



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Updates for Supporters 2011



August 2011



# Whareroa Update, January 2011

**2011 will be ACTION YEAR at Whareroa**

## **March – Building an Entrance Stone Wall at Whareroa Farm**

### **An invitation to be a part of this amazing project**

Stone mason Sascha Wassong has prepared plans for a 28 metre stone wall at the farm entrance, to be built by a group of stone masons assisted by Whareroa Guardians volunteers. The wall is based on a concept from Leon Kiel. The masons were friends of Leon's and are donating their time and expertise to see his vision completed.

This will be a river boulder wall, built on either side of the gates, and incorporating a cast concrete sign stating "Whareroa Farm".

There will be totara gate posts and a separate "walk through" gate to allow pedestrian and cycle after hours access.

River boulders from Waikanae, Otaki and Ohau will be donated.

The total budget for materials and transport of stones will be approaching \$4,000. DOC have committed \$2,000 plus other assistance and Friends of QE Park \$200.

***We are asking Whareroa Supporters for a special donation towards this project.***

Please send your cheque for Whareroa Guardians Community Trust, to 8 Te Miti St, Paekakariki or pay directly to the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust bank account (put your name and "wall" in the subject line).

Account details: 03 0732 042 9996 00

Many thanks. Any surplus will be reserved towards building the Cairn at the lookout point where the political decision to "save" Whareroa was made.

### ***You have the opportunity to help build this wall in March***

The project will be coordinated by Sascha and Rachel. 2 or 3 masons will be constructing and supervising each day. They will need assistance.

The work is expected to take 4-5 weekends, all day, on both days.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend (March 5 and 6), after a blessing of the site at 9am Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, a group of 8 will go by van to the stone sources to help get the stones

4 or 5 volunteers are needed for each daylong session. Volunteers need to have strong backs as the main task will be moving stones!. A roster will be prepared. As there are significant dangers, no children (under 16) can take part in this project or be on the site.

Work will then continue each weekend until completion.

In addition, food and drink volunteers are needed to provide morning and afternoon tea and lunch (funding for food and drink is included in the budget).

**URGENT.** Please reply to this email if you are able to help, either volunteering with stone work or with catering. Please indicate which weekend days in March or early April you are available. Friends are welcome.

*Is there someone who would be able to organise the catering: supplies and volunteers?*

### Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> Opening Day Ceremony and Picnic

(Dependant on completion of the infrastructure works). A group are working on preparations for the day, more information about the celebrations will emerge soon.



New deck and grass area at entrance

### Other News

The **Waterfall Road extension** is open. It opens up views of the western part of the farm, the most northern valley is retired, with a significant bush area, the remainder is in pastoral farming apart from two small wetland areas.

The contractors are now working on the **entrance** to the farm itself: roading, carpark and earthworks. The picnic area has been cleared, topsoil applied and grass seeded. Flaxes which were uplifted from the original entrance area have been replanted.



Waterfall Rd earthworks



Waterfall Road & walking/horse track beyond

The Dept of Conservation and Whareroa Trustees had a full day **workshop** in December discussing Vision and Goals towards preparing a formal “Farm Plan”. Subgroups to consider specific areas have been formed.

The **Ti Kouka project**, funded by the grant from WWF-NZ Habitat Protection Fund is progressing. Details of stream protection and fencing have been agreed. DOC are also contributing significantly to this work. Planting the lower Ti Kouka Stream is the volunteer planting project for this winter, funds will cover about 3,500 plants.

“**Rugby Living Legends**”. Whareroa has become a World Cup site for Project Crimson/Tindall Foundation support. This provides plants for 5 years at the entrance. The initial planting will be 3,500 plants on the lower terraces, Planting Day will be Sunday Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. Website: [www.livinglegends.co.nz](http://www.livinglegends.co.nz).

The alignment of the new **walk/cycle track** up to Campbell Mill Rd has been agreed, total length is about 3km to give a gentle gradient with a shorter circuit option. There will be a separate horse track.

A new track to the Cairn site, past the Marines’ reservoir, will be marked and called “**Cairn Lookout Track**”.

The **5<sup>th</sup> December working bee** released plants along the Ramaroa. This certainly helps survival through the first year, as do the carpet squares. Thanks to Kapiti District Trust for donating used wool carpet and to volunteers who have been cutting them up at home.

**Many thanks to volunteers** Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Penny Redward, Dave Allen, Peter Kentish, June and Fred Rowland, and Jason Bohmer (weedeating in Dell) and Julie Lines (carpet). Also to Dawn, Penny and Ann for replanting entrance flaxes recently, with DOC ranger Susie.



Dave



Dawn is there a plant in here somewhere?



