

# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Updates for Supporters 2013



Volunteers at working bee, July 2013





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

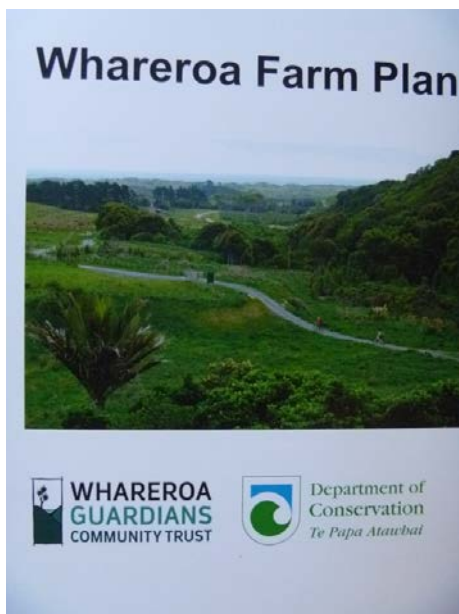
## Whareroa Supporters' Update January 2013

*Welcome to another year at Whareroa.*

**Our next working bee will be this Sunday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 to noon.** Morning tea provided. We will concentrate on the Rugby Legends plantings above the entrance and remove scattered gorse and big thistles from amongst the picnic area plants. Bring shears, grubbers, hand saws, secateurs, good gloves etc.

The **Whareroa Farm Plan** is now complete and gives detailed info about proposals for the next 10 years – such as tracks to be opened, restoration options etc. Preparation has taken about 2 years, put together by Peter Handford using information from DOC, the Guardians and public consultations. Many thanks to all involved. It is a 60 page document and there are enough ideas and work for several decades! If you would like to read it and/or download it go to:

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



Rob Stone and Rachel Kiel-Taylor sign the Farm Plan

Whareroa has been very popular over the summer with lots of families, walkers and mountain bikers visiting. It is beginning to be used for events such as the "Big Bang" multisport event which occurred on a horrible wet day.

**Work in the Dell** progresses steadily, top soil is being spread over the picnic area and this will be sown with grass in early April so it will have two growing seasons before next summer. Volunteers weed-eat and clear the slope of the amphitheatre – pleasingly there is very little gorse and pig fern coming through but there are still a couple of areas of blackberry needing intensive work.

Corrections' Dept community workers continue to help with blackberry and gorse clearing. Last year's plants are thriving, but so is the adjacent grass – all assistance with releasing is really appreciated – thanks to those volunteers who do this – more clearing would be helpful. The main growth has now ended and so releasing now will last longer.



Demonstrating the new Hub toilets



Rolling up cut grass from amphitheatre in the Dell. NB Picnic area

DoC has installed two “containment” **toilets at the Hub**, along with tapped water. This makes usage of the Hub area much nicer. One of the winter projects for the Guardians will be tidying the scrub and planting around these toilets to screen them from the picnic area and to provide shade (in the longer term).

DoC has also mowed the main tracks, it is particularly pleasant in the upper part of Carex Valley at the moment.

### Special Volunteers needed!

1. **For nursery work at QE Park.** If you can spare a regular Wednesday morning every week or two, a small group meet to “prick out” seedlings and then pot them up. Training will be given. This will be very beneficial as we will then have access to more free plants – we provide some seeds to the nursery. Please contact Rob Craven, ranger, if you can help: 0272732957.
2. **Are you interested in IT?** It would be good to have someone to regularly update DOC's website in the cloud with Whareroa info. Please phone Ann, 904 7114 if you would like to discuss this further.

This is the main Whareroa DoC site if you want to pass it on to friends:

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

**Congratulations** to Ann Evans, Secretary of the Guardians on receiving a Regional Council/DOC Encore “Kaitiaki” award. Of course, this award reflects the hard work of all our volunteers and is a commendation to the group as a whole for the huge achievement in the last 6 years. The award came with a \$500 cheque, this will be used towards picnic tables in the Dell. Congratulations also to Friends of Q E Park and to Raumati South School who also received awards.



Kaitiaki award ceremony



Gathering pigeon wood seeds in Carex Valley

### **Last working Bee of 2012, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Good clearing of plants around the Dell and Matai Bush was done.



*Many thanks to:* Ian & Penny Redward, Dawn Bush with Ruby and Kieran, Peter Kentish, Rachel Salive, Sue Blaikie, Michael Stace, Richard Caldwell, Shane Cave, Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti.

Apologies to a new volunteer - ?Jean – the list was mislaid. If anyone knows her please let us know.

**Working bees happen on the first Sunday of each month until the planting season starts. Everyone welcome**

**Open day and guided walks. Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

We will invite the community to visit Whareroa to chat to volunteers and be shown around. Guided walks on proposed tracks will be available eg to Cabbage Tree Lookout and to the Rocks.



## Whareroa Supporters' Update 27 February 2013

Hello Everyone

**Next working Bee will be this Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 9 to noon.**

We will again be working near the entrance, releasing plants and, for children, clearing weed from the stream. Morning tea provided. Everyone welcome. Bring tools though some are available. Shears and grubbers are most useful, and rakes for water parsnip pulling. A lot of fun was had last time in the water, so much so that Ruby and Tatyana went back to spend another day doing it.



**Many thanks to the hard workers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> February working bee:** Theo Barsanti with Alex & Rosie, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Jan Nisbet, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Tatyana Bayne, Dawn Bush, Bill Jansen, Don Beggs, Rachel Salive, Aki Kurihara, Ivor, Miyako & Enzo Cammack, George Kaiageorge, Pat Shepherd, Sez Martin, Nicki Florence, Richard Caldwell, Ann Evans, June Rowland (with scones from daughter Christine), Robyn & Matthew Hayward, Shane Cave and Liffet Stewart.



A welcome to Pat and the group from One Percent Collective - a charity just launched that works with small NZ based charities, telling stories of the work they do and encouraging people to donate 1% to charity. He saw the idea of planting a tree for every sign up to the newsletter. *"I love this idea as everybody wins, we get more readers, subscribers get interesting content and we end up with more trees in the world, perfect!"* For more info go to: <http://onepercentcollective.org/>

Apologies to names missed from January working bee list in the last newsletter – an error happened in transcription. Thanks to June Rowland and Dave Allen who were also there.

The Rugby Legends plantings were found to be in good heart though of course, there has since been a long dry spell. Rain is really needed.



**The Mower.** Leon's mower is now working well after Richard's restoration. There is plenty of mowing to keep access tracks open. If anyone would like to be help with mowing, please send us an email.

**Traps for stoats, rats and weasels.** 20 traps have been ordered to start reducing pest numbers to help restoration. These animals not only eat birds' eggs and babies but also weta, skinks and geckos as well as seeds. Before trapping starts DOC will establish baseline numbers with tracking tunnels. You may see these in the kohekohe bush. Shane Cave will be coordinating the trapping programme. If you are interested in helping, again, please send us an email.

**History.** A recent visitor to Whareroa, John Arthur, had worked as a spraying contractor in the early 1970's. He forwarded some photos, including this one of abseiling down the quarry face.





**Tradescantia in Ramaroa Bush.** Some money has been allocated to work on this problem. It involves vegetation clearing to gain access and then spraying. Some volunteers have trained to spray. If anyone is interested in doing this Growsafe training, the Guardians will pay half the cost (cost last year was about \$100, it takes one day). Drop us a line if interested.

**Whareroa in flood**

These photos were taken early morning after the recent floods



This is the stream where we were clearing weed in photos above



The culvert under the main race blocked



The foot bridge at the end of the bush walk



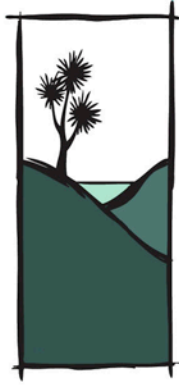
The foot bridge in the entrance picnic area.

**Whareroa Kohekohe Day.** We have deferred the proposed March 24<sup>th</sup> guided walks until the kohekohe are in flower. As Chris Wootton culled many possums we hope for a spectacular flowering this year. This will be advertised.

**Tools.** If you are clearing out your shed or upgrading, tools for releasing and planting would be gratefully received. We are happy to collect – email us or phone Ann, 904 7114.

**Kapiti Sustainable Garden Show March 23/24.** We will have a small display in the Biodiversity tent. This is a great opportunity to see what other restoration groups are doing in Kapiti and if anyone can spend a little while by our display chatting to visitors about Whareroa that'd be appreciated.

**Whareroa Guardians Community Trust AGM. Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.** 7pm at Paraparamu Library meeting room. Kevin Hackwell from Forest and Bird head office will discuss restoration in the current political climate. He is a knowledgeable and stimulating speaker. All welcome.



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Supporters' Update 03 April 2013

Hello Everyone.

