



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Whareroa Update 24 January 2015

Happy 2015 to all our volunteers and supporters

Opening of Ti Kouka/Rocks Track Sunday Feb 1st 11am, following a short working bee at the entrance at 9am with morning tea before the Opening.

The Ti Kouka/Rocks Track at Whareroa Farm Reserve will be opened on Sunday Feb 1st at 11am. It starts on the Farm Race before one reaches the Hub and proceeds uphill to the left of the Cairn then crossing the Upper Ti Kouka Valley then follows the ridges mostly using old bulldozed farm tracks.

This track takes trampers and horse riders up to the highest point of the reserve: “The Rocks”, at 320m altitude, a total climb of 300m. Half way are the cabbage trees, “Ti Kouka” – visible from much of the reserve. The first section to Ti Kouka crosses grazed land and is relatively easy; beyond Ti Kouka the grass is long and harder work. The views compensate for the effort.



John Rowland, after digging the sign post. Ti Kouka on horizon Stile at top of Ti Kouka Stream Loop connects to new track

Everyone is welcome to the “opening” at the new stile on the farm race about 500m from the entrance, we will then walk up past the Cairn to Ti Kouka. Visitors are of course welcome to go “all the way” to the Rocks. The return trip to the Rocks and back takes about 2.5hours.



Bruce, Shane, Ian, John & Liffet, gorse cutting and post erecting & Sue marking out the route, near summit. NB grass

Whareroa Guardians obtained the grant to purchase the signs and stiles from the Dept of Conservation Community Partnership Fund. Volunteers have cut gorse, painted and erected blue marker poles and posts over the last few weeks. Rob Bigwood of Bush & Field built the stiles. Horse riders will need a “horse padlock” key, obtained from Kapiti Coast District Council – this provides access to Campbell’s Mill Rd as well as through Whareroa Farm Reserve.



Mt Wainui to south of some of the rocks



At the Rocks, evening light

Last working bee on December 7th



Morning tea break near Coast Lookout



Enzo, Zoya and Miyako ready for action

A moist morning saw good releasing of the muelenbeckia around the Lookout . In time this will give a zone of “bouncy weed” and hopefully home for skinks as on the Pukerua Bay cliffs.

Many thanks to volunteers: Jonathon Waterworth, Dick Caldwell, Dawn Bush, Ruby and Kieran Durrant-Bush, Liffet Stewart, Peter Kentish, Sue Blaikie, Aki Kurihara, Miyako and Enzo Cammack, Zoya, Linda Hill, Rachel Salive, Marie-Luisa Riley and Ann Evans. Apologies to two new volunteers, the list was mislaid in Xmas tidy up of papers – if anyone can let me know their names we will amend the record. Thanks.

KCDC Youth Awards. Kaitiaki award given to Ruby Durrant-Bush

Congratulations Ruby. This was in recognition of her long commitment as a Whareroa volunteer since 2008, she rarely misses a session and has grown up, along with the trees. There have now been 3 Whareroa volunteers recognised by Kaitiaki Awards.



Ruby with her award



Ann, Ruby and June, all Kaitiaki award winners

Transpower Mid-March

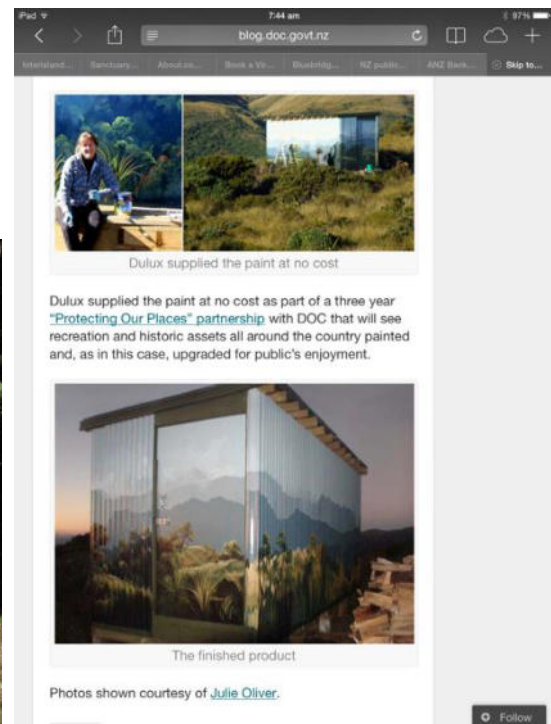
The Mangahau A and B lines south of the Paraparaumu substation are being removed. Whareroa will be closed for perhaps two half days probably in the 2nd week of March whilst the lines are dropped. Notices will be at the entrance.

Pest gang, December report from Shane Cave

Another bumper month for rats and there's been the continued seasonal rise in mustelids - we saw the same pattern last year. The total catch is down because we have not been trapping possums because of other commitments over the month, however we have a growing number of box traps deployed, especially along the new bike track so we have an increased total effort. The total trapping effort will continue to increase as we deploy the remaining traps currently in the shed. (The only possum caught was a small one that somehow managed to force its way into a box trap, a first for us - it is to be applauded for its determination! It is a posthumous contender for the annual Darwin Awards for removing itself from the gene pool) It is interesting to note that rat numbers have fallen away dramatically over the past 10 days, so our practice of the last 5 months or so of setting large numbers of traps in very small areas with a high rat-catch may have had the desired result, especially in the vicinity of the weta motels in the kohekohe bush - we will wait and see how January unfolds.

Kiwi Caravan – a new project – special expertise needed

People will have noticed the scruffy pink caravan near the entrance. This is a historic structure. It lived high on Kapiti Island for several decades providing shelter for possum trappers and bird monitors. We would like to restore it and move it to the Hub to give it a new lease of life as a shelter. Our vision is to clean it up, take the fittings out and put in benches and then get it painted, similar to a mural on the Rangiwahia Hut toilets (see pics below). We need a someone with carpentry skills to undertake this project, there is plenty of unskilled support labour. Please phone Ann on 021 162 3559 if you can help. Thank you



Oral History of the “Saving of Whareroa”

Interviews by oral historian Jiff Stewart have commenced.

Fencing round Ramaroa Wetland Planting site and the Cairn

DOC have confirmed that this will be done by the end of March, in good time for this year’s planting. Plants have been ordered. Helicopter gorse spraying has been done.

**Reminder: Sunday Feb 1st: 9am Working Bee then morning tea
11am Ti Kouka/Rocks Track Opening**

Our contact details:

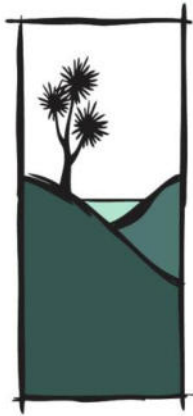
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<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians> Lots of info is posted here

<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations

Additional photos are posted regularly on Facebook and Nature Space by Scott Hill



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Whareroa Update 27 February 2015

Next working bee will be Sunday March 1st, 9 to noon. All welcome

Releasing plantings around entrance. Also some small gorse clearing on the slope. Bring shears, secateurs, loppers, hand saws or grubbers. Possibly some more work on the Kiwi Caravan. Morning tea will be provided.

Ti Kouka/Rocks work and opening

The Ti Kouka/Rocks Track was opened on a misty moist morning, on Feb 1st. Six horses and a group of walkers carried the new signs to their locations and ceremoniously put them up. Liffet welcomed people to the opening and thanked the DOC Community Conservation Partnership Fund for the grant to fund the signs and stiles. The horses then raced up the hill, followed by those on two legs. The ti kouka looked very mysterious in the cloud and the blue marker poles showed their value.



Ann by the sign on the farm race



Liffet & Ian with new sign by the Cairn

Last working bee and Kiwi Caravan

Prior to the opening, a good hour's work saw the kiwi caravan cleared of much of its "furniture", not to mention miscellaneous cutlery, a rat's nest and old newspapers. Planning is ongoing as to how best to use this as a shelter at the Hub. If anyone wants to get actively involved please send us an email. Others worked clearing blackberry and other weeds near the entrance. *Many thanks to: Ian &*

Penny Redward, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Doug Morrell and Sue Clark, Bill Jansen, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Don and Mary Beggs, Laura & Bill van Peer and Ann Evans.



More on the Ti Kouka/Rocks track

This note came from Anita Jones.

“This is Anita here, just wanting to say thank you for the lovely new track up Whareroa.

A few of us met up to go for a ride since the weather was less than ideal at the official track opening. We were all impressed with the track, it was clear enough footing for us to have a nice canter uphill. It was so nice to have the track to ourselves yesterday but we are loving having to share it and look out for only people, not mountain bikes. A few of the horses were unfit and others were very fit but we all stuck together and waited for those less fit horses. We love the East Ridge track, but it's too steep for the more unfit horses so this one will be more used.

