

WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 04 February 2016

2015 was a busy and productive year. Many thanks to all involved.

Next Working Bee will be Sunday 07 February 9 to noon

We plan to work in the Lower Ramaroa Stream area, doing more releasing in the Ramaroa Wetland plantings and also planning and clearing access tracks through our 2009 plantings. Everyone is welcome: bring gloves, grubbers or shears, hand saws. There are stream crossings but water flow is so low at present that it is likely that feet can be kept dry. Morning tea will be at the picnic table under the tall kahikatea and matai trees.

Te Ara Ramaroa

We are delighted that Walking Access NZ has provided a grant to fund the signs for this track. This is the 2nd grant we have received from Walking Access and we are very grateful.



Looking down on Ramaroa Stream plantings



Looking down the Ramaroa Valley, the track will come up the valley then ascend by the track visible on the hill slope on the right to the top of the ridge.

This will be a tramping track, commencing at the farm race, passing through our Ramaroa streamside plantings to the Ramaroa Bush. This native forest remnant contains mature kohekohe, matai, titoki, milk trees, nikau and many smaller trees, vines and ferns. The track crosses the Ramaroa Stream and after leaving the bush follows the Ramaroa Stream up its valley crisscrossing about 20 times so a real wet foot walks. It follows the farm track so it's easy to navigate; stock graze

the paddocks so giving farm experience. There are lovely views out to Kapiti. The last stage is a reasonably steep climb up to the ridge top just below the Rocks where it joins the Cairn/Ti Kouka/Rocks Track to form a loop. Total climb is 300m.



Ramaroa plantings to be traversed Inside the Ramaroa Bush, following the old Lands and Survey 1980's track

Volunteers will be active over the next few weeks clearing and marking the route and last of all the signs will be erected. Drew the farm manager has offered to help with transport of posts and signs up to the high points; thanks Drew. If you would like to be involved please send us an email. We will be keeping you in touch with progress.

Last 2015 working bee, the “Whareroa Weedathon”: Sunday Dec 6th

We hoped we might have some extra help from the wider community, however, as Liffet put it – “not an unfamiliar face was seen”. Many thanks to the stalwarts who came along to the last working bee of the year and cleared around the 2015 plantings in the Ramaroa Wetland: *Dawn Bush, Bill Jensen, Doug Morrell and Sue Clark, Jan Nisbet, Bernard McManus, June & Sandra Rowland, Shane Williamson, Denise, Peter Kentish and Penny & Ian Redward*. Yummy cake, thanks Penny.



Pest Trapping in 2015 (figures in brackets totals since April 2013)

Possums: 226 (459)

Mustelids: 36 (91)

Rats: 630 (1220)

Mice: 394 (826)

Hedgehogs

& others: 43 (82)

Total 1,329 (2678)

This team has contributed **so** much, thanks guys (Shane Cave, Shane Williamson, John Rowland, Scott Hill, Jason Bohmer and Solly Solomon). The increased bird life and wetas in residence are very evident. Go to Nature Space for more detail.

Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project

This is now in full swing from Pukerua Bay to Raumati South. Birds are being counted, penguins are studied, and trials of stream side plantings for shade have started. Lots more weta motels are on the trees. You may see little squares of undeline roofing on the ground – these are to attract lizards: geckos and skinks. There are also small pit traps to catch them – monitoring is happening this month and the traps will then go away until next year. And overarching these activities is much greater intensity of pest trapping. We are fortunate to be part of this project which will enhance biodiversity at Whareroa.

Farming

It is good to see the farm well stocked. A new water tank up by the Cairn is feeding a network of troughs which allows better usage of the paddocks. More fencing is proposed and a woolshed is soon to be established at QE Park.

Plans for 2016

As well as the Biodiversity project work we will continue planting along the Ramaroa Wetland, using the 2nd year's funding from DOC's Community Conservation Partnership Fund. We have applied for a grant to restore the "Kiwi Caravan". Te Ara Ramaroa Track will be completed. A Whareroa brochure is being produced. The Whareroa Oral History project will soon be completed. And of course there is maintenance of plantings and tracks and ongoing removal of fence wires and posts. A full report will be presented at the AGM in April. It can only happen with the support of you, our volunteers.

Health & Safety

We recently completed a Whareroa Health & Safety Plan with the help of DOC. If you volunteer individually, we would like you to read it. We will send to those we know of but there may be others – please send us an email or check it out on Nature Space. Many thanks.

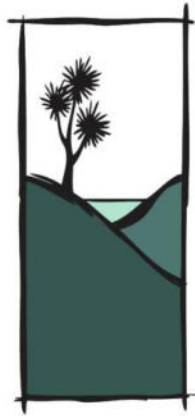
Our contacts:

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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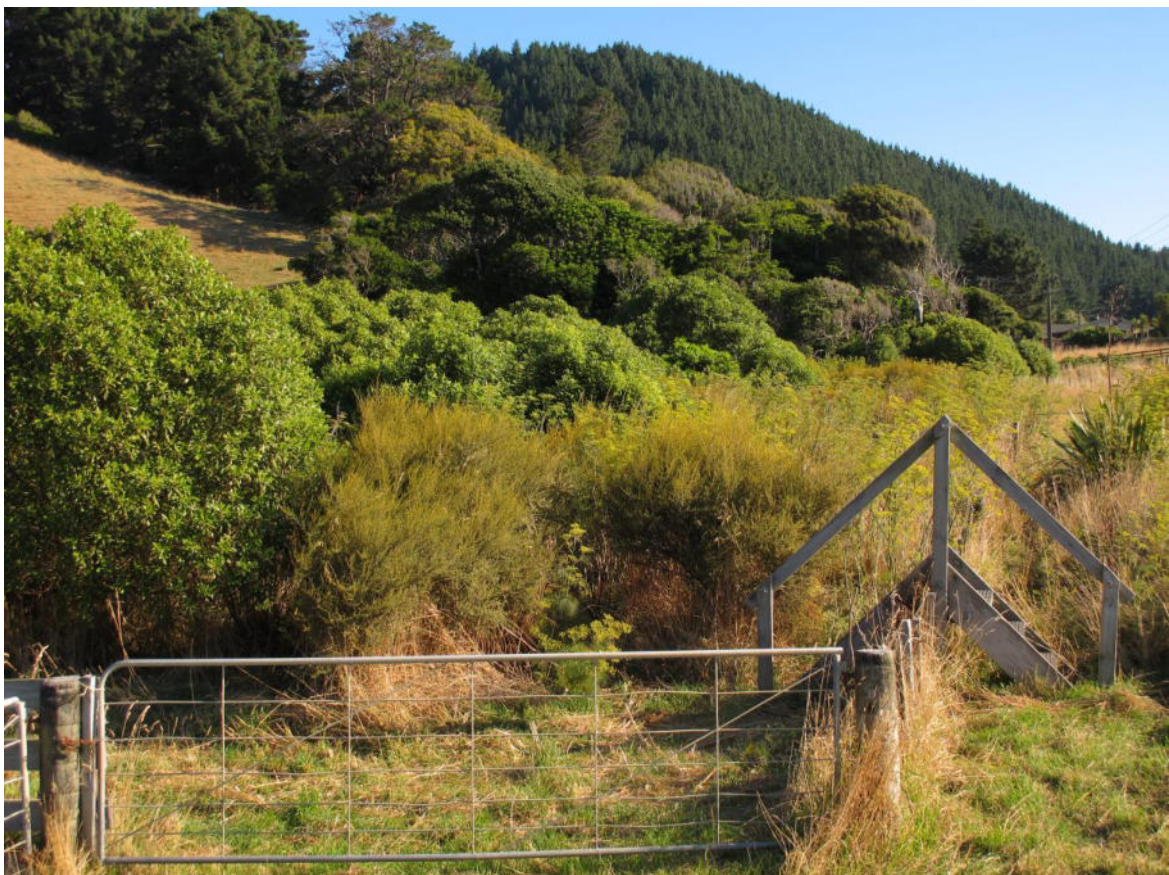


WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 30 March 2016

Next Working Bee will be Sunday 03 April 9 to noon

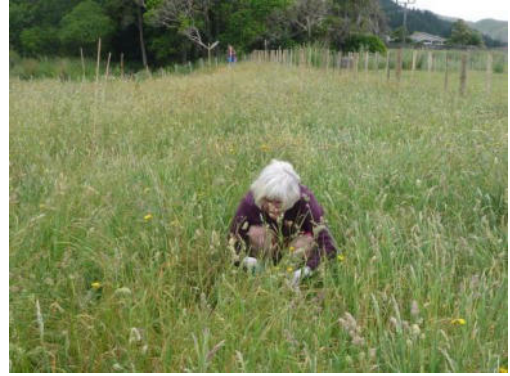
We plan to continue work in the Lower Ramaroa Stream area, improving access through our 2009 plantings for the Te Ara Ramaroa Track. People who like digging in mud can improve drainage at entrance stile (very squelchy – gumboots needed). Others can release this year's plantings in nearby Ramaroa Wetland. Everyone is welcome: bring gloves, grubbers or shears, hand saws. There are stream crossings. Morning tea will be at the Ramaroa picnic table under the tall kahikatea and matai trees. Follow the flags to find us.



Second section of Ramaroa plantings, Ramaroa Bush beyond. Route now open through here.



The same location back in 2010, releasing new plants!



AGM Monday 18th April 7pm Paraparaumu Library meeting room

After AGM business, Ann Evans will show a photographic review of the last 10 years at Whareroa – this will be interactive: an opportunity to see the changes and comment. The new Whareroa brochure will also be available, this is primarily meant for people who do not know about Whareroa – they are being distributed to information centres, libraries, kindies etc. Laura has been busy taking them around and supporters are welcome to take them to work places etc.

A reminder that if you are interested in joining as a trustee, please contact Liffet or Ann 021 162 3559 for more info. We hope to see many of you there.

Last working bee: Sunday Mar 6th

Another good turnout with more new volunteers: welcome to Justin Corbett & Karen Hedlund, new to Paekakariki. Also to Liz Johnstone with brownies/pippins Emily, Ayla & Sophie. We cleared the upper plantings along the Te Ara Ramaroa route. This involved removing old fencing, cutting gorse and some impeding small trees and attacking blackberry. The children cleared parsnip weed from a section of stream. We have now reached the edge of Ramaroa Bush. This week we need to improve the hill climb with zig-zags to access the Ramaroa Bush track. The Kahikatea/ matai picnic area gave much needed shade for morning tea and provides a lovely destination though one does have to get wet feet to get there.

Many thanks to: *Doug Morrell and Sue Clark, Bernard McManus, June & Sandra Rowland, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Liz & Emily Johnstone, Ayla & Sophie Walker, Jan Nisbet, Nikau Gibson, Dave Cox, Bruce Bulmer, Dave Allan, Aki Kurihara, Miyako, Enzo & Bernard Cammack, Denise Heals, Bill Jensen, Liffet Stewart, Justin Corbett & Karen Hedlund.*





Bernard McM & Dave



Silt trap cleared



Gavin investigating water supply valves



Marking sites for blue poles in mid Ramaroa Valley



Upper Ramaroa: track in valley then climbs the ridge (foreground)

Water supply

Water for the toilets and stock troughs comes from 2 streams, gathered in the “Silt trap” then piped to the reservoir from which it is distributed. Rob Bigwood has recently cleared lots of silt out of the trap and Gavin Klee, plumber, has helped us in checking pipes for leaks. Many thanks Rob & Gavin.

Other snippets:

The bridge that was swept away in the May floods has now been removed by DOC. DOC workers have also been clearing tracks. Weta numbers have exploded – there is “overcrowding in the motels” (they like it that way). Rat catch numbers are down so it seems that the intensive trapping is paying off, you may see new reloading rat traps (below). Helen Griffiths is re visiting the 1st five bird count sites to compare with 3 years ago, over time this will give useful data about the reserve.



Membership renewals are due

Treasurer Michael will be at the AGM or you can renew online. New members are always welcome, please use the same form. Many thanks

Bequest. The Trust acknowledges with thanks a generous bequest from John Lancashire, a foundation trustee and one time Chair and a committed advocate for both Whareroa and QE Park. John was instrumental in the “saving” and subsequent biodiversity development.

Dates:

Monday April 18th 7pm AGM Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room

Sunday May 1st Working Bee. 9 to noon

Planting season will be 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings, June, July, August (with BBQ at end)

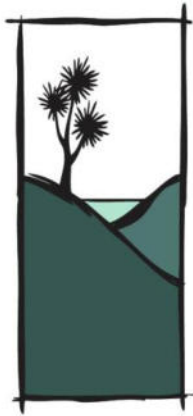
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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 29 April 2016

Next Working Bee will be Sunday 01 May, 9 to noon

Work in the Lower Ramaroa Stream area will continue; improving access through our 2009 plantings for the Te Ara Ramaroa Track. Everyone is welcome: bring gloves, grubbers or shears, hand saws and secateurs. There are stream crossings. Morning tea provided. Follow the flags to find us.

A smaller group will put in signs and posts at the top of the new track near the Rocks.