**A reminder that there will be a working bee this Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April. 9 to noon.**

We will be based in the Hub with two tasks. Firstly, clearing the ground by the new toilets ready for planting and sowing grass. The ground has quite a few stones so it'd be good to pick them up and make an edging for the path. Some carpet has been laid to suppress grass and weeds ready for tree planting. More can be taken along from the shed. Rakes are the most useful tool for work here. The other task is clearing small gorse plants sprouting up among the WWF plantings by the Ti Kouka Stream, starting by the culvert and working upstream. There are lots of trees surviving well despite the drought. Secateurs and loppers and hand saws with leather gloves recommended.

### **Last working Bee March 3rd**

A small group worked hard on the entrance plantings. Many thanks to: Don Beggs, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Tatyana Bayne, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish who took photos and welcome to newcomers Scott Hill and Lianne Smith. June & Fred Rowland provided morning tea.

After the big flood then the drought there was brown slimy algae in the creek so the children were put off by that and didn't go in the water to clear the parsnip weed.





### **Rugby Legends' Plantings.**

Many thanks to volunteers for their work in releasing these plantings over the last 2 years. Gordon Hosking, a trustee of the Rugby Legends/Project Crimson group has been inspecting the 18 projects around the country and he visited Whareroa in March. Our plants have survived better than many, with 90-95% success. Unfortunately, there will not be funding for a 3<sup>rd</sup> full year as initially hoped, however, there may be a smaller top up for maintenance and filling in for losses. We are very grateful to the Tindall Foundation for the 5,000 plants already provided as the project has given a huge boost to the entrance area.

### **AGM Monday April 22nd. 7pm at Paraparaumu Library meeting room. All welcome**

Guest speaker will be Kevin Hackwell, advocacy manager for Forest and Bird. He will discuss restoration in the current political environment, very relevant in view of recent restructuring. Local DOC staff do not yet know their fate; we have worked closely with a number of hardworking committed people from the Waikanae and Wellington offices and feel concern for them. Whareroa has gained hugely from DOC's investment in and enthusiasm for the reserve.

***We hope to see many supporters there. Membership subs/renewals will be collected.***

### **Restoration Day Invitation Sat April 27<sup>th</sup> 8am to 5pm. Silverstream Retreat**

There are two spaces left for Whareroa supporters at this amazing annual event. It is very stimulating spending time with representatives from all the restoration groups in Greater Wellington as well as taking part in workshops with experts. If you would like further information please reply by email – enrolment closes on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Kapiti Joggers "In the steps of the Marines" event. Sunday May 26th**

After last year's very successful 13km walk/run, this is to be repeated. Why not dust off your boots or sneakers. It goes from the farm entrance up Waterfall Rd, up Maungakotukutuku Rd, along Campbell's Mill Rd then back down through Whareroa. Whew. A donation will come to the Guardians from the entry fees.

## Dell picnic area

Grass seed has been sown so now rain is needed. Hopefully it will get both an autumn and a spring growth season to establish before next summer.

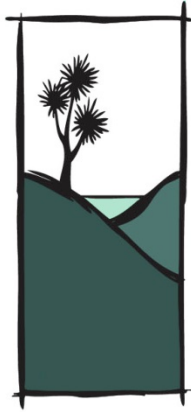


Bernard raking in seed.



Looking down on the Dell from the north. Kowhai grove in foreground, from local seed from trees on the Raumati Escarpment opposite Poplar Ave. Grown by Tony and Helen Griffiths.

**Future working bee date: Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>**



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

**Update for Supporters. 20 May 2013**

**Whareroa Kohekohe Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013. Meet at 10am**

We have been watching flower buds develop and invite the community to see these interesting and beautiful trees. The flowers come straight out of the trunks, called cauliflory. They have a lovely aroma and are an amazing sight when they are out. Guardians will offer guided walks in bush areas. Meet at Whareroa Farm entrance at 10am for walks but people can come any time during the morning and follow the flags. Volunteers will be about. Why not ask your family and friends, bring a snack and try out the new picnic tables. There are now toilets in the middle of the farm. We hope to be able to offer a hot drink at the Hub after the walk.



Both photos are from Whareroa, that on the right was taken by Jan Nisbet last week. Kapiti Coast contains one of the largest areas of kohekohe bush in NZ (Hemi Matenga), the Te Papa website has further information about these special trees.

If you can't make the 2<sup>nd</sup>, why not go in to check them out this coming weekend.

**Working Bee 5th May.** It was a sunny, warm and windless day - how lucky can we get! People released right up to the top plantings on the western side of Te Kouka stream and blackberry was grubbed out. On the eastern side some releasing and gorse grubbing also. Sue and others attacked the gorse regrowth on the gum tree side and Scott helped Richard mow a couple of areas he hadn't been able to tackle alone. All in all a successful morning with the usual cheerful June and Fred providing morning tea. The growth and success rate is quite amazing. (Thanks Dawn)



Don releasing cabbage trees, these small trees are 2 years old, with a mature kahikatea behind.

***Many thanks to workers:***

Scott Hill, Maureen Birchfield, Jan Nisbett, Dick Caldwell, Scott Hill, Peter Kentish, Don Beggs, Bruce Bulmer, Robyn Hayward, Matthew Hayward, Rachel Salive, Tony Griffiths, Sue Blaikie, Ruby & Kieran Durrant Bush, Dawn Bush, Sascha Wassong and his mate Hamish, June & Fred Rowland.

**Planting 2013.** We have planned four sessions so far. This year we will plant around the new Hub toilets and extend the Ti Kouka plantings. In addition we have a number of "secondary" trees such as totara, northern rata, rewarewa and nikau to insert within earlier plantings. Thanks to Manakau Native Nursery and Rod Lingard of Titoki Nursery for some tree donations. Meet 9am, follow the flags. Morning tea and lunch hot dog provided.

**Please pop these planting dates in your diaries now:  
June 16 and 30, July 21 and Aug 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Schools' planting day.** In addition, on Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> children from Raumati South School and Paraparaumu Beach School will visit to plant up the top of the Kapiti Lookout walk, to complete the Rugby Legends plantings. Project Crimson have donated a further sum to provide these trees. Volunteers are welcome to come along and help the students on that day. Assistance the weekend

before is also needed to put the trees out – please phone Ann, 904 7114 or send us an email if you can help.

**Pests.** Shane has been catching stoats, rats, mice, possums and weasels in the new traps. A great start and there are more traps to put out. This will complement the work Michael Stace has been doing in QE Park for several years. Nga Uruora also target animal pests, as of course do Greater Wellington and DOC. As Kevin Hackwell said at our AGM, anything roaming in the bush which has 4 legs and hair is a pest!

**Cairn.** Sascha and Theo have been opening up access to the Cairn site by inserting new gate. Some big “marker” rocks will come from Taranaki, the bulk of the stones from on the farm.

A reminder of the “**In the footsteps of the Marines**” run/walk this Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Google Kapiti Joggers to get information. We will hand out Whareroa leaflets to the finishers. You can sign up on the day, Whareroa Guardians will receive a donation from this event.

**Chainsaw training and other certificates.** Seven volunteers are undergoing training in order to be able to use chainsaws to cut gorse at Whareroa. That will speed up work considerably. A reminder, if you volunteer at Whareroa and hold a current first aid certificate, please can you let us know (for our Health and Safety management). Thanks to those who have already notified us.

Whareroa is on Facebook, Scott is updating this regularly, (thanks Scott) as well as the Nature Space site:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whareroa-Guardian-Community-Trust/495391803847628>

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

Our email is [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com)



Among kohekohe in the bush at Whareroa



# **Invitation to Blessing of the Rocks for the Cairn**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 7.15am**

Hello everyone. This project is moving ahead thanks to stone mason Sascha Wassong and Theo Barsanti.

The cairn was first proposed when Whareroa was “saved”, in 2005. Its purpose is to be a reminder and commemoration of the vision, hard work and persistence of many people to preserve Whareroa in public ownership in perpetuity. Some of those are no longer with us such as Leon Kiel and Rod Donald.

It has been designed by architect Hugh Tennant, see attached diagram. Ian Redward surveyed the site last weekend.

Sascha has sourced the large marker stones from Taranaki. We will meet these rocks at 7.15am next Tuesday at the entrance. Kaumatua Don Te Maipi will welcome the rocks on to Whareroa. The inner rocks will be gathered at Whareroa.

