



URBAN ARK MANAWA TAIAO

Nature in the city

In our October 2020 Newsletter...

After several COVID-induced months with few events, all of a sudden there is heaps on:

1. Communicating about cats: Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao get-together
2. Bat detection walk series
3. Help staff our festival stalls
4. Sandringham Spring Festival
5. Grey Lynn Park Festival
6. Sign up for our newsletter and Facebook
7. Dates for your Diary
8. Gear up for the November predator pulse
9. Predator Control Training
10. Maungakiekie Songbird
11. What type of bird are you?

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Effective Communication with Cat Companions

Come along the the last Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao event of the year. We've got Dr Imogen Bassett, Principal Biosecurity Advisor at Auckland Council) and Kathryn Ovenden (Behaviour Change & Evaluation Advisor) presenting on getting the message out to the public about cats.

It's a fraught topic (as Gareth Morgan well knows), so it will be fascinating to hear what Imogen and Kathryn have to say. There will be plenty of time afterwards to chat around the buffet table.

When: Tuesday 24 November 6.30pm–8.30pm

Where: Grasslands Room, Auckland Zoo, 99 Motions Rd. Look for our flag beside the main entrance.



Are there any bats in Auckland's inner west?

We know there are pekapeka (long-tailed bats) in the Waitakere Ranges, but what about in central Tāmaki Makurau? We're heading out on a few (hopefully) warm spring evenings with bat detection devices to see what we can find. The first walk is with NZBatman, Ben Paris, who knows as much about pekapeka as anyone. Five walks are scheduled. Numbers are limited so reserve a space with Paul Whitfield (paul@urbanark.nz & 021 015 8284). Full details are on the [Events](#) section of our website.

Chamberlain Park Fringe – Thursday 19 November (7.30pm to 9pm) with Ben Paris

Western Springs Lakeside Park and Stadium– Thursday 3 December (7.30–9pm)

Jagger's Bush / Seddon Fields / Meola Creek – Monday 7 December (7.30–9pm)

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga (south) – Thursday 10 December (8–9.30pm)

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga (north end) – Monday 14 December (8–9.30pm)

Help staff our festival stalls

During November Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao will be at two festivals:

Sandringham Spring Festival (Saturday 7 November)

Grey Lynn Park Festival (Saturday 21 November)

We'd love a hand. Can you spare a couple of hours on either of those days? You don't need to be a biodiversity expert, just enthusiastic about giving our native species a chance.

Contact Paul Whitfield on paul@urbanark.nz

9 am
to 4 pm



FREE
ENTRY!!!

SANDRINGHAM SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday November 7th

LIVE MUSIC

*Hoop, the Sam Loveridge Band,
John's Comb, Zoe Scott, Isla and more...*



KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

*Amusement rides, face painting, games,
roving entertainers & more.*

STREET FOOD

*Food from around the world and all
your local favourites!*



Sandringham Spring Festival

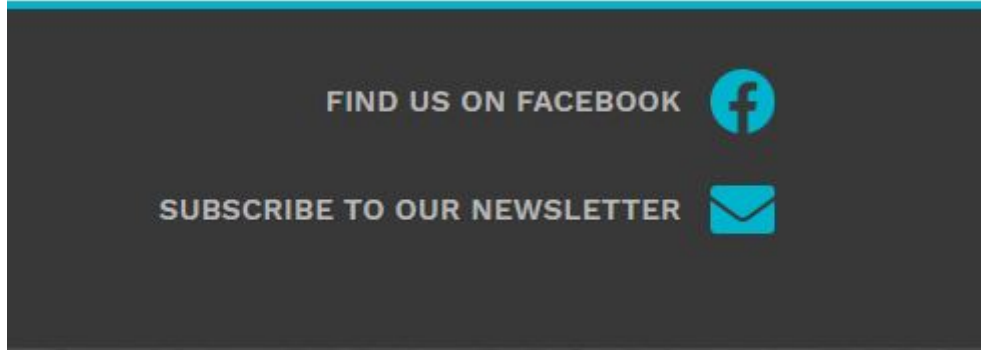
Urban Ark - Manawa Taiao and Eco-neighbourhoods are jointly promoting native biodiversity at the Sandringham Spring Festival on Saturday 7 November 9am to 4pm.

- Plant a seed to take away and grow your own native tree or shrub
- Come and build a rat trap tunnel to take away with you
- Win prizes in our kids' rat trap game
- Test your knowledge in our "Pests or Pals?" quiz
- Learn to recognise predator tracks and pest weeds
- Help your local trapping group to reduce pest numbers and bring back native birds

We'll be getting traps out into the community to boost our coverage in that quarter. Send your Sandringham, Mount Eden and Morningside friends along!