In fact those of us with fitter horses came down the Rocks track and then went up the East Ridge track and left at the top along Campbell's Mill Road and back down the Horse track. A 10km ride in all so a good training ride. As soon as I hosed my horse off and he'd finished rolling, he skipped off back to his mates to join the party like he'd just gone for a gentle ride, so when you make more tracks, that will help me wear him out! Unfortunately I'm not as fit as he so I'm feeling it a bit today!! Anyway, thanks again for another great horse / people track.”



Above Ti Kouka



Starting from the farm race

NB Horse riders need to obtain a key from Kapiti Coast District Council. This gives access to Whareroa & Campbell's Mill Rd.

Transpower - Mid March

Work is proceeding on removing the Maungahau Lines from Transmission Gully, across Whareroa then up Valley Road. Access to Whareroa will be closed while they drop the lines for perhaps two half days in mid-March. Signs will be up and we will send an email when final dates received.

Pest gang

From Scott: "What a difference a month makes – total catch has gone down by over 60% from 106 in December to 38 in January. Most traps were checked 3 times in the month, with some checked 4 times and a small number checked twice. Perhaps even pests go away during the school holidays? They were certainly staying out of our traps. It is planned to recommence Possuming from February."

Fencing round Ramaroa Wetland Planting site and the Cairn

The fence position has been marked and DOC have confirmed that this will be done by the end of March, in good time for this year's planting. Plants have been ordered. Gorse in the area for planting has been sprayed. Planting will take place on 1st and 3rd Sundays of June, July and August and possibly September if needed.

Farm Grazing Licence

This was advertised recently with options of grazing Whareroa alone or in combination with QEP for a 10 year licence. GW and DOC will assess applicants and make the decision but the Guardians have had some input to terms and conditions.

Oral History

Interviews by oral historian Jiff Stewart have begun.

In the Steps of the Marines Run/Walk will take place on Sunday 24th May

Working bees occur on the first Sunday of every month



Ti Kouka in the mist



Tony & Helen by a marker pole

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Whareroa Update 06 April 2015

Next working bee will be Sunday April 12th, 9 to noon. All welcome

Some may like to do more releasing around entrance or small gorse clearing on the slope. Others may like to look at the Ramaroa Stream plantings, beginning to work out a through track to access the Ramaroa Wetland. Bring shears, secateurs, loppers, hand saws or grubbers. Those with chain saw accreditation could bring them as there is an area of sprouting poplar which needs clearing. Possibly some more work on the Kiwi Caravan. Morning tea will be provided.

Apologies for error email sent last week

A glitch meant that a wrong message was forwarded to some volunteers – the correct one was a notice that last Sunday's proposed working bee was postponed till the 12th as all coordinators were away. Sorry if some of you turned up. We will provide cake on the 12th in compensation!

Annual General Meeting. April 21st 7pm

Our 8th AGM will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm at Paraparaumu Library meeting room. Oral historian Jiff Stewart will give a review of her interviews with Guardians relating to the "saving" of Whareroa Farm – this August will be the tenth anniversary of that momentous decision. We also hope someone from DOC will come along to update us. Everyone is welcome, there will be supper.

Trustee Vacancy and Elections

Foundation trustee Rachel Kiel-Taylor is resigning this year as she has moved away from the Coast. Rachel was one of the key persons who started the process of saving Whareroa, along with her late husband Leon Kiel and John Porter. Rachel has given hugely to the Whareroa Guardians and we thank her for her contribution.

Many will remember the video of Rachel and Phil Simmonds running around on the land singing Phil's Whareroa Song which helped the campaign:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv69P_TC8_Y.

We thus need a new trustee, please consider whether you would like to join the Board, it is not a huge commitment and good to be involved in the decision making. If you would like to chat to one of us about it, please phone Liffet 905 3355 or Ann 904 7114. Rachel's replacement will initially be for one year (the balance of her 3 year term).

Other trustees standing down are Theo Barsanti, Sascha Wassong and John Lancashire. All are available for re-election but if there are more candidates than places, a secret ballot will be held.

Last working bee 01 March 2015

Good work was done clearing weeds around the entrance and gorse up on the slope. Don unfortunately discovered two wasp nests, hopefully now no longer there thanks to Liffet. Concepts for the Kiwi Caravan were explored. *Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Doug Morrell and Sue Clark, Bill Jansen, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Don and Mary Beggs, Peter Kentish, Sascha Wassong, June Rowland and Sandra, Kieran Durrant-Bush.*



Workers 01 March



Plantings from 2-3 years ago becoming visible above entrance

DOC workers have also been weedeating and spraying their tracks.

Pest gang

From Scott: 132 pests caught in March. The most intensive trapping is around the weta motels; that seems to be paying off as baby wetas have been seen (see below). In February 13 possums were caught, these are particularly important as kohekohe will be flowering soon. There seem to be a good number of flower buds (see photo). The group are looking after 86 box traps as well as doing intermittent possum trapping.



baby weta in motel



05 April 2015, kohekohe buds by track in Kohekohe Bush

Fencing round Ramaroa Wetland Planting site and the Cairn

This has been completed and looks good, the gorse has died off. An additional bonus was repairing the shelter belt fencing on the ridge to north of the wetland so that can be replanted. Now all we have to do is plant! Funding for the next two years' planting is assured through the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund. We are also holding several hundred trees grown by Paraparaumu Rotary Club. This is only Stage 1 of the Ramaroa Wetland, it is proposed to take it up to the Reservoir in Stage 2 and then possibly extend further up the hill in the future.



New fence with old fence removed to link Ramaroa Stream Despite drought, still pretty boggy. NB cattle pugging.

Te Ara Ramaroa

The Trust has submitted an application to the 2015 CCPF to fund this track for trampers and horse riders to complete the loop using an old farm track down the secluded Ramaroa Valley from the Rocks, it then passes through the Ramaroa Bush and plantings (horse riders bypass these by going round the "Airstrip"). It will involve quite a lot of physical clearing of the route as well as fence wire removal but will be a great asset, a project for after planting.



Inside the Ramaroa Bush



Looking west down Ramaroa Valley, track from Rocks centre right



Ramaroa Stream



Ramaroa Bush – kohekohe, titoki, tawa and matai

Farm Grazing Licence

The outcome of this is due shortly.

Oral History

Interviews by oral historian Jiff Stewart are continuing.

Transpower temporary farm closure – now likely to be this week

Work is proceeding on removing the Mangahau Lines from Transmission Gully, across Whareroa then up Valley Road. Access to Whareroa will be closed while they drop the lines for perhaps two half days. Signs will be up.

Volunteer hours 2014

The annual census has just been done, about 4,200 hours of volunteer work was recorded (more was done as some people just do stuff but don't bother recording it). **Many many thanks to those 91 volunteers, your work is equivalent to a donation of \$84,000.**

Working bee Sunday May 3rd, probably getting ready for planting

In the Steps of the Marines Run/Walk will take place on Sunday 24th May

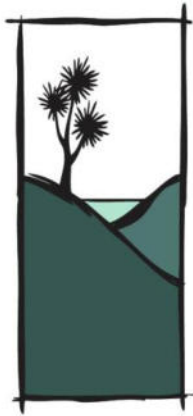
Planting will be 1st and 3rd Sundays of June, July, August & September

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Whareroa Update 01 May 2015

Next working bee will be Sunday May 3rd, 9 to noon. All welcome

We will be preparing the Ramaroa Wetland site for planting, especially along the edges of the waterway. This involves clearing away dead gorse so wear your leather gloves. We will also put down carpet squares to kill the grass, ready for planting next month. Bring shears, secateurs, loppers, hand saws or grubbers. Some areas are quite wet, but there are dry areas as well. Morning tea will be provided. Others may like to cut carpet squares by the shed - a new load of carpet from Kapiti District Trust has been delivered. Forecast is good. June & Sandra will do morning tea.



Tony, Helen & Jan clearing dead gorse by waterway



This section has been securely fenced to plant for shelter

Annual General Meeting. April 21st 7pm

Our 8th AGM was held on Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm at Paraparaumu Library meeting room. Oral historian Jiff Stewart gave a fascinating and dynamic review of her interviews with Guardians relating to the “saving” of Whareroa Farm – this August will be the tenth anniversary of that momentous decision. Mat Barnett from DOC told us of the upcoming CMS review (see later). Rachel Kiel-Taylor sadly resigned as a trustee and our thanks and best wishes were expressed. John Lancashire, Theo Barsanti and Sascha Wassong were re-elected for another 3 year term. Thanks to all trustees for their ongoing commitment.