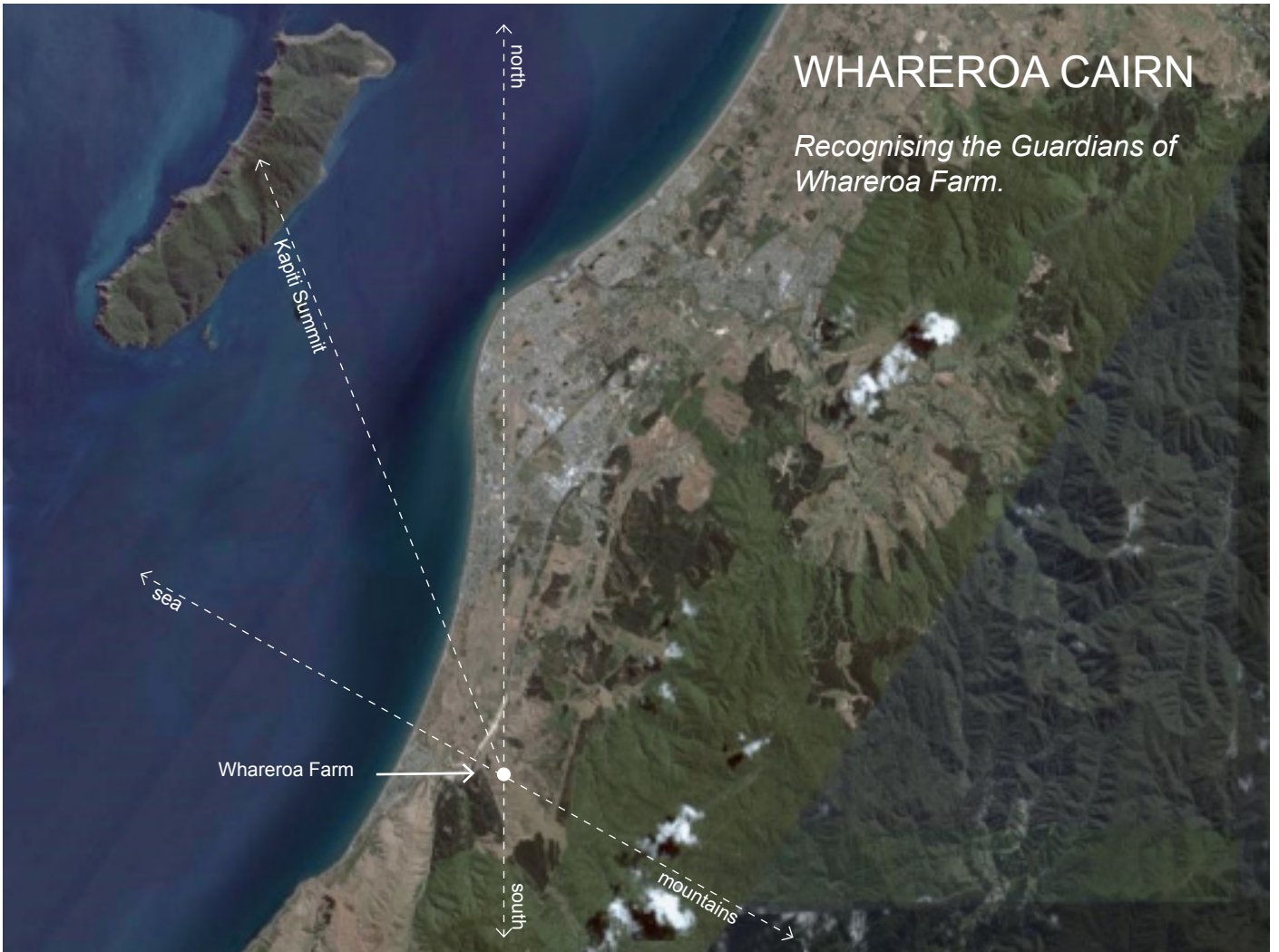
All supporters are welcome to join us. We will have a hot drink in the Guardians’ shed afterwards.

Further details of working bees will be sent when dates are known. Those who helped with the entrance wall know how satisfying it is to help create such a structure.

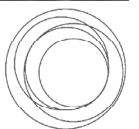
Hope to see some of you on Tuesday.

From the Whareroa Guardians: Rachel, Mic, Ann, Carol, Jenny, John, Liffet, Theo and Sue



