

# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Updates for Supporters 2010



Ti Kouka in flower



## Whareroa Supporters Update 30 January 2010

Another year begins, still without public access to the farm, over 4 years since it was “saved”. We have continued to press DOC but each step seems to take so long. Currently waiting for KCDC planning approval for the new footbridges and the entrance plans, *then* they will go out to tender *then* the contractors will start. DOC have put up “Farm Closed” signs, but Guardians’ volunteers can of course go in. Take care if there is any work going on and keep well away – Wayne Boness from DOC was concerned for safety when some members of the public appeared nearby whilst he was felling trees.

In the meantime, the role of the Whareroa Guardians continues to be essential in maintaining the community’s role on the farm. The first two year’s plantings are well established and a pleasure to see – do go and wander through (and feel free to release any plants that need it). Our last season’s work had a major setback with goat browsing. DOC subsequently culled a good number but there are still a few around. Time will tell whether the plants were able to recover enough before having to compete with the surrounding rampant spring grass growth. Releasing of these plants in NE and SE branches of the Whareroa Stream would be beneficial, but without too much exposure to make them obvious to the goats!

Gorse clearing in the Dell has moved to a further stage in that we no longer need to drag away all the cuttings as there is now a large enough area cleared for use for picnics. We are just removing the big trunks and leaving the brushwood to rot down in place and grass grows through, and then weedeating from time to time. This seems to be working. We hope to complete clearing the south bank in the next year.

The December picnic was enjoyed despite the cool overcast conditions. It was nice to be able to just relax and chat.



Picnic. NB the gorse clearing



Jonathon and didgeredoo

### Working Bees – next one 9am Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

These happen on the first Sunday of the month at 9am. For February 7<sup>th</sup> we would like to cut carpet squares ready for next planting season and to clear the carpet from the end bay of the shed as this will be used as part of the access to the farm. Also, more gorse clearing and plant releasing is needed. Come and do whichever you prefer. You need good gloves and appropriate tools please. Hot drink provided mid morning. All welcome.

**Membership Coordinator needed.** Please can anyone help the Whareroa Guardians by taking on this role? If you would like to discuss this to see what’s involved please email a reply or speak to one of the Trustees.



Peter and family



Ruby on temporary bridge

### **Planting for 2010 and 2011**

The Lower Ramaroa Valley will be the next project (see photo below). This is a flat area, just to the right at the beginning of the main race behind the sheep yards. The Ramaroa runs under the main race and joins the Whareroa Stream. Some parts have good soil, some is more stony after flooding. There is a small group of native trees which needs protection planting, they include a large matai and kahikatea and an uncommon milk tree. In addition DOC have asked if the Guardians would plant the entrance area. The Lower Ramaroa will connect two covenant areas of bush and extends our riparian restoration. Fencing is needed before it starts and Ian Cooksley has confirmed that this will be done for this season.



*Many thanks for all your support to date – we look forward to seeing you on the farm in 2010.*

## Whareroa Update 02 March 2010

Hello everyone.

Progress this month includes the commencement of building the 3 bridges for the new entrance-way tracks.

The DOC sign writer has visited the sites.

Planning permission for the entrance works is pending.

The fencing lines for the Lower Ramaroa have been decided and preplant spraying will start soon. As you can see, the access is good and terrain flat.



DOC Landscape architect Herwi Sheltus is meeting Trustees this week to discuss the Strategic Plan.

Transit are looking to extend Waterfall Rd across the front of the farm to Mackay's Crossing roundabout so that the rail crossing onto SH1 will close. This will provide a good cycle circuit and pedestrian and horse connections.

Our plants continue to grow.

**Working Bee Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2010** Numerous plants were released and a big area of gorse in the Dell was topped. Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Margaret Mills, Breda Ryan, Penny & Ian Redward, Bernard Cammack, June Rowland, Jean McCallan, Laura van Peer & Ann Evans



**Next Working Bee Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March.** 9am to noon. Activities may include looking for seeds for volunteers to grow at home, releasing, carpet square cutting and gorse clearing depending upon who arrives and what they want to do. There aren't flags this time as Jan has reclaimed them for cycle activities over the summer (thanks for the use Jan). Drive east along the main race, past the derelict haybarn, until you see cars parked. Wear strong footwear and gloves and please bring whatever tools you need, and a containers for seeds. Hot drink etc provided.

