Forest and Bird, presented at the North Island Gathering in November 2019. Continues as Co Chair of the Forest and Bird Hibiscus Coast Branch.
- Backyard trapping begins with trap boxes being built to take home by students at Orewa College, Gulf Harbour School, and at events including Very Coastie Christmas and Pest Free Boaties.
- Backyard trapping recording begins on Trap.NZ
- 7<sup>th</sup> annual bird count undertaken by volunteers in partnership with Massey University.
- 215 new predator control tools (traps and bait stations) activated. Including 90 bait stations at Gulf Harbour Marine Village.
- Gulf Harbour Country Club begin fundraising golf tournaments to benefit the project.
- 20 new volunteers recruited
- Volunteer hours reach 5200 / year.

## **2020**

- January: Successful funding application to Auckland Council RENH grant for the appointment of Hub Activators to catalyse backyard trapping in 2 priority areas on the peninsula.
- Orewa Estuary incorporated into Pest Free Hibiscus Coast Project to enable more effective coordination of work across the project area.

- Funding received through NETR fund for Auckland Grammar school students to construct wooden tunnels for backyard trapping.
- February: Second contract for Jenny Hanwell, hours increased to 30 hours per week, Rhiannon Thomas appointed as Field Officer for the PFHC project, 12 hours per week. Contracts to 22 May 2020.
- March: Project logo designed by graphic designer Nic Hall.  
Funding application successful, funds received from Auckland Council to extend Project Manager (Jenny Hanwell) and Field Officer (Rhiannon Thomas) contracts until mid December 2020.
- April:  
Facebook following increases by 50% under Covid-19 lockdown.  
Website updated to include online sign up forms for backyard trapping.  
Backyard trapping begins to take off, with almost 300 backyard trapper active and more signing up each day.