

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc
Minutes of 15th Annual General meeting
held in the Meeting Room at Paraparaumu Library
on 14 September 2022 at 7pm

Present: Liffet Stewart (Acting Chair), Ann Evans, Lynette Francis, Bruce Bulmer, Rachel Calvert, Richard Lambert, Sandra Rowland, Ian Redward, Theo Barsanti, Andy McKay, Sue Campbell, Mic Keith, Shane Cave, Jan Nisbet, Shane Williamson, Russell Bell, Pene Burton-Bell, Janet Walker, Jonathan & Jill Waterworth, Michael Stace, Peter Kentish, Steve Lewis, Peter & Denise Davis, John & Marilyn Wilson, Dawn Bush, Brian Law, John Whibley, Hugh & Alison Parsons, Rose McCarthy, Howard Davis and Tom Bruynel.

1. Apologies: Sue Blaikie, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Ellen Soulliere, Paul Callister, Helen Griffiths,

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

*It was moved that these be accepted as a true and correct record (moved Ann Evans/Sandra Rowland).
Carried.*

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Chairperson's Annual Report

It is over a year since our last AGM (April 14, 2021) partly due to Covid interruptions and subsequent travel of key personnel. As a result some items relate to merged information across two years.

I would like to acknowledge volunteers we have lost since the last AGM: Richard Caldwell, Bill Jansen and June Rowland - all remained active volunteers into their 90s and are an inspiration to the rest of us! Also trustee Carol Reihana and Tony Griffiths. I would also like to acknowledge other volunteers we have lost over the years, in particular Penny Redward, Tom Porter, John Lancashire, Leon Kiel and John Porter. All made huge contributions.

Plantings in 2021: These were focussed on Carex Valley and Mamaku Valley. It is very satisfying to see the strong growth. These were trees provided by Trees that Count as the Guardians' contribution to Rotary's Forest for Peace and Remembrance scheme.

Also in 2021, 49,000 natives were commercially planted on high slopes by Ground Truth for Rotary's Forest for Peace and Remembrance scheme, part of "One Billion Trees". They have not had such a strong success rate but there are still a reasonable number surviving. There was a problem with plant supply last year and many sprayed spots did not get planted with subsequent weed infestation in those areas. The remaining 26,000 trees are due to be planted in 2023.

Schools activities: Jan Nisbet has been very keen on encouraging interaction with school groups and developing resources for their curriculum extension learning at Whareroa. Organising visits from schools takes significant preparation and commitment from volunteers but it is very rewarding.

Events: Xterra has run several large events over Whareroa which is a wonderful way of showcasing the area and Benji Barsanti, who coordinates these, generously gives a donation to the Guardians for every event.

Pest animals: The wonderful trapping team consists of Shane Cave, Shane Williamson, Ray Molineux, Darrel Sutherland, Rodney Hopkirk, John Rowland, Tom Bruynel, John Whibley, and Jason Bohmer. DOC has supplied almost all of the traps including 15 new self-resetting traps and continue to supply all the lure needed. Thank you DOC.

Since starting trapping in 2013 a total of 7688 animals have been killed. It is hard to imagine the impact these critters and their offspring would have made at Whareroa if left unchecked. Thank you trappers.

Pest plants: Apart from pest animals the main threat to our plantings is blackberry. A team of passionate blackberry destroyers: Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Lynette Frances, Richard Lambert, Sue Blaikie and Alex McManus, clocked up many hours in 2021 patiently and painstakingly hand cutting and pasting. In addition a contract for 3 years focussed on several patches of blackberry was paid for by a grant from DOC.

Sandra Rowland tackles the tradescantia single handedly while other weeds are monitored and dealt with as detected, e.g. Jerusalem Cherry, Elder, variegated thistle and arum lilies. Ongoing weed management is vital if we are to avoid the loss of planted areas.

Online presence: We are grateful to Scott Hill who maintains our Facebook page and website from his home in Switzerland. He has worked with Andy Mackay from the Biodiversity Group to dovetail on their website since the DOC Nature Space ceased to exist.

DOC: The working relationship with DOC is pivotal to what we do and we are very grateful to Suzi Tuffin and her team for what they do at Whareroa eg fencing over recent years has taken \$34,000. DOC's resources are seriously compromised and we are very disappointed that the toilet block is currently closed but we will work with DOC to get these up and running asap. We have also been without DOC's trusty LUV during this year as the machine has been stuck up at Otaki Forks where it was stranded when a slip closed the road access.