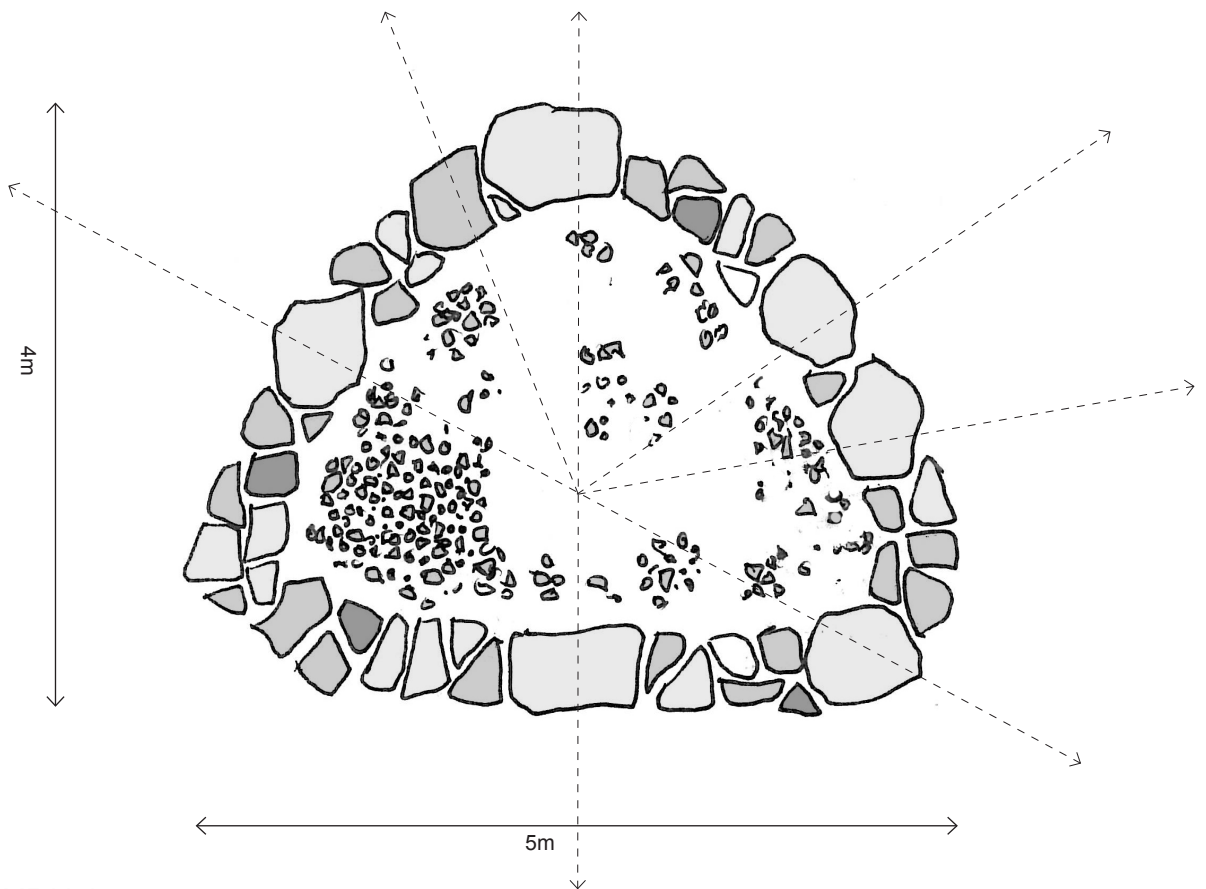


CAIRN LOCATION  
 KEY AXES FOR CAIRN MARKER STONES

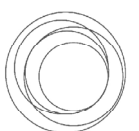


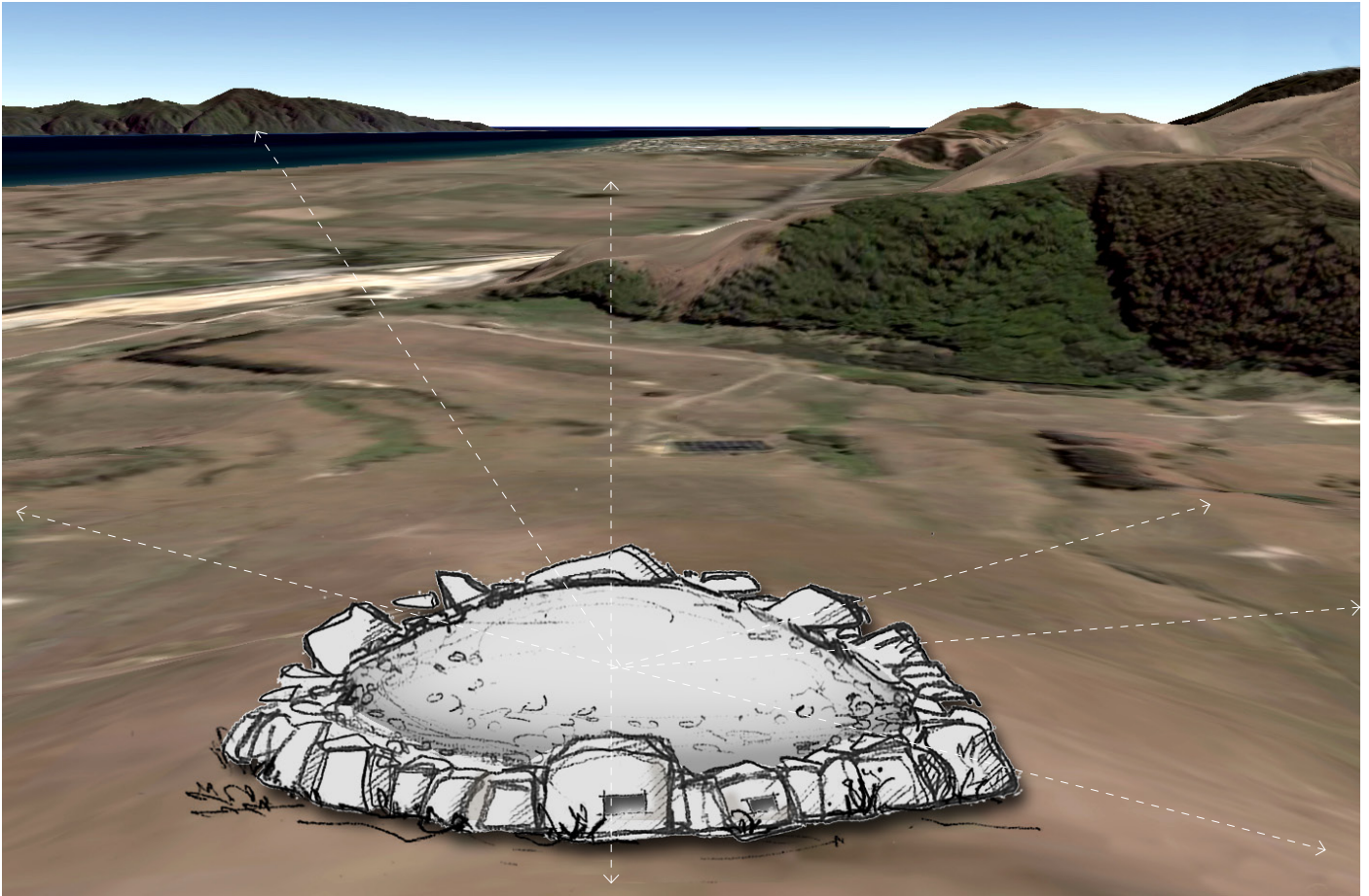


LOCATION OF CAIRN



PLAN OF CAIRN 1:50





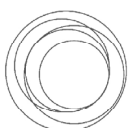
OUTLOOK FROM CAIRN

A ring of hand placed field stones with major stones marking North, South, East and West axes, the mountains to sea axis and Kapiti Island and marking major valleys as viewed from the site. The ring then filled with small stones laid to reflect the topography of the coastal dunes.

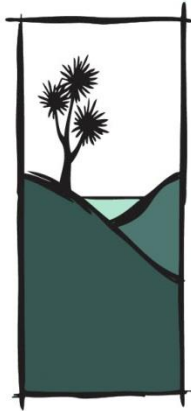
Plaques commemorating the guardians.



Similar to the Cairn of Clava







# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

**Whareroa Farm, Mackay's Crossing, Paekakariki**

**Kohekohe Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013. Meet at 10am**

We have been watching flower buds develop and invite the community to see these interesting and beautiful trees. The flowers come straight out of the trunks, called cauliflory. They have a lovely aroma and are an amazing sight when they are out. Guardians will offer guided walks in bush areas. Meet at Whareroa Farm entrance at 10am for walks but people can come any time during the morning and follow the flags. Volunteers will be about. Why not ask your family and friends, bring a snack and try out the new picnic tables. There are now toilets in the centre (Hub) of the farm. We hope to be able to offer a hot drink at the Hub after the walk.

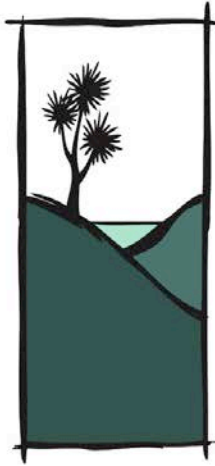


Both photos are from Whareroa, that on the right was taken by Jan Nisbet last week. Kapiti Coast contains one of the largest areas of kohekohe bush in NZ (Hemi Matenga). The Te Papa website has further information about these special trees.

Everyone is welcome to join us.







# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 11 June 2013

### 1<sup>st</sup> Planting Day next Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

We meet at entrance at 9am then follow the flags to the Hub to plant trees and flaxes by the new toilets. Please bring digging tools and Stanley knives to cut carpet (if you have them). The carpet has been laid for several weeks to kill off the grass, we will cut it into sections with slits to provide ongoing protection to the plants.



Morning tea will come to the Hub and we will have a BBQ hotdog back at the entrance shed afterwards about midday (thanks Laura for organising this again).

## Kohekohe Sunday. June 2nd

What a success! About 50 people joined in the guided walks (thanks to guides Sue, Liffet, Jan, Penny, Dawn and Ann). Sue gave an introduction to the botany and we visited several areas to admire the flowering and enjoy the hordes of birds in the bush – mainly tui and waxeyes. Other unusual aspects of the farm such as the aerial roots and the water intake chamber were visited by some. Hot drinks at the Hub were provided by Ian (thanks Ian and Jenny for the campervan & caravan). Rachel collected donations, just under \$50, much appreciated, and a number of new names have joined our email list - welcome.

Lots of visitors came in during the afternoon and on the holiday Monday. Next year, presumably the fruit will provide a similar botanical feast.



## Cairn Rocks welcomed by kaumatua Don te Maipi

A number of souls braved the gale to welcome seven large rocks from Taranaki, to form the marker posts for the cairn. Unfortunately conditions were too wet to get them all up on the day. Hopefully work is starting again this week, please contact Sascha on 021 262 2658 if you can help.



Hot drink in the dry after the welcome



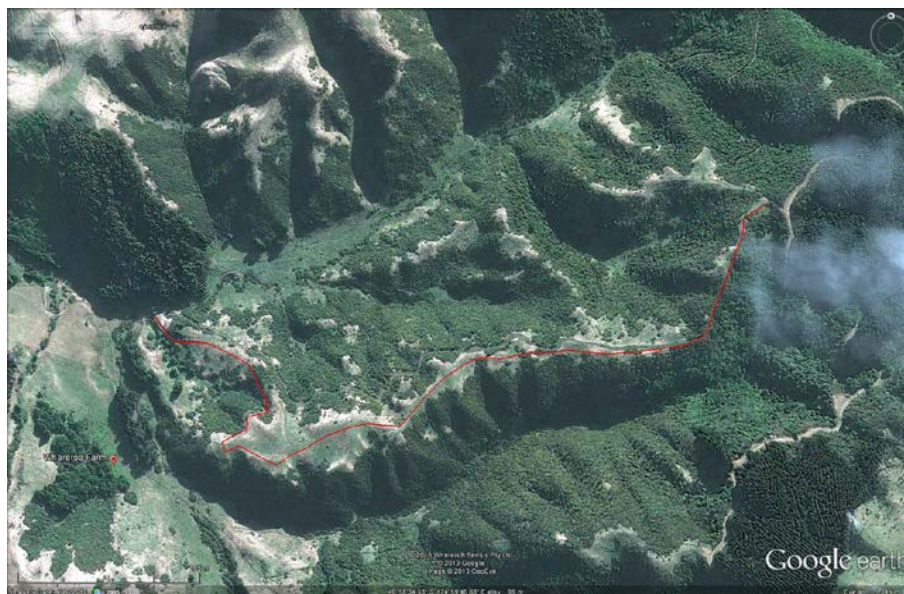
The first rock on its way up the hill



The first marker rock in position

## Walking Access Commission grant awarded to Whareroa

The Guardians applied to the Walking Access Commission for funding to develop the “East Ridge Track” and have received a grant. This track will give an alternative way down from Campbell’s Mill Road for trampers and horses, separate from mountain bikes (see red line below). Part of the route follows old farm tracks. The grant is to cover cost of signs and marker poles so there is a lot of work to do first, clearing gorse and removing fence wires. Lots of working bees will be needed after planting is finished.



## **Ramaroa Bush tradescantia**

Some of the farm lease money has been allocated to start the control of tradescantia in one of the kohekohe covenants. If this weed is not removed it totally suppresses all regrowth. It could also spread down stream to other parts of the farm and to QE Park.

## **Pest control**

Shane has completed a month's control with the following tally: 2 stoats, 1 weasel, 2 rats, 2 hedgehogs 1 possum (using the humane trap shown below) and 32 mice. A great start.