*We look forward to seeing you then.*

## Whareroa Update 29 March 2010.

Another busy month has passed. A good working bee produced lots of seeds, a further large area of the Dell cleared of gorse and more plants released. Many thanks to: Dave Allen, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Breda Ryan, Peter Kentish, Margaret Mills, Jean Macallan, Philip Corleison, Jonathon Waterworth, Bernard Cammack, Ann Evans and special thanks to Sascha Wassong who brought his dad and friends Max and Kristina along.



Gorse cutting in Dell

We have a new logo - attached. This was designed by Leon and Rachel's daughter and her partner.

Many thanks to 'Inject Design' - Harry A'Court and Gina Kiel.





Gathering seeds in Kohekohe Bush



Seeds: top – tawa, middle – titoki, bottom - nikau

Preparations are going well for this year's planting project in the Lower Ramaraoa. The fencing lines have been decided and the fencer has started. The area includes some small wetland areas as well as the stream flats and some slope. A line for a future track and areas for picnics will be kept clear. NgaUruora will do the pre-plant spot spraying, funded by our Ministry for the Environment grant. Planting will commence in late May - dates to follow.

NZTA are planning a connecting road between Emerald Glen and Mackay's Crossing. This will take away some of the farm's best farming land and also some of our first year's plantings. There will be compensation including a cycle/walk/bridle way which will provide a good cycle circuit via Campbell Road and access to the northern end of the farm. We expect NZTA to provide equivalent plantings to those lost.

The DOC landscape architect, Herwi Scheltus, has spent some time on the farm. Some of the Trustees had an excellent 7 hour field trip with Herwi and Wayne Boness followed by a productive evening meeting. We look forward to the next stage of development of the Strategic Plan for the farm with ideas for public access and future directions. This will be presented by Herwi at our AGM. Please put in your diary as it will be a stimulating evening. Herwi is very enthusiastic about the Farm's potential and is seeking input from the Community.



Trying out the new footbridge



Herwi Scheltus & John Porter at the Rocks, highest point of the farm

Also a reminder that membership renewals are due. And we always welcome new members. Becoming a member not only helps financially but more importantly gives strength to our applications for grants and status in our dealings with other organisations. Application and renewal forms attached.

***The next working bee is deferred by a week due to Easter - now Sunday 11th April.***

**AGM Tuesday 27th April, 7pm. Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome.**



## Update for Supporters, 12 May 2010

**Firewood.** More poplar is available, DOC expect to cut up the giant logs this week. Please come along to the farm with your wheelbarrow between 9 and 11am this Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May. Suggested koha is \$20 for trailer or large ute, \$10 for small ute and \$5 for a boot load or pro rata. We invite people from neighbouring restoration groups to gather wood as DOC are keen for it to be cleared so that they can work on landscaping the area.



A well attended **AGM** despite the atrocious evening was stimulated by a presentation by DoC landscape architect Herwi Scheltus on the values and potential management of the farm. This is preliminary but it was good to see some progress towards a Strategic Plan.

Proposed values included “recreational experience to be one which depends directly on nature, it’s setting and moods” and “setting retains the opportunity to find peace and relief in a quiet rural setting”. In addition to a range of specific tracks for walkers, cyclists and mountain bikes the possibility of one valley giving opportunities for steep descending mountain bike trails was mooted. There is still considerable work to be done, including a detailed restoration plan but things are evolving.

**Trustees** Jenny Rowan, Rachel Kiel-Taylor were re-elected unopposed. Trustees’ term is three years and three “retire” each year.

