

# **Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc**

## **Minutes of 6th Annual General meeting**

**7pm, 22nd April 2013 at the Paraparaumu Library**

**Present:** Rachel Kiel-Taylor, Liffet Stewart, John Lancashire, Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Michael Keith, Sue Blaikie, Jenny Rowan, Bobbie Taylor, Scott Hill, Peter Kentish, Ken Fraser, Paul Callister, Blair Badcock, Rachel Salive, Jan Nesbitt, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Rob Stone, Mary Beggs, Jonathon Waterworth, Shane Cave, Dawn Bush, Rosemary Barrington, Viola Palmer, Phil Palmer, Noeleen Gollins, Trevor Gollins, Bill Mansfield, Dinah Hawken,

**Apologies:** Jill Waterworth, Penny & Ian Redwood, Don Beggs, Bob Zuur, John Porter and Michael Stace.

*It was moved that the apologies be accepted (moved Sue Blaikie, seconded Liffet Stewart, approved).*

### **Minutes of the last meeting.**

*It was moved that these be accepted as a true and correct record (moved Jenny Rowan, seconded Theo Barsanti, carried).*

### **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

### **Chairperson's Report.**

#### **6th Annual Report 2012-2013**

Another year has passed and with it a significant amount of work and some important projects completed by the Guardians and the DOC. I have not been a hands-on chairperson this past year due to my Bachelor of Counselling studies in Wellington and being a first time live in grandmother so the work on Whareroa has been implemented by the team and organised and monitored more than competently by our extraordinary secretary, Ann Evans, to whom I am extremely grateful for her dedication, commitment and ongoing energy and inspiration. Ann was the winner of a Wellington Regional Conservation Award last year due to her work on Whareroa.

It's gratifying to hear that the farm is being well-used by the public sometimes to the point of small queues of people at bottle-necks where people pass each other to go in different directions.

#### **Farm Plan**

After considerable work by DOC and the Guardians and feedback from the community the Farm Plan is finally completed. The plan was drawn up by Peter Handford and is a comprehensive resource that will set the direction for the farm over the next ten years. It was signed in December 2012 and will be used to determine project priorities and suitability.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Guardians and DOC was signed in August 2012, another major project requiring hours of refining work and consultation between the parties.

This document defines the expectations of the relationship between the Guardians and DOC, a significant step forward.

## **Planting and Working Bees and Volunteers**

The emphasis this year has been on the entrance with the Rugby Legends project and consolidation at other sites such as the Dell and along Matai Bush edge. Secondary planting in the original blocks to extend the plant range has started using species that need shelter such as kohekohe, kahikatea and tawa. 4,300 plants went in in 2012.

84 different volunteers took part in 11 planting and releasing sessions. There is a solid core group of about 20 volunteers. A number also work regularly on the farm at other times, releasing, grubbing thistles and cutting gorse. Planting would be much less successful without the regular input of volunteers in clearing weeds.

In addition, 80 people joined in an amazing Rugby Legends Planting in August when 2000 plants went in to steep terrain in one day. Local school children also planted 500 trees for Rugby Legends. Many thanks to the Tindall Foundation for its sponsoring of this work.

In Mental Health week a group from Kapiti Choices and Kapiti Crossroads planted in the Dell, followed by a BBQ. Members from the Guardians, Rod Lingard and 2 workers from Titoki Trust assisted. The Titoki Trust donated 100 carex – many thanks.

Kapiti Pateke Lions donated \$500 for trees and a group joined the June planting. This was part of an International Lions' Campaign to plant over 1 million trees worldwide in 2012. Many thanks, and also to KCDC for 250 end of season plants.

Many thanks to June and Fred Rowland for doing morning teas right through the year, and Laura van Peer for BBQ after each planting bee.

Workers from Community Corrections have been visiting the farm regularly. They have cleared a lot of gorse and blackberry in the Dell. They also planted 200 trees in part of the area they cleared. This work is much appreciated.

Especial thanks to all the enthusiastic volunteers who have supported Guardians' projects throughout the year. They couldn't happen without you.

## **Mountain Bike Tracks**

Gaining approval for this project has been a long haul and the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club still has some processes to be completed. Please see a concept plan on the wall for their proposed bike trail.