Yes, here’s a mahoe

### Future Dates

- **Working Bee. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, 9 to noon. Ramaroa releasing and Dell weedeating (Deferred from Waitangi Day), bring appropriate tools and gloves.
- **Stone Wall Project commences Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March** and will continue each weekend day for 4-5 weekends until completed
- **Normal Working Bee. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March** for those who wish to continue plant releasing.
- **Whareroa Guardians Community Trust AGM. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Farm Opening. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Celebration!!**



## Whareroa Update 18 March 2011

Hallo everyone.

**The wall** is growing at a great rate, built by masons Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern with coordination by Rachel Kiel-Taylor (who donated the totara gate posts and about 20 tons of stones).

Before work started, kaumatua Tuki Takiwa (Tuwharetoa) and Taku Parai (Ngatitoarangatira) blessed the site and rocks, in the rain. Trustee Carol Reihana represented Ngati Haumea. Volunteers joined in this ceremony.



Two groups went with Sascha to select and help load about 30 tons of river boulders originating from the Ohau and Otaki Rivers. A gang of volunteers are supporting them each weekend day by mixing and wheelbarrowing cement, collecting water, rolling stones and providing food and drink.



Many, many thanks to you all. We will assemble a list of names at the end for the record. Some are there for long hours, others come for a bit but it all helps.

The farm gates are now hung on the totara posts (from the old Odlin's building in Petone).

If you can help, please come along – between 8.30am and 4pm Saturday and Sunday, March 19/20, 26/27 and possibly the 1st weekend in April; wear boots and leather gloves.



After 1<sup>st</sup> weekend



After 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend

**Opening Day** planning is progressing – put **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April** in your calendars now! The ceremony will start at 9.30 with a karakia at the entrance gates. The farm will be open to the public after the ceremony ends, at about 11.30am, with a procession on to the farm.

We will need helpers for ushering and looking after visitors and guiding them to the walks and places like the Dell. Parking will be offsite until after opening so helpers for car parking will also be needed.

Whareroa Guardians **AGM** will be held on **Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>**, 7.30pm at St Peter's Hall, Paekakariki. The guest speaker will be Rob Stone, new area manager for DOC, to discuss the future of the farm and how the community can be involved.

**Working Bees** – on February 6<sup>th</sup> some good releasing of Ramaroa plants, and clearing in the Dell took place. Many thanks to Fred & June Rowland, Ian & Penny Redward, Theo Barsanti, Mary Beggs, Julie Lines, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Dave Allen, Grant Wilson and Ann Evans.



At Ramaroa planting site

**Next working bee will be Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 9am to noon. Possibly the wall will still be proceeding but others can still come in to release or work in the Dell. See you on the farm!



## Update 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Hello Everyone

A quick reminder note for the AGM on Thursday, 14th. Guest speaker Colin Giddy from DOC will discuss the kaka recovery programme in the Tararuas.

**Subscriptions.** Treasurer Michael will collect membership renewals at the meeting but if you can't make it, a renewal form is attached with banking details.

**Elections** Three trustees, Michael Keith, Liffet Stewart and Emily Fawcett will "stand down" as their terms are up. Michael and Liffet are available for re-election. Emily has decided not to stand again though she will continue to be involved, especially relating to water monitoring and children's activities. There is thus a vacancy.

Please consider whether you would like to join the Trust Board. You will become really involved with the Farm and this next year will be a particularly exciting time as the strategic Farm Plan is developed, giving the Trust a significant role in decision making for Whareroa. Nominees and nominators need to be financial members of the Trust. If more than one person stands, each candidate will be asked to speak for up to 5 minutes as to why they wish to be selected and then a secret ballot for all three positions will be held.

**Opening Day Details** . These will be discussed at the AGM. All supporters and their friends and families are welcome to be present for the Powhiri and Opening Speeches (please arrive by 9.15am). At 11.30am approx, a "Whareroa Farm through the Ages" Procession will then take people up into the farm along the main race. Please bring your picnic and dress up. - see attached "programme". A variety of activities will be offered in the afternoon. Or just come along with your friends and explore and picnic.

We will need some helpers in the morning - as ushers, wardens, helping with "kai" for the invited guests etc. and during the afternoon with generally being available to help the visitors. If you can't be at the AGM but would like to help, please send us a note by email or phone Ann, 904 7114, evenings/weekends (leave message if out).

**Working Bees** in preparation for Opening. This Saturday, 16th April and the following Saturday 23rd (Easter), 9am to lunchtime, volunteers are invited to come to the farm to help in getting it ready. This will involve some work in the Dell - cutting gorse seedlings on banks, weedeating banks and flats. There may also be some planting assistance needed at the entrance. Please bring your weeders and ear muffs, spades, grubbers, shears etc and wear strong shoes/boots and leather gloves. If you have a petrol Flymo, this could be useful.

Hope to see you soon. Please spread the word about Opening - the attached can be used as a poster.