Last working bee: Sunday April 3rd

Another good turnout. We cleared rubbish from the stream and improved the hill climb with zig-zags to access the Ramaroa Bush track. Further work is needed here. Much gorse bit the dust. A gang assessed and drained the swampy area at the beginning of the track and worked on a diversion which involved cutting down dead trees. Another session will be needed here as well.



At the Kahikatea picnic site



Dave chipping away at the track

Many thanks to: *Bernard McManus, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Dave Cox, Dave Allan, Aki Kurihara, Miyako & Enzo Cammack, Bill Jensen, Ian & Penny Redward, Theo Barsanti, Sascha*

Wassong, Shane Williamson, Scott Hill, Richard Caldwell, Rachel Salive (yummy baking) and Linda Hill.



Shane, Theo & Sascha



Shane tackling the vegetation



Bernard & Peter in the swamp



Miyako, Bill, Rachel, Enzo, Dave & Aki



Rachel



Linda

Extra Te Ara Ramaroa working bee: Sunday April 17th

12 blue painted posts were erected along the Ramaroa Valley in very difficult ground and gorse and thistles were removed.



Drew after dropping off posts



Sarah ready to start



John, Scott & Shane



Peter & Bernard



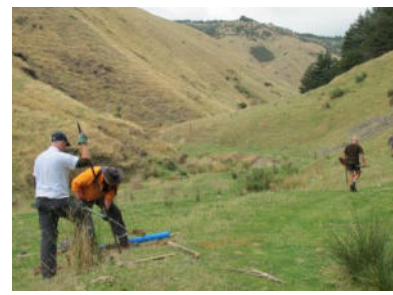
Dawn & June



Ann



Liffet, Shane & Penny, gorse pile on left



Scott & Shane with John heading off

Many thanks to farmer Drew who transported posts and to Liffet Stewart, Shane Williamson, Scott Hill, John Rowland, Peter Kentish, Sarah McMurray, Bernard McManus, Ian & Penny Redward and Shane Cave. Ann did blue painting on site and Dawn and June brought us morning tea.

AGM Monday 18th April. Trustee changes: Jenny and Ruby.

A good AGM was held. Ann Evans showed a photographic review of the last 10 years at Whareroa – this was enjoyed and brought forth many laughs as well as reminding us of how far restoration has progressed.

We are sad to lose Jenny Rowan as a trustee; she leaves to enjoy other commitments including being Kapiti’s representative on DOC’s Conservation Board. Jenny has contributed hugely to Whareroa, being very active in the “saving” as well as our first Chair through challenging times, not to forget bringing TrukTruk to many planting bees. Many thanks Jenny for your very significant input.



Jenny and TrukTruk



Ruby

We welcomed Ruby Durrant-Bush as a new trustee. Ruby has been involved at Whareroa since 2008 and has planted many trees. She received the KCDC youth Kaitiaki/Environment award last year and will bring a different perspective to our meetings. We look forward to working with her.

Living Legends Plus / Project Crimson grant

We will receive the third and last of our \$5,000 donations from Living Legends this year. These grants continued from their generous Rugby World Cup sponsorship five years ago – those plantings, on difficult terrain on the hillsides above the entrance, are now visible from the highway. Living Legends have supported 18 projects around the country and are now starting a register of countrywide native plantings. Many thanks for this funding which comes from the Tindall Foundation (The Warehouse).

Winter Planting at Ramaroa Wetland

This will continue from last year's work, mainly planting the slopes along Totara Stream which drains the hillsides as well as taking overflow from the reservoir into the Ramaroa Stream. Ultimately we hope to retire and plant all stream edges to provide shade, reduce run off and improve fish habitat. The 4,000 plants were funded by Dept of Conservation's Community Partnership Fund.

Link Track repairs:

DOC workers have continued clearing tracks. They plan to start work repairing the Link Track following last May's flood damage very soon. You may see a small dozer; it should be ready for In the Footsteps of the Marines run on May 29th.

Any overdue membership renewals are welcome

Many thanks to those who have already renewed. Membership is important in indicating community support as well as the \$\$\$!! You can renew online. New members are always welcome.

Adult (waged) \$25; (unwaged/concession) \$10

Family/household \$40

Student/youth \$10

Life \$500

Corporate \$500

Donations gratefully received (WGCT is a charitable trust: donations over \$5.00 are tax-deductible)

Pay by direct credit to WGCT bank account: 03-0732-0429996-00. Please be sure to enter your name

Dates:

Sunday May 1st Working Bee. 9 to noon

Plantings will be 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings, June, July, August (with BBQ at end) starting on June 5th. Possibly kohekohe will be flowering by then.

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk. May 29th 2016. Enroll on line at marinesnz.com

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 May 2016

Next Working Bee will be Sunday 05 June, 9 to noon followed by BBQ

1st planting session of the year, continuing in the Ramaroa Wetland. Everyone is welcome: bring grubbers or spades (we have some). Spots have been sprayed by NgaUruora. Much of the planting is on the slope, some areas still have dead gorse present, so strong footwear and gloves are recommended. Morning tea provided and a hot dog back at the entrance shed afterwards. Follow the flags to find us.

Whareroa Wednesday Weeders start Weds June 1st 9 to noon

Liffet Stewart is setting up our own Whareroa Weedbusters, to meet every Weds. morning. The group will concentrate on weeds affecting restoration such as blackberry, thistle & tradescantia. Weeding will be mainly by grubbing and handsaws though some volunteers will be trained for selective spraying. Please come along on the 1st or contact Liffet at 02 044 9728 or 905 3355.

Last working bee: Te Ara Ramaroa. Sunday May 1st

Another fantastic turnout. We cleared rubbish and weed from the stream and improved the hill climb to access the Ramaroa Bush track. Stumps were cut and vegetation trimmed.



A subgroup ventured along Campbell's Mill Rd to the Rocks (thanks for access to Will van Crutchen). They erected a stile and more marker posts as well as the top Te Ara Ramaroa sign (two track signs cost over \$1,500: thanks to the Walking Access Commission for funding them). It was busy up at the Rocks with several people coming up while we were working.

Two more stiles are needed beyond Ramaroa Bush, to be built by Shane Cave – thanks Shane.



Ann, Shane C, John, Shane W & Ian



Bernard and marker post



Rocks to Kapiti Island



Stile builders Shane & Shane



John checking out the completed stile

Many thanks to: *Bernard McManus, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Dave Cox, Bill Jensen, Ian Redward, Shane Williamson, Richard Caldwell, Rachel Salive, Linda Hill, Shane Cave, Liffet Stewart, John, June & Sandra Rowland, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Linda Hill, Mary Beggs, Dawn Bush, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Michael Stace and Bruce Bulmer.*

Many thanks also to Linda for donating her pre-loved Stihl weed trimmer, this will be very useful in track and plantings maintenance. It will be kept in the shed. Would any volunteer interested in using it please contact Ann 021 162 3559 to discuss Health & Safety etc.

