

# Parks

Kia ora koutu,



## **Bowenvale Valley lost in a sea of cloud**

The festive season is a distant memory and autumn days are now approaching. The hot, dry weather at the start of summer didn't last, with the Port Hills experiencing cooler temperatures and more rainfall than normal. This has provided a good growing season for the young restoration plantings. Unfortunately, this also provides ideal growing conditions for the weeds!

It is time for the grass around the plants to be cut back. This allows light and air to reach the plants, providing better growing conditions. The assistance of volunteers for this vital plant care is much appreciated. If you are interested in helping to restore the native bush on the Port Hills, please come along to one of the plant care days planned for the autumn season, noted below.

The schedule for the rest of the year is included on the last page.

## **Keen to help native plants survive?**

Volunteer plant care days run from 1pm to 3pm.

- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February      [Barnett Park](#)
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March          [Dry Bush](#)
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March        [Barnett Park](#)
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March        [Eastside Bush \(Victoria Park\) – Followed by BBQ](#)

**Barnett Park:** Meet in the dog walking paddock accessed from the gate at the end of Bay View Road, Redcliffs. Look for the park ranger truck on the opposite side of the paddock. On-street parking. Please keep access ways clear for residents.

**Dry Bush:** Park at the top of Huntsbury Avenue and walk up Huntsbury 4WD track to site (1.3km approx. 25 minutes), or park on the Summit Road and walk down Huntsbury Track to Dry Bush (0.8km approx. 10 minutes). Look for the park ranger truck near the cattle stop at the fenced bush. There is no parking on Huntsbury Track.

**Eastside Bush:** Meet in the car park behind the Victoria Park Visitor Centre, next to Park Ranger HQ.

Come prepared for all weather and wear sturdy footwear for hill work. A limited number of hedge clippers and gloves will be provided by the rangers, but feel free to bring your own.

For more information, please visit [ccc.govt.nz/port-hills-reserves-volunteer-days](http://ccc.govt.nz/port-hills-reserves-volunteer-days) or contact Fiona Fenton on 027 506 1425 or [fiona.fenton@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:fiona.fenton@ccc.govt.nz)



## Spring Plant Care Mahi – Spring 2025

The spring weather provided a mix of both beautiful blue-sky and damp, grey days for the plant care mahi. We are very grateful to the volunteers who give up their time and come out to help in all weather. Larger plants were cut free from old tree guards that were no longer required. Smaller plants were given space to grow when they were released from the choking grass surrounding them. Plants that were completely lost in the grass were uncovered.

Plant care is a bit of a treasure hunt at times. It is always rewarding to see the neat, clear area at the end of the session.



**Cages piled up, ready to be bundled into the truck by the Student Volunteer army**



**Bishopdale Trampers enjoyed blue skies at Greenwood, while Meg managed to laugh in the rain at (not so) Dry Bush**



**Latters Spur and Bowenvale Valley – young plants revealed, cages back in place and new mulch around the plants**



**Smiles all round – Jackie at Latters Spur and young Toby at Mahoe Nui pleased with his flower for mum**

### **Thank you**

Thanks to all volunteers – your contribution is much appreciated!

Fiona, Di and the Port Hills Ranger Team

## Volunteer Restoration Events 2026

### Autumn Maintenance | Saturdays 1-3pm

28 February	Barnett Park
7 March	Dry Bush
14 March	Barnett Park
21 March	Eastside Bush (with a BBQ afterwards)

### Winter Planting | Saturdays 1- 3pm

6 June	Barnett Park
13 June	Dry Bush
20 June	Eastside Bush (with a BBQ afterwards)

### Spring Maintenance | Saturdays 1-3pm

26 September	Barnett Park
3 October	Dry Bush
10 October	Dry Bush
17 October	Eastside Bush (with a BBQ afterwards)