

# Memorandum

3 July 2019

<b>To:</b>	<b>All elected members and the Independent Māori Statutory Board</b>
<b>CC:</b>	Barry Potter - Director, Infrastructure and Environmental Services Gael Ogilvie – General Manager, Environmental Services
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Auckland Festival and Mayoral Conservation Awards – September 2019</b>
<b>From:</b>	Brett Butland – Pest Free Auckland Programme Director

## Purpose

1. This memorandum provides information on the Auckland Festival and the Mayoral Conservation Awards events that will be held in September 2019.

## Summary

- *Pest Free Auckland is a community-powered conservation programme, facilitated by Auckland Council, to eradicate invasive pests and restore the region's native ecosystems. Partnerships with community groups, mana whenua, landowners, schools, the Department of Conservation, and private and philanthropic sectors are key to the success of this programme.*
- *As part of the Pest Free Auckland programme, the annual Auckland Festival will be held on Saturday 14 September 2019, to showcase community-led conservation, provide a networking opportunity and introduce new innovations and best practice methods.*
- *The Mayoral Conservation Awards will be held on Thursday 19 September 2019, to recognise excellence collaboration and innovation in community-led conservation.*
- *The invitation to nominate people for the awards will be sent to all Pest Free News recipients this week and will also feature in a July Our Auckland article and on Council's social media channels. Nominations close on Wednesday 14 August 2019.*
- *Invitations for the awards ceremony will be sent to finalists, award sponsors, elected members and Independent Māori Statutory Board members in mid-August 2019.*

## Background

2. Auckland's natural environment is suffering from the impacts of urban development, widespread habitat clearance, fragmentation and the threat of weeds, pest animals and pathogens.
3. With approximately 85 per cent of the region in private ownership, the engagement and commitment of communities, rural landowners and households to restore Auckland's indigenous biodiversity is critical to reversing the environmental decline. We are committed to working in partnership with mana whenua to enable shared environmental outcomes and kaitiakitanga across Tāmaki Makaurau.
4. The natural environment targeted rate was established in 2018 to provide significant new investment to enhance Auckland's natural environment. Supporting mana whenua, communities, landowners and schools with conservation action in parks and private land is enabled by the targeted rate.
5. Pest Free Auckland is a community-centric approach to concurrently eradicate pests (including pest plants, animals and pathogens) and restore native ecosystems and species in parks and on private land.

6. The annual Auckland Festival and Mayoral Conservation Awards support and expand community-led conservation by recognising and celebrating this work.

### **Auckland Festival**

7. The 2019 Auckland Festival will be held on Saturday 14 September 2019 at the Aotea Centre from 9.00am until 3.30pm. This is the third Auckland Festival event, the first two being very successful and well attended.
8. The purpose of the Auckland Festival is to:
  - showcase community-led conservation activity in Auckland
  - report on progress since Pest Free Auckland was launched in June 2017
  - provide a networking opportunity with other groups
  - introduce new innovations and best practice methods.
9. The Festival will include presentations from leading conservationists from community groups, mana whenua, academia and government.
10. The event is expected to be attended by about 550 representatives from community conservation groups, educators, innovators, citizen scientists and the conservation funding and philanthropy sector.

### **Mayoral Conservation Awards**

11. The inaugural Mayoral Conservation Awards were held in 2018 to recognise excellence and encourage quality, collaboration and innovation in community-led conservation. Thirty-one high quality nominations were received. The winners were:
  - Collaboration – Kaipātiki Project nursery, Kaipātiki
  - Eradication – Windy Hill Sanctuary, Aotea/Great Barrier Island
  - Individual – Frazer Dale (Sunhill Scenic Reserve project), Henderson-Massey
  - Innovation – Ecotrack, Kaipātiki
  - Restoration – Matuku Link, Waitākere Ranges
12. Nominations for the second annual Mayoral Conservation Awards will open this week and nominations close on 14 August 2019.
13. To align with Conservation Week, the awards will be presented at an evening function at the Maritime Museum on Thursday 19 September 2019.
14. Nominations are open to all conservation projects that are led by mana whenua, communities, schools, youth and landowners in the Auckland region which occur on private land or public parks and reserves. Nominations can be made via the [online nomination form](#). There are six award categories to enter a project into:
  - Restoration
  - Innovation
  - Collaboration
  - Schools
  - Youth
  - Individual
15. The judging panel is made up of a combination of governing body, IMSB and LB members and comprises:
  - Councillor Penny Hulse - Chair, Environment and Community Committee
  - Councillor Alf Filipaina - Deputy Chair, Environment and Community Committee

- Glenn Wilcox - Deputy Chair, Independent Māori Statutory Board
  - Local Board Member Adriana Avendano Christie (Waitematā Local Board)
  - Local Board Member Nicholas Mayne, Upper Harbour Local Board
16. Further information, including assessment criteria and a nomination form, is contained in a nomination pack that available on the Auckland Council [website](#) or from staff via email: [pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **Impact of pre-election period**

16. This is an annual event but this year it occurs during the pre-election period. All members taking part are doing so in their role as current members of the governing body and local boards and should be careful to not use the event, or associated council resources, for electioneering purposes.

### **Next steps**

17. Please encourage, within your networks, the nomination of conservation community groups who are achieving excellent conservation results.
18. Invitations to the Auckland Festival and the Mayoral Conservation Awards will be sent to you in mid-August 2019.