

WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Updates for Supporters 2009



Planting in Carex Valley July 2009

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust 01 Feb 2009

Hello everyone

Our regular 1st Sunday of the month working bees will recommence on Feb 1st. 9am to noon. Please come for a couple of hours if you can, and bring relevant tools.

We'd like to clean out the shed as Leon's team have starling proofed it. Some may like to help with that, others to continue with the releasing. The Raumati kowhai are a bit overshadowed by the long grass. In places the carex are already flowering, as are some toetoe.

As you will have seen, hay was made and the "farm" part is currently being grazed by neighbour Will van Crutchen. He has been spraying thistles and doing some work on fences and waterways.

"Title" is still in legal/bureaucratic limbo, hence still no on site activity - DOC has funding and plans ready to roll as soon as this is sorted.

Hope to see some of you on the 1st.

The Whareroa Guardians.



Ti Kouka with new growth from base



Griselina lucida aerial root in Matai Bush





What's been achieved so far?

- We got a grant from the Ministry for the Environment for streamside restoration – enough money for 3 years' planting.



Working bees

These are held on the first Sunday of each month from September through to May. One of our members facilitates the morning's work by ensuring we have the right tools eg grubbers, weed eaters etc, and refreshment (morning tea).

Winter Planting

Winter planting days are held between June and September.

Planting from 9am to midday with a tea break. Sausage sizzle at 12.30, followed by a guided walk on the farm to show the developed and growing bush, the stunning valley vistas and views of our coastline.

All help and support welcomed!
Join us in the development of this great public resource.

Photos: Ann Evans

- Over the past two winters more than 160 volunteers planted over 15,000 trees.
- We are working closely with the Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington in the plans for public access.

Work to do

- Releasing plants - 'working bees'
- Winter planting.



WHAREROA GUARDIANS

community trust



Membership Application

Membership of the Trust is open to individuals and institutions who support its vision and aims. Become a member of this dynamic organisation and help bring the vision to fruition.

To: Whareroa Guardians
8 Te Miti St
Paekakariki 5034

I/we support the aims of the Trust and apply for membership.

NAME/S

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION

PHONE

EMAIL

SIGNATURE

I/we enclose payment for membership for 2009
(circle type applied for).

Adult (waged) \$25; (unwaged) \$10
Family/household \$40
Student/youth \$10
Corporate \$500
Life \$500

Payment methods:

- WGCT bank account direct credit:
03-0732-0429996-00
- cheque

Look inland as you cross the MacKays Crossing/Whareroa overbridge on SH1 and you'll see over 400 hectares of hilly farmland dotted with areas of kohekohe and podocarp bush and streams. This is Whareroa Farm – with Queen Elizabeth Park, a link between Kapiti's hill country and its coast, a place that has a long and rich association with people, a recreational gem, a vision for a sustainable future.

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

In 2005 the Government agreed to purchase Whareroa Farm and make it part of the Department of Conservation estate.

The decision was the result of an intensive campaign initiated by the Guardians of Whareroa, a group of people concerned to ensure this part of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage should be secured for public ownership in perpetuity.

From these beginnings, the Guardians of Whareroa has evolved into the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust, which was incorporated in December 2006.

The Trust is now working with the Department of Conservation and the Wellington Regional Council to protect and develop Whareroa Farm as a reserve for environmental and heritage conservation and public enjoyment.

Aims of the Trust

- To maintain Whareroa Farm as a publicly-owned and sustainable coastal hill country farm.
- To restore the catchments of the Whareroa Stream and protect and enhance the indigenous flora and fauna.
- To recognise and respect the bond that tangata whenua have with the land.
- To preserve and strengthen the historical and cultural heritage of Whareroa Farm with emphasis on the link with Queen Elizabeth Park.
- To ensure Whareroa Farm is widely accessible for any public recreation activities that do not unduly damage the environment or disturb the enjoyment of others.
- To promote Whareroa Farm as a recreational hub and a resource to be used and valued by the local Kapiti and wider community.
- To value and develop this land as an educational resource for 'best practice' catchment, conservation, environmental, recreational, and farming management.

March 15 2009

Dear Everyone

We are devastated to hear of Leon's untimely death last Friday, from cancer after a very short illness.

The loss to his family and the community is immeasurable. Leon was a key mover in "saving" Whareroa and, along with innumerable other projects, his commitment to a broad vision has inspired us and kept the Kapiti Coast a better place.

Leon's celebration of life will be held at the Paekakarki Memorial Hall at 11.00am on Tuesday 17 March. There will be a structured service at this time followed by a private burial and then a community celebration which will give us all the opportunity to reflect and celebrate Leon's life with informal speeches, music, poetry and food. Please bring a plate along.

It seems trite to go on to talk about the Whareroa Picnic next Sunday but the Guardians see this as a commitment to Leon's vision, energy and foresight. There will be music and comment in The Dell at lunchtime.

We meet for a "getting ready" working bee at 9am on Saturday the 21st and again, those who are free are welcome to come down earlier on the Sunday as there are sure to be things to be done. Otherwise, please come and join us during the day with your family and friends.

Programme is as below (from the leaflet to be given out on the day)

11am: Gates Open. Donation welcome.

Explore the bush and planting areas, wander, paddle in the stream.