### **Reminder of dates:**

Thurs April 14th, 7.30pm. AGM. St Peter's Hall Paekakariki

Saturday April 16th 9-noon Working Bee

Saturday April 23rd 9-noon Working Bee

Saturday April 30th 9.15 Powhiri for Opening. Helpers will be needed earlier.

Then join in the Opening Celebrations.



You're invited...

# Whareroa Farm

Opening day events 30 April 2011

Open to the public from 11.30 am



## ACTIVITIES

- Farm opens to general public **11.30 am**
- Music and bring your own picnic in the Dell from **12.30 pm**
- Planting **1 pm**
- History walk **1 pm**
- Iwi history talks **1-3 pm**
- Nature walk **2 pm**
- Tracking tunnel placement and weta motel building **2-3.30 pm**

All are welcome to attend the pōwhiri at 9.30 am and the procession on to the farm at 11 am approx. *Please note there will be no public access on to the farm before the procession begins.*



## Whareroa Farm

Mackays Crossing  
SH1  
Paekakariki

Parking at Queen Elizabeth Park.  
Take Queen Elizabeth Park off-ramp, 3.5 km  
North of Paekakariki, SH1.

See [www.doc.govt.nz/wellingtonkapitievments](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wellingtonkapitievments)  
for more information



**WHAREROA**  
**GUARDIANS**  
COMMUNITY TRUST



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Whareroa Supporters Update, 21 April 2011.

Hello Everyone

**Count down to Opening Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April (rain or shine)**

9.15 for full welcome and ceremony. Park in QEP

11.30 for Procession into Farm, dress up, sing etc

Then picnics and music in the Dell (or picnic anywhere)

Activities in the early afternoon.

Please come and join us in celebrating this event and invite your family and friends.

### Entrance and other works

DOC had a mega working bee yesterday and planted the whole entrance area. It looks magnificent. DOC have put huge resources into preparing the farm for community use – we thank them, especially Wayne Boness who has coordinated the development.



Wayne Boness on the mower



Whareroa Chair John Lancashire

The “wheelchair” track has been "hot mixed" and gives a smooth circuit, right down to the stream.

Fencing to separate the farm race from grazing is advanced and the culvert carrying the Ti Kouka Stream under the race has been replaced with a much larger, fish friendly one.

## AGM

A good meeting was held and we welcome Sue Blaikie as a new trustee. Sue is a vet in Raumati and has already spent a lot of time on the farm as a volunteer. She is interested in monitoring and the improvement of the grazing areas for best practice for animal welfare. Michael Keith and Liffet Stewart were re-elected for another 3 year term. Colin Giddy from DOC gave a very informative talk about managing pests. Interestingly, a stoat was spotted on Whareroa a couple of days later. John Lancashire's report from the Chair is attached.



Celebration after finishing the entrance wall, 02 April 2011,  
Coordinator and leader Sascha Wassong on far right



Sue Blaikie, new trustee

## Working Bees

A good session happened last Saturday, getting the Dell ready for the picnic. *Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Grant Wilson, Dave Allen, Jan Nisbet, Julie Lines, Jenny Rowan and Ann Evans.*

## Final Opening Preparation Working Bee this Saturday, Easter, 9am 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

In the Dell and doing some releasing nearby. June will do morning tea. Please come if you can though of course many will be away. Bring weed eaters, rakes, shears, grubbers (for thistles), saws and loppers for gorse. Wear leather gloves and strong boots/shoes. Spraying has been done for Opening Day planting and if the spots are visible, it would be good to dig some holes. Drive in along the race with care.

***See you on the 30<sup>th</sup> and then it will be open to the public!***

# Whareroa Update May 25 2011

Hello Everyone.

After the excitement of Opening Day, it's back to work! We have all been reflecting on that great day, it could not have been better. DOC put huge effort and resources into getting it ready on time, their work continues.



At the Hub



Walking in along farm race



Phill Simmons, Rachel K-T, Boggy & others sing  
Phill's Whareroa Song



Yemma and recorder players from Kapiti Music Centre



Ann leads violinists from Kapiti Music School



Whareroa Guardians' display set up by Ann Evans

The new culvert for Ti Kouka Stream proved its worth with recent heavy rain - see photo.



The new connector track is progressing well though difficult terrain and dense gorse.