Volunteers did further work marking and clearing the route on May 15th and 22nd. Since then plumber Barry Stone has improved the access with his digger after finishing work on the Link Track. The track sign will be unveiled on opening day, June 19th.



In Ramaroa Bush





Thanks To Liffet Stewart, Ann Evans, Sandra & John Rowland, Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Bernard McManus, Bruce Bulmer & Shane Williamson and Barry Stone. And Ann for little signs.

Winter Planting at Ramaroa Wetland

This will continue from last year's work, mainly planting the slopes along Totara Stream which drains the hillsides as well as taking overflow from the reservoir into the Ramaroa Stream. Ultimately we hope to retire and plant all stream edges to provide shade, reduce run off and improve fish habitat. The 4,000 (& 2000 from last year) plants were funded by Dept of Conservation's Community Fund. Dick has cut about 2,000 carpet squares. Wow! (As well as kept our tracks mown). Thanks ++ Dick.



Dick's carpet squares.



Last year's plants have taken amazingly considering the dry summer:



Link Track repairs:

DOC workers have continued clearing tracks and the digger has cleared the slips. Further work is still needed to tidy up the cambers and drainage.

Marines' Heritage Walk opening at Whareroa 11.45 Mon May 30th

MarinesNZ Trust has provided signage interpreting structures from the WW II Camp Mackay to form a heritage walk, starting in the entrance information bay. Many thanks to the Trust. See attached flyer for details of other activities this weekend. Everyone welcome to the events.

Local Pest control workshop Sat June 11th. See:

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/sites/default/files/pest%20control%20workshop%20June%202016.pdf> This is run by the Kapiti Biodiversity Project.

Any overdue membership renewals are welcome

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Pay by direct credit to WGCT bank account: 03-0732-0429996-00. Please be sure to enter your name. Alternatively, send a cheque to Michael Keith, 8 Te Miti St, Paekakariki. Thank you.

Dates:

Sunday May 29th. In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk.

Monday May 30th. 10am Marines' Memorial Day service at QEP (If wet at Memorial Hall, The Parade, Paekakariki)

11.45am Opening of Marines' Heritage Walk at Whareroa.

Sunday June 5th. Planting 9 to noon then hot dog. Possibly kohekohe will be flowering.

Sunday June 19th. Planting 9am to 10.30 then morning tea then

Opening of Te Ara Ramaroa at 11am followed by a guided walk through the first section, including flowering kohekohe in Ramaroa Bush, to the Upper Ramaroa Valley.

Plantings will then be 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings July, and August.



May fun at Whareroa



Kohekohe fruiting

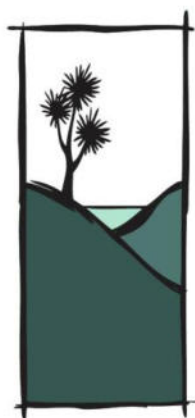
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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 15 June 2016

Next Planting Bee Sunday 19 June, 9 - 10.15am, to morning tea then Opening of Te Ara Ramaroa at 11am

Everyone is welcome - to plant first or just come along for the Opening.

9 to 10.15am: Our 2nd planting session of the year will continue in the Ramaroa Wetland. Bring grubbers or spades (we have some). Strong footwear and gloves are recommended. Follow the flags to find us.

10.30am: Morning tea back at the shed (NB No BBQ this week)

At about 10.45 Rob Stone from DOC will sign a Management Agreement with the Guardians.

11am: Opening of Te Ara Ramaroa by new trustee Ruby Durrant-Bush followed by a guided walk. Farm Race through Plantings via the kahikatea picnic area then into the Ramaroa Bush - kohekohe is flowering. Then out to the Upper Ramaroa Valley and up to the Rocks (320m). Walkers can then continue down the Ti Kouka/Cairn track or return the same way.

Wear walking shoes or boots as there are stream crossings and ground is muddy in places.

Te Ara Ramaroa. A summary of preparing a new track. Jan to June 2016



Sign at start of the track



Sign and stile at top of track, at Whareroa Rocks. Kapiti beyond

Planning

This track was included in the Whareroa Farm Plan 2012. It gives access for walkers/trampers to an area of the farm away from the busy central zone and mountain bikes. It passes through native plantings, then Ramaroa Bush comprising mainly kohekohe and tawa. It then ascends the remote Ramaroa Valley (grazed), crisscrossing the stream to the Whareroa Rocks at 320m. Initially it was proposed to be both a tramping and horse track but the logistics and cost of including the horse route proved too difficult at this time.

An application to NZ Walking Access Commission for a grant of \$1,587.00 for the main signs was successful. Many thanks to Walking Access.

Process

Working out details of the route, admin work and publicity

Support from Dept of Conservation including chain sawing large tree falls across the route

Liaison with and support from farm licensee Beetham Pastoral and farm manager Drew Brown who transported posts and moved electric fence wire

Clearing and mowing the route through Ramaroa 2010 plantings

Removing redundant fencing and clearing water weed and fencing debris at stream crossings

Excavating a path up the hill to enter Ramaroa Bush and improving the path through the bush

Drainage work at entrance with contribution from plumbers Gavin Klee and Barry Stone

Grubbing thistles along the route up Ramaroa Valley

Building stiles, making signs and painting marker posts (recycled fence posts)

Erecting marker posts and signs

54 volunteers took part in this project, over about 6 months. A total of 600 hours were recorded; costed at \$20 per hour that is equivalent to a donation of \$12,000 from the community.

Many thanks to all involved.



Please note: the track past the farm manager's house is NOT part of the public track and is not to be used by visitors – please respect the family's privacy. Thank you.

Last planting bee: Sunday 5th June

A lovely sunny day to start the 2016 planting. A heap of plants were unloaded from The Greenery's truck and distributed. We planted a variety of revegetation plants on the northern slope and gave each of them a carpet surround. The LUV was very useful.



Human chain unloading



Peter extracting plants



Dawn with carpet



Susan on the flat



John, Liffet, Sue & Penny on the slope



Morning tea delivery, June & Shane W



New trustees Ruby & Sandra



Ian powering through hole digging



Many thanks to: *Bill Jensen, Peter Kentish, Susan Hutchinson, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Dave Cox, Ian & Penny Redward, Shane Williamson, Richard Caldwell, Liffet Stewart, John, June & Sandra Rowland, Dawn Bush, Kieran & Ruby Durrant-Bush, Dave Cox, Jan Nisbet and Bruce Bulmer. Shane Cave was busy stile building.*

Whareroa Wednesday Weeders have started: 9 to noon every week

The group has met three times and their impact is already obvious. Well done. Please contact Liffet at 021 044 9728 or 905 3355 or just come down to the farm at 9am. Initially they are concentrating on the area at the entrance and picnic area.