Lunchtime: Music in the Dell

2.15pm: Guided Walks. Meet by the caravan

1.) Through the bush and plantings

flat option or steeper side track to view

2.) Into the N E Valley

flat return or steeper ridge circuit

3.) Up to the Cabbage Trees

some climb, uneven track

4pm: Gates close

Reminder, no dogs, fires, motor or quad bikes. Thankyou

March 19 2009

Hello Everyone. The forecast looks OK for the weekend.

We hope you can all come, bring your friends and relations and celebrate this public land.

At lunchtime there will be music and some reflections on Leon in The Dell. Please bring groundsheets or thick blankets to sit on as we have been clearing gorse around the edges. There'll be 3 different guided walks to introduce you to some areas of the farm. You can of course explore the hills and bush yourselves.

Show off your plantings and hard work and enjoy relaxing and appreciating this great asset.

There will be a working bee at 9am Saturday morning mowing and marking paths, finishing tidying the Dell etc. If you have a weedeater, rake, thick gloves (2 pairs work well) and some spare energy, please come along.

Many thanks to those who helped clear out the shed last month



If you can help for some time on the picnic day - eg collecting donations at the gate, ushering cars, advising people where to go, please send us an email - or just front up on the day.

Have a great day
From The Whareroa Guardians



Dell gorse clearing: Before



After

Picnic at Whareroa Farm



Sunday 22 March 2009, 11am-4pm

Everyone welcome to wander, ride bikes, paddle in streams, picnic in the bush.

No dogs or fires permitted. No motor/quad bikes

Date: 19 April 2009 at 13:51

Subject: Whareroa Guardians AGM Thursday April 23rd 2009 7pm Paraparaumu Library meeting room

To: Whareroa Guardians <whareroa.guardians@gmail.com>

Hello everyone.

AGM

We invite all supporters and friends to our 2nd AGM, 7pm, Thursday April 23rd 2009 in the Paraparaumu Library meeting room. (see attached agenda)

Following the AGM we are very pleased that James Lunday will speak to us following on from his facilitation of our multidisciplinary workshop last November.

Please can you print off copies of the agenda and previous minutes and bring with you.

You will be seeing real activity on the ground, getting ready for public access, very soon, it is an exciting time.

There are Trustee vacancies and we hope some will stand. Others with ideas and commitment can also be co-opted for specific roles. If you'd like to speak to one of the current Trustees or would like a copy of the Turst Deed, please reply by email.

The planting season starts at the beginning of June.

We will move into a different area, the south-east branch of the Whareroa Stream. Our previous plantings have had excellent growth this year.

Dates are as follow: (9am-12.30pm, with sausage sizzle)

- Sunday June 7th
- Sunday June 21st
- Sunday July 5th
- Sunday July 19th
- Saturday August 1st
- Sunday August 16th

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and during planting

From the Whareroa Guardians: John, John, Michael, Jenny, Emily, Rachel, Carol and Ann.

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Inc 19 April 2009

Notice of AGM

Thursday April 23rd 2009, 7pm at Paraparaumu Library meeting room.

Everyone is welcome.

Speaker – we hope James Lunday who facilitated the mutlidisciplinary workshop last November will be be our guest speaker. This is yet to be confirmed.

Elections of Trustees

As before, 3 trustees retire by rotation.

Two of these will stand again: John Lancashire and John Porter.

There are two other vacancies. If there are more candidates than vacancies, election using secret ballot will be held.

Other persons with an interest and expertise can be co-opted to subgroups of the Board.

Please consider whether you would like to take a more active role in the Trust.

Membership application Only members of the Trust may vote (or stand for election) – an application form is attached or you can sign up at the meeting. (The application form is in colour, prepared by coordinator Barbara Harford. It's well worth a look even if not joining! If printed in black and white some writing is difficult to read.)

Special offer - \$20 for 2009 membership – individual or family.

Working Bee – this Sunday, April 5th, 9am to noon

Dawn will be coordinating it.

Options: more gorse clearing in the Dell or plant releasing. We are keen to get the sides of the Dell totally clear to have a permanent grassy area for events and recreation and then we will plant around the rim and in the valley above the big totara. See photos.

Everyone is welcome, to help in whatever way you can or even to just be there giving moral support! Morning tea provided.

Picnic March 22nd

This was a great success despite the inclement southerly first thing. Over 100 enjoyed the gentle music in the Dell. We planted two totara (donated by QEP nursery) to remember the contribution to Whareroa by Leon Kiel and Sue Lancashire. Guided walks then introduced people to special parts of the farm.





Recent Working Bees: March 2nd and 14th



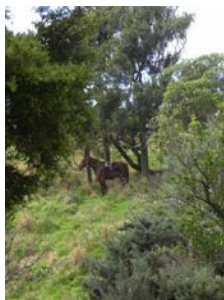
Many many thanks to the following who worked mainly in the Dell, clearing gorse and getting ready for the picnic:

Jon & Gill Waterworth, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Sue Blaikie, Jennifer Ramshaw, Anthony Dreaver, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Emily Fawcett, Paul (Boggy) Bognuda, Lily (painted signs), Bernard Cammack, Philip Corleison, Chris Wootton, Lawrens Silas, Barbara Harford, Ann Evans, Michael Keith, John Lancashire, John Porter, Jenny Rowan, Jan Nisbett, Penny & Ian Redward.

Please let us know if any one has been omitted.

Advance notice – Planting for 2009 will start on Sunday June 7th.

6000 plants have been ordered. We'll be moving into a different valley.