**Home nurseries.** Liffet distributed 32 packets of locally gathered seeds: tawa, nikau, kowhai and titoki to supporters. The nikau may take up to 2 years to germinate so one has to be patient. We hope to expand this project as this year’s plants uses up the last of the Min for the Environment grant. If you want to be involved in either gathering seeds or growing them, please send us an email.

**Entrance** work continues with the clearance of tree stumps behind the shed. However the car parking and major work is on hold until NZTA finalise their decision on the Waterfall Rd extension. A possibility is for the road to continue through the farm to the MacKay’s Crossing roundabout. Overall we feel the benefit to the community and recreational users of this option outweighs the loss of some farm land. Compensation would be made to the farm (including moving our plantings). If you wish to make a submission send before the end of May to: [elizabethg@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:elizabethg@nzta.govt.nz)

**Working Bee held 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** A landmark event as the last of the big gorse was cut on the south side of the Dell. The area will need ongoing weed eating and clearing until grass is established (parts cleared 2 years ago now look as though they’ve always been in grass). This has been a major undertaking with some very hard work over many weekends – a special

thank you to the Gorse Gang. The totara planted along the top are thriving. Thanks also to the Reliable Releasers who have helped the trees get established.



**Thanks to Volunteers:** Jean McCallan, Peter Davis, Peter Kentish, Ian & Penny Redward, Theo and Alex Barsanti, Bernard Cammack, June & Fred Rowland, Ann Evans, Jan Nisbet and Carol Shand. Also to Tony & Helen Griffiths for growing Mataihuka kowhai from seed and planting them on the north bank of the Dell.



We really need a Minutes' Secretary, if you can spare about 4-5 hours a month attending the meetings and writing the minutes, please let us know.

The dry weather continues and there is now very little stock on the farm and water level is low in the streams. Highland cattle have appeared, amazingly shaggy. We thought the future visitors would like to see them, we agree.

**Planting Season** Programme for Whareroa, QEP and Raumati South Residents' Group is attached. Of course, we hope you give Whareroa priority.

The pre-plant spray of the lower Ramaroa Valley is complete.

**1<sup>st</sup> Planting will be Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>. See you then!**

## Whareroa Update 30 May 2010

### Whareroa Planting starts June 13th 2010

Hello Everyone.

Our 4th planting season is about to start - 9am Sunday June 13th.

This time we move into the Ramaroa Valley. This is close to the entrance, and flat. It will connect the Ramaroa covenant bush with the main Whareroa Stream plantings.

Morning tea and lunchtime hot dog provided.

Wear gumboots or strong footwear, garden gloves and bring spades or grubbers. Children welcome.

A couple of photos from previous years attached as a reminder - might be sunny or dismal! The plants don't mind.



Whareroa Stream planting 2007



and 2008

Look forward to catching up with you then.

Thanks, from the Whareroa Guardians

*PS Anyone free at 7.30am on Friday June 11th? Help to unload the truck from Taupo Native Plant Nursery would be appreciated.*

Later dates:   Sunday June 27th  
                  Sunday July 11th  
                  Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>



2007



## Whareroa Update 20 June 2010

Hello everyone.

**Unloading.** About 3000 plants arrived 7.30am on the 11th. They look in excellent condition. Many thanks to Margaret Mills, Breda Ryan, Julie Lines, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Emily Fawcett and Ann Evans for unloading. Driver Rob from the Taupo Native Plant Nursery also worked hard - the stacking system is interesting as plants fill the truck up to the roof.

**Planting** this year got off to a wet start but that didn't deter 21 enthusiasts. At least the ground was soft. Dawn, Ruby, Ann and Theo arrived at 8am to start putting out plants. We weren't sure anyone would come but they did! It was good to welcome some new people. The site is easy to access and flat. Soil varies from pure loam to pretty stony. It was very nice planting around the small group of huge trees to protect and enhance them. There was plenty of water in the stream and we all got very muddy. Over 500 plants went in. The following weekend they were sprayed with Treepel as a few had already been nibbled by hares, hopefully the repellent (made from egg powder and acrylic paint) will work.