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk. Kapiti Joggers & Walkers

Despite preceding bad weather this annual event attracted over 200 participants on 29th May. The Guardians gratefully acknowledge a donation of \$600 to provide a picnic table at the site of the Marines' recreation hall, off the farm race. Richard Caldwell will build it, DOC have donated a recycled stile which volunteers will erect along with a post and rail fence to give safe access.



Anthony explaining the Heritage walk in the info kiosk



By the recreation hall site

Marines' Heritage Walk at Whareroa

This opened on May 30th. There are 7 sites with interesting information and photos about the history of the US Marines at Camp Mackay in WWII. Many thanks to the MarinesNZ Trust in particular historian Anthony Dreaver, Chair Jenny Rowan and secretary Allie Weber.

Questionnaire

Trustee Laura van Peer has compiled a questionnaire about Guardians' activities – we would appreciate your feedback – please complete and email back to whareroa.guardians@gmail.com

QEP Mega Planting Day. An invite from GW. Sun July 10th: 10am to 2pm

“Come and help plant 6,000 natives at QEP. Meet at Mackays Crossing entrance. We need quality control volunteers to roam the site teaching people correct planting technique. Help us make sure every plant that goes in the ground has the best chance of survival. If you are keen to help us please arrive at Mackays crossing entrance in time for a briefing on July 10 at 9.30am.”

Whareroa Planting Dates (with BBQ following):

Sundays 3rd July and 17th July then 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings in August.

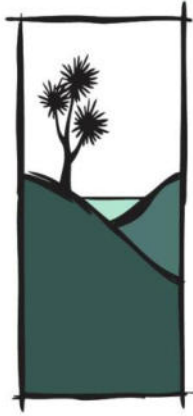
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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 29 June 2016

Last Planting Bee Sunday 19 June, 9 -10.15am

Welcome to new planters: Noel Sundgren, Chris Bell, Thomas Porter, Jo Baxter and Bree Renwick. Thanks also to: Bernard McManus, Shane Williamson, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Bill Jansen, Penny & Ian Redward, Linda Hill, John Rowland, Bruce Bulmer, Jan Nisbet, Theo Barsanti, Peter Kentish, Mary Beggs, Dawn Bush, Ruby and Kieran Durrant-Bush & Ann Evans. Also to caterers Laura van Peer with Sandra & June Rowland.

Good progress along the prickly slope was made. One more session should see that section completed and subsequent planting will be much easier; on the flat and with no dead gorse!



Going up to the site



Activity on the slope



Noel



2/3 of the slope work is done – goal to complete it this Sunday

Next Planting bee. Sunday July 3rd 9 to noon. All welcome. BBQ after

Early birds please come and help unload at 8am – will be going to the “Double Stiles” on Ramaroa

Management Agreement

A formal Management Agreement between DOC and the Guardians was signed by Rob Stone from DOC and Theo Barsanti for the Guardians. This puts our role at Whareroa on an official footing.



Rob Stone from DOC and Guardians Chair Theo signing in front of a crowd of supporters - who were really waiting for . . .



the yummiest morning tea, and of course The Opening of Te Ara Ramaroa

Opening of Te Ara Ramaroa

The track was officially opened by George Williamson for NZ Walking Access Commission, Kieran Brocklehurst from DOC and Theo Barsanti and the sign was unveiled by new trustee Ruby Durrant-Bush. About 70 people gathered for the ceremony and then enjoyed guided walks: from the farm Race through Plantings via the kahikatea picnic area then into the Ramaroa Bush - kohekohe was flowering magnificently. About half the group walked the whole circuit ascending the Upper Ramaroa Valley to the Rocks (320m) and down via Ti Kouka. We enjoyed a pleasant outing despite some mud on the way down.

A reminder: the track past the farm manager's house is NOT part of the public track and is not to be used by visitors – please respect the family's privacy. Thank you.



Ruby unveils the sign



Ruby, Kieran (DOC), George (Walking Access), Theo & Ann



The top stile



Anfri celebrating his climb



Shane evacuated Yemmo - a knee problem

Whareroa Wednesday Weeders have started: 9 to noon every week

The group's impact is already very obvious. Well done. Please contact Liffet at 021 044 9728 or 905 3355 or just come down to the farm at 9am. Initially they are concentrating on the area around the entrance and picnic area and the initial main valley plantings. DOC rangers have visited and will undertake some weed control and are donating a box of Bamboo Buster to cut stumps.

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk. Kapiti Joggers & Walkers

Following this successful event, we thank the group for a generous donation of \$600 to provide a picnic table at the site of the Marines Recreation Hall by the farm race. Richard Caldwell has begun construction.

Tetanus immunisation

A reminder from Liffet that it is a good idea to check you are up to date with tetanus protection as we are working in soil. Boosters are due at 45 and 65 – free at your GP surgery.

Health and Safety

First Aid Course – The Guardians are running a first aid course on Sat Aug 27th. This is subsidised and will cost \$45. We have one empty place. If you are a regular volunteer and would like to do this course please phone Ann 021 162 3559.

Attached is our Health and Safety Plan – if volunteering at Whareroa, please read this. Many thanks.

QEP Mega Planting Day. An invite from GW. Sun July 10th: 10am to 2pm

“Come and help plant 6,000 natives at QEP. Meet at Mackays Crossing entrance. We need quality control volunteers to roam the site teaching people correct planting technique. Help us make sure every plant that goes in the ground has the best chance of survival. If you are keen to help us please arrive at Mackays crossing entrance in time for a briefing on July 10 at 9.30am.”



Kohekohe flowering Ramaroa Bush, Jun 2016.



Photo above shows nikau grown from Whareroa seed by supporters Nicola and Al. They have nurtured 40 plants and these will be going into several sites including the Dell this winter. They donated \$1000 worth of plants following their wedding several years ago to make the Upper Dell a “love grove”. A track around the Upper Dell is gradually extending, being bult by Bernard. It will connect with East Ridge Track during next summer.

Whareroa Future Planting Dates (with BBQ following):

Sunday 17th July combined with KCDC School Holiday family events

Sunday mornings August 7th and 21st. Possibly we may need to continue into September.

Our contact info:

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



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 13 July 2016

Next Planting Bee will be Sunday 17 July 9 to noon. All welcome. BBQ after.

More in Ramaroa Wetland, but easier. Good gloves and strong footwear recommended. We hope some families through KCDC's "No 8 wire" holiday happenings programme may join us.