Transport to the picnic

Date: 28 April 2009 at 22:11

Subject: Whareroa - working bee this Sunday, May 2nd 9am-noon. Among the entrance plantings.

Hello everyone. This Sunday, May 2nd is working bee time again. Emily is coordinating it.

No more gorse!! (Though many many thanks to the hard workers who made a real dent in it). We will work gradually in the Dell, extending the grassed area and planting over the next year.

This weekend we will work amongst the entrance plantings, releasing and tidying up around them. Please bring grubbers and gardening gloves. Loppers and hand saws might be useful. Metvuw says the rain will have cleared.

Some might like to cut carpet squares ready for the first planting on June 7th.

Nga Uruora will be doing the preplant spot spraying in the near future.

The AGM was a stimulating evening. We welcome two new trustees: Liffet Stewart and Bob Zuur.

James Lunday gave a thought provoking presentation looking at the broader concepts for Whareroa.

A reminder of the planting dates in case you deleted the previous message:

- Sunday June 7th
- Sunday June 21st
- Sunday July 5th
- Sunday July 19th
- Saturday August 1st
- Sunday August 16th

We look forward to seeing you soon. John, John, Jenny, Rachel, Michael, Emily, Ann, Liffet and Bob.

Date: 3 June 2009 at 21:22

Subject: Whareroa planting this Sunday, June 7th 9am. Help also needed to unload plants Saturday at 8am. Thanks

Whareroa Planting 2009

Planting season is upon us again, our third. 6,000 plants have been ordered, a variety of wetland plants: carex, flax and sedge as well as trees.

We are moving further up the Whareroa Stream into two valleys with swampy areas and flat areas. In the NE valley we will plant 500 carex secta, near the “giant” one. Most of the remainder will be in the SE valley – shown in the photo.



Help is needed to **unload** plants due to arrive from Taupo at **8am, this Saturday** morning, June 6th. We will store them just beyond the paddock where the caravan was at the picnic – drive further into the farm to the east, past the old barn, past previous plantings. It’s likely to take about an hour. All welcome.

The 1st **planting is this Sunday, 7th at 9am to noon** followed by sausage sizzle. Morning tea provided and if you can bring an old mug to leave at the farm it saves using up “disposables”. Again, drive into the farm, past the old barn, continue east until you see other cars.

Any early risers are most welcome to join us at 8am, distributing the plants to their place. Anyone with a four wheel drive will be *especially* welcome as planting is about 500m from base.

Please wear gum boots (it’s soggy), and bring spades or grubbers. Gloves are a good idea.

We really look forward to seeing you all again, please bring your friends. The forecast is good!

The May working bee was very successful, the entrance plantings look great. Thankyou.

From the Whareroa Guardians: John, John, Michael, Emily, Liffet, Bob, Carol, Rachel, Jenny and Ann.

Future Planting Dates:

Sundays: June 21st, July 5th, July 19th.

Saturday Aug 1st then Sunday August 16th if needed.

Whareroa Update 13 June 2009

Subject: Whareroa Planting Report June 7th 2009, next session 9am June 21st. Spray workshop 9am June 27th

To: whareroa.guardians@gmail.com

Planting Report June 7th 2009

What a great start to the 3rd planting season. Cool but sunny weather.

We moved into the SE branch of the Whareroa Stream and planted in a swamp: 1000 carex virgata, 100 phormium tenax (flax) and 100 cyperus ustulatus (giant umbrella sedge). It was the easiest "digging" ever. Many thanks to the thirty volunteers who worked hard; some started at 8am, transferring plants from the base to the site using their 4-wheel drives.

Thanks also to those who came at 8am on Saturday to unload over 2000 plants from the Taupo nursery truck.



Unloaders



Theo and landrover



Tony & Helen



Paul & Veronica

Good to emerge from the shade to morning tea delivered close to the site and usual delicious sausage and onions after.

Next time (June 21st) we will be in the NE Valley, past the gum plantation. Follow the open gates. It'll still be mainly swampy (but don't worry, there will be hard digging later on).

Help to "put out" especially from those with four-wheel drives at 8am is appreciated. Main planting starts at 9.

Thanks again from the Whareroa Guardians.

Unloaders June 6th: John Lancashire, John Porter, Celia Reid, Theo Barsanti, Veronica Mansfield, Grant Nicholls and Ann Evans.

Planters and caterers June 7th: Laura and Cory van Peer, June, Fred and Jon Rowland, Penny and Ian Redward, John Porter, Theo Barsanti, Veronica Mansfield, Sascha Wassong, Jonathon, Carsten

& Alex Waterworth with Riley, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Cara Graham, Chris & Max Wootton, Ellen Soulliere, Peter Davis, Michael Stace, Sue Chesterfield, Bob Zuur, John Lancashire, Paul Callister, Ann Evans, Emily & Lily Fawcett, Joe Clarkson and Celia Reid. (If anyone was missed please let us know)



Waterworths



Max

Spraying Workshop Sat June 27th 9am

Fergus Wheeler from NgaUruora has done the bulk of preplant spraying. There is another area to do and we have run out of money for this.

Fergus has offered to train a few volunteers from Whareroa in spraying techniques, using glyphosphate (Roundup). This way we can cover the ground quicker and cheaper!

If anyone would like to do this training with a view to assisting with the pre-plant sprays next year, this will happen on Saturday June 27th at 9am, it'll probably take the morning, or less depending on how many there are. Please send us an email if you are interested. It would be good if we could have 5 or 6 people. Thanks.