**Future Planting Dates: All 9 to noon. Hope to see you on the farm.**

**June 16 and 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> (primary schools), Supporters are very welcome to help (contact Ann 904 7114)**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>**

**August 4<sup>th</sup>.**

***Remember to check out face book and Nature Space for more info about Whareroa.***  
They are being updated regularly and historical information is also being added.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whareroa-Guardian-Community-Trust/495391803847628>

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 27 June 2013

### **Cairn working bee this Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> June. 9am**

All welcome to help move rocks from the hill side to the site. Cairn working bees will be on each Saturday until finished, weather permitting. Wear boots and strong gloves.

### **2nd Planting Day will be this Sunday, 30th June. 9 to noon**

We meet at entrance at 9am then follow the flags to the Hub to plant by the new toilets and up above Matai Bush. Morning tea and BBQ after provided. Please bring digging tools and Stanley knives to cut carpet (if you have them). Helpers also needed to gather empty pots and put bamboo stakes to mark plants. Wear garden gloves and strong boots or shoes.

### **1st Planting Day Sunday June 16th**

Despite the rain this was very successful. Flaxes and trees were planted around the Hub toilets and a grove of kahikatea planted on "Kahikatea Flat", near the tall kahikatea at end of the bush walk. Volunteers have been clearing gorse at this site to open it up.

**Many thanks to:** *Ian and Penny Redward, Dave Allen, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Tatiana Bayne, Peter Davis, Sue Blaikie, Liffet Stewart, Ann Evans and Dick Caldwell. Also to June and Fred Rowland for morning tea and Laura and Cory van Peer for delicious hot dogs with feijoa chutney.*





Ruby and Tatiana



Muddiest competition



Sue & Alexander potting up

### Cairn building Saturday June 15th

Another good event though as always, things take longer than expected. Theo's landrover ventured up the hill to the rock slide and volunteers extracted rocks to be driven down to the site. About 1/3 of those needed have been gathered. Carpet forms the base to suppress weed growth. Thanks to Randall of the Kapiti Observer for a great article. **Volunteers included:** Sascha Wassong, Theo Barsanti, Jan Nisbet, Peter Davis, Jonathon Waterworth, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Robyn and Anfri Hayward and friend, Moko Tuaupiki and Hamish Horua. Ann Evans donated rabbit buns to keep them going. Thanks to all.



To left of Cairn is proposed Ramaroa Wetland site



### In the steps of the Marines donation

A cheque for \$150 was gratefully received, as a contribution from the participants in the successful run/walk in May. We hope this will continue as an annual event – it's good to see the farm enjoyed by a different group of people, some from further afield.

## Chainsaw training

There is a lot of gorse on the farm. It provides a great nursery for native regeneration and will be left on most of the slopes. However, it has to be removed in places to allow planting at certain sites and to allow track development. The Kapiti Mountain Bike Club are just waiting for final KCDC consent and then they can begin their downhill track. In addition the Guardians will need to open up an old farm track for the East Ridge Track. Seven volunteers are undergoing chainsaw training to NZQA standard. This involves two full days of theory and practical. **Thanks to:** *Theo Barsanti, Ann Evans, Bernard Cammack, Shane Cave, Ian Redward, Steve Lewis and Matt Callaghan for committing to this.*



## Storm

That was an event we hope won't be repeated too soon. Huge numbers of trees fell within the gum plantation, over 30 across the Link Track. This will be closed until DOC have cleared it. A small treefall occurred in the kohekohe bush but one can get around it. The streams carried lots of debris down and flooded across the entrance picnic site. There are small slips on the Link Track so please take care out there.



## Security cameras

Mountain biker Matt Jones, from Red Wolf Security has donated a surveillance system for the entrance with several cameras recording 24 hours a day. Many thanks Matt. There have been a couple of car break-ins in the carpark so please keep vigilant and note any suspicious activity and don't leave valuables in sight in your vehicle. Hopefully the cameras will be an effective deterrent.



Matt and Steve Lewis after fixing the cameras



A white faced heron searching for food in picnic area

## Other things happening

Small plants are being potted up for next year. It's much cheaper to buy tiny plants and look after them. They come from Manakau Native Nursery, grown from Kapiti sourced seeds. Peter Russell from Aotearoa Biodiversity is working in Ramaroa Bush, opening up access and doing weed control. The silt in the water intake chamber is being cleared out this month and we hope the treefalls will go soon; however DOC have a huge task with storm damage all over the region. Bird monitoring and pest trapping are happening regularly, the Upper Dell path has started and volunteers are often in the farm, just doing stuff eg weeding. Thankyou!

**Future Planting Dates: All 9 to noon. Hope to see you on the farm.**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> (primary schools),  
Supporters are very welcome to help (contact Ann 904 7114)**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>**

**August 4<sup>th</sup>.**

***Remember to check out Facebook and Nature Space for more info about Whareroa.***  
They are being updated regularly and historical information is also being added. (Thanks Scott)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whareroa-Guardian-Community-Trust/495391803847628>

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update for Supporters 19 July 2013

Hello everyone

**A reminder – planting on this Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 9 to noon, followed by hot dogs back at the shed.**

There will be a variety of planting activities – some high up on the entrance hill and bamboo markers are needed up there; northern rata are going on the hillside to the left of the main race and some more planting up the Ti Kouka stream.

**The last planting bee** was really good with lots of children joining in. They both planted and collected bamboos from previous plantings to re-use. We finished off by the Hub toilets and then got a good way up the hill above Matai Bush, enclosing gorse. Laura and Cory did the BBQ with yummy chutney again and then the kids played hide and seek.

**Many thanks to:** Tony and Helen Griffiths, Bernard McMahon, Jan Nisbet, Ivor, Miyako and Enzo Cammack, Aki Kurihara, Peter Kentish, Mark, Marie-Louise, Victoria and Rianna Riley, Penny and Ian Redward, Christine Elmiger, Nick Brunsten, Dick Caldwell, Tatiana Bayne, Peter Davis, Mary Beggs, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant Bush, Bruce Bulmer, Ann Evans, Yonexsi Cuevas-Haxton, Laura and Cory van Peer.





### Living Legends Schools' Planting Day 10 July

120 enthusiastic children from Raumati South and Paraparaumu Beach Schools planted over 500 plants on a horrible cold windy wet day. They spent 30 minutes planting, 30 minutes on a bush walk and 30 minutes doing indoor activities and each received a bag of goodies donated by DOC and a Whareroa Guardians sticker. The trees were funded by the Living Legends project, with Project Crimson. That is the end of this project but it has allowed vegetation of an important part of the farm, very visible from the highway. Over time the planting will be enhanced by northern rata and kowhai, some have already gone in along with totara and rewarewa as well as the usual quick growing trees. Last year's trees are doing well – see photo. The schools want to come back and DOC and the Guardians intend to ensure that this will happen. Encouraging youngsters to appreciate the bush and nature and plant trees is part of the Aims of the Guardians. DOC rangers Amy, Julie, Dan, Leigh and Rob as well as Guardians Jan, Ann and Dawn took part. Julie Lines cut hundreds of carpet squares to help tree survival. Thanks everyone.



Carpet squares show plants, ngaio planted a year ago



Raumati South School



DOC ranger Dan demonstrating planting



Muddy hands!



A totara

**Cairn building** has to be put on hold due to the wet ground conditions. Work will start again at the end of winter.

**Farm closure:** Due to lambing the grazed part of the farm is closed until the end of September. The Cairn View Track is thus closed.

### **Donations.**

We really appreciate two recent donations by supporters.

Pat Menzies has donated a picnic table to go above Matai Bush – this is a lovely view point looking over the top of the bush and up the farm valleys. It will be put up when the ground is dry enough to drive up there.

Peter Davis and partner at ADArchitecture have donated two tables to go in the Hub. This will enhance the area considerably, many families get as far as the Hub and will now be able to sit and enjoy the ambience. Suzi from DOC is building them – see photo. We hope they will be in place within the next month.

*Thank you Pat and Peter.*



**“Give a little”.** There is now an opportunity to make a donation very easily to the work of the Whareroa Guardians through the following site: <http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> Thanks Scott for setting this up.

The site is run by Telecom and all of the donation comes to us, the minimum is \$1. All contributions will be appreciated and will go to Guardians’ activities.

**Bird monitoring.** Helen and Tony Griffiths have completed 2 years' monitoring at 5 sites. They are selecting 5 more sites to continue gathering this essential data. Many thanks to you both. The list to date is on the Nature Space Whareroa site with pictures. If you see new birds please send us an email.

**Tree falls on the gum section of the Link Track** will take some time to clear – in places the root ball has disrupted the track so earthworks will be needed. Please keep out until repairs are complete.



Damage to the Link track



A basket fungus in the bush

**New mountain bike access to the farm.** This weekend the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club are moving the access to enter by the information bay to avoid riding through stock in the paddock – the “grate” will need a hole dug. They plan to provide a bike washing facility in this area as well.



Shadows show hut outlines from Marines' camp and the top dressing runway below the Cairn site

**Future Planting Dates: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August.**

All welcome, wear boots and gloves and bring tools. Morning tea and lunch hot dog provided.