Last Planting Bee Sunday 03 July

A great turn out and lots got done. Plants arrived at 8am and were unloaded in 40 minutes. Thanks to early birds Jan, Ann, Liffet, Dawn, Ruby, Kieran, Luke & Alex. Sue got some LUV practice in, moving carpet squares. The northern slopes were pretty well completed as well as some toetoe and flax on the slopes of the swampy area.





Unloading at 8am



Morning tea and chat



Busy planters



Culvert carrying reservoir overflow



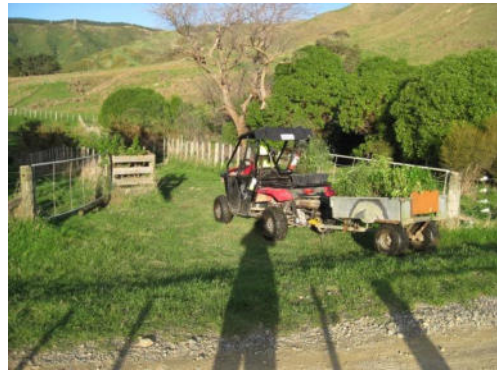
Carpet squares showing up plant locations



Proposed Stage 2 swamp adjoining current project area

Many thanks to: Bernard McManus, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Thomas Porter, Penny & Ian Redward, John Rowland, Bruce Bulmer, Jan Nisbet, Theo Barsanti, Peter Kentish, Mary Beggs, Dawn Bush, Luke with Ruby and Kieran Durrant-Bush, Kieran's friend Alex, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie, Maggie Cummins, Sue Campbell, Paul Callister, Jude Galtry, Jean Macallan, Rob Stone and Dick Caldwell. Also to caterers Sandra & June Rowland (and thanks Jan and Jude for yummy extras). Shane Cave and Bernard Cammack were doing track works.

Thanks also to Bruce, Sandra and Sue who have been clearing obstacles and moving plants and carpets this week ready for Sunday. (see pics)



Whareroa Wednesday Weeders: 9 to noon every week. All welcome

Please contact Liffet at 021 044 9728 or 905 3355 or just come down to the farm any Wednesday at 9am. There are tasks to suit everyone's enthusiasms.

New Track Map

The Whareroa Track minimap has been updated to incorporate Te Ara Ramaroa. PDF attached.

We try and keep these available in the entrance information bay, along with the children's nature trails plan (also attached in case you are taking children/grandchildren to the reserve these holidays). They can be printed from DOC's Nature Space site (see link below).

Autumn is fungus time

Whareroa has lots of different fungi and now is a good time to spot them in Kohekohe Bush. Jan took this photo last week. It measured about 5cm across.



Whareroa Future Planting Dates (with BBQ following):

Sunday mornings August 7th and 21st. Possibly we may need to continue into September.

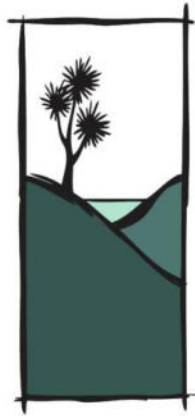
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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 05 August 2016

Next Planting Bee will be Sunday 07 August 9 to noon. All welcome. BBQ after. Plant delivery at 8am.

This month's plantings will concentrate on enhancing the Ramaroa Stream from the farm race to the Ramaroa Bush. Plants will be unloaded near the entrance and near the start of Te Ara Ramaroa on the farm race. Early birds again invited to help unload at 8am please. We plan more planting along the Ramaroa Stream, on both sides. Sadly quite a lot of last year's carex were washed away in a heavy rain event so we are concentrating on flaxes and more tree cover a bit further back. Good gloves and strong footwear eg gum boots recommended. Morning tea and lunch hot dog provided.

Last Planting Bee Sunday 17 July

A great turn out again and lots got done. We have now completed Stage 1 of the Ramaroa Wetland planting – the slopes of the little stream have trees and the swampy areas have carex, flax and ti kouka. Some lower slopes have toetoe to allow views.



Last year's plants already give a feel for how it will appear – fantastic. There are mown tracks and you can access the site from Te Ara Ramaroa – do go and have a look. We have applied for funding to fence and extend the wetland.



Loan & Luke trying out the hot dogs

Many thanks to: Tony & Helen Griffiths, Thomas Porter, John Rowland, Jan Nisbet, Theo Barsanti, Peter Kentish, Mary Beggs, Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Maggie Cummins, Dick Caldwell, Dave Cox, Ron Eckman, Robyn Hayward, Mai, Malte & Loan Wanming. We were joined by two families from KDC's Number 8 wire family programme. Also to caterers Laura & Cory van Peer, Sandra & June Rowland. Sandra and John Rowland returned another day to complete the area.



John amongst the dead gorse

New info sign showing the way by the double wooden gates

KCDC Number 8 Wire event

Two families were introduced to Whareroa by Jan Nisbet as part of KCDC school holiday happenings. Unfortunately it was not well advertised. They had a good time exploring, helped us with planting and were introduced to the 100th mustelid, caught that morning.



which leads on to – Trapping Report

Our trappers have been staunch, going out morning after morning over the last 3 years.

1. Mustelid 100 – a stoat – was caught this month by John Rowland
2. Rat numbers continue to be low in all areas
3. 3 nights possum trapping in the Ramaroa with 19 traps produced zero possums – excellent – and 1 feral cat, also excellent
4. Possum numbers are generally low in areas previously trapped, not surprising as they only have 1 joey a year
5. Possuming from 5 ways to Campbell's Mill Rd – with a high catch this month, the first time the area has been trapped by us - trapping will expand along the new bike track.

Whareroa Future Planting Dates (with BBQ following):

Sunday morning 21st August. Possibly we may need to continue into September.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 18 August 2016

Next Planting Bee: Sunday 21 August 9 to noon. All welcome. BBQ after.

This month's plantings will concentrate on enhancing the Ramaroa Stream from the farm race to the Ramaroa Bush. We plan more planting along the Ramaroa Stream, on both sides. Good gloves and strong footwear, eg gum boots, recommended. Morning tea and lunch hot dog provided. Follow the flags from the entrance.

Volunteers needed for schools' planting day: Sept 21st please – see later.

Last Planting Bee Sunday 07 August



A great turn out again and lots got done. Another 1000+ plants were unloaded in 45 mins, thanks “early birders” Shane, Ann, Dawn, Ruby, Peter K and Peter D.

We worked on the section of the Ramaroa Stream between the farm race and the kahikatea picnic area. It was very boggy in places and we hope there won't be a flood for a while. The stream is “lost” beneath the spreading water parsnip weed – it won't go until the stream is shaded so it will take a while. More trees were planted along the banks where possible. We will continue upstream next time (not so much bog), working from the “Double Stiles” (follow the flags).