Whareroa Update 30 June 2009 at 17:22

Subject: Whareroa Next Planting Sunday July 5th and exciting news about entrance track
To:

Hello everyone.

Next Planting will be this Sunday, July 5th, 9am to noon with the usual sausage sizzle after. Follow the flags to find the site. MetVUW forecasts a dry window on Sunday morning.

Also, plant unloading 8am this Friday, July 3rd. If you can spare an hour, please come along. They usually arrive a bit early.

It was cold last planting but hardy souls did excellent work. Many thanks to them all and to others who have been quietly beavering away.

Access. At last work is beginning on the ground towards public access - Ian Cooksley, Kapiti Manager for DOC promises it will be ready for this summer.

A graded track has been marked on the bluff just past the entrance and fencers are putting up a fence to separate walkers from stock. The track will zigzag up the bluff then traverse across to the top of the kohekohe block behind the old haybarn and travel down through the bush to come out towards the gums then back along the main race. It has great views.

Further tracks are proposed including one to a Lookout within the farm and a connecting one up to Campbell Mill Rd.



Looking south from proposed track

Plant care. The Dreaver family have adopted an area of planting to keep the weeds down. Thanks Anthony and Jennifer, and to Penny & Ian Redward who have also been busy releasing plants. If you would like to adopt a patch, please reply to this email. You can go and work whenever it suits and develop your own special link with the farm.

Strategic/Management Plan. The Trustees are working with DOC towards developing such a Plan. If you have ideas you would like considered, please email them to us. If anyone would like to receive Minutes of our monthly meetings and/or a copy of James Lunday's presentation to the AGM, also please let us know.

Mystery subscription received - Many thanks to Wallace/Chaiya for their subscription paid directly into our bank account but we cannot find who you are - if anyone knows who this is can they please let us know. Thanks.

Recent volunteer workers: Many thanks to:

June 21st: Emily Fawcett, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Peter & Andrew Davis, Penny Redward, Dawn Bush, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Liffet Stewart, Jonathon & Gill Waterworth, Theo, Aaron & Annie Barsanti

June 27th: Fergus Wheeler, Peter Davis, Theo Barsanti, Jonathon Waterworth, Barbara Clarke & Ann Evans.



Looking south east from proposed track



Looking west from proposed track

From the Whareroa Guardians: John L, John P, Michael, Jenny, Bob, Liffet, Emily, Rachel, Ann and Carol.

Whareroa Update 15 July 2009

Whareroa Planting Report July 5th 2009, the next session will be July 19th

A lousy forecast produced the best turn out yet with 40 volunteers, and an amazing atmosphere of enthusiasm and pleasure at just being there, digging away, chatting and planting. This exercise is a good workout, cheaper than the gym and you get a sausage after!

Children developed their skills at chucking flaxes across the stream and then went exploring. Theo, Ian and Jon chauffeured the plants to tricky places with expertise and it was great to have morning tea brought to us "in the field". The sausage and onions were especially nice.

We planted alongside two branches of the Whareroa Stream and will continue this next time. It is pleasing to plant next to mature examples of the same species – giant carex secta and giant umbrella sedge.



In Carex Valley

Our last delivery from Taupo happened this morning and there are about 1900 plants to go.

Rob Cross from KCDC gave us advice on the quickest way to suppress the gorse. We will aim to keep some areas open for recreation and encourage others to grow natives as quickly as possible.

Variegated thistles are beginning to grow and the Thistle Busters have started their annual campaign to keep tracks thistle free. If you see any, chomp them off at ground level.

Remember to bring gloves and tools; gumboots are recommended. Follow the flags to the planting site, 5-10 minutes walk from the cars

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday. 9am to lunchtime.

Planters July 5th: Michael Keith, Ellen Soulliere, Ruby Durrant Bush, Emily Fawcett, Finn & Lily Bognuda, Caspar & Maximillian Thomas, Dawn Bush, Fred & June Rowland, Grant & Liam Nicholls, Theo & Alex Barsanti, Ann Evans, Laura & Bill van Peer, Penny & Ian Redward, John Porter, Rob Cross, Steve Lewis, Phil Simpson, Cathryn & Frances Oldfield, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Carol & Ray Molineux, Liffet Stewart, Christopher & Julie Ruthe, Jonathon Waterworth, Shane Gaskin, Peter Davis, Jenny Rowan, Chris, Sarah & Max Wootton.

Unloaders July 14th: Ian & Penny Redward, Dawn Bush, Anthony Dreaver and Michael Stace.



In Carex Valley



A forest gecko recently made its way into the Woottons' woodbasket from the kohekohe bush at the south of the farm – it was released after the photo.



Many thanks to everyone.

Whareroa Update 29 July 2009

Whareroa Planting Report July 19th 2009 and a Request

It gets a bit boring to keep saying "Another great day!" but it was. Again, 40 enthusiastic people came to plant. Sunny and warm, it felt like spring. The coloured flags meant no one went up the wrong valley. Good to see some new faces who heard about it from the item in the paper – welcome to you all. Some arrived, not by car then walking up the valley but whooshing down from the other direction in lycra on flash bikes. They can dig a mean hole as well.

We worked in the two valleys again, each with it's own character. The bell birds were singing and fantails flitting.



