

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc

Minutes of 13th Annual General meeting

held in the Meeting Room at Paraparaumu Library

Present: Theo Barsanti, Ann Evans, Sue Blaikie, Bruce Bulmer, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, Sandra Rowland, Lynette Francis, Ian & Penny Redward, Mic Keith, Helen Griffiths, Bill Jansen, Peter Davis, Peter Handford, Keith Johnston, Janet Holborow, Chris Paice, Carol Andrews, Ann Goodhead, Howard & Jan Davies, Michael Stace, Dawn Bush.

1. Apologies: Ruby Durrant-Bush, Jan Nisbet, Jack Mace, Suzi Tuffin, Paul Callister, Laura van Peer, Jenny Rowan, June Rowland, Sophie Handford, Tony Griffiths.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Chairperson's Annual Report

Our Trustees, Volunteers and Supporters

Our original AGM was planned for the exact day the country went into Level 4 lockdown – March 25th.

So, the last 15 months have seen 12 months of significant progress and 3 months of inactivity.

As with every year I acknowledge our collective of volunteers who make Whareroa grow and flourish. Without them we would not have what we do today – a diverse area of recreational reserve and biodiversity splendour.

As a measurement of our statutory reporting for charitable status the following key performance indicators have been achieved in 2019: -

• Trees planted	2300
• Planting maintained	22ha
• Animal pest control – total kills to date since 2013	6286
• New tracks opened – Ramaroa Wetland & Upper Dell	620m
• Existing tracks maintained with regular mowing	10.5km
• Amenities installed - Picnic Table, Mini Hut, Recreational Seats, 2 Infometric Signs	6
• Promotion (brochures, maps funded & distributed)	1200
• Email updates to 480 recipients	14
• Volunteer hours from 105 volunteers (recorded)	4319

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 Charities Commission Performance Report on 2nd March 2020.

The detailed pest control analysis is attached to this report.

Planting 2019

- 1,800 trees were donated by the Lion Foundation.
- Additional trees donated by Nga Uruora.
- Planting occurred in Upper Ti Kouka Valleys to begin restoration of this whole stream.
- Further planting occurred above and below the Cairn, with emphasis on “lizard friendly” plants.
- Additional Upper Dell planting also occurred.

Whareroa “mini hut”.

We were delighted to be selected as one of the sites for the Wellington Festival Urban Hut Project in Kapiti. Kemi and Niko did an excellent job, the story by Mandy Hager is lovely and the hut has been a great way of expanding Whareroa visitors. The Guardians will now look after the hut.

Kiwi Caravan

Analysis of the Kiwi Caravan visitor book shows we have had visitors on the Farm from 19 different countries.

Our Stakeholders

Department of Conservation

We have a close working relationship with the DOC Kapiti/Wellington office. Suzi Tuffin is our relationship manager and is supportive of our efforts and requests. At our AGM last year, we documented a schedule of capital requests for general improvements at Whareroa. These are detailed below with a progress report plus additional capital requests since then.

Capital Requests 2019:

- Fence Upper Ti Kouka Stream - **done**
- Update the main maps in visitor centre and at the Hub – **now with the printers**
- Install larger culvert on the farm race – **project approved subject to final sign-off**
- Bridge at end of Forest Loop walk – **on hold**
- TG Mitigation for Upper Ramaroa Stream – **site visit planned 1st July to approve**
- Farm Erosion Mitigation – **50 poles planted winter 2019, 50 more poles for 2020**
- CCTV in car park – **CCTV on hold but DOC & Guardians sheds now under 24/7 security monitoring**
- Historic bid to tidy reservoir – **on hold**
- Counters for Whareroa – **Site visit planned July to optimise counter locations**

New Capital Requests

- Repair fence around Cairn – **work to be completed July 2020**
- Contribution to repair Farm entrance stone wall – **contribution made, and wall repaired**

Beetham Pastural

- Beetham Pastural are the lessee of farmed land at Whareroa and Queen Elizabeth Park. Discussions are underway between DOC and Beetham as to whether the second period of their 5+5-year lease will be renewed.

GWRC

- We continue to participate in regular meetings with the 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 Queen Elizabeth Park.

Kapiti Mountain Bike Club (KMC)

- Mountain biking at Whareroa continues to attract a large number of riders of all capabilities. The Club have resource consent to build two more downhill tracks in the Eastern downhill section of the Farm. Initial work on one new track has started.

Kapiti Biodiversity Project

- Two Whareroa Trustees attend regular meetings of this group. The penguin project now extends to Otaki and the lizard population is on the increase in the Escarpment area. There are encouraging signs that fish, lizards, penguins and bird populations are due to the Biodiversity group efforts.

Other Activities

Lizard Relocation

- Trustee, Bruce Bulmer, is working with DOC and Nga Uruora to establish the Cairn as a lizard site. Further work is required to establish a suitable environment including monitoring, trapping for mice, planting and the establishment of lizard friendly shelter. It is expected that our site will be ready to accept lizards by Autumn 2021.