Jan and Thomas



Finn and Eila



Planting flax in swamp



Ann crossing the “stream” delivering

Many thanks to: Thomas Porter, John Rowland, Jan Nisbet, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Dave Cox, Paul Callister, Sue Campbell, Shane Cave, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Bernard McManus, Sarah McMurray, Peter Davis and Finn & Eila Michalak. Also to caterers Sandra & June Rowland.

More rare plants for Whareroa

Finn Michalak, native plant curator at Otari in Wellington will be providing us with some more milk trees near Ramaroa Bush and some Rhabdothamnus solandri in the Dell. It is exciting to be helping with recovery of threatened plants. These plants have been propagated by cuttings from local sources and will hopefully provide seeds in the future to use elsewhere. The milk trees planted by Otari last year between Kohekohe Bush and the Gums have done amazingly well.



Finn checking out last year's plantings (with little companions)



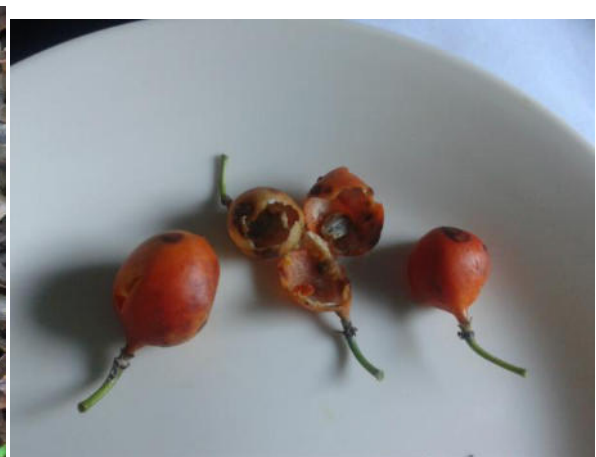
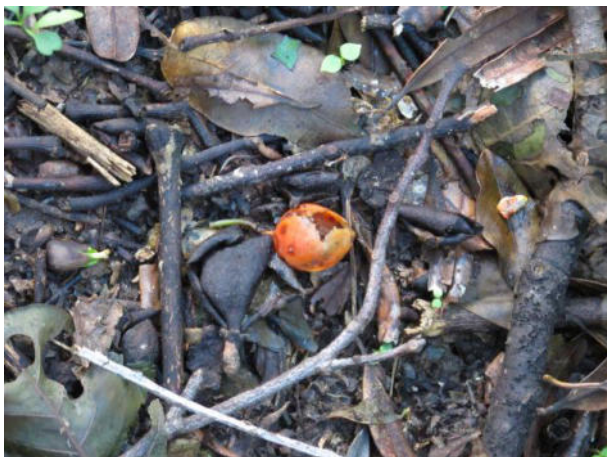
and sites for *Rhabdothamnus* in the Dell.

Plant of the month: *Passiflora tetrandra* – Kohia or NZ Passion Flower

Finn's botanical expertise identified an amazing vine, deep in the Ramaroa Bush.



It emerges from the ground then climbs and loops back and forth (see above) to emerge high above the canopy



It is a female plant as the ground around was covered with small orange fruit. Orange patches were just visible looking up to the leaves high above the ground. Apparently birds love the fruit, almost every fruit on the ground was empty, we found just two seeds (picture on the right). Seeds now planted. We wondered if mice finished off any that birds had missed.

Invitation to Waikanae Estuary Care Group AGM on the 5th September 7.00pm
Paraparaumu Library meeting room. Speaker, Tim Broadbent, discussing the Mackays to
Pekapeka plantings, the biggest planting project in the country.

Fungus season continues:



and some ideas from Orokonui, Dunedin



Harvey and Eila and basket fungus, Kohekohe Bush. Bellbirds at feeder, Orokonui (a predator fenced reserve) – there were lots flying around, and tui, darting back and forth to drink. Perhaps we could set up some similar feeding stations eg in the Dell or the Kahikatea picnic area by the Ramaroa Stream? Volunteers would be needed to top them up regularly.



We don't have schist but do have river boulders to make lizard havens. Those Otago skinks are tough – snow on ground

Whareroa Future Dates

Sunday morning 04 September, 9 to noon. Working Bee, possibly finishing off planting

Wednesday Sep 21st 9 to 3pm. Schools' Planting & Activity Day. Volunteers needed please.

This is the fourth year of this event. About 150 children from Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati South Schools will spend half a day doing some planting and other nature activities at Whareroa. The plants are provided by Living Legends Plus (Project Crimson) and Whittakers provide a chocolate bar for each student. Many thanks to these sponsors. Spots have been sprayed by Nga Uruora and John Rowland digs about 450 holes. Thanks+++

Please contact Ann 021 162 3559 if you can help for all or part of the day. Many thanks.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 September 2016

Next Planting Bee: Sunday 04 September 9 to noon. All welcome. BBQ after.

We do need a further planting session to complete the Ramaroa Stream infill. We will now be in the last section, between the double stiles and Ramaroa Bush. Good gloves and strong footwear, eg gum boots, recommended. Morning tea and lunch hot dog provided. Follow the flags from the entrance to reach the site.

Volunteers needed for schools' planting day: Sept 21st please – see later.

Last Planting Bee Sunday 21 August



A great turn out again and lots got done. Richard turned up with another trailer load of carpet squares – all were used: thanks Richard. Carex and trees were planted along the banks where-ever

possible. It was nice to discover some carex had survived last year's floods and will now be in a strong position to establish. We have also found natural carex secta in the Upper Ramaroa Valley, a potential seed source.



Maggie with whau and other 2010 trees



Sarah & Peter getting a good work out amongst the gorse



Andy



Bruce, Theo & Bill (Richard & Sarah in background)

Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, John Rowland, Dawn Bush, Ruby and Kieran Durrant-Bush, Luke, Ann Evans, Bernard McManus, Sarah McMurray, Peter Davis, Mary Beggs, Liffet Stewart, Maggie Cummins, Bruce Bulmer, Andy McKay, Theo Barsanti, Elliot O'Sullivan, Bill Jensen, Christine and Bernard Cammack. Also to caterers Laura van Peer & June Rowland.

Training

Volunteers not only "volunteer" but also give up time to undergo training to be permitted to use equipment etc on DOC land. Recent training includes:

Health and Safety: Sandra Rowland

Growsafe: Sandra Rowland

LUV: Theo Barsanti, Sue Blaikie, Bruce Bulmer, Ann Evans, Shane Williamson and Sandra Rowland

First Aid: Theo Barsanti, Shane Williamson, Shane Cave, John & Sandra Rowland, Jan Nisbet, Steve Lewis and Steve Meeres.

Thanks everyone, and to DOC for providing the LUV days and some other courses.