## **Major Projects for 2013**

The Guardians hope to have the fencing of the Ramaroa Wetland (to the south of the race, near the reservoir) completed this year. This area is intended partly as a commemorative planting area.

A stone cairn is to be built on the cutting as a commemoration to community members who have given their time and energy to saving Whareroa Farm from private development and working to create a unique public amenity. The cairn has been designed by Wellington architect, Hugh Tennent and will be built by stonemason, Sascha Wassong and the Guardians.

Pest control by Chris Wootton and Shane Cave is ongoing, and a weed eradication project particularly for tradescantia is underway.

The Guardians will soon produce an information brochure for public distribution.

We are losing Bob Zuur as a trustee. His skilled input to planning documents has been invaluable. We are fortunate that he has offered ongoing support in this area. Thank you Bob.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Trustees for their hard work and also the local DOC staff who have put huge energy into the development of and support for Whareroa.

Rachel Kiel-Taylor. Chairperson

*It was moved that the Chairperson's report be accepted (moved John Lancashire, seconded Bob Zuur, carried)*

## **Treasurer's Report.**

Michael Keith reported that Dennis Blank had reviewed the accounts and nothing had come to his attention. Michael said it had been a fairly low key year financially and the Trust had actually spent more than it earned over the course of the year, the main reason being there had been no grants received. Quite a lot of money had been put into restoration activities and plant purchase.

*It was moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted (moved Ann Evans, seconded Peter Kentish, carried.*

## **DoC Update**

Rob Stone, DoC Area Manager, said the milestones were the management plan being completed, with congratulations due for that and thanks to Ann Evans and Bob Zuur. He also offered congratulations to Ann on receiving the Encore Award. Rob thanked the Guardians for their work and said that grazing concessions had been rolled over for Will van Crutchen for another year. DoC is keen to align the farm with the lease in Queen Elizabeth Park so a combined grazing regime can be explored. DoC is also doing a little more devolution of things to the Regional Council. The Greater Wellington ranger is opening the gate and DoC will contract them to clean the toilets. The good strong relationship will remain the same, it being more about efficiency than anything else. Rob explained that one of the technicalities and complications is the shifting of stock between the two properties but together they could be an economic unit. There has been some turnover of DOC staff but Whareroa is seen as an important and high priority place. Rob said Whareroa Trustees had met with DoC to discuss priorities for spending money. Rob thanked the Guardians for their letter of support which had been sent on to staff.

Rachel said one of the great things has been the relationship between DoC and Guardians and that Guardians really appreciated Rob attending the meeting.

## **Election of Trustees.**

The three year term of three trustees expired: Rachel Kiel-Taylor, Jenny Rowan and Ann Evans. All were prepared to stand again. Bob Zuur is resigning.

Liffet verified receipt of nominations for Ann, Rachel and Jenny to stand again. There being no other nominations, these three persons were elected to the Board. Approved.

## **Any other Business**

It was noted that Jeanette Fitzsimons will be speaking at 2pm on 12<sup>th</sup> May at El Rancho. The title would be "Enough! Challenge to a post-growth economy".

John Lancashire asked whether there was any strategy for raising funds.

Ann replied that some applications had been made. One is in at the moment to the Walking Access Commission. Each application takes a huge amount of work but as yet there is no cohesive process. It is planned to address this.

John said he would like to see co-operation between groups for fund raising and suggested two or three organisations could be involved in working together more than they have in the past. He suggested a meeting with Friends of QE Park, Whareroa and Nga Uruora.

Paul Callister suggested Nga Uruora start an alliance to support each other's funding applications and develop a more strategic approach for the whole area eg in weed control.

Rachel agreed Guardians would be interested in that kind of collaboration as severe political issues are being faced in this country and the environment is one of the major ones. Collaborating with groups where possible would be a fantastic way of moving forward as a community, perhaps by attending each other's meetings occasionally. Nga Uruora will contact Guardians.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

## **Guest Speaker**

After a tea break Kevin Hackwell, Advocacy Manager from Forest & Bird, gave an excellent and inspiring address entitled “Predator Free New Zealand – our equivalent of putting a man on the moon”. He explained how pests are now the number one threat to New Zealand’s native biodiversity and talked about the strong possibility of being predator free within two to three decades and how that could be achieved, starting with Stewart Island and following on peninsula by peninsula.