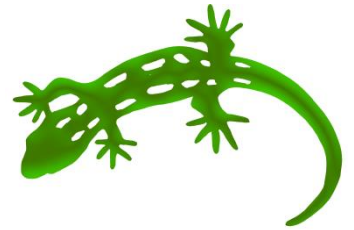


Friends of Okura Bush Incorporated Society



Friends of Okura Bush
109 Haigh Access Road
Redvale 0794

25 November 2019

Members of the
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board
50 Centreway Road
Orewa

Dear Members

Friends of Okura Bush (FoOB) is a voluntary group established to protect and enhance the Okura Estuary Scenic Reserve and surrounding area in Council and private ownership. Since its inception seven years ago, it has appreciated the support it has received from the Local Board for the work that it has been undertaking.

For the past six years, FoOB has organised a major festival – the Okura Forest Festival – with a contribution of funding from the Local Board. The amount of funding has increased each year as the Festival has grown in concept and numbers.

This year FoOB did not apply for funding for the Festival, which is to be held on the 15th February 2020, through the Board's Contestable Fund as it was given the impression that it had been provided by the Board through another avenue – see below. Without this funding, the Festival is put in grave jeopardy of proceeding. FoOB is therefore requesting that the Board urgently consider FoOB's request for this popular event.

Request:

Friends of Okura Bush (FoOB) requests that the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board urgently consider funding from the Contestable Funding Grant Scheme be granted towards the Okura Forest Festival event. The amount sought is \$10,000.

FoOB is also seeking that the Okura Forest Festival be considered in the future as one of the Local Boards signature events.

Reason:

Unfortunately we had a misunderstanding about our group's need to apply for funding in this current round, believing that funding provision from the Local Board had already been made and it was not necessary to reapply to the Contestable Fund. We have now learned that this was not the case.

The Forest Festival is to be held in February next year and preparations are well underway. As the next Contestable Funding round does not occur until after this event, and as funding cannot be made retrospectively, we would be extremely grateful if this application could be considered urgently within the next month to allow organisation to proceed.

**The Okura Forest Festival:
Auckland's largest environmental awareness music event**

Friends of Okura Bush (FoOB) has been running the Festival very successfully for the past six years with funding support from the Local Board. It is an event held to promote community awareness of environmental and environmentally-friendly initiatives occurring in the local and wider area, including what is happening across the Local Board area. It has become the one key event in Okura, and a significant one for the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area.

The Festival is an all-day music event (11 am – 11 pm), much looked forward to as the 'Local Community Big Day Out'. It is focused on environmental conservation, and helps greatly to fund FoOB's activities in the Okura Bush and surrounding area, including education activities involving local residents. All participants running the Festival are volunteers from the communities of Okura, Redvale, Long Bay and Stillwater.

As it has grown in scale, the event has become more professional, and more expensive to run. Although local bands, some featuring our local youth, still perform throughout the day, a larger number of headline bands are also engaged at some cost to attract patrons. The staging and sound systems have become more sophisticated. One of the greatest increases in cost last year was the need to meet Council's waste minimisation requirements for managing, including sorting.

A number of environmentally-focussed organisations, both local and regional, participate with information/promotional stalls. The event provides an excellent opportunity for all participating groups to recruit new volunteers and supporters, including young volunteers, as well as to raise funding of their own.

The Festival also runs 12 environmentally-related and wellbeing 1-hour workshops on such topics as looking after our rivers, attracting butterflies and moths to our gardens, how we can live more lightly on the planet, climate change issues, yoga session etc. The workshops are popular, each with attendances of 40 – 80 participants.

A range of excellent food and beverages, much of it prepared by FoOB, is provided at very reasonable cost.

Who attends the Festival

About 1500 people attended the Festival in February 1919 were around 1500 and it is expected that between 1500 and 2000 in will attend next February. However, attendance is dependent on other events on at the same time, and the weather.

The event is targeted to young people and families attracted by the music and the environmental theme. Many families attend with their children during the day and early evening and a range of exciting activities are provided for children. The evening programme is more targeted towards older youth and adults enjoying the concert. This is one of very few events targeting youth held in the Local Board area.

The event is supported by the Albany Ward councillors, and members of Council staff involved in environmental issues, with several attending. An invitation is always extended to Local Board members to attend, again with representatives attending.