Xterra Wellington Festival Event

- First year for the Xterra multisport event in QE Park & Whareroa. The 1st of February drew over 800 athletes to compete in some exciting racing. Thanks to the promoters of Xterra for a generous donation of \$500 plus \$400 to purchase plants for Whareroa

Xterra Trail Run

- 700 runners completed a challenging course over the Farm on 19th May. Another generous donation of \$500 was received from Xterra for this event.

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run

- This event was held on 26th May and a generous donation of \$400 was received from the organisers.

Plant a Billion Trees

- The Trustees are close to submitting an application for funding to plant 20 hectares of native trees on retired slopes during the winter of 2021. Generous assistance with this programme is being provided by Peter Handford of Groundtruth Ltd.

Blackberry Spraying

- Funding from the DOC Community fund has initiated a three-year spraying project to eliminate large clusters of blackberry that are threatening native forest blocks and established restoration planting.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre

- The proposed site for this structure is on the old stock yards in Emerald Glenn Road, on DOC land. This site has met strong objection from the local community and alternative

sites are being reviewed by NZTA. A further presentation to the local community is expected late July 2020.

Next 12 Months

- Planting – This year we will continue to plant the Upper Ti Kouka Stream valley and Cairn lizard area with trees mainly funded by Trees That Count
- Purchase a new mower for our 10.5 km of track maintenance (from a generous anonymous donation)
- Relocate then restore the “Old Dunny” at the Hub
- Engage with DOC in further long-term planning for the future of Whareroa Farm
- Work with neighbouring restoration groups to enhance our joint efforts.
- Continue to work with KCDC on Open Spaces Strategy – Trustees have attended two workshops to collaborate on the development of Kapiti’s open spaces

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 Sandra Rowland/seconded Liffet Stewart). Carried.

Asked whether Guardians had been approached by the local community regarding the proposed weigh station at the end of Valley Road Theo advised that Guardians had attended the community meetings and will attend the next meeting when NZTA come back with alternative sites.

The pest control report was noted and considered very impressive. So far this year a total of **243** animals have been caught in the DOC supplied traps giving a total catch of **5,545** since the programme began operating in 2013. In addition, a further **741** unidentified animals have been caught in the Goodnature gas traps. That means a total of **6,286** animals have been killed since 2013.

Peter Davis asked whether there were enough traps. Shane advised he had applied for 15 newly designed battery powered traps that automatically reset. Shane explained that some areas were very steep and covered in gorse and the Red Tape bike track was considered too dangerous so traps will be removed from there.

5. Treasurer’s Annual Report

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

Annual Accounts

January 2019 - December 2019

Excluding GST

Opening Balance 1 January 2019	\$	9,114.57
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INCOME

Grants		9,467.39
Donations		1,528.25
Membership subscriptions		443.50
General costs		248.70
Interest		7.22
GST refunds		2,461.73

Total Income	\$	14,156.79
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EXPENSE

Accountant Fees	480.00
General expense - service fee	8.52
Farm reserve access	3,199.28
Repairs and maintenance	115.21
Reforestation activities	10,263.42
GST paid on expenses	2,161.17
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 16,227.60</u>
Closing Balance 31 December 2019	<u><u>\$ 7,043.76</u></u>

Lynette explained more fully items in the Accounts Summary.

It was moved that the Charities Commission Performance Report as circulated and that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. (moved Ann Evans/seconded Ian Redward). Carried.

Ann reported that there was a good team of DoC workers looking after the tracks and car park area and safety had improved since trees were removed from that area.

Theo advised that Campbells Mill Road toward the Akatarawa Forest is closed fo. for two years. The local Council may decide to create a small track through following undesignated Crown land and managed by KCDC as parts of Campbells Mill Road are on private land.

6. Election of Trustees

It was noted that the terms of three Trustees (Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie and Lynette Francis) were due to expire but all were available to stand again. Nominations from the floor were invited but none tabled.

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

7. Other Business

(a) **Car Parking** – Ian said that on the previous Sunday the carpark had been absolutely full and mentioned that there had been a proposal to extend the carpark where trees had been removed. Theo advised that project was currently in limbo.

(b) **Thanks** – Liffet thanked Theo very much for his chairmanship and guidance; Ann as a secretary with a strong hand; Lynette as treasurer and Dawn as minute secretary.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.50pm.

After refreshments Peter Handford gave an interesting overview and update on the **Wainuiwhenua Project** for the use of surplus land arising from Transmission Gully and explained the objectives for potential use of that land.

Keith Johnston said they were trying to create a sustainable package with nine project proposals and outlined those proposals as put to Ministers and the Regional Council. The range would include things with the potential to deliver environmental benefits, health and community benefits, social benefits and economic gains.

Theo thanked Peter and Keith for their comprehensive update.