**Nourishment.** Morning tea and after-planting hotdogs were efficiently provided by Laura and June. Theo's landrover did sterling service carting plants and the odd bit of towing and by the time we'd finished the sun was out and we could enjoy just being there.

**Post hole boring volunteers needed!** For the next planting, Peter Davis has offered to coordinate hole digging using 2 posthole borers loaned by QE Park. Many thanks to QEP ranger Mark Ross for allowing them to be used on Whareroa.

Peter needs 2 or 3 strong people who could spare a couple of hours on the Saturday to get a few hundred holes ready. If you can help, please reply to this email, ideally by the middle of the week so it can be organised.

**Waterfall Road extension.** It is confirmed that this will cross the farm to the Mackays Crossing roundabout. Archeological and geotech surveying is already happening. Opening of the farm cannot occur until this road is completed, NZTA are aiming for January so lets hope public access will be early 2011.

**Connector track.** DoC have confirmed funding for a cycle/walkway up to Campbell Mill Rd to be built in the next year or so. This will be at a gradient suitable for leisure cyclists and Kapiti Mountain Bike Club are actively involved in ithe planning and development. An alternative route for horses will be provided.

**Volunteers Sunday 13 June:** Many thanks to Phil Ruegg, Emily Fawcett (with children and their friends who had fun exploring the bush), Mark Howell, Laura van Peer, Jan Nisbett, Dawn Bush, Jenny Rowan, Jean McCallan, June Rowland, Theo Barsanti, Julie Lines, Peter Kentish, Jason Bohmer, Peter Davis, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Lisa Clapcott, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Edritt from Germany, Ann Evans and Rachel Kiel-Taylor.



**Next Planting** We look forward to our next planting on Sunday 27 June at 9am. If you'd like to come earlier (8am) and help put out plants you are welcome. The site is not far from the entrance - follow the flags. Boots or gummies and gardening gloves are recommended, and grubbers/mattocks or planting spades. We have a few to lend. Feel free to bring your families and friends. If you can't make the planting days but would still like to do some planting, please send us an email.

From the Whareroa Guardians.

## Whareroa Update 7 July 2010

Hello Everyone

*It looks as though we will have a sunny day at last for our next planting session, this Sunday morning, July 11<sup>th</sup>. 9-noon. Follow the flags and enjoy a BBQ at the end.*

Progress has been good with over 1100 now planted. Last time we were helped enormously by pre-dug holes. Many thanks to Peter Davis, Theo Barsanti and Jason Bohmer, and to QE Park for lending the machines. They hope to do this before each session. By Sunday morning the holes were full of water and it was a very soggy session.



Sally won the most interesting gumboot competition, and Julie the muddiest trousers one. Unfortunately it has been too wet to do the animal repellent spray.



This next session we will aim to complete the northern block as well as doing some firming of those previously planted as, due to the high water level last time, the soil is a bit loose round some of the plants. We will also apply carpet squares to suppress weeds and give a mulch effect.

The Titoki Nursery Trust in Leinster Ave have donated some plants. They will plant them as part of their training though the weather has delayed their plans. In return, they take our empty pots and bags and re-use them.

Our Trust is delighted to have Dawn Bush as volunteer Minutes Secretary – many thanks Dawn.

**Many thanks to the following volunteers who braved a very wet morning:** Julie Midgley, Sally Heppenstall, Jeff Watts, Theo Barsanti, Peter Davis, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Jean McCallan, Laura van Peer with Cory, Jan Nisbett, Julie Lines, June Rowland, Dawn Bush, John Rowland, Ann Evans. Also to Tony and Helen Griffiths who've been planting at other times.

**The World Wildlife Fund-New Zealand Habitat Protection Fund has granted \$20,000** to the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust to commence the riparian restoration of the Ti Kouka Stream – for fencing and plants. This is very exciting and will give us work for next year! We are grateful to WWF-NZ for this grant.