The local papers gave Whareroa very good publicity, many thanks to them. We hold a "PDF" of the Kapiti Observer page. It is a large (over 5MB) file but if anyone would like it, please reply to this email. The most pleasing thing is to see how busy the car park is on weekdays as well as weekends. Horses and cyclists are also using the farm. For more photos of Opening Day, go to the following

:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.146337378767673.34968.111094135625331#!/media/set/?set=a.146337378767673.34968.111094135625331&closeTheater=1>

Planting season begins this Sunday, at the Ti Kouka Stream. First we will plant 800 shelter plants, manuka and kanuka, along the fence line. These are in root trainers so only small holes needed! Then the stream itself will be planted with the usual restoration plants including coprosma, pittosporum, mahoe, flax, toetoe, carex etc. Please bring spades or grubbers and wear garden gloves and strong boots/shoes. Access is by walking across the picnic area on the new path then along the main race to the site - follow the flags. Morning tea will appear at the site and afterwards everyone is invited to have a hot dog back at the Guardians' shed at the entrance. Laura and June will organise catering again, many thanks to them. Please come and be part of the restoration. This year's project: fencing, some culvert work, spraying and plant purchase is funded by a \$20,000 grant from WWF-NZ Habitat Protection Fund and the Tindall Foundation. We thank them.

**Future Planting dates:** Sundays June 12 & 26. Saturday July 9. Sundays July 24 & Aug 7.

**Rugby Legends Planting day** will be Sunday Sep 4th by the entrance with Christian Cullen.

Look forward to seeing you Sunday.

From the Whareroa Guardians



# Whareroa Supporters' Update 07 June 2011

Hello Everyone

Next planting session will be this Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 9-noon. The forecast looks good. Meet by the Ti Kouka Stream, follow the flags along the main race. Morning tea at the site and lunchtime hot dog (back at Guardians shed behind information bay) provided. It'll be muddy as we will be planting tussock and flax in quite a swampy area so gum boots might be best, there are also mahoe and some kowhai to go in.

What a great start to the planting season on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Beautiful day with 41 volunteers and it was really good to see several new people. Many thanks to you all. 1290 plants got into the ground. It was relatively easy as they were small ones, in root trainers. Mostly kanuka and manuka, for shelter. From now on the plants will be in bigger pots. Theo's landrover got stuck in mud but Jonathon's nissan extricated him, returning a previous favour so they are now quits. End of morning BBQ was up to standard, many thanks Laura and June; just 2 sausages were left!



It was good being up in the farm enjoying the sun and bird song and nice to see so many others enjoying it as well. Some new names have been added to the email list, we hope you can make planting sometimes.



Jan Nisbet and Dawn Durrant Bush have put together a children's activity sheet – attached. They plan to do some more work on this but it's already very professional.

The DOC website is worth checking out – has some nice photos of the farm. Link is

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/wellington-kapiti/kapiti/whareroa-farm/>

The new connector track is progressing well, it will be very popular as there are already lots of cyclists and walkers exploring.



***Many thanks to planters:*** Vicki Wylde, Pip Richardson, Tony and Helen Griffiths, Joe Wilson, Fred and June Rowland, Main family (Theo, Ruby, Lucy and Brett), Jan Nisbet, Peter Davis, Grant Nichols, Liffet Stewart, Oliver Cave, Carmen Parata, Karen Parata, Ani Parata, Malcolm McCrea, Carol Shand, Jason Bohmer, Michael Keith, John Porter, Don and Mary Beggs, Jean McCallan, Deidre Attridge, John Alo, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Robyn and Matthew Hayward, Sue Blaikie, Theo Barsanti, Laura van Peer, David Allen, Ellen Soulliere, John Lancashire, Ann Evans, Jonathon Waterworth.



## Whareroa, Update For Supporters. 20 June 2011

Hello Everyone. And welcome to new supporters, some of whom saw us planting and want to join in.

### Important Dates:

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 7am.** Unloading nearly 3000 plants from the truck from Taupo Native Plant Nursery. This will probably be at the site of the old hay barn along the main race. Any help will be appreciated, it usually takes about 90 minutes.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 9am to noon.** Next Ti Kouka Stream planting. This time it will be drier – up along the ridge on the west side of the stream. As usual, morning tea and lunchtime sausage sizzle provided. There will be plenty of plants! Anyone with 4WD, would be very welcome at 8am to transport plants from the haybarn site to the planting areas.

### Planting June 12<sup>th</sup> Ti Kouka Stream

So many had been done on the first session that there were only 550 left to do from the first delivery. However, the swamp was a challenge, with mud a foot deep in places. Carex secta, flax, taupata, mahoe and kowhai were planted. Julie had cut a huge trailer load of carpet squares, many thanks again Julie. if anyone else fancies having some carpet to cut up at home, please let us know. We can deliver it and collect the pieces. Jason and Theo spent Saturday morning digging holes while Ann and Peter “weed-ate” in the swamp. Jan and Ruby did some useful drainage work to divert water from the farm race.



