



URBAN ARK MANAWA TAIAO

Nature in the city

Welcome to our December newsletter

2020 has been quite a year! Here's looking forward to a happy holiday season and a less disruptive 2021. In this month's newsletter we cover:

1. Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao is seeking a facilitator
2. Bat walk update
3. Alberton Market Days
4. Detecting species using eDNA
5. Moth plant alert

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Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao is recruiting!

We're looking for a part-time facilitator to work alongside Paul, hopefully starting in the new year. It'll be roughly 25 hours a week until June 2021, though we'll be seeking funding to extend that.

If you're interested, or know someone who is, check out the [listing](#) on our website.



No bats: too many rats

So far we've run two in our series of five evening walks to places where modelling shows pekapeka tou roa (long-tailed bats) might be detected. Sadly we haven't found any yet. We've explored along the western fringe of Chamberlain Park, along the Pines edge of Western Springs Park and through Bullock Track Bush mostly spotting eels, rats and hearing the occasional rūrū.

Check out the dates of our remaining bat walks [here](#).

Over the holidays, consider borrowing one of Auckland Council's free hand-held bat detectors. Call the main council number (09 301 0101) and see if there's one available. Bats are found in the Waitākere and Hunua ranges, but we'd love people to search in other places for unknown populations.



Alberton Market Days

Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao will be hosting a stall at three Alberton Market Days over the coming months. Come and check us out.

If you've got an hour or two to spare, we'd appreciate a hand. You don't need to be a biodiversity expert, just enthusiastic about giving our native species a chance. The markets run from 10am to 2pm, but assistance with setup and pack-down is always appreciated.

- Sunday 13 December 2020
- Sunday 14 March 2021
- Sunday 11 April 2021

Contact Paul Whitfield on paul@urbanark.nz



Wai Tūwhera o te Taiao – Open Waters Aotearoa

Te Mana Rauhi Taiao – the Environmental Protection Agency – is encouraging community groups to get involved with sampling their local waterways to find out which species are there. [Wai Tūwhera o te Taiao](#) uses new technology sampling water to pick up traces of the DNA left behind by whatever is living in or around the water. Urban Ark has already registered its interest, but if you or your group are keen on getting involved, just let me know. WE can see about getting more testing kits.

For a bit of background, check out RNZ's Bryan Crump out [sampling his local Wellington stream](#) recently.



Remove moth plants before the pods form

If you've know of a moth plant and don't have the time or knowledge to remove it, at least pull the flowers off before the pods form. Removing pods once they form takes ages of back breaking work so get in quick.

For more information see Auckland Council's [pest plants page](#), and check out the Society Totally Against Moth Plant (S.T.A.M.P) on [Facebook](#).



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