**Future Dates: Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>**



The Ti Kouka Valley in in the centre back to right of the pines, the ti kouka are on skyline just visible to centre left



## Whareroa Update 21 July 2010

Hello Everyone

Planting is proceeding well with completion of the northern section of the Ramaroa site. Holes were again pre-dug (Yeah!) and the 11th was a magnificent day to be working on the land. It was a good turnout of 30 people aged 2 to 88 and we were helped along by Janet's yummy fruit cake at morning tea. The Mountain Bike Club changed the time of their Sunday ride so members could take part – thanks for their support.

An extra 430 plants were purchased from Nga Ururora using the tail end of our grant from the Ministry of the Environment, these introduced some additional species to the block. In addition, the Titoki Nursery Trust workers braved horrible conditions to deliver and plant their donation of 150 flax and carex under the guidance of Steve Saunders. Thanks to them.



Trustees this week met Marc Slade from WWF-NZ to show him the Ti Kouka Stream riparian protection project site. This is exciting as it will be the first stream to be protected within the grazing zone. A number of other streams will need similar management over future years.

Final preparations for developing the new entrance to the farm are happening, the contract for building work has been let and this week NZTA and DoC hope to finalise details for the Waterfall Rd extension.

There are administration changes affecting DoC; the Kapiti and Wellington offices have been amalgamated. The new area manager is Rob Stone. Ian Cooksley is moving to a different role. We thank him for his contribution to developments at Whareroa and look forward to working with Rob. Wayne Boness and Colin Giddy will continue to be our local contacts at DoC Waikanae.

We are distressed that sheep are still getting into restoration areas – we have made strong representations to DoC. They put at risk both our 2009 plantings from many hours of your

voluntary work and 4 years of regeneration with seedlings such as matai in two key areas of covenant bush.

Work continues on the development of a Strategic Plan for Whareroa. It is a complex but fascinating exercise, looking ahead 10 years. The draft will be circulated to supporters and be available to the public before completion.



Hole borers Jason, Theo & Peter



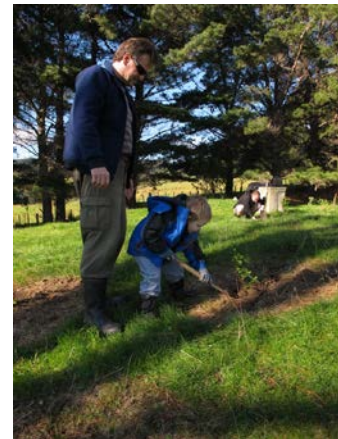
Mountain bikers Joe, Steve & Shane



Richard Ben & Alexander



Back to work after morning tea



Jonathon & g'son Riley

**Many thanks to planting volunteers** on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and to those popping in at other times: Theo Barsanti, Peter Davis, Jason Bohmer, Jonathon, Alex & Riley Waterworth, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Bob Zuur, Cherie Ruscoe, Steve Lewis, Sue Blaikie, Alexander McManus, Richard Bell, Ben Drinkwater, Jennifer Ramshaw, Anthony Dreaver, June & Fred Rowland, Julie Lines, Shane Gaskin, Jean McCallan, Grant Nichol, Bernard Cammack, Joe Wilson, Julie Midgley, Jan Nisbet, Dawn Bush, Ann Evans and Janet King.

**Next session: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 9am to lunch with hot dogs**



## Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Message to Supporters 4th August 2010

**Planting 24<sup>th</sup> July.** A poor start with a chilling southerly drizzle changed to a beautiful sunny morning. We moved into the southern block of the Lower Ramaroa, abutting one of the kohekohe reserve covenant blocks. It includes a boggy backwater giving a wetland area. There is less wind protection as there is no hedge. Unfortunately the hole borer tip broke and not many were pre-dug but some volunteers did stirring duty, digging as many holes as they could, whilst others planted. The usual mix including coprosmas, pittosporums, ngaio, toetoe and flax were planted, with a small kohwai grove on a slope. One volunteer managed a cold mud immersion, luckily at the end of the morning. This planting will give a corridor from Ramaroa Bush to Kohekohe Bush.