Jiff

Last working bee 05 April 2015

A great session opened up the Lower Ramaroa as far as the matai/kahikatea/milk tree clearing. Dick's mower was man (and woman) handled across the stream to make short work of the long grass. Much gorse was cut to access the stream and Shane's chainsaw skills cleared the way through dense growth. Others cut dead gorse away to help with planting. All are welcome to check the area out – a stile leads in just past the culvert and stock shed, on the right of the farm race. Access does involve paddling across the stream.



Julie & carpet squares



Ramaroa Stream crossings cleared



Getting Miss Piggy across



Dick penetrating jungle grass



Bernard



Shane clearing a route



Morning tea



Kahikatea-matai-milk tree clearing

Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Doug Morrell and Sue Clark, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Don and Mary Beggs, Peter Kentish, Kieran & Ruby Durrant-Bush, Ian Redward, Bernard McManus, Sue Blaikie, Shane Williamson, Bruce Bulmer, Jan Nisbet, Ann Evans, and Julie Lines. Thanks to Julie also for cutting hundreds more carpet squares ready for the planting season. Carpet is stored in the shed and if volunteers want to spend an hour or so cutting squares, contact Ann 021 162 3559 to arrange to get a key.

Planting 2015 will be 1st and 3rd Sundays of June, July, August & Sept

9 to noon. All planting sessions are followed by a hotdog in the shed. All welcome.

Damage to the Wall

Some will have seen the damage caused by a stolen vehicle. Police have apprehended the offender. The wall will be repaired. The plaque commemorating early Guardians and supporters was damaged. Police ask that if anyone sees anything suspicious at Whareroa, please will they call 111 straight away. Several cars have been broken into recently – please do not leave valuables in your car.



Farm Grazing Licence

The outcome of this is due shortly.

Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Review Kapiti workshop Monday 18th May, 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Paraparamu Library meeting room (Supper will be provided). Local DOC staff will facilitate this workshop and collect information about the conservation values and aspirations you have for the Wellington region. This information will help us to draft a CMS that will guide managers and the public and establish Wellington conservation objectives and priorities. Please go along if you would like to contribute. Email Matt Barnett, mbarnett@doc.govt.nz, before Friday 8th May if you would like to attend. For more information about CMS: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/conservation-management-strategies/>

Transpower Lines

These have now gone and the huge posts that have been on the skyline are following.

In the Steps of the Marines Run/Walk Sunday 24th May

The Kapiti Joggers and Walkers are organising the fourth running of *In the Footsteps of the Marines* on Sunday 24 May 2015. Last year 170 walkers and runners participated including several Marines. The 2015 event will be part of the celebrations, coordinated by the Kapiti US Marines Trust, commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the arrival of US Marines in New Zealand during World War Two. A Memorial Day

service will be held at the Marines Memorial in Queen Elizabeth Park on Monday 25 May. *In the Footsteps of the Marines* provides a unique opportunity to run or walk much of the challenging Marines' route march described by Leon Uris in his book *Battle Cry*. The 13.4km course includes sealed and unsealed roads; bush, shingle and clay tracks, and farm roads. The route climbs over 300m and the high points offer spectacular views of the Kapiti Coast. However, it is manageable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.

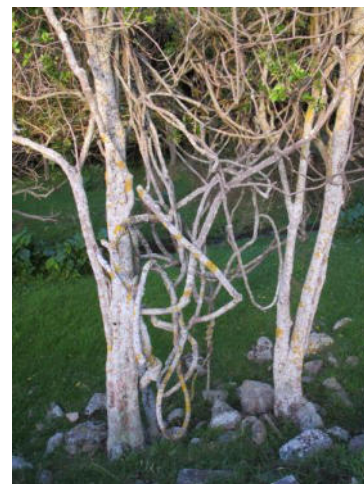
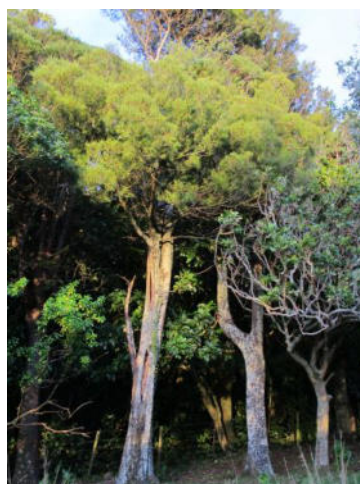


The start of the social grade in 2014 (Photo by David McCrone)

It starts at the Whareroa Farm entrance at Mackays Crossing. Categories are: social walkers and slow joggers, race walkers and runners and restricted to people 12 years and over. Social walkers and slow joggers start at 9.00 am, Race Walkers at 9.30 and Runners at 10 am. There are plenty of spot prizes. Entry fee is \$20 with an extra \$5 for late entries on the day. Participants can post their entry or enter online at: www.enteronline.co.nz Donations will be made to the Kapiti Community Food Bank, Whareroa Guardians Community Trust, Kapiti US Marines Trust, Tramway Museum, Raumati Scouts, SPCA, Raumati School, Wellington Free Ambulance and Kapiti Running and Tri Club. For more info see <http://marinenz.com>



Sue by *Griselinia lucida* aerial root The edge of Ramaroa Bush



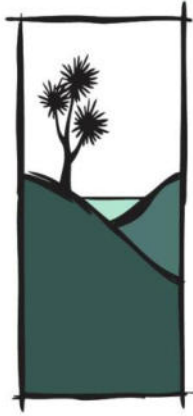
This twisty stem is native jasmine

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update: Flood Edition 16 May 2015

145 mm rain fell at Mackays Crossing in 24 hours on 14 May 2015, more than anywhere else in the region and it certainly impacted on Whareroa Farm Reserve.

For a video of the flood in action go to our Facebook page (taken by Ralph at the peak of flow).
Photos by Ann, Ralph and Scott.



6.30am May 14th. Morning Maintenance Gang: clearing culverts



7.30am Looking down from Forest Loop walk

Infrastructure impacts include a washed out foot bridge on the entrance loop and blocked culverts under the main race leading to fence damage and increased flooding. The lowest picnic table is partially overhanging the bank. The toilets at the Hub have been lifted out of the ground; there are track washouts wherever they cross streams as well as Carex Stream now bypassing the small bridge

in Carex Valley on the Link Track. There are slips at the entrance, slips damaging the Link Track in several places and some on the grazed land. Not all tracks have been inspected yet. The message is: Take care out there and don't ignore safety signs. The mud is sloppy and deep in places.



7.45am May 14th. Flooding across entrance picnic area. The bridge had collapsed due to bank erosion by late morning



The 1st bridge along the picnic area track, also note the picnic table

No loo at the Hub at the moment



10am May 14th Slips in quarry and banks above entrance

The entrance picnic area



Only one picnic table out of the water

Aftermath: May 16th



Some flax and carex survive . . .



also kowhai and ribbonwood.



Water still flowing over the bridge



A white faced heron sits on the "kiss" gate



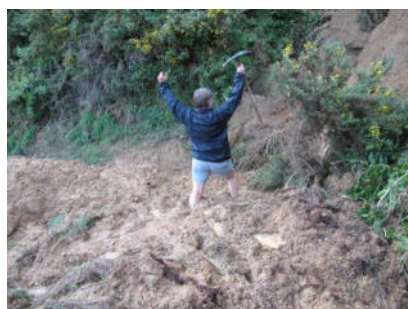
Ti Kouka Stream plantings OK



The farm race is there somewhere

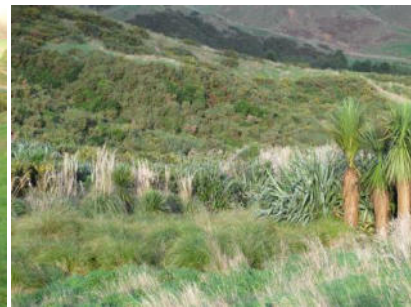


Horse track by the Gums





Slips on Link Track, mid-section



Bridge at junction Horse & Link Tracks now high and dry.

Carex secta, flax & ti kouka undisturbed

Overall, the older plantings held their own except at the entrance where blocked culverts under the farm race sent water right across the picnic area. Let's hope that by the next rain "event" there will be less run off as regeneration through gorse proceeds and riparian planting is more established. A benefit of the flood has been removal of dense water parsnip weed out of streams. Clearing mud from around flattened carex would help them recover. There are major repairs for DOC to prioritise.

Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Review

Kapiti workshop Monday 18th May, 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Paraparaumu Library meeting room (Supper will be provided). Local DOC staff will facilitate this workshop and collect information about the conservation values and aspirations you have for the Wellington region. This information will help us to draft a CMS that will guide managers and the public and establish Wellington conservation objectives and priorities. Please go along if you would like to contribute. For more information about CMS: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/conservation-management-strategies/>

In the Steps of the Marines Run/Walk Sunday 24th May

Starts at the Whareroa Farm entrance at Mackays Crossing. For more info see <http://marinenz.com>

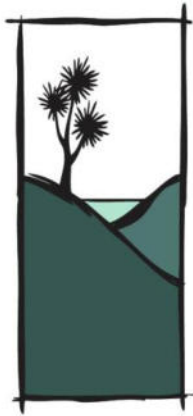
Reminder: Planting starts Sunday June 7th, 9 to noon. Ramaroa Wetland.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 18 June 2015

Planting continues this Sunday June 7th, 9 to noon. Ramaroa Wetland.

We have more carex secta plants to go along the Ramaroa Stream edge. There will also be some more umbrella sedges, flaxes, cabbage trees. Along the higher banks we will plant ribbonwoods, pittosporums and coprosma robusta (karamu). Our task is to establish shade over the little stream and restore the wetland. Gum boots would be good, also warm clothes and gloves. Bring your grubbers or spades. Some can put carpet squares around the plants (cut by Julie and Dick). Morning tea on site and a hot dog back at the entrance shed afterwards about midday. We had a great turnout for the first planting session and hope a good number come again. The forecast is dry for Sunday morning. These plants were funded by the Community Conservation Partnership Fund run by DOC.

Last working bee, 7th June

About 1200 plants went into the ground at the Ramaroa Wetland: 960 carex secta plus hebes, ribbonwoods, umbrella sedges and flaxes. It was lovely to have a group from Paraparaumu Scouts joining in. A new activity was hurling carex in their pots down the slope to get them in position. They flew nicely and people's aims improved after a few hundred. A few muddy bottoms happened as the ground was quite moist – great for the plants. Bruce had spent several hours transporting the plants to the site.



Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer, Theo Barsanti (& his Landie), June & Sandra Rowland (morning tea),

Sue Clark, Doug Morrell, Miyako Cammack, Peter Kentish, Helen Griffiths, Ann Evans Bill Sewell, Ray & Carol Molineux, Liffet Stewart, Dick Caldwell (also carpet cutting), Ken Fraser, Zoe Studd, Susan Hutchinson, Simon Daniela, Jan Nisbet, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Linda Hill, Phoenix, Marie & Trinity Townsend, Penny Redward, Dawn Bush, Emily, Hamish, Cameron & Brendon Lester, Toi Drylie, Mic Keith, Robyn & Anfri Hayward, Julie Lines (cutting carpet) and of course, Laura van Peer for deliciously cooked hot dogs with feijoa sauce. Bernard Cammack was busy on the Dell path.



spot the flying carex



Bruce, Zoe, Peter & Theo



Dick, Theo & carpet



Carpet hats



Carex like wet feet. Scouts planting.



Ribbonwood to protect bank



Koura



New Trustee

Laura van Peer has joined the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust Board to replace Rachel Kiel-Taylor. Laura has been a volunteer since the beginning: involved in planning, planting and hot dog mass production. She is renowned for her feijoa sauce but also has publishing skills. Welcome Laura.



Laura, in orange, having cooked us all hotdogs last planting bee and in front centre of volunteers, Ti Kouka, 2009

Kapiti Joggers & Walkers donation

We were delighted to receive a donation of \$500 from the Kapiti Walkers and Joggers from their “In the Footstep of the Marines” event. Over 200 runners and walkers took part. Members of the group will join us to plant a block on the ridge between the wetland and the Marines campsite. This will be visible from the farm race. Many thanks Joggers and Walkers, coordinated by Roger and Pam Childs.

Flood Recovery and Track closures

Great to see the toilets at the Hub are vertical again and functioning well. Thanks DOC. The farm race has been cleared and water flow diverted back into its old path. The Link Track and the section of disabled walkway to the northern bridge remain closed but other tracks are usable though mud, drop offs and debris remain in places. There are a couple of steep drop offs on the Downhill Track so especial care is needed if descending on a mountain bike.

Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park and Greater Wellington Regional Council present.....5000 Trees

On July 12 from 10am to 2pm the Kāpiti community are going to plant 5000 native seedlings at Queen Elizabeth Park and you are invited. As a local community group interested in restoration and the environment on the Kāpiti Coast we would like you to join in and add value to this community event. This will be a great opportunity to network with locals who are passionate about enhancing the Kāpiti Coast environment and share stories about what your group has been involved with.

Several people from environmental care groups across the Kāpiti Coast have joined the team to help ensure the quality of planting on the day is of a high standard. They need more people on board to make sure every plant that goes in the ground has the best chance of survival. Please contact Jon Gabites if you can help: T: 04 830-4231 | M: 021 468 015. Thanks.

Bird Count and Botanists

Helen Griffiths, supported by Tony has now completed her 2nd two year block of monthly bird count recording. The first two years were at 5 points: along the farm race, up the Ti Kouka Stream, by the Ramaroa Stream, at the end of Forest Loop Walk and below Kamahi Bush. The second 2 years' sites were: picnic area, above the Dell, along Carex Valley, at Ngaio Bend on the Horse Track, and in Horoeke Bush on Upper Link. Thirty seven species have been recorded (see attached list with pictures compiled by Scott Hill). All the data is available on the Nature Space site. This has been a huge commitment and provides a wonderful baseline resource. Many thanks Helen and Tony.

In addition, two botanists, Pat Enright and Chris Hopkins have spent many hours in all the native forest remnants at Whareroa, recording the plants, both native and introduced and weeds. Several species of small ferns not previously recorded were found as well as healthy examples of all the tree ferns. These reports will also be downloaded to Nature Space when complete.

The native forest is regenerating well since stock excluded: see below. One small remnant of bush remains unprotected: Little Bush, above Emerald Glen Road. We have requested that DOC retire this area.



Upper Bush 2005, cattle grazed freely



Upper Bush 2015. Mostly kawakawa as initial plant cover

Future Plantings at Whareroa:

1st and 3rd Sundays of July, August and possibly September

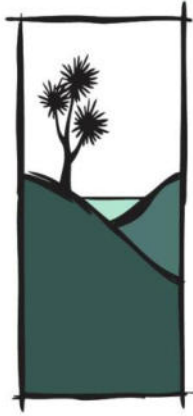
Other planting projects for this year include planting behind the Cairn, more planting by Upper Bush to enclose the gorse along the stream edge, enhancing East Ridge Track and, with local schools, more entrance planting. Enough to keep us busy!! Thanks again to all volunteers.

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc> for lots of background info

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians> Additional photos and snippets are posted here

<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 July 2015

Planting continues this Sunday July 5th, 9 to noon. Ramaroa Stream.

We have more carex secta and carex dissita plants to go along the Ramaroa Stream edge. There will also be umbrella sedges. Along the higher banks we will plant ribbonwoods, pittosporums and coprosma robusta (karamu), also do some "infill" with secondary trees such as matai and tawa. The stream has been affected by recent floods with bank erosion and stone build up. Some bigish ribbonwoods have been washed away but we have to keep planting so as to eventually consolidate the banks. Access does involve crossing the stream so gum boots would be good, also warm clothes and gloves. Bring your grubbers or spades. Some can put carpet squares around the plants (cut by Julie and Dick). Morning tea on site and a hot dog back at the entrance shed afterwards about midday. We have had great turnouts for the first two planting sessions and hope a good number come again. Follow the flags. These plants were funded by the Community Conservation Partnership Fund run by DOC as well as some grown by Paraparamu Rotary: much appreciated.

Last working bee, 21st June. Also "In the Footsteps of the Marines" planting

Kapiti Joggers and Walkers joined the Guardians for planting as a follow up to their "In the Footsteps of the Marines Run".



They had already jogged around Whareroa for over an hour and then planted 120 plants in a fenced off shelter belt strip running along the top of the bank above the Marines' campsite next to the farm

race. These plants included coprosmas, pittosporums, five finger, kowhai, northern rata and totara. President Roger Childs advises that they will make a planting morning part of their annual calendar. Many thanks to the group and also for their \$500 donation (to go on a picnic table at Five Ways). *The Kapiti Joggers & Walkers club members involved in the planting were: Doug Steven, Jim Hammonds, Judy & Peter Kennedy, Sally Ashley, Daryl Bastin, Glenda Robb, Chris Keating, Jack McAllister, Tony Fraei, Pam & Roger Childs.*

Another 500 plants went into the ground at the Ramaroa Wetland: flaxes and cabbage trees in swampy areas and ribbonwood and pittos along the banks. Due to the 50mm rain the day before the ground was very squelchy, bright green isolepsis plant indicated where the ground is always damp to aid placement. Next time we will be moving to additional planting along the Ramaroa Stream itself (previously planted in 2010).



Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer, Theo Barsanti (& his Landie), June & Sandra Rowland (morning tea), John Rowland, Sue Clark, Doug Morrell, Peter Kentish, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Dick Caldwell (also carpet cutting), Jan Nisbet, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Penny & Ian Redward, Dawn Bush, Don & Mary Beggs, Bernard McManus, Jenny Rowan, Sue Blaikie and Laura van Peer for usual yummy hot dogs with feijoa sauce & chutney. Bernard Cammack continued working on the Dell path. Special thanks to the "larks" who came at 8am to unload the plants from The Greenery and transported them to the planting site.

We also thank the pest control team who are out there very regularly: Shane Williamson, Jason Bohmer, John Rowland, Solly and Jenny Solomon, Shane Cave and Scott Hill. They are part of a wider pest control network with Michael Stace in QE Park and a team from Nga Uruora along the Paekakariki/Pukerua Bay Escarpment.

In June 2015, the Team broke the 2,000 pests-caught-at-Whareroa barrier: Possums: 359, Mustelids: 73, Rodents: 1,610, Hedgehogs & other: 73. Totals 2,115 pests caught since April 2013. Fantastic!



Kieran collapses after carrying plants. It's a good work out!



Liffet transferring coprosma propinqua across the stream

Sue gave planters a lesson on how to identify weasels and stoats, using a freshly caught “wee” weasel to demonstrate. Stoats have a definite black tip to the tail, weasels just have a few black tufts.



Sue shows the black tail tuft to Peter



and discusses detail with Bruce

Without pest control our restoration planting would be of much less benefit. This leads on to:

Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project

This project was launched by Environment Minister Dick Smith on June 24th at QE Park. It is the brainchild of John Lancashire, Whareroa trustee as well as previous Chair of QE Park Friends. A grant of nearly \$300,000 over 3 years will fund various biodiversity “strands” including dune and stream enhancement, studies of wetas and lizards, bird recovery and a significant pest management strategy. There will be considerable practical work to be done by volunteers working with experts in each field. Before and after status will be monitored and the aim is to study and improve practical ways to enhance biodiversity from Pukerua Bay to Raumati South. The three groups involved are Friends of QE Park, NgaUruora and Whareroa Guardians. Whareroa is at the core being the connection between QE Park and the Akatarawa Forest and having significant native forest remnants as well as the upper catchment of the Whareroa Stream. Exciting times are ahead.

Flood Recovery and Track closures

The Link Track and the section of disabled walkway to the northern bridge remain closed but other tracks are usable though mud, drop offs and debris remain in places. There are a couple of steep drop offs on the Downhill Track so especial care is needed if descending on a mountain bike.

And in case you are not “planted out”, Friends of QE Park and GWRC invite you to help plant 5000 Trees:

On Sunday July 12 from 10am to 2pm the Kāpiti community are going to plant 5000 native seedlings at Queen Elizabeth Park and you are invited. This will be a great opportunity to network with locals who are passionate about enhancing the Kāpiti Coast environment and share stories about what your group has been involved with.

Future Plantings at Whareroa:

1st and 3rd Sundays of July, August and possibly September

Other planting projects for this year include planting behind the Cairn, more planting by Upper Bush to enclose the gorse along the stream edge, enhancing East Ridge Track and, with local schools, more entrance planting. Thanks again to all volunteers.



Morning tea



An illicit visitor from neighbour, seen on Carex Valley Track

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc> for lots of background info

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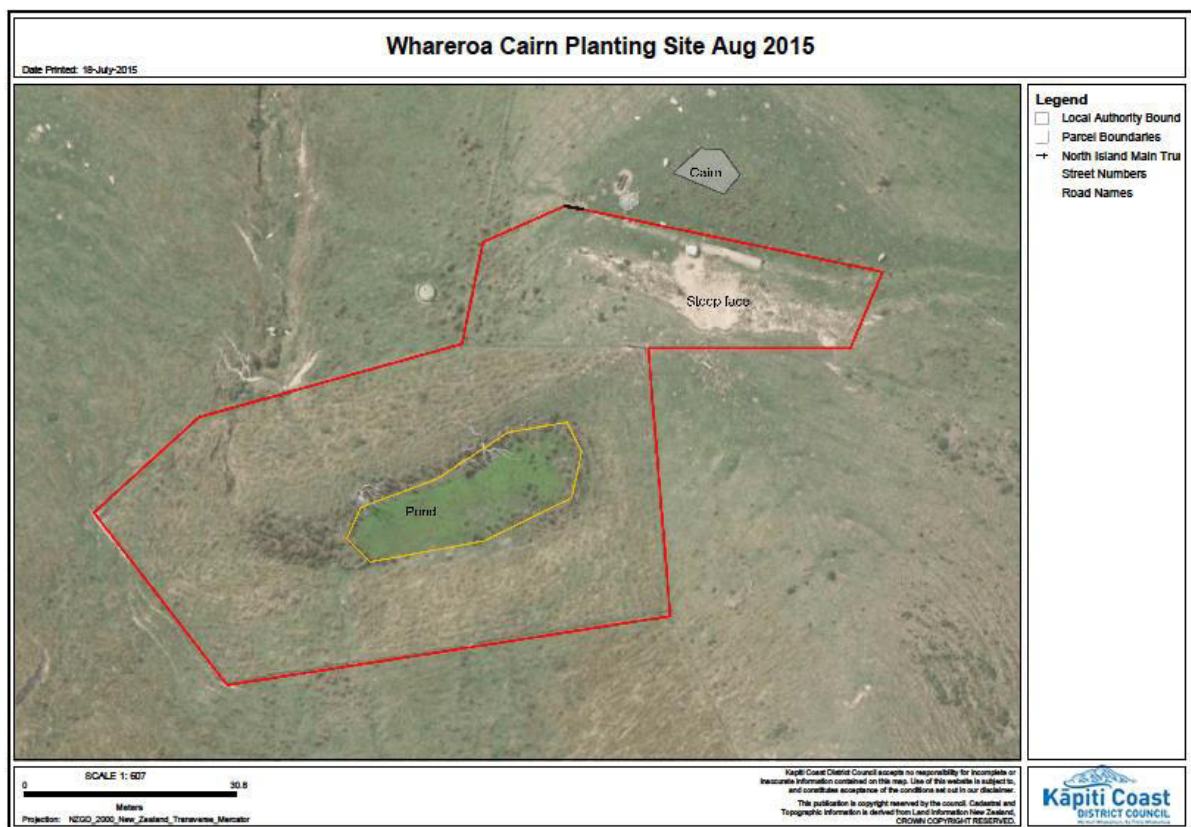


WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 30 July 2015

Planting continues this Sunday Aug 2nd, 9 to noon at The Cairn

Bring your grubbers or spades and follow the flags. Plants will be arriving from Kapiti Nursery at 8am so “early birds” are again invited to come along then to help with putting out. Morning tea on site and a hot dog back at the entrance shed about midday. The area is 3000m² and will be very visible from the farm race. We plan to use mountain flax and hebes on the cut face and the usual regen plants above as well as wetland plants in the pond area. Totara will be a feature and we will leave space for a small path along the dam. The pond dries out in the summer.



A new aspect of planting is aiming to encourage the lizard population at Whareroa. We know of 3

different species which have been seen: forest gecko, green gecko and common skink but sightings are very rare. They like divaricating plants which give them protection from predators and warm sites, ideally with some rocks nearby.

Last working bee, 19th July

About 400 plants went into the ground at the Ramaroa Wetland and along the Ramaroa Stream: carex dissita and secta, ribbonwoods, coprosma propinqua, matai and other odds and ends. We have now completed the Ramaroa Wetland and Stream plantings for this year. These were mainly provided by the DOC Community Conservation Partnerships Fund. We have money for another 4000 plants for next year to use in these areas from the same fund.



Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer, Theo Barsanti (& his Landie), Sue Clark, Doug Morrell, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Dick Caldwell, Dawn Bush, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Robyn & Anfri Hayward, Murray Gibson, Reece Baker, Jan Nisbet, Shane Cave, John Rowland, Michael Stace, Bernard C. Also Laura van Peer for gourmet hot dogs with homemade sauce & chutney. It was a muddy session!



John, Dick and Jan by Coprosma propinqua plantings for lizards to find.



John, Dawn and Ruby with carex dissita



It was a beautiful morning to be out there.

Volunteers are welcome to visit the plants to release them in the coming months, access is over the stile by the Ramaroa Stream to south of the farm race.

Snow, 9th July.



It was sparse but down to Five Ways.

Other events



The "Kremlin" has lost its top, a piece inside is broken. The fans dry the contents of the tank and stop it smelling.