So far this year we've planted about 3650 plants in 4 sessions. 1100 approx remain. The "Ustulatus" photo shows what those scrappy things we planted in the swamp grow up to be - giant umbrella sedges.





Brian & Glenys



Laura, Cory & Bill



Reihana



Alexander & Sue



Ruby



Alison and Ian



Umbrella sedge

The Basires introduced a new element of comfort to the sausage sizzle, producing their own chairs for a well deserved rest.

Many thanks to KCDC for support, their new Environmental Restoration officer, Matt Ward will spend some time eradicating the small gorse bushes popping up amongst our initial planting block. The seeds are carried down by the stream, once the vegetation is tall enough it'll cease to be a problem.

Next time it'll be quite different (the ground will be drier) – above the SE branch valley, planting manuka in a couple of blocks to break the NW wind. We'll be able to take a closer look at the podocarp bush remnant while there and envisage how these back valleys will look in 100 years. We'll also look at the "Marines' bullet scars" in the nikau.



John & Michael



June & Liffet

Volunteers: Brian & Glenys Daw, Ian & Penny Redward, Michael Stace, John Lancashire, Ellen Soulliere, Steve Mitchell, Bob Zuur, Reihana Haerewa, Jonathon Waterworth, Theo Barsanti, Liffet Stewart, Laura, Bill & Cory van Peer, Ann Evans, Sue Blaikie, Bernard & Alexander McManus, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Matt Callahan, Allison & Ian Basire, Dawn Bush, Rhys Lyall, Charles Smith, Julie Hooper, Phill Simmonds, Cree Hatfield, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Cara Graham, Jack & Max Wootton, Emily Fawcett & Lily, June & Fred Rowland, Cathryn Oldfield.

Please let us know if anyone has been missed. (Remember to put your name in the book!)

Many thanks to you all from the Whareroa Guardians.

Look forward to seeing you at our next session:

Saturday (NB different day) August 1st. Everyone welcome! 9am to lunchtime.

Minutes Secretary Required

Is there anyone interested in becoming our voluntary Minutes Secretary? The meetings are generally monthly, in the evening (usually a Wednesday) held in one of our homes in Paekakariki or Raumati South. This would involve 2-3 hours meeting time and another couple of hours writing up. Minutes need to be completed within 3-4 days of the meeting.

Please phone Ann, 904 7114 eves if you'd like to know more. (leave a message if out) Thankyou.

Hello everyone.

Things are pottering along with Whareroa.

We have received the final installment of the Ministry of the Environment grant - our volunteer hours were sufficient so many thanks to you all. We recorded over 1800 hours from Sept 06 to Jun 07 - at \$15/hour that's over \$27,000 equivalent.

The Farm Plan is close to finalisation - determining which zones will be retired and which to continue in farming.

Public access - still in limbo.

Regional Council - major changes going on and of course an election. We can all lobby GW candidates as to their commitment to GW taking over the management of the farm.

A working bee is arranged for Sat Sept 8th 9am to noon.

Tasks proposed: There are light and heavy activities.

- Spread mulch around plants at entrance
- Sort the planting pots and bags in the shed
- clean toilets
- Bird proof shed
- Clean rubbish from stream banks
- Variegated thistles – need grubbers or spades to stop them seeding. This is an open ended task!

(Please bring gloves, grubbers, forks, spades and barrows)

Other dates:

- Next Board meeting: Weds Sept 26th at 7pm, QE Park office
- Wellington Botanical Society: Sat Nov 3rd 9am to 2pm. Whareroa supporters welcome.

This will involve a walk through the farm up north east corner, onto Campbell Mill Rd then following the farm boundary noting the regeneration then back down a steep ridge to the valley containing two covenanted areas of bush for botanising and then some time in the Kohekohe block in the Ramaroa valley. Boots and sure feet needed. Bring picnic lunch.

Picnic: Sunday Nov 11th 2007 - put in your diary now.

Preparation working bee Sat morning Nov 10th.

Postponement date Nov 18th

More information nearer the time

Hope to see you at some of these activities.

Best wishes from the Whareroa Guardians

Whareroa Update 11 August 2009

Whareroa Planting Notes August 1st 2009 & Invite for Sunday the 16th

A miserable day brought out just six hardy souls. However, whilst it rained, lots of carpet squares were cut. Then morning tea arrived and we all moved up to a new planting spot, to protect the Nikau/podocarp bush from the northwesterlies. Ian and Penny had transported the plants up there in advance and 200 manuka were planted. June was delighted to be released from sausage duty to plant trees. Viola and Phil abandoned Greendale Reserve to see what we were up to. The soil was good with lots of worms and not too many stones.



We then explored the bush enjoying the amazing diversity in a very small area – matai, kahikatea, totara, kohekohe, tawa, lancewood, pukatea, rimu, milktree, puka, nikau to name just some.

A number of volunteers are going into the farm at other times. We know of Anthony and Jennifer looking after their “plot” at the entrance and Dawn, Liffet, Penny and Ann cutting thistles to keep the tracks clear. Walking round the main northeast circuit it looks as though the mountain bikers are working on keeping the gorse down there too. Sue, Warren, Bernard and Ann spent a beautiful Sunday starting to choose “Photopoints” for long-term recording of changes on the farm. In addition, Matt Ward, from KCDC will be clearing gorse and releasing plants. He has already found lots of “hidden” plants from our first year’s plantings on the slope between the two arms of the kohekohe blocks behind the old haybarn and some giant puffballs. Those first year plants are growing amazingly now (see photo) – do go and have a look.