**Many thanks to:** Peter Davis (and for pre-drilling holes), Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Matt and Helli Ward, Austin Whincup, Breda Ryan, Margaret Mills, Jonathon Waterworth, Paul Callister, June and Fred Rowland, Christine Elmiger, Philip Corleison, Theo Barsanti, Laura, Bill and Cory van Peer, Ann Evans and Mark Howell.



Ramaroa Bush visible behind





Planting between Ramaroa Stream and boundary with stock

KCDC have just donated 370 plants to Whareroa. These were grown by Titoki Nursery for the Western Link Road and are of a good size. QE Park nursery have also donated 35 good kahikatea, grown from trees in the park. Thanks to both nurseries.

Surveying for the Emerald Glen Road extension is advanced, the design is finalised and includes a walk/bridle/cycle way.

Wayne Boness of DOC reports that the steep bank at the entrance to Whareroa will be a site for Project Crimson planting and money will be granted for this. The project is linked to the rugby World Cup but continues over 5 years. Rain is delaying progress on the entrance development but the contract for this has been let.

One more planting session is booked, with about 650 plants left to go in. Many holes have already been dug by Philip Corleison and Peter Davis will also be "boring" on Saturday. Thanks to you both. MetVUW forecast shows a dry "window" on Sunday morning, we hope it proves correct.

***We invite you all to come along at 9am Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August to be part of this year's Ramaroa planting and to enjoy delicious oniony hotdogs afterwards.***

*PS Greater Wellington are aiming to plant 10,000 plants at QE Park in one day on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August from 9.30am, to celebrate 10 years of their Take Care programme – at MacKays entrance – everyone is welcome to join in.*

## Whareroa Supporters Update 03 Sept 2010

**Ramaroa Planting.** This is now virtually complete with a tally of 3,800 plants in the ground as a result of almost 500 volunteer hours over 5 sessions. Many thanks to you all.

Special mention should go to the hole diggers; Peter, Jason, Theo and Philip and to Theo also for his Land Rover skills moving the plants around. Dawn, Ruby and Ann were a good team, setting up the flags and signs before everyone else arrived and putting out plants. Laura and June produced much appreciated hot drinks and hotdogs each session. Some volunteers come virtually every time but we also welcome those who come when they can, including those from other planting groups, offering solidarity.

Most plants were funded by the Ministry for the Environment with some donated by QE Park, KCDC and Titoki Nursery.



**August 8<sup>th</sup> Planting volunteers:** Peter Davis, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Jonathon & Jill Waterworth, Ian & Alison Basire, Jean McCallan, Julie Lines, Mark Howell, Jason Bohmer, Cherie Ruscoe, Steve Lewis, Barry Brake, Laura van Peer, Ruby Durrant-Bush, and arriving later: Nathan McKenzie, Ann Evans, Bernard, Erica & Frances Cammack. Unfortunately the list of names was lost. If you can identify the new couple in the photo, and the woman in the blue hat please send us an email. Thanks, Peter Kentish for the group photos.

**Regular 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month working bees will start this weekend.** We need to cut more carpet squares (bring Stanley knives and tough gloves) and then distribute them around plants, especially those planted without initial spraying. The shed could do with a brush out after the Titoki Nursery took away most of the empty pots and planter bags for re-use. We hope to receive some more flaxes to plant where there is considerable runoff from the grazed paddock next door.

Everyone is welcome to join in with whichever activity they prefer. Please bring appropriate tools. Morning drink and biscuits provided.



Lower Ramaroa planting site, looking north towards entrance, Mataihuka in distance

**NZTA. Emerald Glen Rd Extension.** Work on this starts within days, firstly building a bridge over the stream by the roundabout. The flat area between the two sets of gates will become the project site and access to Whareroa Farm will be restricted. Our monthly working bees can continue.

**Heading towards opening.** This is now projected to happen in **April 2011**. The road must be finished, followed by the work on the car parks and landscaping of the entrance. Over the summer, DOC intend to build the new access track up to Campbell Mill Rd, suitable for walkers and family cyclists. There will be accessible areas for streamside picnics. DOC have ambitious landscaping plans for plantings up the entrance slopes, as a Rugby World Cup linked project in October 2011. These aim to revegetate the slopes but plants will be selected so as to maintain the wonderful views. By opening date, the experience for visitors will be varied and good. It will be a celebration.