Tracks: Over 5km of track mowing by volunteers occurs and this is a major commitment. Bruce Bulmer and Denys Crengle put in sterling work mowing and maintaining the machinery. We do greatly miss Richard Caldwell's hard work as he gave so much time and energy. According to Bruce "There will come a time when the tracks should be commercially maintained" and we will need to consider funding of this work.

New tracks: Any new track put in needs maintenance, and planning for future tracks is not extensive. In 2021 the only new track opened was the track up Mamaku Valley which enabled access to new plantings.

Mountain bike tracks: In 2022 the new Cash Flow track opened and it is proving very popular. Red Tape track remains well used and we are aware that mountain bikers are the biggest user group at Whareroa. Sadly we do not know the numbers of people who use Whareroa as there are no counters on the tracks.

Bees: We have 2 bee hives attended by Theo Barsanti and Liffet Stewart. After losing hives in 2021 we did get some honey in February 2022 and hope to improve on this annually.

Orchard: The orchard is thriving and it is great to see people using the produce. There is no current plan to extend the orchard but we're looking forward to the next crop.

Security: We continue to have car break-ins and thefts from cars in the carpark despite the eradication of vegetation from the area to create better sight lines. We have tried using alarms and security cameras but such devices are costly and require ongoing volunteer input. There is no easy solution but we are grateful for increased police surveillance in the area.

Farm Plan: Looking to the future, one of the very satisfying projects that we are currently working on is a review of the Whareroa Farm Plan. This 10 year document is being renewed and it is gratifying to see the number of completed projects that we are able to look back on. The main focus in the new plan is the move away from active farming to sheep only grazing as a land management tool. Gradually over the next 10 years more areas will be retired. It does not take long for retired land to regenerate beautifully (via gorse) as is evidenced up Carex valley.

I conclude my report with grateful thanks to all the volunteers at Whareroa. In 2021 there were 4637 recorded volunteer hours. We are aware that this is an underestimation as people do things without recording their hours. The Guardians' Trustees are Ann Evans, Lynette Frances, Bruce Bulmer, Ian

Redward, Sandra Rowland, Sue Blaikie, Rachel Calvert, Ruby Durrant-Bush and Liffet Stewart with Dawn Bush taking minutes. It is Ann Evans who “carries the development project at Whareroa and without whose passion and commitment many of the projects mentioned here could not have happened” wrote Rachel Kiel-Taylor in the chair report AGM 2014. One example of Ann’s work is that there have been over 200 newsletters written since 2007!!!

Thank you all for your passion for Whareroa and for enjoying the open spaces that we are nurturing there.

Liffet Stewart, Acting Chair

It was moved that the Chairperson’s annual report be accepted (moved Bruce Bulmer/seconded Theo Barsanti. Carried.

6. Treasurer’s Annual Report

Lynette presented the report and explained different aspects of the report, such as Trees that Count and the report that goes to the Charities Commission (see below).

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

*Treasurers Report for Annual Accounts
January 2021 - December 2021*

	General Account	Rotary Forest Project	Wetland Project	Total Balance
Opening Balance at 1 January 2021	\$3,168.61			\$3,168.61
INCOME				
Grants:				
Rotary Peace Remembrance Charity - 1 Billion Trees		242,305.00		
DOC: Blackberry eradication	4,312.50			
Barefoot Sport Xterra - for trees	690.00			
Kapiti Coast Biodiversity for wetland			8,625.00	
Donations:				
Barefoot Sport Xterra	500.00			
Focus Projects Ltd / Andrew Thompson	605.00			
Members' donations	620.00			
Membership Subscriptions	485.00			
Bank Interest	44.74			
GST refunds		21,600.00		
EXPENSE				
Accountant Fee	563.50			
General expense - service fee/Room Hire	208.11			
Farm reserve access	19.38			
Reforestation activities	5,125.80		2,340.25	
GST paid on expenses	899.27	24,855.00		
Groundtruth - Rotary Forest trees		235,750.00		
Sub Balances	\$3,609.79	\$3,300.00	\$6,284.75	\$13,194.54
Closing Balance 31 December 2021				\$13,194.54

For Charities Commission:**Statement of Service Performance – “What did we do?” for the year ended 31 December 2021****Location:** Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve, Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki**Description of the entity’s Outcomes:****Restoration:** reforestation of Whareroa Farm’s catchments; protection and enhancement of indigenous flora and fauna.**Reserve public access and recreation:** development and maintenance of public tracks and recreational areas; promotion of reserve as a public amenity.