Volunteer Hours

Scott did some calculations from the last 4 months' stats for DOC. Whareroa volunteers contributed the equivalent of 2.5 fulltime workers. Wow. Thanks again to all volunteers.

Kereru feast

Whilst Sue was weeding on the slope by Kohekohe Bush she had a companion just a few feet away enjoying the plentiful muehlenbeckia fruit. Pest population is very low in this area which means more food for birds, as well as less risk. Thanks Sue for the photos.



Nature Signs

These have now been printed onto a durable aluminium base and will appear, mounted on posts, around the Kohekohe Bush Walk in the next few weeks. Thanks to Jan Nisbet for many many hours of time and to the Paekakariki Community Board for the grant.

Schools' Planting Day

Volunteers will be needed on Weds Sept 9th to help. More details to come.

Future Plantings at Whareroa: 1st and 3rd Sundays of August and September

Other planting projects for this year include planting behind the Cairn, more planting by Upper Bush to enclose the gorse along the stream edge, enhancing East Ridge Track and, with local schools, more entrance planting.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 12 August 2015

Planting continues this Sunday Aug 16th, 9 to noon at The Cairn

Bring your grubbers or spades and follow the flags. Last session we did not manage to get enough plants up to the Cairn due to wet conditions but some are now up there with more to follow (we hope). Morning tea on site and a hot dog back at the entrance shed about midday. We will use mountain flax and hebes on the cut face and the usual regen plants above and alongside. Totara and kahikatea will be a feature. **We thank Nga Uruora for providing the Hebe stricta and mountain flax (grown from local seed)** – it is very helpful to have local groups exchanging plants; we were able to give them pigeonwoods from Whareroa seed. **Other plants were grown by Graham Priest of Rotary, some by us and others funded by Living Legends Plus (Project Crimson).**

Last working bee, 02 August

Instead of working at the Cairn we planted more odds and ends in the Ramaroa Stream area and after morning tea planted along the banks of the picnic area by the entrance, beginning the process of shading this stretch of water to prevent weed growth.



About 400 plants went in, Peter cut more carpet squares and Theo, Bruce and Bernard shifted shingle to the Cairn track so that the landrover could get up there. Nice to have two new volunteers Tony and Ian. *Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer, Theo Barsanti (& his Landie), Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Dick Caldwell, Dawn Bush, Jan Nisbet, John, June & Sandra Rowland, Jenny Rowan, Peter Davis, Don & Mary Beggs, Bill Jansen, Bernard McManus, Ian Cairns and Tony Older. Laura van Peer for hot dogs with homemade sauce & chutney. It was another muddy session. Special thanks to the 8am starters! Little visitor Maya planted a tree and hopes to bring her Mummy again.*



Gary with the first load from Kapiti Nurseries



Bruce, Theo and Bernard shovelling shingle



More Coprosma propinqua going in.



Helen taking time away from bird counting.



Hot work Dawn. Ian & Peter on right



Dick, Peter and Peter, Ramaroa



This was all a raging torrent in May



Peter K cutting carpet



Don & Mary enhancing the bank



Sue, Dick & Tony doing the same

Carpet squares are an important part of the process. One can cut about 100 in an hour so many many hours work have gone into the thousands we have used. The carpet is provided by Kapiti District Trust from refurbishment, we only use wool and the main “cutters” are Julie Lines & Richard Caldwell with help from others. Bruce has delivered 500 up to the Cairn site ready to use.

We also thank the Nga Uruora Contracting Team for donating spot spraying and blackberry attack along the Ramaroa.

New Grazing Licenses for Whareroa and QE Park

These have been let to Beetham Pastural, a family farming company from the Wairarapa. They will manage both Whareroa and QE Park grazing with a 10 year licence and will take over on 1st September. William Beetham (Managing Director) and James Lockhart, (Chair of their Board) met representatives of Whareroa Guardians and QE Park Friends last week.

They will be running lambs and young bulls on Whareroa, to grow and manage the grass. It will be a high tech process with active management of the stock – each animal has an identification chip and they are weighed monthly with the intention of producing very high quality meat. Visitors will see cattle (Friesian or Friesian cross) in small herds of about 40, being moved about regularly through the spring and early summer to eat the lush growth. Lambs will come on at the end of November and be grazing through the summer and autumn. We are pleased that cattle will not be on pasture during the winter when their hooves cause pugging and damage to the pasture.

The licence holder is environmentally aware, particularly of the problems of cattle in streams and aims to manage the pasture to reduce slips and stream contamination. There will be investment in fencing, fertiliser and weed control. The farms will be run by Drew Brown who will live in the Whareroa farmhouse along with another farm worker who will live at QE Park.

We feel very positive that farming on Whareroa will be significantly improved, the land stabilised and that over time it will become a “model farm” as the Guardians had expressed in their original “Aims”. William stressed their intention to be actively involved with the community and is very aware of the triple components of the reserve: restoration/heritage and recreation as well as agriculture. For more info about the company go to their website: www.beethampastural.com

10th Anniversary Gathering

The Government announced that Whareroa would not be sold off in August 2005. We invite supporters from the past and present (especially those involved in the “saving”) to join us for a celebration party to recall the events, the people (some sadly already no longer with us), and the development of Whareroa into a vibrant restoration & recreational reserve.

Jenny Rowan’s place: 366 Main Road Nth, Paekakariki Date: Saturday 22 August 2015. Noon to 4pm
Bring: Food to share, any old newsletters or archives to reminisce over and to get out of your spare bedroom! And your favourite tippie. BBQ will be cranking. Wear warm clothes to enjoy the fire pit.

RSVP if coming, by 15 August please: To Jenny: jenjools@xtra.co.nz or 04 292 7663

(Approaching from the north it is on left just before the old Car Haulaways, cross the stream and drive about 750m up the hill. We recommend carpooling from the bottom as limited parking.)

Schools’ Planting Day Weds Sept 9th

Volunteers will be needed to help. Please phone Ann: 021 162 3559 if free or email a reply.

Whareroa Farm Reserve is part of a project to prepare for the arrival of Kakariki

As protected native birds breed successfully in regional sanctuaries such as Zealandia, Matiu/Somes, Mana and Kapiti Island, their offspring will overflow and propel themselves outwards looking for safe havens to feed and raise their own chicks.



Kakariki being banded at Zealandia

A Kāpiti-based community group has been given good news in the shape of a funding boost for biodiversity. The Ministry of the Environment 's Community Environment Fund has given nearly \$300,000 to the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park group for a three-year project aimed at "increasing biodiversity through community action in the 'real' world".

As probably the largest ever single environmental grant to the district it will provide a tremendous boost to conservation in the area. The project has been designed to bring together existing organisations such as the Friends, Whareroa Guardians Community Trust and Nga Uruora plus Nga Manu Trust, Forest and Bird, Greater Wellington Regional and Kāpiti Coast District councils and the Department of Conservation.

Apart from some offshore islands and fenced mainland 'islands', biodiversity continues a huge decline in the rest of the country where people live, work and play. This project attempts to improve biodiversity without the benefit of fences but using habitat restoration and pest control instead. Specific targets for assistance and monitoring are wetas, skinks and geckos, native fish in streams, very rare dune plants and birds such as kākāriki and kākā. Each target species will have a dedicated project team with a leader and technical adviser.

This project will be a big challenge and positive improvements in biodiversity will take time. Results will be published in a community handbook to detail findings which have been successful in local areas such as gardens and reserves where people spend their time.

From the August KCDC "On To It" sustainable living newsletter. (Thanks Sue for passing this on)

<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/globalassets/newsletters/on-to-it/on-to-it-august-2015.pdf>

Future Plantings at Whareroa: 1st and 3rd Sundays of September.

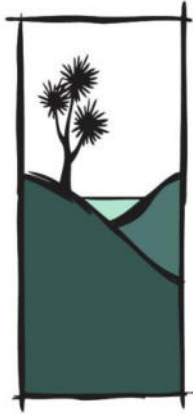
Other planting goals for this year include planting behind the Cairn, more planting by Upper Bush to enclose the gorse along the stream edge, enhancing East Ridge Track and, with schools, more entrance planting.

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<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 September 2015

Planting continues this Sunday Sept 6th, 9 to noon at The Cairn

Bring grubbers or spades and follow the flags (tools will be left by bottom gate, please carry your own up the hill as the Landie is away). Last session we made a good start to the Cairn: planting in brisk showery conditions interspersed with stunning sunny views and rainbows.

There will be morning tea on site and a hot dog back at the entrance shed about midday.

Last working bee, 16th August

New challenges were tackled – Theo and Liffet did sterling work on the face, Kieran dropped plants down from the top to the “mountain goats”. Theo’s Landie was indispensable, delivering tools, plants and the essential morning tea. Luckily all glass thermos flasks had already been culled following previous interesting trips and a mug was the only casualty. A good warm up was had, climbing the 70m up to the site. It was good to have the carpet squares there already, thanks Bruce.