Volunteers at gate to Ti Kouka planting site

**Many thanks to:** John and Diane Turner, John Penny, Grant Nicholls, Dave Allen, Jayne Perry, Mathew and Robyn Hayward, John Alo, Joe Wilson, Peter Davis, Laura van Peer, Jean McCallan, Helen and Tony Griffiths, Jan Nisbet, Theo Barsanti, June and Fred Rowland, Peter Kentish, Sue Blaikie, Ian and Penny Redward, Steve Lewis, Malcolm McCrea, Karen Parata, Don and Mary Beggs with Fraser and Jack, Bernard Cammack, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Ann Evans, Peter Davis. Also to Julie Lines for carpet and to Theo, Jason Bohmer, Peter D and Ann for Saturday hole digging and weedeating and the Griffiths's for kowhai growing and planting. Peter D brought some taupata he had potted up – these will be good wind protection plants.



Lower Ti Kouka wetland area



Beggs family



More planting Lower Ti Kouka



Back to work after morning tea

**Pukeko damage** – we found that pukekos have pulled up a number of the small kanuka/manuka plants. We replanted them and hope they will survive. Those with carpet squares were untouched. The pukekos were probably just scratching around looking for food in the sprayed patches.

**Planting technique** – just a reminder that holes need to be quite a bit deeper than the root ball, the plant needs to be “firmed in” to the ground by pressing with boot on either side and then do the “pull test” – the plant should stay in the ground with a gentle pull. Some plants may have been a bit shallow or loose.

Volunteers are welcome to visit the plants at any time and check them out – some may need weeding around and giant variegated thistles always need grubbing out.

Once the evenings start lengthening, it is very pleasant on the farm later in the day. Some go down regularly in the early morning and walk and grub thistles.

### **Whareroa “Farm Plan” writing**

This is proceeding slowly; focus groups for recreation, restoration, farming, information and history are meeting. The draft will be circulated for consultation when complete.

**Sheep** We were disappointed to see 3 sheep on the wrong side of the fence. They were out of sight the next time we looked. If they are visible at next planting day we will try and “shepherd” them out of the block.



Sheep in restoration area to left of fence



## Whareroa Guardians, Supporters' News 21 July 2011

Hello everyone.

**Another Ti Kouka Stream planting session is coming up:**

**This Sunday, July 24th. 9am to 11.40.**

Progress has been excellent so far. There are only about 500 plants left so it is possible they may all go in this weekend. However, we will also need to apply carpet squares and mark edges of plantings with bamboo stakes. The plants have been exposed to weather extremes with torrential rain, extreme winds and frost so some will have been lost.

The forecast is a bit iffy but often we seem to hit a good few hours. Follow the flags to the site. Bring spades or grubbers, gloves and stong footwear.

More weed clearing has been done along the Ti Kouka Steam – gorse, inkweed and a few elder trees. Some of the gorse will be left as a nursery, we notice that when it is cleared there are lots of seedlings present – mahoe, nikau, kaikomako, titoki, kohekohe and kohuhu.

Mamaku tree fern is also popping up. The new plantings will enclose that gorse and form a wind break around the NW corner of the Matai Bush.



Lower Ti Kouka



Carpet cutter Julie with another load to do



If Ti Kouka planting is finished on Sunday, the first weekend in August will be a working bee back at last year's Ramaroa Stream site to release those plants.

**Entrance wall commemorative plaque.** Sascha has mounted the plaque in the wall, to commemorate the building of the wall earlier this year and the role of Leon Kiel in the vision of Whareroa. We propose to leave the planting site at 11.40 to meet at the wall at about noon to share some memories and then adjourn to the Guardians shed for BBQ kai.

***Everyone is welcome to come along to this gathering, noon on Sunday, at the wall.***

**Do you have “dial up”?** Some Supporters have requested that they get these newsletters without the photos as they have dial up email connections – if you would prefer this option, please send us an email.

**Bird survey.** Helen Griffiths has commenced a year long bird survey, to be done regularly at 5 different points near the plantings. This will provide a useful baseline for comparison in 5 or 10 years’ time when we hope the bird life will be significantly greater.

**Community Use** – it’s great to see so many families, bikers, horses and walkers using the farm

**Home nurseries.** Would you be able to care for some plants at your home until next planting season? We may buy some tiny plants, pot them up and distribute to be cared for by volunteers if there is interest. Please send us an email if you would like to do this.

***Looking ahead:***

The new **connector track** is extending up towards Campbell Mill Rd. It is NOT yet ready for use as the surface is very vulnerable and more work is to be done.

A reminder that Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September will be **Rugby legends Planting Day** - when DOC hope that over 3000 plants will go in at the picnic area. All volunteers will be needed! You can see the sprayed spots all ready.

**Many thanks to supporters for planting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011:** David Allen, Grant Nichols, Phil Corleison, Theo Barsanti, Ray and Carol Molineux, Viola Palmer, Bernard Cammack, Laura van Peer, Bill Sewell, Steve Lewis, Peter Davis, Ani and Karen Parata, Malcolm McNeill, Sascha Wassong, Liffet Stewart, Ann Evans, Helle and Matt Ward, Don and Mary Beggs, Elke Diedrichs, Tony and Helen Griffiths, Ellen Soulliere, John Lancashire and Bill Jensen. Also to Julie Lines for carpet cutting and Jason Bohmer and Peter Davis for hole digging.