GREY LYNN PARK festival

Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao will also be at the [Grey Lynn Park Festival](#) on Saturday 21 November (9.30am-6pm). As well as our stall promoting native biodiversity and getting more traps into the community, Predator Free Grey Lynn supremo, Graeme Hill, will be one of the stars of the new festival Tent Talks. Graeme always has something interesting to say, so come and hear him talk on "Habitats where Indigenous Flora and Fauna Flourish" (2.30pm-3pm).



We need your help

As Urban Ark - Manawa Taiao grows and becomes more active, we're keen to get news of our events and activities out to as many people as possible. Please circulate this newsletter to your network of friends and fellow trappers, weeders and planters.

If you didn't get this newsletter directly, please sign up for regular (roughly monthly) newsletters on our [website](#) and join us on [Facebook](#).

Dates for your Diary

Festival Weekend

Festival is back, now in a new format across two venues over two mornings on the weekend of 28/29 November. Registrations open today. Check it out [here](#).

Ka ora te Whenua

Join Donna Kerridge, Māori medicine practitioner, as she introduces the web of connections that tie our own wellbeing to the land. Caring for the land must come before all else, or nothing else will matter. If the land is not well, we cannot be well. Numbers are limited and online registration is essential, please register each individual separately.

Ceramco Park Glen Eden Saturday 14th November – 10am – 1pm: <https://calendly.com/mylocalpark/ka-ora-te-whenua-glen-eden>

Totara Park Manurewa Sunday 15th November 10am – 1pm: <https://calendly.com/mylocalpark/ka-ora-te-whenua-totara-park>

Feeding tūi research

Predator Free West Lynn are hosting PhD candidate, Daria Erestova, who will be talking about her work around feeding tūi on sugar water. Come along to the Gypsy Tea Room in West Lynn on Wednesday 28 October at 7pm. The event is in the back room.

Bullock Track Bush

Forest & Bird's Central Auckland branch have developed a restoration programme for Bullock Track Bush, a triangle of regenerating forest between Bullock Track and Western Springs Stadium. Planting season is over and now is time for weeding. Their next weeding bee is Sunday 15 November at 10am. Visit their [Facebook page](#).



Gear up for the November Predator Pulse

Now is a great time to make sure you and your group have everything ready for the November pulse. The aim is to really knock the rat and possum numbers down this month so that they don't rebound too much before our next pulse in late January.

Having trouble bagging that predator? Yep, we know it can be frustrating when you set your trap week after week, top up the peanut butter (which always gets eaten by invertebrates) and never catch anything. And chew cards, or trail cam footage tell you there are rats about.

The fact is, rats (and possums and especially stoats) don't always enter traps. If they did, our job would be easy. But there are things you can do to improve your odds:

Switch up your lure Maybe your rat prefers liquorice to peanut butter, or even white chocolate buttons. Try a new lure.

Relocate Try placing your trap next to the compost bin, on top of a fence or in some hidden spot.

Spring clean Make sure your trap is working sweetly. Wipe it down and make sure all mechanisms operate easily. It would be a shame not to catch something due to old peanut butter stuck in your springs. Now is a perfect time for spring cleaning.

Are your rats sensitive The Victor Pro traps used by most Urban Ark groups can be set to 'Sensitive' (see manufacturers [video](#)) so the trap goes off at the slightest touch. You just need to watch your fingers as you can set off the trap easily as well, and it's far from a pleasant sensation getting your fingers caught in a Victor.



Predator Control Training

Conservation Volunteers NZ are running a couple of their Predator Control Training sessions for new volunteers. The course is pretty much a pre-requisite for those intending to trap in Council reserves and parks. The sessions are free and give you a great grounding in staying safe as you trap. Training is on **Sunday 22 November 2020** at these times and places:

Grey Lynn Park	9.00am – 11.30am
Tahuna Torea, Glen Innes	1.30pm – 4pm

Contact CVNZ's [Dylan Steeples](#) directly, or book through Urban Ark's [Paul Whitfield](#).



We've got new neighbours!

New kids on the block [Maungakiekie Songbird](#) are bringing the dawn chorus back to One Tree Hill and it's surrounds. They had a successful launch event last Saturday in One Tree Hill Domain.

Spread the word to your mates who live in thier ['halo' area](#), essentially the streets immediately around One Tree Hill and Cornwall Park.



What type of bird are you?

For a bit of fun, check out which NZ bird you most resemble with the Predator Free NZ [quiz](#).



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