

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc
Minutes of 12th Annual General meeting
held in the Kotare Room at Ramaroa Visitor Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park

Present: Theo Barsanti, Ann Evans, Mic Keith, Sue Blaikie, Bruce Bulmer, Liffet Stewart, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Shane Cave, June & Sandra Rowland, Lynette Francis, Paul Callister, Jack Mace, Dawn Bush.

1. **Apologies:** Ian & Penny Redward, Jan Nisbet, Helen & Tony Griffiths.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairperson's Annual Report**

Whareroa Guardians. Chairman's Report for 12th AGM 25th March 2019

Our Trustees, Volunteers and Supporters

The last 12 months has seen significant progress at Whareroa largely through the efforts of our trustees, volunteers and supporters. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all these individuals for their contribution over this period. Without this enthusiastic group of unpaid people no progress would be achieved. As a measurement of our statutory reporting for charitable status the following key performance indicators have been achieved:-

• Trees planted	2500
• Planting maintained	20ha
• Animal pest control – kills in 2018	4,727
• New tracks opened	0.5km
• Existing tracks maintained with regular mowing	10km
• Amenities installed (Picnic Tables, Kiwi Caravan, Infographic Signs etc)	5
• Promotion (brochures, maps funded & distributed)	1100
• Email Updates to 400 recipients	16
• Volunteer hours from 164 volunteers	3779
• School planting and fun day	180 students

In addition to this our volunteers have contributed to:

- Noxious weed removal (Wednesday Weeders & others)
- Maintenance of our fruit orchard
- General maintenance of the retired land
- Facebook and Nature Space regular updates

The Board approved the release of the Performance Report on 11th March 2019.

Our Stakeholders

DOC

- Our relationship with DOC at the Kapiti-Wellington office is strong. We have regular contact with our DOC relationship manager – Suzi Tuffin – who has our interests at heart and also with seniors Robert Ashe and Jack Mace. We have a raft of capital projects

lodged with DOC and the associated business cases are in varying stages of progress. These include:

- Update the main maps in visitor centre and at the Hub.
- Getting a larger culvert on the farm race – Darlington Drilling plans now with DOC engineers for review – work in progress
- Bridge at end of Forest Loop walk – work in progress
- Transmission Gully Mitigation for Upper Ramaroa Stream – work in progress
- Farm Erosion Mitigation – proposal from Trustees has been reviewed by DOC, GWRC & Beetham Pastural – agreement reached for GWRC to draw up a 5 year pole planting plan for consideration by all parties
- CCTV in car park – work in progress
- Historic bid to tidy reservoir – work in progress
- Counters for Whareroa – bike counters installed – awaiting people counters
- Solution for damaged Farm entrance wall – We heard today that Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern who coordinated the initial build have offered their services pro-bono to repair it, with volunteer support (expected to take 3 Saturdays in June). DOC will contribute to materials.
- DOC / Toyota Kiwi Guardians trail at Whareroa was completed and is on line.
- Our 10 year Farm Plan has been reviewed and a draft submitted to DOC for their approval.

Beetham Pastural

- Beetham Pastural are the lessee of farmed land at Whareroa and QE Park. We have regular contact with Farm manager Drew Brown and 6 monthly meetings with William Beetham.

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)

- Mountain biking at Whareroa attracts a large number of riders. The Red Tape track was officially opened earlier this year and the Club have resource consent to build two more downhill tracks in the same general area.

Kapiti Biodiversity Project

- Funding for this project is all but exhausted. Discussions continue regarding a District wide application approach for addition biodiversity funding. The group are forming an incorporated society to facilitate grant applications. Whareroa Guardians support this.

Other Activities:

Kiwi Caravan

- The Kiwi Caravan was officially opened in June 2018. The opening was attended by over 50 supporters. Our major supporters included:
- Kapiti MENZ Shed – renovation of caravan
- DOC – engineering design sign-off and grant towards cost of foundation
- AD Architecture advice on foundation construction
- Duncan Construction – foundation layout
- MPP Alliance – funding transportation
- Allan Shaw Carrying Ltd – transportation
- Wellington Community Trust – \$1,500 grant for mural
- Julie Oliver – mural design and painting

- Our volunteers who erected piles, fixed the caravan to supports and built the smart bench as well as coordinated the project and hosted the artists.

Upper Ti Kouka Stream

- In December 2018 funding was approved by DOC to fence and retire 3.5 hectares of leased land surrounding the Upper Ti Kouka stream. This means all waterways on the retired section of the Farm will be fenced and will be nurtured by riparian planting.