***See you down on the farm.***



## Whareroa Update 18 August 2011

### Many thanks to volunteers at the working bee on 7 August 2011.

Jan Nisbet, Don & Mary Beggs, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Penny & Ian Redward, Jim Begg, Dave Allen, John Porter, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Ann Evans, Ian Watson, Peter Kentish, Bill Sewell, David & Linda Kerkmeester. Also to Julie Lines and Ian Watson for carpet cutting, Peter Davis for planting and Bernard Cammack for pathmaking. DOC's Wayne Boness popped in to see what we were up to.

Lots more carpet squares were distributed around Ti Kouka plantings, it has been the best year yet to get these down. A further heap of bamboo stakes came from Linda, they are good to mark smaller plants and the edges of planting zones as spring grass growth will overtop them. A bit of clearing was done in the Dell.



Distributing carpet squares Ti Kouka



Clearing in Dell

### Baby plants.

About 600 small Kapiti seed plants were purchased from the Manakau Native Nursery. Some of these will be put straight in the ground, others will be potted up and distributed to volunteers for "home nursery" care over the summer. Thank you to those who have offered a home. We will be in touch directly with that group with details of the potting and distribution day, likely to be Sunday Sept 11th.

## Track work

Some of you will have noticed the steady progress. Work has now begun on the section within the gums. Some gravel will be applied in vulnerable palces.

## Bird count posts

There are five of these monitoring positions, with marker posts. Helen and Tony are visiting these sites weekly and counting birds. They will monitor for a full year to give a baseline prior to assessing any benefit from the Guardians' plantings and pest control. It will then be interesting to compare with future data.



Helen, Bird Count Site 5 by Ti Kouka Stream



Ian and Dave with another marker post

## Rugby Legends. Planting Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Below is some information from the Rugby Legends organiser. This planting will take place on Sunday Sep 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be by the picnic area, the holes will be pre-dug so a great opportunity to invite your friends to come along for an easy introduction to planting, especially children. We have "registered" 40 volunteers with the legends organisers, however, they would appreciate individuals "signing up" if you wish, but of course you can just turn up.

## Other matters

Also attached is a membership form, we forgot to attach it last month.

Some top dressing was done on the front paddocks recently. Apparently calls were made to the emergency services that a plane was on fire. 25 years ago all the hills behind Kapiti were regularly topdressed and it was a standard sight. We hope the snow has not impacted too much on lambing, some had already been born prior to the bad weather.

Has anyone borrowed the warratah remover from the Guardians' shed? If so, could you let Ann know – 904 7114. Many thanks.

## Regular 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month working bees start again October 2nd

These will occur 9 to noon. Morning tea provided. Flags will guide to location. Come and check out previous plantings. All welcome

## Snow 16 August 2011



Back hills



Upper Mamaku Valley. New Link Track & Wainui beyond

### QE Park Friends AGM.

Attached is a flier inviting Whareroa Supporters to this meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The guest speaker will discuss cycling options in QEPark and probably also Whareroa.

### NgaUruora AGM

Postponed from last Monday. Now on Weds 24 August 7pm St Peter's Hall, Paekakariki

### The Great Living Legends Muck-In

Location: Paekakariki 04.09.2011

The Great Living Legends Muck-In – Horowhenua-Kapiti 9.00 am until approximately 2.00 pm Whareroa Farm, Opposite QE11 Park, SH1, Kapiti Whether you're a tree lover or rugby enthusiast, we'd love you to join us planting native trees, honouring our rugby legends. Living Legends plantings are happening right throughout NZ during Rugby World Cup 2011, celebrating our treasured environment and our beloved game. Living Legends is managing 17 native tree planting projects throughout New Zealand during Rugby World Cup 2011. We are working with provincial rugby unions and community groups for each planting, and we'd love overseas visitors and locals to join us in supporting and enjoying our natural heritage. As well as that we are honouring our Rugby Legends – each planting site is dedicated to a New Zealand rugby icon. Just north of Paekakariki village, lies Whareroa Farm which is an old Lands and Survey property and the title of which now resides with the Department of Conservation. The farm has a significant Maori and European history which once included forming part of the McKays marine camp during WW2. Its location, immediately opposite the main entrance to Queen Elizabeth from SH1, makes this a high profile site and is expected to form the focus of a key environmental visitor experience in the future. DoC is undertaking significant work in developing the entrance, visitor centre, and associated walking tracks. A local guardians group is already involved in restoration planting. Farming will continue on 189ha of the 450ha property adding a special flavour to the visitor experience. Plans for mountain bike tracks, poled tramping tracks will extend activities towards the Akatarawa Forest on the eastern boundary of the property. On 4 September 2011, volunteers will plant 2550 additional native trees at this site as part of Living Legends three year programme of work – come and join us. The Horowhenua/Kapiti Rugby Legend is the sensational "Paekakariki Express, Christian Cullen. Cullen played a big role in New Zealand rugby through the late 1990s and was given an emotional and overwhelming farewell when he bowed out of New Zealand rugby to take up a contract with Munster in Ireland at the end of the 2003 season. The event is free but we would like people to pre-register on our website - [www.livinglegends.co.nz](http://www.livinglegends.co.nz) Kay Eade Living Legends Phone Number : 021589809 Email/Web : [kay@livinglegends.co.nz](mailto:kay@livinglegends.co.nz)/[www.livinglegends.co.nz](http://www.livinglegends.co.nz) Mobile : 021 589809



