

**Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc**  
**Minutes of 11th Annual General meeting**  
**held at Kotare Room, Ramaroa Centre, QE Park at 7pm on 10th April 2018**

**Present:** Theo Barsanti, Ann Evans, Mic Keith, Sue Blaikie, Bruce Bulmer, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, June, Sandra & Christine Rowland, Jenny Rowan, Ken Fraser, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Andrea Wilson, Paul Callister, Angus Hulme-Moir, Dawn Bush.

**1. Apologies:** Penny Gaylor, Laura van Peer, Jonathon Waterworth, Karen Palmer, Ian & Penny Redward, Rachel Salive, Jan Nisbet, Suzi Tiffin, Robert Ashe, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Scott Hill.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

*It was moved that these be accepted as a true and correct record (moved Liffet Stewart/seconded Mic Keith). Carried.*

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Chairperson's Annual Report**

Theo said it was a privilege to be a Guardian over such a special place as Whareroa Farm Reserve and it is a legacy for the future. In the stresses and strains of modern life it is a place to go to be with nature and for well-being and calm.

**Whareroa Guardians. Chairman's Report for AGM 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**The Value of Nature**

Whareroa Farm is a special place, close to the Kapiti urban area, that provides an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to be washed by nature. To be washed by nature is cleansing, healing and calming – that feeling of well-being that has no logical explanation. The Farm also provides a safe space for rest and recreation to all that visit.

**Trustees**

Theo Barsanti (Chair), Mic Keith (Treasurer), Ann Evans (Secretary), Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Sandra Rowland, Ian Redward & Bruce Bulmer. Iwi trustee Carol Reihana.

**Our Volunteers and Supporters**

The last 12 months has again seen significant progress at Whareroa largely through the efforts of our supporters and volunteers. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our supporters and volunteers for their nearly 5,000 hours' contribution in 2017. Our volunteer group is as strong as it ever has been and we always encourage more "young blood" to our circle of staunch supporters and workers. In the last 12 months our supporters and volunteers have contributed to the following achievements:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Trees planted  | 3050         |
| • Recent planting maintained                           | 19ha         |
| • Animal pest kills                                    | 720          |
| • New tracks opened                                    | 2.15km       |
| • Existing tracks maintained, some with regular mowing | 10km         |
| • Amenities installed (picnic tables etc.)             | 4            |
| • Promotion (brochures, maps funded & distributed)     | 3480         |
| • Email Updates to 400 recipients                      | 15           |
| • School planting / fun days                           | 150 children |

In addition to this our volunteers have contributed to:

- Noxious weed removal (Wednesday Weeders & others)
- Fence removal from retired land

- Creation of a fruit orchard
- General maintenance of the retired land
- Facebook and Nature Space regular updates

### **Walking Track**

This year we opened the Catchment View Track. This starts at the silt trap and finishes on Campbell's Mill Road. Signs were provided by a grant from Walking Access Commission Aotearoa. We also acknowledge support from Transpower who "made good" the top end with new fencing and gorse clearing.

### **Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2**

We were fortunate to obtain another significant grant from the DOC Community Fund to fence the 2nd stage of the Ramaroa Wetland, providing protection to a large swamp and the stream connecting the Reservoir overflow and Ramaroa Stream. Planting has started and will continue.

### **Summary of Grants & Donations 2017**

Walking Access Aotearoa

DOC Community Fund

Lion Foundation: \$8,000

Wellington Community Trust

Kapiti Walkers & Joggers: \$600

Dulux: 20L paint

Anonymous donor through Kapiti Biodiversity Project- Bird Sign for Hub

**Our Stakeholders** - This year has seen consolidation of our relationships with stakeholders

### **DOC**

A new management team has been established at the DOC Kapiti/Wellington office, who have responsibility for Whareroa. We are delighted to report close working relationships with the DOC team including:

- Jack Mace – Operations Manager
- Robert Ashe – Senior Ranger – Operations
- Suzi Tuffin – Ranger responsibility for Whareroa Farm – thank you Suzi for all your efforts on our behalf.

### **DOC National Office volunteers**

In the last 12 months DOC National Office have visited the Farm twice to appreciate part of the DOC estate and perform voluntary work. Totara trees have been planted to celebrate their contribution. The Guardians appreciate their contribution.

### **Beetham Pastoral**

Beetham Pastoral manage the farm licence for both Whareroa and QE Park. We have developed a positive working relationship with both the Farm Manager – Drew Brown and the Managing Director William Beetham. A significant fencing upgrade this year is funded by DOC and to be managed by Beethams.

### **GWRC**

The Whareroa Guardians participate in a bi-monthly Whareroa Collaboration Group chaired by GWRC. The purpose of this group is to work closely together to develop biodiversity and recreational activities across Whareroa Farm and QE Park

### **Kapiti Mountain Bike Club (KMC)**

The KMC downhill track (Red Tape Track) officially opened approximately 3 months ago. Mountain Bike riders are numerous at Whareroa, providing a significant proportion of the recreational activity at the Farm. More tracks are planned in the near future.