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whareroa-Guardian-Community-Trust/495391803847628>

# Whareroa – Update for Supporters. 02 August 2013

Hello Everyone

A reminder that this Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August is another planting bee. 9 to noon with morning tea and hot dog after. We will again be working reasonably close to the entrance with more work to do above the quarry face, some northern rata and kohekohe to go in amongst the 6 year old plantings along the valley and possibly planting some toetoe as well.

We need an additional planting session – this will be Sunday 18 August as a number of extra plants have been donated.

Everyone is welcome; to help gathering empty pots and supplying planters as well as actual digging.

## Planting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013

This was an enjoyable morning with about 500 kanuka and tree hebe plants going in above the quarry at the entrance. These will help protect the Living Legends plantings beyond as well as stabilise the ground. Great view!

*Many thanks to: Mark, Victoria and Rianna Riley, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Tatiana Baynes, John Rowland, Dick Caldwell, Dawn Bush, Tony and Helen Griffiths, Don and Mary Beggs, Jan Nisbet, Linda Reid, Ann Evans, Bruce Bulmer, Peter Kentish Anfri and Robyn Hayward and Laura van Peer and June Rowland for refreshments.*





**Kapiti Mountain Bike Club** were also busy that Sunday, moving the entrance “Gibson grate” to a new location right by the information bay. Bikers will no longer have to run the gauntlet of inquisitive or stropky cattle. In addition, they plan to build a bike wash area close by so that mud can be washed off before leaving the site (there’s plenty of mud around at the moment). The consent for a new downhill track has at last been granted – it has been horrendously slow working through the layers to achieve that and now the real work will begin.



An **archaeological assessment** of Whareroa Farm has been done as part of background research, it contains copies of old maps and photos. If anyone would like a copy of the pdf document please send us an email.



Is this a kumara storage pit on SE Ridge??

DOC run field and on line courses for volunteers including bird and plant identification – some are free, others charged. Lots of interesting topics – check out this site:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/get-trained/field-based-courses/plant-identification/>

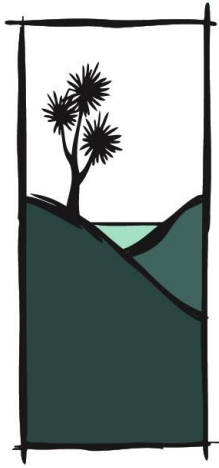
Whareroa - links below:

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>







# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update for Supporters 15 August 2013

Hello everyone

**Planting this Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 9 to noon, followed by hot dogs back at the shed.**

We will be back by the Ti Kouka Stream (by the Hub) this session, also some small leaved milk tree donated by Nga Uruora will be planted near those already on the farm in the Ramaroa and by Matai Bush and possibly we'll do a bit more above the entrance. Any trees still left will go in on the first Sunday of September.

**The last planting bee** on 4<sup>th</sup> August was great fun, a beautiful day and lots of enthusiastic volunteers. About 350 more tree hebe and kanuka went in above the quarry, Mic and Sue planted 50 northern rata on the steep slope overlooking the main race and some big kohekohe were interplanted along the lower Ramaroa and Whareroa Streams – they need shelter and the earlier plantings are now big enough to supply that.

**Many thanks to:** Tony and Helen Griffiths, Mark & Victoria and Rianna Riley, Dick Caldwell, Mary & Don Beggs, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Bruce Bulmer, Ann Evans, Laura van Peer, Abigail & Hannah Clarke (visiting from the Catlins), Maureen Birchfield, June & John Rowland, Sue Blaikie, Pamela Phillips, Rachel Salive, Rachel and Anfri Hayward, Linda & Eve Nicol, Mic Keith and Bernard McMahon.





**Walnut trees.** 3 of these have been donated and planted in the entrance picnic areas to provide nuts and shade.

**Ramaroa Bush.** Peter Russell of Aotearoa Biodiversity has been working on clearing tradescantia (wandering willy) from this block. It's involved chain sawing tree falls and slashing blackberry for access then spraying. Good progress has been made. Volunteers will monitor and continue the spray programme. We hope to be able to open a track through this area in 2014; at present the risk of spreading tradescantia to other parts of the farm is too high.

**A reminder:** The Cairn View Track is closed due to lambing until the end of September.

**Tree falls on the gum section of the Link Track.** Repairs are progressing well and the track should be re-opening soon. The accessible wood is to be taken to Otaki Forks to use at the DOC huts.



Moose and Steve enjoying their work



New grass has taken at the picnic area at the Dell. It is still too soft to use but will be ready by the summer.

**Regular Working Bees on the first Sunday of the month will recommence on 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

These sessions are important in maintaining the plantings by releasing in the first year. Otherwise, small plants can be swamped by grass growth. We will also be developing the East Ridge Track, this involves cutting gorse and removing fence wire and battens. It's very satisfying. Morning tea provided on these mornings.

**Our contact details:**

[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whareroa-Guardian-Community-Trust/495391803847628>

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa – Update for Supporters 29 August 2013

It's time to restart our regular 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month working bees.

**Please come along this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September if you are free.**

We meet 9am and work through till about midday with a break for morning tea.

This session we will do a bit more planting by the entrance, there are gorse sprouts needing snipping on the hillside (secateurs or loppers or pruning saws are the best tools) and some may like to cut carpet for tree protection (bring Stanley knives).

**Last Planting day 18<sup>th</sup> August.** We had a good session planting the upper Ti Kouka Stream, in filling as well as extending protective planting above Matai Bush. We can now say that section is done. A special inclusion were about 15 "small leaved milk trees" grown by and donated by NgaUruora. These are uncommon, we know of three specimens already at Whareroa so we hope to extend this population. Another small group will be planted in the Ramaroa block. Many thanks to Laura, Cory and June for providing us with morning tea & hotdogs every planting session, not to mention all the washing up (Miyako helped last time).



**Many thanks to:** Linda Hill, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Tom Georgeson, June & John Rowland, Bernard McMahon, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Tatiana Bayne, Jan Nisbet, Mic Keith, Dawn Bush, Bruce Bulmer, Rachel Salive, Cory & Laura van Peer, Ann Evans, Bernard Miyako Cammack, Shane Cave, Liffet Stewart, Richard Caldwell, Don & Mary Beggs, Sue Blaikie, Aki Kurihara.



Aki planting a milk tree



Top section of Ti Kouka planting



Cory, Kieran and Miyako



**New stile access to toilets:** Mountain bikers (and others) can now nip over the stile rather than making a detour to get to the loo. Thanks Dan and DOC.

**The gums track** is cleared and back in full use, it was very busy last weekend. Again thanks DOC for a rapid response to the damage.

**New trustee:** The Whareroa Guardians Community Trust was delighted to appoint Scott Hill to fill the vacancy on the Board. Welcome Scott. Scott has a special interest in our web presence and has also joined Shane's pest patrol.

**Walnut Trees.** Many thanks to the Waikanae Combined Garden Group for a donation of \$150 to fund these trees at the picnic area. In years to come they will be a great asset for both shade and nuts.

**Pest management:** Shane Cave, Scott and Shane Williamson now have 60 traps out (distribution helped by Theo and family). Between them they are doing about 12 hours a week trapping. The main catch are big fat rats, lots of mice and a few stoats, weasels and the odd possum. A great contribution, thanks guys.

**"Kermit".** A new grass management tool has moved into the Guardians' shed – a green weed-eater on wheels known as Kermit. This belongs to DOC but is on loan to Whareroa. It will be checked out and we hope it will be very useful. Further volunteers to help with mowing and weed-eating are always welcome – please phone Ann at 021 162 3559 if you would like to help.



**Stream protection:** Volunteers have been moving rocks scattered along the farm race to a vulnerable section of stream bank to stop erosion into the tracks behind. Rocks were moved by rolling, not lifting and we hope they will bed in well to allow carex's planted behind to establish and give further protection.

**Mountain bike track:** Steve and Shane from Kapiti met Theo, Sue and Ann from the Guardians to discuss the area around the Marines' settlement chamber where tramping and bike tracks will diverge. In the future this area will become another gathering place with picnic tables and beautiful vistas all around. The entrance is opposite the entrance to the Gums track and people are welcome to go and have a look – it involves 3 small stream crossings.



One of the stream crossings

The settlement chamber

The MTB track will traverse this terrain

**Cairn building** is on hold until the ground dries out. The Cairn View Track will re-open on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Volunteer Hours 2012:** These have been tallied for our annual return to the Charities Commission. Recorded hours exceeded 2,500. If one gives a notional value of \$25 per hour that adds up to a contribution of over \$62,500 to the farm in one year. These hours are important when grant applications are made, to demonstrate the commitment of the group. A wide variety of activities are recorded including planting, releasing, meetings, bird monitoring, mowing, thistle grubbing, applying for grants, pest and weed control etc. We know that a number of you also help with releasing, mowing etc. in a quiet way. If you were able to let us have a record of that additional work that would be helpful – either email to [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) or phone Ann. Thank you to all who have contributed to this wonderful total.