## Whareroa Update 2nd October 2011

Hello Everyone.

### Photos. Urgent: For Ti Kouka Volunteers.

We are preparing the final report to WWF-NZ Habitat Fund & Tindall Foundation after using their \$20,000 grant. They need a number of photos of the project which they may use for publicity and advertising purposes. Please send an email reply by return if you did **not** want your photo used. Thank you.

### Working Bee 2nd October

An enthusiastic bunch shifted a huge amount of mulch yesterday. The picnic area trees have excellent survival and this week's rains will really soak their mulch blankets and set them up for summer. It's great exercise, and it's free!

Many thanks to John Porter, Anthony and Jennifer Dreaver, Peter Kentish, Sue Blaikie, June and John Rowland (the wheel fell off John's barrow after such intense use), Ann Evans, Tony and Helen Griffiths, Liffet Stewart and to Julie Lines who went on Saturday. There's still a bit left so anyone can go in and do some more. A bucket and spade are useful.

Next Working Bee, 6 November, it'll be the turn of the Ramaroa plantings for releasing.



The mulching group



John P & Anthony



John R



Sue



Volvo

### **NE Track Circuit clearing**

This impressive machine has cleared a swathe of gorse from the sides of the NE circuit after snow brought down a lot of gorse which blocked the track. Horses will be able to get through again.

### **From the Ti Kouka Project Report.**

The \$20,000 grant was used to protect the lower half of the Ti Kouka stream by fencing, removing fish barrier culverts and then planting the stream edges, a fenceline shelter belt and along the north western edge of Matai Bush.

\$6000 was spent on infrastructure, fencing and culvert work. The remaining \$14,000 on the planting project.

Extensive site preparation, involving clearing pine branches, gorse and inkweed, was done by volunteers. Preplant spray was done by NgaUruora Kapiti Trust.

400 visitors attended the opening day events and many (including children) were involved in an initial planting of 200 trees at the site.

6 planting sessions with 77 different volunteers planted 4388 plants. A further 340 plants are "growing on" to fill gaps next year.

Baseline stream and bird monitoring has been completed. Two "Henry" possum traps have been acquired for use in Matai Bush.

***Many thanks again to all those involved.***

**The Dell** - path improvement is proceeding with the top half complete and just sown with grass seed. It will be ready to use in a couple of months. In the meantime there is a "bypass" around the ngaio tree. Experimental plantings of tiny (thus cheap) carex into carpet have been done. So far only one has suffered pukeko pull-up.



Bernard cutting track into Dell



Carex secta planted into carpet in the Dell

## Whareroa Update 05 November 2011

Hello Everyone

Sorry about late reminder this month.

Yes, **it's all on for tomorrow morning**. The trees in the Ramaroa have grown incredibly. Priority is finding the ones we can't see! Particularly kowhai, kahikatea and a small number of totara. These would all struggle with long grass.

The olearia along the eastern fence line are still small, but healthy.

The pink ribbon is marking out a future track into the Ramaroa bush covenant and then continuing up the Ramaroa Valley. DOC aim to have this marked, hopefully by later next year.

**Cairn building.** Sascha and Rachel are moving on this project. They hope to build it before the end of the year but it needs dry ground to transport the stones. They will need about 6 really strong volunteers to assist - there's no cement involved, it's following the design of an old cairn in Scotland. It's mainly big stones which will need moving and placement with smaller stones in the middle. If you have a good back and would like to be involved, please can you send us a note. 4WD's are also needed to move rocks up to the site. Again, if you can help, please let us know. Many thanks.

**Ti Kouka Project.** The final report was submitted to WWF-NZ Habitat Protection Fund reporting on all the work. The Executive Summary is attached. If you would like the whole report, with plans and photos, in a pdf version (2.6Mb) please send us a note. That lists all the work in detail, including volunteers and what plants went in and how the grant was spent.

### Future Dates

**Sunday Nov 27th** From 9am. Upper Dell releasing. This is an extra session to work in the "Love Grove"- this will involve gorse cutting so bring your heavy tools. Three years ago, \$1000 worth of plants went in, a donation from Al and Nicola. Unfortunately, gorse has regrown. Many trees are visible and doing fine but others need attention.