We planted a variety of plants along the base of the cutting, keeping paths open. The whole zone will take several sessions and restoration will take place over 2-3 years. The Ramaroa Wetland will be our first priority next year. From the top one really can see the change the volunteers have made to the reserve: looking down at Ti Kouka, the plantings along the farm race and the Ramaroa. Fabulous.



Dawn, Ruby and Kieran



Kieran throws a plant down to Liffet, Theo in red



The concrete base of the old fertiliser shed, plants waiting in front



Linda in a moist area



Theo, June and Laura providing morning tea



Kieran and Ruby balancing on top of the Cairn

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti (& his Landie), Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Dick Caldwell, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Jan Nisbet, June & Sandra Rowland, Bill Jansen, Linda Hill, Liffet

Stewart, Helen Griffiths, Daan Heenemayan (just arrived from the Netherlands to live in Paekakariki) and Laura van Peer for hot dogs with homemade chutney. Bruce Bulmer had previously transported carpet squares up, (which Dick had cut). Bernard Cammack continued on the Dell track, Shane Williamson was out trapping and a group were moving gravel onto the mountain bike track. (Jan spent half the time on the bike track and half planting: a multifaceted volunteer!)

10th Anniversary Gathering

A group of Guardians celebrated 10 years since the decision to keep Whareroa in public ownership at Jenny Rowan's place. Great to see supporters from the very beginning mingling with newer volunteers. Liffet baked the birthday cake, memories were shared and old photos viewed.



Jenny welcoming us all



John Lancashire and John Porter. Active from the beginning



Rachel leading us in the Whareroa Song



Some of the group



June, 92 and Leo, 2 (grandson of Rachel & Leon)



Theo, Janet Mason (legal advisor), Jenny, Jools & Sascha

The highlights were June and Leo blowing out the candles – oldest and youngest supporters and the singing of the new verses for the Whareroa song – many thanks to Phill Simmonds (see below). We hope Phill and Rachel can do a reprise of the original song using the new words. For more photos and links to the YouTube video go to Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>

Schools' Planting Day Weds Sept 9th

Volunteers still welcome to join in this fun day. In the morning 71 children from Paraparaumu Beach School will plant about 180 trees along the stream by the entrance and in the afternoon 60 children from Raumati South will plant up by the Ramaroa Wetland. They also have a bush walk and do some karaka seedling removal. Please phone Ann: 021 162 3559 if free for a half or whole day. Thanks.

Stock will be arriving at Whareroa soon

Drew and Sas Brown and their three sons have moved in to the farmhouse and started working on establishing the grazing. Welcome. Cattle will initially be coming in to the Ramaroa Valley.

Dates: Last planting Sun Sep 20th. Working bee Sun Oct 4th

Guardians' Picnic/Open Day with Kapiti Mountain Bike Club - Sun Nov 1st

Whareroa 10 year anniversary

by Phill Simmonds Aug 2015

Well it's ten years on and we're still singing this song . . . Whareroa

For all the work that's been done and for the victory won . . . Whareroa

I can see you smiling, we're one united force
There's no more crying - nature's taking her course
You know it's too easy to let it slip away
This land is on the right track oh yeah
And we know that if we let you go
We'll never get you back

I hear the stream is so clean, the fish are living their dream . . . Whareroa

Take a walk on the track and see the birds have come back . . . Whareroa

Let's sing together this is the people's land
No matter the weather we're lending a helping hand
You know it's too easy to let it slip away
This land is on the right track oh yeah
And we know that if we let you go
We'll never get you back

Well the stone wall's the best, welcoming every guest . . . Whareroa

They can ride on a bike or maybe go for a hike . . . Whareroa

So here's a hip hip hooray for the people today . . . Whareroa

We're all feeling proud and we'll sing it out loud . . . Whareroa

I can see you smiling. We're one united force
There's no more crying - nature's taking her course
You know it's too easy to let it slip away
This land is on the right track oh yeah
And we know that if we let you go
We'll never get you back



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 17 September 2015

John Lancashire RIP

John died this week. He was actively involved in the campaign to “save” Whareroa. John was a foundation trustee and our 2nd Chair as well as being Chair of QE Park Trust for many years. He brought huge expertise to the Trust and started off our restoration planting by sourcing a grant of \$84,000 in 2006. This year, after 2 year’s work he obtained a further grant of almost \$300,000 for the Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project. His legacy will live on.



Foundation Trustees 2006. John in red. (Missing Ruth Rainey)



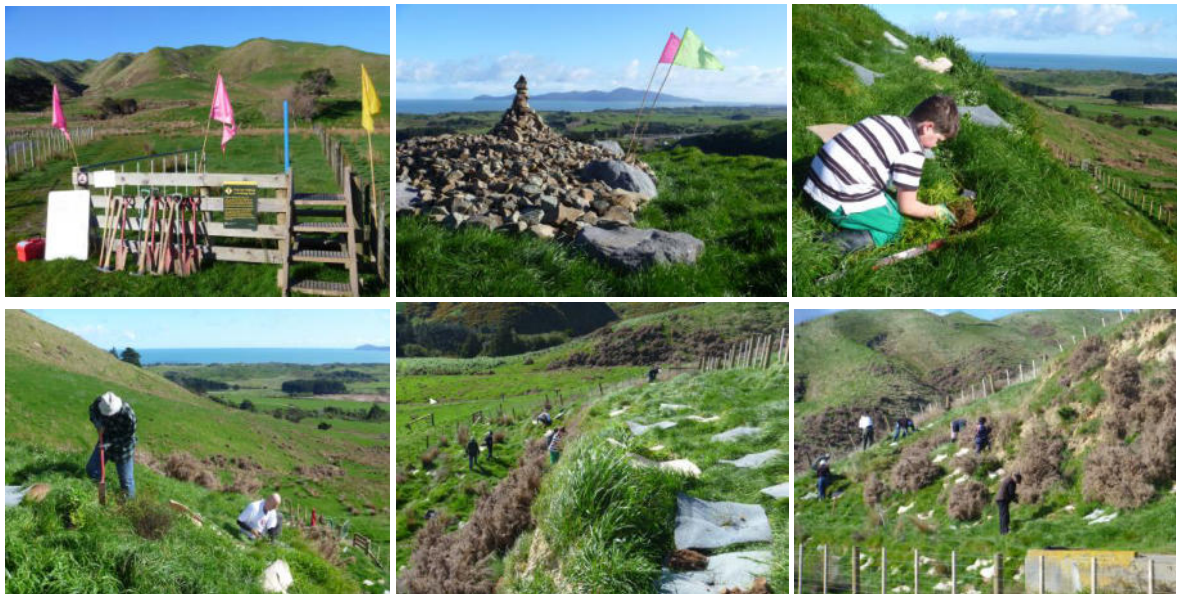
Whareroa display at QE Park Open Day 2007

Next Planting, 9 to noon, Sunday Sept 20th

This will be the final official planting session for 2015 so last chance to enjoy those lovely hot dogs. We have about 200 plants for above Ramaroa Wetland and another 200 up by the Cairn and a few odds and ends. Everyone is welcome.

Planting Bee Sept 6th at the Cairn

A beautiful morning saw a good variety planted, right along the top of the quarry face and on either side. Garry from Kapiti Nurseries arrived at 8am with the last load of plants, these were for the Schools’ Planting Day and John R was very busy digging holes ready for that event. Milk was forgotten for morning tea; luckily Jeremy and Anna were diverted en route to bring in essential supplies.



Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Richard Caldwell, Bill Jensen, Liffet Stewart, Jeremy & Anna Cave, Bernard McManus, Sue Blaikie, Tony Griffiths, June & John Rowland, Laura, DJ and Cory van Peer, Jan Nisbet, Ann Evans and Bernard Cammack (digging beyond the Dell) and to the early birds who helped unload – Jan, Ann, Sue & Liffet.

3rd Schools' Planting Day, Sept 9th

About 130 primary students from Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati South Schools planted 500 trees along the entrance stream and above the Ramaroa Wetland. They also had a “bush experience” enjoying magnified views of weta and fungi and seeing forest giants. Water and mud were popular. Many thanks to the teachers and parents as well as to our volunteers who coordinated the day: Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Jan Nisbet, Ann Evans, Sascha Wassong, Aki Kurihara and John Rowland. Also thanks to Whittakers for chocolate bars for everyone.