Meeting Local Board outcomes:

The Okura Forest Festival meets a number of pertinent Local Board outcomes, namely:

- **A protected and enhanced environment.**

A large team of volunteers help organise and run the Festival, with the aim of increasing awareness of a range of environmental issues, and to gain support the work of FoOB. This includes:

- Managing a pest eradication programme in the Okura Bush Reserve and the surrounding neighbourhood properties
- Advising and educating owners of adjoining property owners
- Running a number of community planting days eg, at Weiti, Stillwater, Silverdale

- Running community educational programme re the restoration and pest-free work
 - Undertaking an annual bird count in the Okura Bush Reserve
 - Actively involved in protection of endangered or at risk shore birds on shores of the Okura Estuary
 - Working with the Department of Conservation and Council's kauri dieback team to improve tracks in the Okura Bush
 - Developing a vision for restoring the wetland at Karepiro Bay – liaising with the land owner and the Local Board to do this
 - FoOB is a very active member of the Hibiscus and Bays Restoration Group and has an executive place on the newly formed H&B Pest Free group. Representatives of FoOB took a leadership role in the establishment of H&B Pest Free.
 - Liaising with tangata whenua – Te Kawerau o Maki and Ngati Manuhire
 - Has taken an active role in fighting urban development at Okura in order to protect the Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve, protect the environmental values of Okura Bush Reserve, and to protect birdlife and other creatures associated with the bush and the estuary. (Okura Bush Reserve one of the last native coastal broadleaf forests in the wider Auckland area.)
- **Our people are involved and have a strong sense of pride in the look and feel of their local area**
 - FoOB has a large number of volunteers reflecting intergenerational demographic. It is one of few community organisations in the Local Board area which crosses generations with an army of both young and older volunteers.
 - FoOB is highly motivated to protect the natural resources of the Local Board area, and takes much pride in doing this.
- **Our community enjoys access to quality parks, reserves and facilities for leisure, sport and recreation.**
 - As mentioned above, FoOB is working with DOC and Council's kauri dieback teams to address kauri dieback issues, so that the Okura Bush Reserve can re-opened to the public. FoOB has also played a supportive role in work being undertaken to address kauri die back in other reserves in the Bays

Budget for the event:

FoOB is seeking \$10,000 from the Local Board towards its expenses for the Festival. A budget is attached. Please note, that rain event insurance is being sought, but not yet accounted for in the budget.

Funding from other sources has been sought but so far no other has been secured.

Okura Forest Festival as a Local Board signature event

FoOB believes that it fits the criteria used to be acknowledged as one of the Local Board's signature events.

It has a record of running six annual events very successfully, with extremely positive feedback. It has now become an institution in the Okura/Dairy Flat/Stillwater/Northern Bays area, much looked forward to.

FoOB has sought funding from other sources, and also charges a modest entry fee to help cover expenses for the event, and as fundraising for the environmental activities it undertakes. All persons involved in these activities work voluntarily.

Conclusion

FoOB wishes to thank the Local Board for its support to date, and hopes that the Board will urgently consider its request for \$10,000 funding for its 2020 Forest Festival. Without this funding, the Okura Forest Festival will be very unlikely be able to proceed. .

Any funding grant from the Board will be acknowledged in its promotional media for and throughout the event.

FoOB also wishes that the Board consider that this event be recognised as a Local Board Signature Event in the future.

Kind regards

Lezette Reid

Chairperson

Friends of Okura Bush

Draft Budget for Forest Festival & Environmental Awareness Day
Saturday February 15, 2020



As at 20 November 2019 ...

OUT:

Confirmed:

16/09/19	Morgan Holmes Security Ltd	\$ 345.00
23/10/19	Rapid Renta Fence, 95m Event Fencing	\$ 628.19
25/10/19	Kennards Hire, 4 Portaloos	\$ 617.98
17/10/19	Hercules Gazebo 1 x 3m x 6m Gazebo	\$ 1,642.60
18/10/19	Hibiscus Coast Zero Waste, covering event	\$ 540.50
04/11/19	Extreme Marquees 2 x 3mx4.5m Gazebos	\$ 2,630.30
04/11/19	Active Audio & Lighting Ltd, Stage/Sound/Lights	\$ 3,500.00
04/11/19	Sussed Events Stage cover	\$ 500.00
08/11/19	Little Island Creamery, nice blocks & freezer hire	\$ 579.60
	Sub-total:	<u>\$10,984.17</u>

Pending: (estimates based on previous costs)	\$ 62.66	
Friendlypak recyclable crockery & cutlery	\$ 527.49	
Inkredible, Tee Shirts & Visors	\$ 400.00	
Signs, warratahs, petrol for volunteers	\$ 600.84	
Active Audio & Lighting Ltd, Generator Hire	\$ 200.00	
Kiwibank Eftpos Terminal Hire	\$ 64.40	
TicketRiver Wristbands	\$ 282.52	
Gilmours	\$ 1,000.00	
Pak n Save	\$ 250.00	
Fruit World	\$ 400.00	
The Rock Factory, backline/guitar amps	\$ 667.00	
Headline Bands: Band 1	\$ 2,300.00	
Band 2	\$ 2,200.00	
Band 3	\$ 1,139.44	
Band	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	
	Sub-total	<u>\$ 11,094.35</u>

TOTAL: \$22,078.52

IN:

Confirmed:

Pending:

*Pub Charity	\$ 7,500.00
*The Community Trusts Foundation	\$ 7,500.00
(*both applied for and notification due in January, we can only accept one as they both refer to the same use of funds)	
Other Source	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>

Actual Potential Total (using only one of the \$7,500) \$ 11,000.00