After planting we'd like to put carpet around the new plants whilst the ground is still moist – a good supply has appeared from various sources – thanks. If you are recarpeting, we'd be happy to receive your old carpet (wool only). Send us an email (reply to this) if you'd like it collected or bring along to a working bee.



This year's plantings Carex virgata below Kamahi Bush



2 year old plantings near entrance



Sue, Warren & Bernard doing Photopoints



New growth at base of Ti Kouka now stock removed

DOC are assessing the tenders to build the entrance track and intend this to be done in September. DOC are also advertising the grazing lease this week.

About 700 plants remain and we really need a good turnout on our (we hope) last planting session for this season, Sunday August 16th.

Many thanks to Ian & Penny Redward, June Rowland, Dawn Bush, Viola & Phil Palmer and Matt Ward & Ann Evans – and to those working at other times including Sue Blaikie, Warren Bell, Bernard Cammack. If you're doing work, please let us know so you can be acknowledged.

Next/Last Planting Session: Sunday August 16th 9am to noon-ish followed by sausage sizzle. All welcome. Follow the flags. Bring gloves and tools and your friends.

Regular 1st Sunday of month Working Bees will recommence on September 6th

9am to noon with morning tea. We'll probably be putting down carpet squares.

Thanks to all volunteers from the Whareroa Guardians.

Whareroa Planting Report August 16th 2009 and Summing up the 2009 Planting season

Report for Sunday August 16th.

Again a lousy forecast and in the event it was a perfect planting day: overcast, windless and mild. Soil beautifully moist and crumbly. Luckily our planters took no notice of the forecast and turned out in force again to complete the planting for the season.

26 volunteers planted 200 kanuka, 200 manuka, 50 kaikomako, about 80 toetoe and a dozen umbrella sedge which had been missed previously. We continued the windscreen planting above the nikau bush and planted along that side-stream. We also planted 100 kanuka and 20 kaikomako as experimental plantings in a nearby area which will be grazed to see whether they survive. If they do, it gives vastly greater scope for riparian planting elsewhere on the farm. Some pigeonwoods have been scattered on upper slopes to act as seed sources.

We inspected plantings from 4-6 weeks ago and found carex had been decimated by pukeko in the wettest swamp but those in slightly drier areas are surviving fine. The trees are thriving, already putting out new shoots. Cabbage trees have been chewed by hares so some animal repellent was applied.

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Our **caterers** have been stalwart: Laura van Peer with June and Fred Rowland. It was great to have morning tea brought to our planting sites – many thanks to Theo and Ian and their all terrain vehicles. Then at the end, to get back to the Guardians' shed, tired and hungry to be welcomed by the smell of sausages and onions and a big mug of tea – they tasted so good. Many thanks.

A lot of work is done on either side of the actual planting.

First the **planning** of which plants to order and where they should go.

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On each planting day, some arrive at 8am to put out Jan's flags and **distribute** the plants ready for the main group who arrive at nine. Again, the **4-wheel drivers** made a huge difference.

Then the **planters**, without whom none of this would have been achieved. They age from 4 to 87 and work cheerfully and hard for the morning. Some come from further afield, even Wellington. A constant presence is young Ruby who plants, gathers pots, takes photos and is always involved. She and gran Dawn have taken over an area to maintain.

Which leads on to **Adopt-a-Plot**. Some volunteers have adopted an area which they will maintain, in particular, releasing the plants from weeds and summer grass growth. They go in when it suits them, perhaps for an hour once a week. If you would like to take on an area, just send us an email. It is so pleasant on the farm on summer evenings, quietly pottering.

Gorse and thistle work. As you can see, gorse is spreading. This is great on the hill slopes in the retired areas but we certainly don't want it amongst our plantings and we are keen to keep some lengths of stream, walking tracks and the Dell free of gorse. Last year we cleared a large areas of gorse in the Dell and hope to finish the job in the next few months. Our vision is for a grassy open area in the lower Dell surrounded by a perimeter of bush around the rim and up the slope, flowing over into the Whareroa SE Valley bush. A group walk the tracks regularly, grubbers in hand and combine upper and lower body exercise with scintillating conversation and wonderful views. City Fitness eat your heart out.

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Photo survey – onto the newest project. Setting up a GPS and photo data base of the farm for long-term monitoring.

Overall development of Whareroa. Behind all this is the work of the Whareroa Guardians Community Trustees who meet at least once a month; it was three times last week! We are working closely with DOC over the overall plan for the farm and have given considerable input to DOC. At times this has been very frustrating, particularly over the extreme delay in obtaining title but at last things are moving.

DOC and progress on the farm. The grazing lease has been advertised with a view to commencing on Sept 1st. The contract to build the initial entrance track has been let and work has commenced. A contract to build the associated bridges has been let. DOC have allocated their landscape architect, Herwi Scheltus to develop a 10-15 year plan and we met him for the first time last week and were very impressed with his approach. Unfortunately, the delay has led us into a time of governmental cut backs and money we thought was confirmed has vanished – thus the expected woolshed has disappeared, for now at least. We have good relations with the DOC team, particularly Ian Cooksley, Wayne Boness and Colin Giddy.

Many many thanks to all volunteers at the end of our third planting season. In these three years, an amazing 242 people have planted about 18,000 plants. We have money for one more season from the initial grant from the Ministry for the Environment.