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Description and Quantification (the extent practicable) of the Entity’s Outputs	This Year	This Year	Last Year
Newsletters communicating with members and volunteers to maintain workforce availability and motivation (490) on email list	14	14	14
Restoration: Trees planted at planting days	2000	2000	2100
Restoration: Hectares existing planting maintained, weeding	23	23	24
Restoration: Trapping Pests killed	697	500	526
Access: Existing tracks - mowing	11.5km	11.5km	11.5km
Access: Amenities installed – 8 small seats, 2 bench seats, 7 stiles, 2 picnic tables, electric fence	20	3	6
Access: Promotion of reserve as public amenity (brochures and maps)	1200	1000	800
Access: New tracks and with signage. Ramaroa horse access, Upper Mamaku	1.5km	500m	800m
Access: Mower maintenance	1		
Additional output measures			
Recorded volunteer hours: 4637 from 99 volunteers (NB Additional hours worked by not recorded) Meetings with Dept of Conservation, grazier and Kapiti Mountain Bike Club			
Articles in local newspapers, talks to local service groups promoting the existence and purpose of Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve			
Community orchard maintained, most trees fruiting.			
2 Beehives managed			
1,600 trees were donated by Trees that Count – value \$5,400			
Facilitated a Rotary “Forests of Peace & Remembrance” grant of \$300,000 for reforestation.			
Social media presence on Website and Facebook promoted and maintained			
Additional information: Covid 19 Lockdown reduced access and number of working bees.			
The Board approved the release of the Performance Report on 14 February 2022			

It was moved that the Treasurer’s Annual Report as circulated be accepted (moved Lynette Francis/seconded Ann Evans). Carried.

6. Election of Trustees

It was noted that the terms of three Trustees (Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland and Ann Evans) were due to expire. All three were available to stand again and as there were no further nominees all were re-elected unopposed. *(Moved Rachel Calvert/Liffet Stewart). Carried.*

7. Motion to Change the Trust Deed

It was moved (Ann Evans/Ian Redward) that Clause 4.39 be changed to read: "The Board, through its Treasurer, will keep proper books of accounts and will prepare annual accounts which are to be subjected to accountant's compilation report or as fulfils the requirements of Charities Services." *Carried.*

8. Mountain Bike Club

Steve Lewis, President of the Mountain Bike Club, reported the Club had opened up two trails from Campbell's Mill Road – Red Tape and Cash Flow, and a lot of people are riding them. One more track is planned and is at the stage of route finding. They have decided not to go on with the proposed South East Ridge longer track as the cost would be too much and are now looking at a much shorter track that could be ridden multiple times or for children who did not want to go too high. It would be built to a standard that beginners and less experienced riders could handle and is proposed to drop from the lower Link Track on the eastern side of Carex Valley ending near the Gums. There have been discussions with GWRC, DOC and KCDC over public access from the end of Maungakotukutuku Road to Nikau Valley and over to Petone.

9. Other Business

Iwi Representation

Ann advised that as the Trust's Iwi representative, Carol Reihana, had died during the year, the Trust no longer has an IwiTrustee. Carol was a foundation trustee and played an essential role in the "saving" of Whareroa Farm and then the opening and early development. She was quiet but carried strength and still attended occasional meetings despite poor health. Carol's brother Karl Farrell will talk to his whanau about representation.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.00pm.

After refreshments **Andy McKay** from KCDC was introduced by Liffet. He gave a background of his working life and his involvement in Wainuiwhenua, the land adjacent to Transmission Gully through "Perkins' farm" and said the community wished to put the land back into public ownership. He said it would be nice to incorporate Maori history as it is a historically rich area with linkages to Battle Hill. An idea for recreation would be short walks for families and his dream is in 15 years' time there could be a Southern Kapiti Recreation Hub with 15,000 hectares of land all connected.

Shane C mentioned there had been talk of bringing Kakariki back and questioned whether it was likely or just something people would like to do.

Andy said from a purely ecological point of view it doesn't make a lot of sense to focus on charismatic species but if people were interested they could discuss this with him. He noted kaka have been sighted. Kereru can fly 50Km in one day.

Jan said she was interested in disability access into the bush. Andy said the challenge to do that would be to not impact on the forest, such as over tree roots. It would need to be done sensitively.

Jan also asked: if we can have orchards for people why not orchards for birds eg with tree lucerne?

Andy replied Why go for exotic species when there are perfectly good native species that provide food for the birds. Better to plant natives to provide year round food. It is a worthwhile discussion but should really be "how do you build an eco-system?". It all needs balance.

Russell suggested thinking about be a fire management plan that could be shared with GWRC.

Regarding problems with the carpark perhaps we should be thinking about some kind of café to protect the area. It would come back to resources and what could or could not be done.

Andy was thanked for coming and prompting discussion on various aspects of Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve. He was given a token of appreciation.

Dawn Bush was also thanked and given a token of appreciation for recording meeting minutes over the last 12 years.