**Ti Kouka Stream Project** funded by the WWF, Tindal Foundation Habitat Protection Fund grant. Planning is beginning on this. If any volunteers would like to take a more active role in this process, please send us an email. We will need to assess the site, establish baseline monitoring and then observe changes, both in the stream and in the vegetation, over time. We also need to plan the plantings with a number of different types of environment from boggy to extremely dry and exposed. This will be next winter's planting area.

**This September is the 5 year anniversary of "Whareroa Farm being Saved". We can reflect on all those who made it happen with their songs, meetings, writing, lobbying, planning, determination and passion. Thank you to all of you.**





## Whareroa Update 28 Sept 2010

Hello Everyone.

The Ramaroa planting is complete with an extra 500 or so planted on Sep 12th in moist conditions. Many thanks to: Michael Stace, Julie Lines, Theo & Alex Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Fred & June Rowland, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Ellen Soulliere and Paul Callister.



Hare damage continues and will do so until the grass has grown long enough along the perimeter to deter them. Unfortunately there was a delay (see impact on a kahikatea below) before the repellent spray could be applied but most are now protected with Treepel.



The priority now is keeping the young trees clear of long grass until they are established. The trees most at risk are those planted directly into the pasture without pre-sprayed holes and without carpet. Perhaps half have been carpeted with woollen squares (we don't use nylon as it doesn't breakdown). We will try and mark those in the grass so that they can be found easily later in the spring (if anyone has spare bamboo stakes this would be appreciated - please send a reply to this email).



Kowhai from Mataihuka Escarpment



Transplanted trees from entrance, drooping

Work at the entrance has commenced, a bailey bridge for access for the contractor's vehicles is up, the actual road bridge will be to the west of this. The ground has been cleared and traps to prevent silt run off into the stream put up. The contractors have replanted nearly 100 trees and about 25 toetoe. The technique seems to have been scoop up a plant with soil, trundle it to a different place and plonk it on the ground. The angles of the trees are variable and as they were in the flush of spring growth they are looking very droopy. They have now been trimmed to reduce transpiration and give them more of a chance to recover. A wet spring will help.



Next Working Bee is this Sunday, 3rd October, 9 to noon. We will work in Ramaroa, clearing around plantings within the grass. DOC have moved stiles to give volunteers access to the Ramaroa blocks as the gates will be padlocked apart from during working bees.

We look forward to seeing you this weekend, bring grubbers or shears or spades.

Many thanks, from the Whareroa Guardians.

## Whareroa Update 25 October 2010

### Free Firewood. Collect between 9 and 11am this Sunday, 31 October

Poplar, cut into manageable lumps. Some accessible by 4WD, rest needs wheelbarrowing - see photos.

DoC need it all removed so they can proceed with developing the site as a picnic and recreation area. Please bring your friends and relations and trailers and wheelbarrows and take it all away. It'll dry out nicely ready for next winter.



### Working Bee. 9am to noon, Sunday 7th November.

Another 100 or so trees to plant, donated by QE Park from their end of season nursery clear out, including kahikatea.

Also plant releasing, carpet squares and marking vulnerable trees with bamboo stakes (cut and donated by Linda Kirkmeister, many thanks Linda). Bring your spades, shears, grubbers, hammers for the bamboo etc.

### Last Working Bee on 4 October.

A lovely morning after torrential rains. It was interesting to see the impact of the preceding rains - erosion had occurred and the stream had overflowed its bank in places.



We used the new stiles into Lower Ramaroa blocks, erected by DoC - these will give access for volunteers once the farm is open. The main planting site gates will be padlocked to guard against accidental opening by visitors and possible stock entry. Plants were released and lots of carpet squares placed.