Working Bees.

These will recommence on the first Sunday of each month – 9am onwards. Morning tea provided but no sausages! Work includes releasing, carpet squares and gorse. We'll let you know before each one what activity is proposed. There's always something everyone can do, even if not the main activity so do come along and enjoy being on the farm.

Sunday 6th September will be the next working bee. 9am to noon.

Lighter work will be putting carpet squares around plantings.

Heavy work will be more gorse cutting in the Dell. Bring your tools, double gloves, protective clothes and earmuffs for that area.

From the Whareroa Guardians Community Trustees: John Lancashire (chair), Michael Keith (treasurer), Ann Evans (secretary), Jenny Rowan, Rachel Kiel-Taylor, John Porter, Carol Reihana, Emily Fawcett, Liffet Stewart and Bob Zuur.

Whareroa Update 2 September 2009

Whareroa Planting 2009 summary. Next working bee this Sunday, Sept 6th 9am

Hello everyone.

Well, the 2009 planting season has come to an end. Many thanks to all involved. (Details in the attached report)

We hope some of you will keep active through the year with working bees on the first Sunday of each month or going in at your own time to potter in the plantings.

It is wonderful to see that track work has commenced near the entrance.

Best wishes from the Whareroa Guardians.

Whareroa Planting Report August 16th 2009 and Summing up the 2009 Planting season

Report for Sunday August 16th.

Again a lousy forecast and in the event it was a perfect planting day: overcast, windless and mild. Soil beautifully moist and crumbly. Luckily our planters took no notice of the forecast and turned out in force again to complete the planting for the season.

26 volunteers planted 200 kanuka, 200 manuka, 50 kaikomako, about 80 toetoe and a dozen umbrella sedge which had been missed previously. We continued the windscreen planting above the nikau bush and planted along that side-stream. We also planted 100 kanuka and 20 kaikomako as experimental plantings in a nearby area which will be grazed to see whether they survive. If they do, it gives vastly greater scope for riparian planting elsewhere on the farm. Some pigeonwoods have been scattered on upper slopes to act as seed sources.

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Most importantly, the **planters** themselves, without whom none of this would have been achieved. They range from 4 to 87 and work cheerfully and hard for the morning. Some come from further afield, even Wellington. A constant presence is young Ruby who plants, gathers pots, takes photos and is always involved. She and gran Dawn have taken over an area to maintain.

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Jan, Liffet & Dawn



Ruby, Alex and Cory

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Aerial roots, *Griselinia lucida*, Matai Bush

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust – Planting Again! On 4th October 2009

Hello everyone.

The 1st weekend of the month approaches so it must be Whareroa time.

We have been very fortunate to be given a further swag of plants from the QE Park nursery to plant in the areas already sprayed further up the SE Valley – see photos. The gorse along one bank of the stream is dying back and it would be really good to plant that strip so that natives have a chance to get established and suppress the gorse. The plants include wineberry, olearia, wharangi, five-finger, kanuka, putaputaweta and others, all locally sourced. Thankyou very much to QE Park staff.



Planting site, SE Valley



Corner of settlement chamber, SE Valley

Normally this would be rather late to plant but the ground is so moist, they should get established before the summer. Those already in are doing beautifully – see photos.

SO, if you can help, **please come along at 9am Sunday morning**. No sausages sadly! But hot drink and biscuits provided midmorning. Follow the flags.

If we have time left we can release some of those in need – see photos.

As the paddocks are rather wet it might be safest to park on the hard before entering that last paddock – if you proceed, take care.

Wil van Crutchen, the grazier, has requested that the inner of the double gates are kept closed at all times for stock safety. The outer gates will be open.

You will see the new DOC track proceeding up the hill on the left as you enter the farm – it will be a real asset to the community and gives great views.

Last working bee, some cut gorse – thanks Peter Kentish for the photo of that and of the sheep. Others released plants and applied carpet. There's plenty more to do!



Gorse slopes cleared in the Dell



Spring

Many thanks to the volunteers Sept 6th: Peter Kentish, John Porter, Emily Fawcett, Grant Nicholls, Liffet Stewart, Hal & Rachel Salive, Bernard Cammack, Ann Evans.



"Releasing". Plant before and after, now needs carpet square

Hope to see a good turn out for this extra planting session.

Best wishes from the Whareroa Guardians.

PS If anyone can help "put out" at 8am, can you let us know by email. Thanks

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust. Update 28 October 2009

Planting Report 4th October 2009

Our October working bee became an extra planting session with the generous donation of plants from the QE Park nursery. We haven't counted them but estimate about three hundred interesting plants are now in the ground further up the SE Valley. It was a dismal morning but all this rain has given the plants a wonderful start.

Many thanks to: Jonathon, Alex & Riley Waterworth, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Michael Stace, Ellen Soulliere, Grant Nicholls, Ken Fraser, Theo & Alex Barsanti, Celia Reid, John Rowland and Ann Evans.

We were sad to see some goat browsing, see photo. DOC were set to act but the goats have cleverly vanished from the farm or at least out of sight. If anyone sees goats, please let us know their number and location.



Goat damage to new plants



Fred & June Rowland planting Kahikatea in Dell

A special planting were some kahikateas, grown from seed in the remnant bush in QE Park. June Rowland and others were instrumental in protecting this bush about 20 years ago so it was apt that June and Fred should plant seedlings in the swampy part of Totara Dell.