**Next year's planting:** Guardians are surveying the area between the reservoir and the Ramaroa Stream with a view to fencing off and developing a wetland along the waterways. It is hoped this will be the planting project for next winter and beyond and will be planned to incorporate a track. If it is not ready our other planned project is connecting Matai Bush to Upper Bush. So plenty to do . . . . .



Ramaroa Stream, proposed wetland is beyond

Currently this is grazed by cattle and sheep



Ramaroa Valley plantings from 2010 – the proposed wetland will connect this area along waterways to the reservoir.

There is to be a national Conservation Conference at Dunedin in mid-October, convened by the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust. Anyone who might be down there and interested might like to look at this link:

<http://yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz/wordpress/conservationinc/>

### ***Catch up with some of you on Sunday.***

Remember to check out Nature Space for extra information and the Facebook page is updated regularly.

#### **Our contact details:**

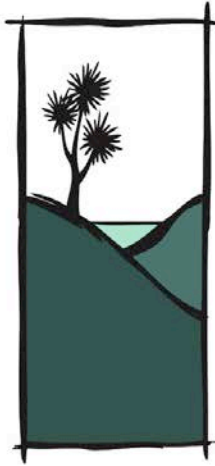
[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

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One can make a donation very easily to the work of the Whareroa Guardians through the following site:  
<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> Many thanks to those who have already done so.





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 27 September 2013

Hello Everyone

### **Gum logs available Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 9 to noon**

Following the devastation to the gum tree block you will have seen piles of large logs. DOC are allowing supporters to collect these on the morning of Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 9 to noon, for donations to be given to the Whareroa Guardians. Recommended donation is at least \$30 per trailer.

Some of these logs are quite large. We are not permitted to use chain saws so they have to be removed as they are.

The main gate will be unlocked but **MUST** be kept closed at all times.

Drive along the farm race to the Hub. Four wheel drive vehicles can drive down to the site. For other vehicles, Theo has offered to tow trailers from the Hub down to be loaded and then back up to the Hub.



## **Next Working Bee will also be happening on Sunday, 6th October. 9 to noon.**

We will work near the Hub with some carex planting and small gorse re-growth removal in the Dell. Also removing the remaining fence wire in the Dell and if there is time, going up to the new East Ridge Track which goes up just to the north of the Dell to remove fence wires and grub thistles. Good gloves, hand saws and loppers will be needed. Also grubbers if planting or thistling. NB glasses or goggles recommended if working on the fence wire.

Everyone is welcome. Follow the flags. Morning tea provided at the Hub.

## **Last Planting Bee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013**

This was an enjoyable morning with further kanuka, kowhai, northern rata and toetoe plants going in high above the entrance.

*Many thanks to: Dick Caldwell, Ann Evans, Bruce Bulmer, Rachel Tobin, Dave Allen, Rachel Salive, Jean McCallan, Sue Blaikie, Liffet Stewart, Bernard Cammack, Theo & Alex Barsanti and to June Rowland for refreshments.*



*Also many thanks to Julie Lines, Safu Inoke and Margaret Mills for a morning cutting carpet squares in the shed. A number of mummified mice emerged from some of the rolls. The stockpile is the smallest it's been for a couple of years. And to Dick Caldwell for servicing "Kermit", a motorised weed eater on loan to the Guardians from DOC. We would welcome more volunteers to use Kermit to both cut edges in entrance and picnic area and to keep access tracks open through the plantings – this can be done at any time: please contact Ann, 021 162 3559, if you are interested.*



Other farm users: after rain it was interesting to see a variety of footprints in the mud.

**Pest Trapping** is going well with more deceased weasels, rats and mice thanks to the SSS team (Shane, Scott and Shane). Nesting season is commencing so every reduction in these pests will help the bird population. We are listening out for the first shining cuckoo song, a sure sign of summer. Tui are chasing each other madly and paradise ducks are doing their “broken wing” routine – if someone gets too close to their nest or babies they pretend to be injured to divert attention.

**Links with nearby groups.** A recent meeting was held with representatives from Whareroa, QE Park Friends, NgaUruora, DOC and GWRC to discuss issues such as pests and weeds. Each group is working on its own weeds but plants like pampas and German ivy spread across boundaries – and from the highway and rail track. It was good to discuss and aim for joint action on some problems.

**Orienteering.** The Wellington Orienteering Club have updated their map and will run their first event at Whareroa for over 20 years on November 17<sup>th</sup>. New people are welcome to come & try it out.

**Schools’ water monitoring project.** Jan Nisbet is coordinating this with Paekakariki School. It’ll be very useful to have this information but much more important is exposing children to the environment and encouraging understanding of the importance of stream protection.

**The Cairn.** It is hoped work will restart in early November when the ground should have dried out enough to move rocks safely.

**The “Chain Saw Gang”** finished their training with Steve Grey. Unfortunately, following an accident on DOC land no chain sawing is permitted until further assessment is carried out. This is a setback for the mountain bike track developers and to our East Ridge Track work. But safety is paramount.



**“Nature observations”** After recent rain this egg was seen lying on the ground – we think a paradise duck or pukeko – can anyone identify it? The brown staining is mud, it was a creamy grey. We also noticed a bold nikau, growing out of one of the old pine trees along the Ti Kouka Stream. The clematis was along the Upper Link Track (Heketara Valley).



**Our contact details:**

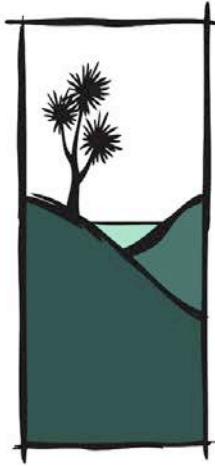
[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>

One can make a donation very easily to the work of the Whareroa Guardians through the following site: <http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG>

Many thanks to those who have already donated, every bit helps.



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 29 October 2013

Hello Everyone

**Our next working bee will be Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 9 to noon.**

**Cairn building starts again**

Sascha will be coordinating cairn building (lifting and placing stones) and we will also be working on the East Ridge Track (removing fence wires and gorse) and in the Dell (releasing, cutting small gorse regrowth and planting carex). Please bring tools for your preferred activities and wear gloves and strong footwear. Morning tea will be at the Hub. Everyone welcome, follow the flags.

**Picnic tables now in place**

Three new picnic tables are now ready for use. Many thanks to Peter Davis and AD Architecture for the two at the Hub, one of these has a longer overhang to allow wheelchair use. The tables were built by Suzy Richards from DoC.



Sascha laid the concrete pads



Theo, John, Dan and Steve



Peter in centre, resting with Ruby and Theo after a hard morning's work. Kamahi Bush then East Ridge behind

The other was donated by Pat Menzies, to whom also many thanks. It is in a lovely position, above Matai Bush: from the Hub walk towards the group of nikau palms in front of Matai Bush, climb over the stile (pic below right) and walk up the hill.



"Is it level yet?"



Miyako and Enzo put up sign on the stile



Pat in centre with Jenny and Rob Stone (DOC)



Location of Matai Bush picnic table, gums in background

We hope to erect more tables and seats as donations allow. If you know someone or a business who might be interested, please contact us.

### Last Working Bee on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013

There was a real buzz with tables being erected, logs being removed, gorse cut round the Dell, some further planting, paths mown and little ones enjoying being there.

*Many thanks to: Dick Caldwell, Ann Evans, Peter Davis, Jonathon Waterworth, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Rachel Salive, Sue Blaikie, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, Penny and Ian Redward, Bernard Cammack, Theo & Aaron Barsanti, Jools Joslin, Paddy and Ria, Jenny Rowan, Sascha Wassong, Steve Bright, Stacey Gasson, John Rowland, Dan Touhy. Apologies if anyone is missed from the list – let us know please.*



Theo and well loaded landrover



Sascha and Dick mowing paths



Aaron and ?



Ruby and Penny



Liffet



Paddy and little ones



Rata



Sue putting up signs



Planting rata high above Matai Bush



Towing plants to their new home

***Hope to see you Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

From Guardians' trustees: Rachel, Jenny, John, Mic, Scott, Liffet, Sue, Theo, Carol and Ann

**Future Dates and summer activities:**

Working Bee Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 9 to noon

Cairn Opening – a celebration with music – late January/early February

Nature Walk/picnic day - March

**Our contact details:**

[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>

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Many thanks to those who have already donated, every bit helps.





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 28 November 2013

**Our next working bee will be Sunday 1st December, 9 to noon.**

Two more picnic tables will be taken in to the Dell on Sunday. They will need at least 4 strong people to carry in from the main track by the Gums. We will also be working again on the East Ridge Track (removing fence wires and gorse and thistles) and in the Dell (releasing and cutting small gorse regrowth). Sascha may be coordinating cairn building (lifting and placing stones) if the ground is dry enough. Please bring tools for your preferred activities and wear gloves and strong footwear. Morning tea will be at the Hub. Everyone welcome, follow the flags. Forecast is good.