**Many thanks to:** Peter Kentish, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Ellen Soulliere, Ann Evans, Anthony Dreaver, Jennifer Ramshaw, Jonathon Waterworth and especially to Julie Lines for her regular donations of squares and for bringing her sister, Sandy Holland, to help. Growth is already impressive this spring, we will have to protect them against being overwhelmed by grass over the next couple of months.



#### **Farm development and opening.**

DoC have appointed Matt Barnett, (photo below) a community relations ranger, to coordinate plans and activities leading up to the opening. Subject to no major hiccoughs with the Emerald Glen Rd extension, the farm should be ready for opening mid April. A firm decision re date will be made in January.

Building the entrance/information area in the end bay of the Shed has begun (see photo above). 100 trees, planted by volunteers at the entrance, were moved by the contractors. We hope they survive. Flaxes were uplifted and are being watered.



Matt is also involved in coordinating the development of the Strategic Plan with the Trust and DoC.

We look forward to seeing you on the farm for these events. Please note that due to safety during road works, volunteers cannot access the farm at any time other than Sunday sessions.

## Whareroa Update 3 November 2010

Reminder. Next working Bee Sunday 7 November, 9 to noon

Hello Everyone.

**Working Bee this Sunday, forecast is good. 9am to noon. Morning tea provided.**

Lots of potential activities: Follow the flags to find us.

1. Plant some extra trees, end of season clear out from QE Park nursery. (Thanks Rob)  
They include QEP kahikatea. These will go in the Ramaroa blocks.

2. Marking vulnerable trees from this season's plantings with bamboo sticks - bring a mallet if you'd like to do that.

3. Releasing trees from the spring growth of grass. Please bring shears or grubbers.

4. Anyone who has a brush cutter would be welcome to go up to the Dell and cut back grass and weeds on the slope we cleared last year. Wear boots and don't forget your ear muffs. Top up of 2-stroke provided. Please note that the race is impassable in places to 2WD due to deep hard mud ruts from feeding out of cattle over the winter. 4WD vehicles are fine. You can get to the open area below the reservoir, by driving round the initial rutted area by the yards but please don't take 2WD's beyond that open area.

### Firewood

What a great turnout to clear the firewood. Huge heaps disappeared in a couple of hours. Thank you all very much. There are still a few chunks left, feel free to take them during the working bee this Sunday morning. Any poplar lying down by the stream or behind the shed is available. Also any fircones lying around.



Please note that the cut pine logs just opposite the shed belong to DOC. The mulch will be kept for the entrance planting next autumn.

As you can see, the development of the entrance bay is progressing well.



The road works are also pushing on. The contractors are having to work on Sundays as well to complete on time so please be very careful driving through the site, put on your headlights and make sure the driver has seen you if gear is moving and do not park between the double gates and of course, leave all gates as you find them.

Hope to see you soon  
from the Whareroa Guardians.

## Whareroa Update 01 December 2010

The new road is advancing at both ends with the northern culvert in and foundations for the bridge at the south end almost complete. The contractors are watering the translocated trees with some showing new sprouts. There may be 50% survival, it is a very exposed site.

The Trustees have a workshop with DOC to discuss “Opening Day” and the “Farm Plan” in early December.

It’s been a great spring for the new (and older) plantings, but also for the grass.

At the last working bee on 8 November 200 plants were marked by bamboo stakes. Next year we’ll aim to put them in before the grass grows up! There’s still some work needed to find all the little kowhai.

Another 100 trees and some rengarenga lillies were also planted in the lower Ramaroa block and a number of trees “released”. Jason and Theo weed-ate the bank in the Dell where gorse has been cleared, it’s coming along well.

**Many thanks to:** Phil Corleison, Ian and Penny Redward, Peter Davis, Ellen Soulliere, Peter Kentish, Jean McCallan, Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Jason Bohmer, June and Fred Rowland, Linda and David Kirkmeester (and for bamboos) and to Julie Lines for another huge heap of carpet squares.





**The next working bee** will be on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, 9-noon for more releasing, weedeating and just being on the farm. Please bring appropriate tools, 2-stroke top up is available for your weedeater. Morning tea provided. Hope to see you then.