Paraparaumu Beach School



Raumati South School

Paraparaumu Beach School:



Raumati South School:



Free Five Minute Bird Count 2 day course Wellington 10-11 November 2015

Identify a range of common forest birds using the Department of Conservation 5 minute bird count protocol. The five-minute bird count technique (5MBC) monitors the abundance of forest birds over time. The course involves time in the field undertaking 5MBC's. Monitoring techniques must be applied consistently so that the collected is accurate and the studies can be replicated over time. That way, we can build a local and national picture of changes and trend and (hopefully) show our work is making a positive difference for conservation.

For more information and to book a place <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training-and-teaching/field-based-courses/five-minute-bird-count-5mbc/>

Please let Sue Blaikie: (sgblaikie@gmail.com) know if you enrol as it may be possible to share transport. Sue is coordinating the bird "arm" of the Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project. Bird counters will be invaluable over the next 3 years.

Cattle at Whareroa in the eco-zone and on the tracks

John Rowland saw one crossing the bike grid from Whareroa back onto Campbell's Mill Rd (CMR), it stepped carefully across the rails. More effective cattle proofing is needed as there is a risk to bikers suddenly meeting a cattle beast on the track. Ideally cattle should not graze on CMR.

New double seat on East Ridge Track

Many thanks to Don and Mary Beggs for this clever creation, made from recycled fence posts and battens from Whareroa. It provides 360 degree views. Don is also our chief fence remover having cleared several hundreds of metres of superfluous fences thus opening up the ridges and planting areas. His specialty is using a "timber jack" to pull up the posts. At the moment he is working on the fences above Kohekohe Bush so that plantings can flow across the ridge to join the bush and thus protect it from wind damage. If coming down the Kapiti Lookout Track please carry battens down and leave them at the entrance near the caravan. School children carried lots down.

Grazing – from Beetham Pastural blog. [QEP Whareroa Farm](#)

"150 300 kg Friesian bulls have arrived at Whareroa, these bully boys are very quiet but mischievous, so we are getting the electric fences up and running to keep them out of trouble."

* * * * *

Please keep to the marked tracks on the grazed section of Whareroa.

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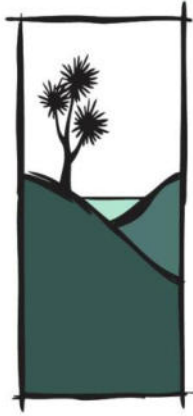
NB: Sunday November 1st Picnic/Open day with Kapiti Mountain Bike Club

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc> for lots of background info

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians> Additional photos and snippets are posted here

<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 02 October 2015

Next working bee Sunday October 4th 9 to noon

We plan activities around The Hub – releasing plants by the Ti Kouka Stream, putting up more nature signs and doing some stream protection by moving stones. Morning tea provided at The Hub. Everyone welcome. Follow the flags.

Planting Season 2015

About 3,750 plants went into the ground, in the new Ramaroa Wetland site and behind the Cairn. Both areas will continue to be the main projects for 2016 and probably 2017. Funding is already secured for 2016.

We thank everyone involved and our plant donors: DOC Community Conservation Partnerships Fund, Living Legends Plus (Project Crimson/Tindall Foundation) and Nga Uruora. Some plants were grown by us from Whareroa seeds.

The Schools' Planting Day is now well established and popular, thanks to Whittakers Chocolate who again donated bars. Quite a few children were coming for the 2nd time and we hope they will bring their families back to see their trees.

Last working Bee, 20th September



Ramaroa Wetland perimeter planting, finishing off at the Schools' site – there were some unfilled holes left over



Up behind the Cairn. The bare slope has been planted with mountain flax and Hebe stricta with the foreground and adjacent area planted with trees such as lemonwood, mahoe, tauhinau, Olearia paniculata and Ti Kouka along with some groups of totara. It was quite hard work digging holes in difficult terrain and we all had a good work out. The plants were well watered in.

Many thanks to: Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, June, John & Sandra Rowland, Peter Davis, Tony Older, Bernard McManus, Ann Evans, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Tony & Helen Griffiths and Ken Fraser

Farming

The young bulls are moving around the paddocks and providing interest for visitors. The “Airstrip” is to be planted with a forage crop to provide feed during the predicted dry summer.



Bird Count cycle starting again

Helen Griffiths is repeating bird counts at Sites 1-5. This is after a two year gap so it will be interesting to see if there is any change after the intensive pest control and increasing vegetation. This cycle is part of the Kapiti Biodiversity Project, monitoring is also recommencing in QE Park. When you pass a “Bird Count Site” why not stop for 5 minutes and look and listen. A reminder that DOC are providing free 5 Minute Bird Count training in Wellington in November – see last Update for details.

The Kapiti Biodiversity Project has also been checking the little blue penguin population by Paekakariki and putting up more weta motels at Whareroa.

Pest Trapping

A total of 2,382 pests have been caught since April 2013. There are 99 box traps, these are checked 2-3 times a month - a huge commitment by the trapping team: Shane, Shane, John, Jason and Solly. Scot has been overseas but will be back soon. Numbers of pests caught have been lower over recent months – possibly due to winter but also possibly due to a lower population (we hope). Pest control is also occurring in QE Park where Michael Stace has been working for several years and Nga Uruora are working on the Paekakariki Escarpment.

Visitor Activities

With the recent nice weather Whareroa has been busy with families in the school holidays.



The Dell



Watching the cattle



Leo (g'son of early trustees Leon & Rachel)

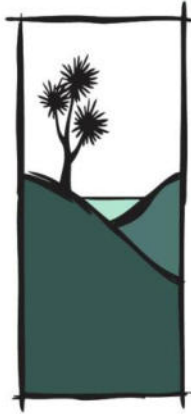
It was good to see a large “Fathers and Sons” group walking up to the Rocks recently.

Kapiti Epic Bike Event

On Sunday Oct 11th there will be a bike event at Whareroa between 8 and 10am. This involves a group doing as many circuits as they can in 2 hours, up the Link Track and down the Downhill Track. This follows their Maungakotukutuku Road event on Saturday 10th. Info: www.kapitiepico.co.nz.

Picnic Sunday Nov 1st with Kapiti Mountain Bike Club - Conservation week

Further info nearer the date - there will be children's activities and guided walks.



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 26 October 2015

Conservation week Picnic on Sunday Nov 1st with Kapiti Mountain Bike Club Open day.

Come along to the Hub with your picnic or BBQ food. There will be some mountain bike kid's activities as well as Conservation Week activities for families. See flyer for more details. Guided activities are flexible, depending upon demand. Forecast looks good at present.

Shane's pest demo was very popular last year as were Jan's weta motel building activities. Lots more motels are needed for the new Biodiversity Project, so all help welcome.

We hope to see many of you on Sunday. It is nice to have a relaxing day together after the hard work of the planting season. Please pass the flyer on to anyone who might be interested and perhaps put it up in work places. Thanks.

Last working Bee, 04 October



A select group gathered rocks for stream protection and cleared gorse from around the Hub toilets and down towards the Gums. The area looks great now. *Many thanks to: June & Sandra Rowland (morning tea); Ian Redward, Bernard Cammack and Ann Evans (rocks); and Don & Mary Beggs, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Richard Caldwell and Dawn Bush (gorse cutting).*



Two trailer loads were cleared from the paddock. Stream erosion threatens the Dell track. There were once 2 toetoe rows.



Enjoying morning tea break at the Hub



New volunteer Lynette Francis planted her 1st ribbonwood.

New picnic table at Five Ways

Kapiti Joggers and Walkers donated \$500 from their “In the Footsteps of the Marines” run/walk for this table. Many thanks to the Club.



The table was built by Richard Caldwell (of mower fame), driven to Five Ways by DOC staff and erected yesterday by Theo Barsanti, John Rowland, Ian & Penny Redward and Ann Evans (controller of the spirit level).

Five Ways is a real meeting place and it will be great to have somewhere to hang out and enjoy the view and watch people struggling up from the bottom! The bush remnant immediately beyond Five Ways is a little gem of native variety and worth a leisurely wander through.

Botany and Birds



A falcon was spotted perched in Tilley Rd, Paekakariki last week by Jan Nisbet (photo above). The table workers were entertained by a pair of falcons doing aerobatics high up – their flight is quite different from that of harriers. Maybe they will nest at Whareroa. They are very protective of their young so hopefully they would choose a remote place away from tracks to nest. The totara on the right is near the silt trap, planted 2009.



Clematis fosterii (above) grown from seed from plants on Mataihuka walkway. Growing over the hump just past the ford by the Gums. This plant is also common on Kapiti Island just above the high tide mark so it is tough! On the right, flowering Whau, on the terrace above the Dell. This plant came from QEP nursery.

Pest Trapping

The trappers are catching a lot of possums and weasels at the moment – this is really important before nesting gets under way.

Working Bee 1st Sunday in December

Probably checking out the Ramaroa plantings.

No working bee in January

Our contacts:

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