

Bellamy busy talking and planting kauri

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British botanist and environmental campaigner David Bellamy planted a kauri tree in Orewa to celebrate the beginning of Conservation Week on Monday.

Dr Bellamy helped plant one of three kauri on the Frank Mackereth Reserve in Kensington Park where the Millennium Walkway will pass through.

Orewa Lions Club and Orewa Rotary representatives, Forest and Bird Society members, Orewa North Primary students, Kensington residents and Kensington Park owner John Sax attended the planting ceremony and the unveiling of a plaque honouring the occasion, now one of the 101 landmarks on the Millennium Walkway.



KENSINGTON CONNECTION: David Bellamy, front, with Kensington residents and owner John Sax, back, Orewa Lions Club members and Forest and Bird representatives celebrate the planting of kauri trees.

With Dr Bellamy's encouragement children and guests sang happy birthday to each tree as they celebrated their planting.

Dr Bellamy was at Long Bay last Wednesday, as well as Kauri Glen and Three Streams at lunchtime where he "adopted" a young kauri. That day he also gave a talk to the public at Massey University, two interviews for TV3, one for Sunrise and another on biodiversity for Nightline. That same day postgraduate students in Massey's Institute of Natural Sciences Ecology and Conservation Group met Dr Bellamy to discuss some of the projects they are working on.



The next day he planted the kauri at Three Streams, a property originally owned by long-time conservationist John Hogan. Mr Hogan gifted the property to the QEII National Trust in 1991. It has 600 young kauri trees and is within walking distance of Albany village.

The property was transferred to the North Shore City Council in 2004. Dr Bellamy also visited Shakespear Regional Park.

CONSERVATION CELEBRATION: David Bellamy with the help of Orewa North Students Cole Murray and Ashley Vujcich, planted a kauri tree and unveiled a plaque on Kensington Park's Frank Mackereth Reserve.