Lizard Relocation

- The Guardians are working with DOC and Nga Uruora to establish the Cairn as a site for lizard relocation from development projects. This will involve planting and bringing in wood and stones to prepare suitable habitat.

Signs

- A Bird Sign next to the Kiwi Caravan was donated by an anonymous donor
- A donation was received from Pakeke Lions Kapiti to erect a Lizard sign next to the Bird Sign

Special donation

- When supporter Dave Barber died last year he asked that donations be made to the Whareroa Guardians. About \$6000 was received and a picnic table erected in Upper Ramaroa Wetland in his memory. This is gratefully acknowledged.

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run

- Thanks to Kapiti Joggers & Walkers for donation of \$600

Plant a Billion Trees

- The Trustees are investigating whether we are eligible for funding under this Regional Development Scheme. This could potentially support mass planting on Whareroa retired land – the scope of which would exceed all our volunteer capacity. Early days on this project.

Next 12 Months

- Planting – This year our focus is planting the Upper Ti Kouka stream area – potentially a 3 year project. \$6,000 grant for 1500 plants from the Lion Foundation has been received.
- Blackberry Control – Infestations of blackberry are threatening to invade sections of our planting plus natural bush segments. An application has been lodged with DOC Community Fund to sponsor a contractor to spray the blackberry over a three year period.
- Update Information Centre – We will update our information display in the visitor entrance.
- New Track from Marines' Water Reservoir to Ramaroa Steam – planning to finish this track within the next 6 months.
- Update Track Maps including Walking & MTB Tracks in liaison with DOC – GPS mapping to create new maps.
- Work with KCDC on Open Spaces Strategy – the Trustees have attended an initial workshop sponsored by KCDC to collaborate on the development of Kapiti's open spaces
- Erosion Control – work with DOC, GWRC & Beethams on a pole planting programme

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

It was moved that the Chairperson's annual report be accepted (moved Sue Blaikie/seconded Bruce Bulmer. Carried.

Ann paid tribute to John Porter who had recently died and who had been one of the key people realising that the farm was about to be sub-divided. He and Rachel Kiel had alerted the community and without them there would be lifestyle blocks there now. John had a huge amount of knowledge about Queen Elizabeth Park and Whareroa. A commemoration would be held at the Paekakariki Memorial Hall on 27th April at 2.00pm.

Liffet acknowledged the work of those involved in the biodiversity project and said that without them the guardians would not have received the lizard and bird signs.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report

Mic explained about the Trust's performance report for the Charities Commission which appears on the Commission's Website and he emphasised the importance of subscription renewal to enable work to continue.

It was moved that the Treasurer's Performance Report as circulated be accepted (moved Ann Evans/seconded Liffet Stewart). Carried.

Mic announced that he would like to remain on the Trust but retire as treasurer and Lynette Francis would step up to replace him in that role.

Mic was thanked for all the work he had carried out over 14 years as Treasurer and he thanked Sue for being his co-signatory.

6. Report from DoC

Covered in Chairman's report.

7. Election of Trustees

It was noted that the terms of three Trustees (Ann Evans, Ian Redward and Sandra Rowland) were due to expire but all were available to stand again.

It was moved that as there were no further nominees Ann, Ian and Sandra be re-elected (moved Bruce Bulmer/seconded Mic Keith). Carried.

8. Other Business

(a) **Trapping** – Shane Cave said more trappers were always needed to either trap and kill animals or to set and check traps. DoC had donated 40 kill traps for possums and help was needed to put them out in some of the more difficult to get to places. Ann suggested placing a notice at the gate and Shane undertook to do that.

(b) **Morning tea/Sausage sizzles** – June asked for morning tea deliverers and BBQ sausage sizzle cookers for during the planting season. Ann offered to place that request in the next newsletter.

(c) **Thanks** – Liffet thanked Theo and Ann for all their hard work, energy, and the manner in which they worked with a large number of people from all walks of life. Theo thanked Jack Mace from DoC for the donation of Macrocarpa sleepers which will be used to make tables.

(d) **Events** – Theo announced there would be two events held at the farm in May: the XTerra Trail Run and the In the Footsteps of the Marines run.

Ann tabled a collection of Kahikatea and Totara seeds for people to see.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm.

After refreshments Jack Mace, Operations Manager, Dept of Conservation, Kapiti/Wellington gave a talk on the overall picture of DoC's work and an insight into their vision for the future.