### **Last Working Bee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013**

Another great session with gorse breakthrough on the East Ridge Track, Cairn building, gorse cutting in the Dell, flaxes and toetoe planted and lots of fun. Linda Hall brought flax from near Opotiki, donated by the iwi there to weavers in Kapiti. These plants produce a very fine thread. Dave and Bruce planted toetoe along the slope below the Hub, extending those already there. Shane did his trap round.





*Many thanks to: Dick Caldwell, Ann Evans , Linda Hall, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Sue Blaikie, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, Bernard Cammack, Theo Barsanti, Jools Joslin, Paddy Riley & Ria Joslin, Jenny Rowan, Lachlan Williams, Sascha Wassong, Don & Mary Beggs, Peter Kentish, Dave Allen, Bruce Bulmer, Aki Kurihara, Miyako & Enzo Cammack, Jan Nisbet and Audrey Barber*



### **East Ridge Track**



This is now under active “construction”. In reality it involves gorse and fence deconstruction. It generally follows the line of old farm tracks and fence lines with some meandering to nice look out points. The Guardians Trust contracted Roy Winterburn who has mulched and mowed the main track circuit for DOC to also mow what he could of the East Ridge Track. There are still some smaller

sections of gorse to clear but the biggest block has been done. Eventually we would like to remove all the wire fences on the ridge but have already cleared those sections needed for the route. Please take care if having a look as in places the ground is uneven and slippery and there are still lots of thistles about.



*Walking along new mown track*



*The start of the track by the Gums*



*Kapiti Home Schools and weta motels*

### **Children's activities at Whareroa being coordinated by Jan Nisbet – Help needed please**

**Raumati South School** will be visiting Whareroa farm with 100 children on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 75 children on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. The purpose is for the older children to support younger students on an outdoor adventure and for the older children to become acquainted with a catchment and the ecology of it. Next year the older children will be doing a 10 week Take Action for Water project. "Take action for water" is a really good Greater Wellington unit of work. (Google it). Groups will rotate through:

**Wetas and eco rebalancing** - putting up basic bamboo houses for the wetas and weeding a karaka infestation

**Water studies** with Sarah Speight who works part time for the KCDC – measuring water quality and looking for insects and water creatures

**Wet foot historic walk** – up to the water intake – an opportunity to give the children some history

**Birds and bush activity** – art, identification and some just being in the environment.

**Seed collection and seed bombing** – wrapping up the seeds in locally collected clay and bombing some gorse patches.

It would be great to have some helpers from the Guardians and or supporters. We will meet at the Car Park at 10 each day and finish at 2.30 so please bring your lunch. If you are interested in coming please email me: [bikeridenz@outlook.com](mailto:bikeridenz@outlook.com) indicating which day you can come. Thank you, Jan.

**Kapiti Home Schools** visit. Despite the rather changeable weather a small group of people had a great day visiting the lagoon at Q E Park and Whareroa farm on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Shags ducks and pied stilt were the highlight of the Lagoon visit and a friendly piwakawaka visited us as we spent considerable time putting up weta motels in the bush. Maybe as they are the basic bamboo models they might be considered back packer accommodation. Eels weren't tempted by the blood and offal sandwich they were offered. Another day is being organised later in Dec and a range of different activities will be conducted.

**Mountain bikers.** The Kapiti Mountain Bike Club has now started serious work cutting gorse to make their downhill track. We hope they make good progress, the farm is increasingly popular with mountain bikers both local and from further afield.

**Volunteer training.** Volunteers continue to become qualified. We now have a number who have completed chainsaw, quad bike and first aid training as well as three accredited weed sprayers.

**Planting Plans for next year.** Our proposal is to start work to connect Matai Bush to Upper Bush. This will significantly enhance the future of both blocks by reducing wind damage and providing a larger area for birds and reptiles. We are making grant applications as well as "growing on" plants.

**Gecko and Goats.** Helen Griffiths found a squashed green gecko on the Upper Link Track. We hope that means there are others – if you see geckos or skinks please let us know. In contrast, there is no doubt that goats are thriving, they are a pest as they eat native seedlings.



green gecko



Goats, Horse Track in back ground

**Daphne Steele.** We record our sadness at the death of Daphne – as well as her well documented environmental work through KEA she was a stalwart early Whareroa Supporter; and actively involved in the application for our first large grant of \$84,000 which really kicked off our restoration. Daphne's family have planted a totara tree at Whareroa.

**Evening at Whareroa.** Dusk is a lovely time, birds sing, moreporks start to call and the glow worms along the Gums' Track come out. Why not take an evening picnic and enjoy the picnic tables in the Hub, above Matai Bush and in the Dell.

***Hope to see you on Sunday.***

**Future Dates and summer activities:**

**Cairn Opening – a celebration with music – Sat 1st February from 3pm.**

Help will be needed during the day setting things up. Details to come.

Working Bee Sunday March 1st

Nature Walk/picnic day – March

**Our contact details:**

[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>

One can make a donation very easily to the work of the Whareroa Guardians through the following site: <http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG>

Many thanks to those who have already donated, every bit helps.



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Whareroa Supporters' Update 05 December 2013

*Another amazing year has passed at Whareroa. Many thanks to all volunteers through 2013.*

### **We are slipping in an extra East Ridge Track working bee this Sunday, Dec 8th, 9 to noon.**

Please bring your own morning tea as we will be too far away from the Hub to get down. We will be working to even out the connection between the new track and the Downhill Track. Ian Redward is working on surveying the best line and will supervise volunteers – “cut and fill”. Some gorse stumps will need digging out. We will also do some more gorse cutting, higher up the track. Bring grubbers, shovels, pickaxes, spades. Also hand saws, rakes, good gloves etc.

Unfortunately one of the volunteer G-mail “groups” missed out on receiving the last Update – apologies to those who would otherwise have joined us last weekend. We hope some of you may be free this coming Sunday instead.

### **Last working bee 01 December**

First the tables were carried in to the Dell, then Theo and Sascha headed off to the Cairn – it is almost completed and has been a hard slog for the Cairn workers. Others worked on the gorse up East Ridge. Good progress was made, just using hand saws and team work: some cutting and others dragging the gorse away. Do go and have a look but note that the ground is uneven and slippery in places. Further volunteers grubbed thistles in the Dell and did some releasing up above the quarry face. Suzi set the donor plaques in the new picnic tables at the Hub. Julie has cut more carpet squares and they are to go around the little hebes along the fence line above the quarry.

**Many thanks to:** Scott Hill, Don Beggs, Mic Keith, Sascha Wassong, Theo Barsanti, June and Sandra Rowland, Jan Nisbet, Bruce Bulmer, Bernard Cammack, Jean McCallan, Dawn Bush, Suzi Richards (DOC), Bill Jansen, Ann Evans and Peter Kentish. Julie Lines for carpet cutting.





**Two picnic tables are now in the Dell.** These were designed and built by Bernard Cammack, using money from last year's Kaitiaki Award to Guardians' secretary Ann Evans. Mitre10 Mega allow us to purchase wood, bolts etc at "best builder's rate" – a significant discount. Many thanks to all involved.



**DoC has mulched and mowed the main tracks.** Unfortunately there is some gorse debris on the tracks – feel free to pick up branches and chuck over the edge. It will break down in time.

**Mountain bike track.** Kapiti MTB Club working bees have started to cut this track from beyond the "silt trap" up to Campbell's Mill Rd. Good progress is being made but there are months of work ahead. As the farm gets busier there is an increasing need for a separate easy downhill route. It passes through regenerating bush and has lovely outlooks in the back valley. See cut line on photos below.



**Kohekohe and Kakariki.** The flowering was incredible this year but interestingly not all trees have set fruit. However, some have and it's worth looking at the dangling clumps, visible from the Forest Loop Walk.

A distant goal of bringing the "kakariki back to Paekakariki", including Whareroa has been adopted. Nga Uruora have been working on this project for over 10 years and, along with Friends of QE Park, Whareroa is adding to the overall pest control and bush enhancement in the area.



**Children's activities** (photos above)

Jan Nisbet has developed various children's activity programmes at Whareroa. Kapiti Home Schools, a preschool and about 200 children from Raumati South School will have been involved. Other volunteers are helping out and we hope this will be an increasing aspect of Whareroa activity. This is the future. Many thanks Jan.

**Pests.** Cumulative catch for the year from August (some of these were caught between April and July with only 18 traps): Weasels – 13, Stoats - 3, Rats – 84, Mice – 123, Hedgehog – 5, Possums – 11. Great work Shane, Shane and Scott.

### **Future Dates and summer activities:**

**Cairn Opening – a celebration with live music – Sat 1st February from 4pm.**

Details to follow.

**Working Bee** - Sunday March 1st

**Nature Walk/picnic day** – March

### **Our contact details:**

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