General Update

The new entrance track is coming along well. The heavy rain caused some soil slippage but good that this happened and is remedied before it opens. The views from the top are great. Bridges are yet to be built. The current NE Ridge track will continue to be used as the connector route to Campbell Mill Rd until a higher grade track is built suitable for family walkers and cyclists.



New track under construction

Plans for the entrance development are being finalised and tenders will then be let. Present timeline is for opening in the new year.

Working Bee this Sunday, 1st November 2009 at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

We'd like to do some more gorse clearing in Totara Dell and this season's plants really need some care: releasing and carpet squares, both in the NE and SE Valley. Please bring tools and wear gloves and strong footwear or gumboots. Follow the flags as usual.

Planting is the start but for good survival, releasing is an essential part of management. Volunteers are welcome to go in to work in the planting areas at any time, but please make sure all farm gates are left as you find them. It is lovely there in the long summer evenings.

Hope to see you on Sunday.

John L, John P, Michael, Jenny, Ann, Rachel, Emily, Bob, Liffet and Carol.



Early morning from Main Ridge, NE part of Whareroa



Looking down NW Valley, Emerald Glen Rd at bottom, out of sight beyond Big Bush. Very steep terrain, now retired.

Whareroa Farm Update Nov 2009 and Invitation to a Supporters' Picnic

Hello everyone.

Picnic Invite.

At the last working bee, some hot grubby volunteers requested a picnic as the farm opening won't now be happening till February/March.

So, instead of a working bee on the first Sunday in December, come to an

Informal Picnic, 10am to 3pm Sunday 6th December 2009

This is not a public event, just a low key one for all supporters, their families and friends.

If you planted 3 years ago, you'll be amazed at the growth. Come and admire the outcome of all those volunteer hours and walk the new track (stream crossings involved as bridges not yet built) and explore the restoration areas. Bring your picnic and either choose a spot by the stream or up a ridge or join us in the Dell at lunchtime (bring a rug as we have been clearing gorse).

Will van Crutchen, who is grazing the paddocks has asked that the double gates by the Shed are kept closed so please close after you come through to prevent any stock escapes.

Flags will show the way to the Dell and the planting sites.

Working Bee 1st November 2009

Another good turn out on a lovely day. Plants in Carex (NE) Valley were released and carpeted. Distress expressed at the damage by goats as most of the broad leaved plants were chomped. Hopefully they will recover as the ground is still wet. DOC have promised that they will respond promptly if goats are seen again so if you are on the farm and see them please let us know asap. A DOC team are just commencing a goat programme in the region but it was too late for this year's plants.



Other volunteers had a good session slashing gorse and clearing it from the slopes in the Dell. We aim to clear a circular area up the gradual slope, then plant to enclose the remaining gorse on the steeper slope with the aim that in time there will be an open grassy “amphitheatre” backed by mature bush (some totara have already been planted). There are already mahoe, kaikomako and pittosporums popping up amongst that gorse.

Many thanks to the following: Grant Nicholls, Dawn Bush, Ellen Soulliere, Bernard Cammack, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Philip Corleison, Peter Kentish, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Liffet Stewart, Barry Blake, June & Fred Rowland, Peter Davis, Ian & Penny Redward, Ann Evans.



Entrance Plan and Opening

The detailed plans for the entrance are now being finalised. It will involve parking for 32 cars and 4 buses/horse floats. Pedestrians will enter the farm through an information bay using one part of the grey shed. There will be native plantings (our project for next year!). Signs will indicate walks and give information about the history of the farm. Cyclists and horses will enter via a new road to the south of the carpark taking them directly to the main farm race. It looks very smart but it'll be into next year before it happens.

The next stage will be the development of an overall Farm Plan looking ahead 5-10-20 years. DOC landscape architect Herwi Scheltus will be working on that with the Guardians and there will be consultation. Exciting times!

QE Park Anything Vintage Days Dec 27,28,29th

The Friends of QE Park have asked whether anyone can help with carpark directing at any time over these 3 days. Whareroa will get a share of the takings, commensurate with the share of volunteer input. If you can help, even for a couple of hours, please send us an email. Many thanks.

Hope to see you on Sunday the 6th.

From John L, John P, Michael, Jenny, Rachel, Ann, Emily, Bob and Liffet.

Invitation to picnic Sunday 6th Dec 2009

Hello everyone.

The forecast looks hopeful for Sunday so pack up a picnic and come and check out the farm with no work expected!

There's a mown track though the first year's plantings and you can try out the new DOC track.

We'll aim to gather in the Dell at lunchtime.

If anyone would like to go up to the cabbage trees we'll do a guided walk after lunch.

Bring your mountain bike if you like rough tracks (the DOC track is pedestrian only).

- Please keep the double gates by the shed closed.
- Drive in along the race but be careful if the ground is wet.
- Flags will show the way to the Dell and the planting sites.
- Reminder, no dogs, quad or motor bikes or fires permitted and there are hazards - rough ground, streams and boggy places so please take care and supervise children. Thanks



We look forward to seeing you.

The Whareroa Guardians Trustees: John L, Michael, Ann, Jenny, John P, Rachel, Carol, Emily, Liffet and Bob.

Pics from Whareroa



Picnic March 2009 – in the Dell

Whareroa Stream planting site, 2 years after planting:



New buds after goat damage