### **Kapiti Biodiversity Project**

The last three years of KBP have seen much activity in both Whareroa and QE Park with significant gains in trapping activity and weta and bird monitoring. A magnificent sign about

birds was erected in the Hub from an anonymous donor, through the project. Sadly the group has not as yet obtained further funding but the work will continue.

### **Water Supply**

With the aging of the water supply system on Whareroa, created in 1942, severe leaks have sprung up over the last 6 months. This water supply provides for all stock, bike wash and toilet needs at Whareroa. The Guardians are grateful to DOC who provided funding to upgrade the system with new piping and two tanks alongside the existing water reservoir. The reservoir will be retained for its historic value.

### **Plans for the next 12 Months**

**Planting** – We will continue to plant mainly in the Ramaroa Wetlands stage 2 where we plan a smaller planting for 2018 of 2000 plants, funded by the Lion Foundation as well as other plants grown from Whareroa seed. One session will be up above the Cairn with lizard friendly plants.

**Resolve Security Issues in the Car Park** – DOC are currently developing a business case to fund CCTV in the car park at Whareroa to deter car thefts.

**Visitor Counters** – DOC are planning to provide both walker and mountain bike counters this year to provide essential statistics that will be useful for future funding.

**Kiwi Caravan** – In the next few weeks we will be permanently locating this caravan in the Hub. The caravan was donated to and used on Kapiti Island for many years as Ranger accommodation. It has been restored by the goodwill of Waikanae Menzshed and will be painted with a vibrant mural design, befitting the local environment. The artist is Julie Oliver and is funded by a grant from Wellington Community Trust with paint donated by Dulux. Installation will be provided by volunteer support and transport by NZTA.

**Transmission Gully (TG) Mitigation** – We are in preliminary discussions with the TG Alliance to fence and plant the Ramaroa Stream. This project (if it proceeds) will provide protection to all main waterways on the Farm from stock intrusion.

**Footsteps of the Marines** – again this year Kapiti Joggers and Walkers are planning their annual Run & Walk at Whareroa on 27<sup>th</sup> May. We wish to acknowledge their generous contribution each year to the Trust's fund.

***Thanks again to everyone who contributes to making Whareroa such a special place.***

*It was moved that the Chairperson's annual report be accepted (moved Ann Evans/seconded Bruce Bulmer). Carried.*

**4.** Mic thanked Sue for her co-operation regarding cheque signing and explained the purpose of the Report to the Charities Commission.

*It was moved that the Treasurer's Performance Report as circulated be accepted (moved Jenny Rowan/seconded Sandra Rowland). Carried.*

### **5. Report from DoC**

Angus Hulme-Moir reported that he worked with Suzi Tiffin and it had been great to hear that she as Recreation Ranger was loving working with the Guardians. Angus said he had spent a couple of hours with the Conservation Minister walking through the Polhill Reserve and had told the Minister that to achieve what volunteers achieve they would have to employ 29 extra staff and the bureaucracy that went with that. Suzi had wanted him to explain how the different BAU and Capital Departments worked and said there is a programme of work planned in the recreation team to deliver services around tracks. There were also capital bids for things such as water tanks and DoC are in the process of bidding for CCTV cameras. They wanted to get in early to plan what is needed so as to get applications in early. Angus explained that \$33,000 was still outstanding to be spent on fencing but they were struggling to find a fencer.

### **6. Election of Trustees**

It was noted that the terms of three Trustees (Theo Barsanti, Ruby Durrant-Bush and Bruce Bulmer) were due to expire but all were available to stand again.

*It was moved that as there were no further nominees Theo, Ruby and Bruce be re-elected (moved Jenny Rowan/seconded Sue Blaikie). Carried.*

## **7. Other Business**

(a) **Congratulations** - Jenny Rowan offered congratulations and thanks to Theo and the Trustees and said what she could see was sustainability and a serious legacy that comes with leadership.

(b) **Finances** – Jenny said that although Mic made it appear easy if the money is not sorted then Guardians would be in trouble. The CMS (Conservation Management Strategy) under review is for the New Zealand Conservation Authority, an entity above the Conservation Board, and does directly affect groups like the Guardians. A lot more should be said about the contribution of volunteers and the importance of groups on the ground. The Kapiti Biodiversity Group is not dead and there will be regrouping to talk about how it may keep going in a way that allows less intense work but can perhaps continue for another 12 months.

(c) **Trapping** – Shane Cave asked for more possum trappers as Scott will be overseas for a while. He said there were a tremendous amount of trapping tracks and if people knew of anyone who would be willing to trap possums please ask them to contact him. Ann offered to place that request in the next newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.05pm.

After refreshments Angus Hulme-Moir from DoC and Paul Callister from Nga Uruora gave talks and a power point presentation about lizards in Kapiti, their species, habitat and the difficulties of their translocation.

It was suggested a fenced lizard relocation and breeding programme could take place at Whareroa, especially near the cairn. There was strong interest in this proposal.