**Sunday Dec 4th** 9 to noon. Usual monthly working bee. Revisiting the Ti KOuka plantings after a few weeks of spring grass growth.

Please remember that anyone can go and do a bit of releasing at any time, for any of the plantings. There will not be a January working bee.

Many thanks for all your help to date, from the Whareroa Guardians.

Dear Volunteers who offered to help with "Home Nurseries". Thankyou very much for the kind offers - all 10 of you.

Unfortunately Weed Busters, a group committed to eradicating weeds, contacted us *after* the invitations went out describing how all restoration projects which have used "Home nurseries" have regretted it due to the introduction of garden weeds. They strongly advised against such a practice. We already have more than enough weeds at Whareroa and we decided that we should not take this risk.

That leaves us with about 400 little plants, too small to use this year.

We have arranged a potting up session at Titoki Nursery, on the corner of Leinster Ave and Poplar ave, (entrance in Leinster Ave) at 9.30am this Sunday, Sep 11th. We will use pots from our shed and the nursery will sell us the compost at cost.

The QE Park nursery have agreed to offer space for the plants over the summer but have requested that we keep an eye on them for weeds and watering - We would perhaps have a roster in turns for a week - when dry they'd need watering twice a week, when it's wet, maybe not at all. It'd probably take about an hour.

If you can help with potting up this Sunday, and/or keeping an eye on them until next autumn, please can you let us know. We'll then make up a roster.

Many thanks. Liffet and Ann





## Whareroa Update 25 November 2011

Hello Everyone

**Many thanks** to those who turned out in the rain to work in last year's Ramaroa plantings on Nov 6th. About half the area was covered. Many trees are already well above the grass line. The volunteers searched for those looking a bit swamped - especially totara, kahikatea and kowhai.

Dawn's notes: "Overcast and a little drizzle for a short while but otherwise nice working weather. 13 people: Jason Bohmer, Rosie Graham, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Theo Barsanti, Jim & Mary Begg, Tony & Helen Griffiths, June Rowland, Peter Kentish, Jan Tatzel, Ine Pentz, Mark Howell. Peter took a photo and will send it to you.

We worked in the northern paddock, spread out, and I concentrated on the Kahikatea and Totara as I had a reasonable idea where they were. Found quite a number and looking good." Dawn, Don and Mary have been back again doing more.

Peter's photos below. His comment: "Sorry somehow I managed to get rain drops on the lens. Didn't realise till I looked at the photo on the computer. Well at least it proved that it was raining that day. Cheers Peter"



Many thanks to all involved.



morning tea out of boot, still very welcome

**This Sunday's "extra" working bee** is to clear around trees planted 3 years ago in the upper Dell "Love Grove", funded by a collection at Al and Nicola's wedding. Some are a bit swamped by gorse so it's hand saw and lopper terrain, some are just in dense grass needing shears or grubbers. There's also some blackberry for the hardy. Leather gloves a must. It is a lovely area up there. Please bring your own morning tea as a bit remote.

**On Sunday Dec 4th** we'll revisit this year's plants in Ti Kouka - the grass is long but most plants are growing well, just need that bit of help to keep their heads above the surrounding green.

Follow the flags to these sites.

There won't be a working bee in January, start again Feb 12th (deferred due to Waitangi Day) but of course everyone is invited to wander round the plantings and release, even if just a few thistles are killed each time.

Other recent or forthcoming activities

**Researching tracks:** this involves some serious gorse cutting. Key workers here are Jan Nisbet, Sue Blaikie, Liffet Stewart and Ann Evans.

Last weekend DOC ranger Dan accompanied Guardians around the Ramaroa Circuit, then up the SE Ridge beyond the silt trap to Campell Mill Rd, north along the road and back down into the farm along the NE Ridge. The purpose was to GPS the whole of the routes and mark where stiles, gates etc needed. It was a great walk.

These tracks will hopefully be marked and open sometime next year.

**Cairn Building.** Rachel is coordinating this with Sascha. If you are strong and keen to help and/or if you have a 4WD and can help ferry stones, please let us know. We have Jason, Theo and Jonathon "registered" so far, Sascha would like about half a dozen strong workers.

**Mountain Bike tracks** - the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club will be working on these next year. The club hope to have a biking "Open Day" when the Link tracks are formally opened, waiting for signs to be erected.

***Have good summer holidays and many thanks to everyone who's contributed to Whareroa through the year.***

**From the Trustees:** John Lancashire (Chair), Mic Keith (Treasurer) Ann Evans (Secretary), Rachel Kiel-Taylor (acting Chair), John Porter, Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie, Bob Zuur, Jenny Rowan and Carol Reihana.