Demonstrating that we could manage to get out of tricky situations as long as we DON'T PANIC. Simmo from Farm Skills was a great tutor and Sally provided the hugest rolls for lunch.

Pippins and other young visitors



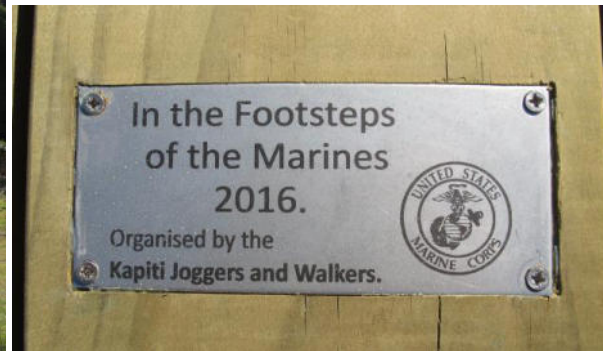
A group of Pippins with families and friends had a lovely time exploring the Ramaroa with Jan last week. Sandra and her young family are often at Whareroa.

Whareroa will be on Country Life this weekend

Listen to RNZ National at 9.06pm this Friday or 7.10am Saturday. The programme will include a report about Whareroa with excerpts from interviews with some of the Whareroa stalwarts.

“In the Footsteps of the Marines” picnic area at “Recreation Hall” site

The Kapiti Joggers and Walkers made a donation to the Guardians from their annual event to provide a picnic table at the site of the US Marines’ recreation Hall by the farm race. The table was built by Richard Caldwell and a stile was recycled by DOC from Colonial Knob and re-erected by Shane Cave & Shane Williamson. Many thanks to everyone involved.



Invitation to Waikanae Estuary Care Group AGM on the 5th September 7.00pm
Paraparaumu Library meeting room. Speaker, Tim Broadbent, discussing the Mackays to
Pekapeka plantings, the biggest planting project in the country.

Whareroa Future Dates

Wednesday Sep 21st 9 to 3pm. Schools’ Planting & Activity Day. Volunteers needed please.

This is the fourth year of this event. About 150 children from Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati South Schools will each spend half a day doing some planting and other nature activities at Whareroa. The plants are provided by Living Legends Plus (Project Crimson) and Whittakers provide a chocolate bar for each student. Many thanks to these sponsors. Spots have been sprayed by Nga Uruora and John Rowland digs about 450 holes in advance over a couple of days. Thanks to those who have already offered to help but more are welcome so that people can do half day sessions.

Please contact Ann 021 162 3559 if you can help for all or part of the day. Many thanks.

Sunday October 2nd Working Bee. Possibly fencing the Orchard Site and other activities nearby

The Trust has decided to plant a small orchard of fruit trees in the triangle of ground on the left just before the Hub. Heritage species with pest resistance and needing minimal care will be chosen. The area will need fencing off from the farm race and Beetham Pastoral staff have offered to string the wires if volunteers put in the fence posts, thanks Beethams for the offer. More info to come.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 29 September 2016

Next Working Bee: Sunday 04 October - 9 to noon. All welcome.

We need a small further planting session to complete the area above the entrance near the Schools' Planting site last week. More plants were carried up than needed so they need to go into the ground. Theo and Ann weed-eated the spots in between plantings from 2 years ago and Sandra has sprayed them to suppress weed growth so all set to go. The Kapiti Biodiversity Project have donated some good sized Muehlenbeckia to put up by the Lookout, we hope they will grow into a "bouncy weed" area. Any spare time can be spent releasing plants, some gorse has grown.

Good gloves and strong footwear, eg gum boots, recommended. Morning tea provided. Follow the flags from the entrance to reach the site, up the Lookout track

Notice: The new Mountain bike track is for bikes only – it is dangerous for fast descending bikers to meet walkers. Thanks. We hope to open a tramping track up the SE Ridge beyond the Marines' Water intake to Campbell's Mill Rd this summer, funding applications made.

Whareroa on the radio

By coincidence interviewers from two radio programmes were at Whareroa on the same day. Country Life with a particular interest in the history and the new marines' heritage walk and Our Changing World to discuss the Biodiversity Project. Liffet mentioned meeting new visitors on the farm having heard the programmes. Click on the links below to hear some familiar voices.



From Radio NZ: Country Life headed out to the Kapiti Coast last month to Whareroa Farm, where animals are farmed in the midst of mountain bikers, trampers, kindy groups and spade-wielding volunteers. A walk, commemorating the time when the farm was home to thousands of American soldiers, has recently been opened

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/countrylife/audio/201814649/whareroa-farm>

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ourchangingworld/audio/201815417/community-conservation-on-the-kapiti-coast>

Last Planting Bee Sunday 04 September

This year's plantings along the Ramaroa Stream and Wetland was completed. The 105mm rain 10 days ago will have washed some away but most will "stick".



Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, Dawn Bush, Sarah McMurray, Mary Beggs, Liffet Stewart, Maggie Cummins, Bruce Bulmer, Sue Campbell, Theo Barsanti, Sandra Rowland, Michael Stace, Dave Allen, Robyn Hayward, Dave Cox, Penny & Ian Redward . Also to Laura van Peer with Marliese from Melbourne for morning tea and BBQ.

Can anyone help the catering team please? Laura and June have been managing this for years, helped by Sandra more recently. However, Sandra would really prefer to get stuck in to the physical stuff. Is there anyone available to help with morning tea for working bees with BBQ on planting days? It's not an every time commitment; a couple of others would give depth to the team. Please contact Laura to find out more: 9056506.

Schools' planting day: Sept 21st - Another successful day

This is the fourth year of this event. About 110 children from Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati South Schools with parents and teachers each spent half a day doing some planting and other nature activities at Whareroa on a beautiful spring day. The plants were provided by Living Legends Plus (Project Crimson) and Whittakers provided a chocolate bar for each student (they also received an "I planted trees at Whareroa" sticker). Many thanks to these sponsors and to John Rowland with Solly Solomon who dug about 450 holes in advance. Fantastic. Many thanks also to nature activity organisers: Jan Nisbet, Pamela Phillips, Mary Beggs and Dawn Bush and to planting coordinators: Ann Evans, Peter Kentish and Noel Sundgren and of course the teachers and parents. The children

were amazing; enthusiastically roaming up steep banks to plant and then gamefully carrying down old fence posts for recycling. We were all smiling at the end. About 1/3 of the children had visited Whareroa before, we hope they will return, bringing their families and friends.

Paraparaumu Beach School:



Raumati South School:



Spring at Whareroa: the shining cuckoo has been heard



Wednesday Weeders welcome new people - 9 to noon every week.

Sunday November 6th Working Bee. 9 to noon. Activities to be decided

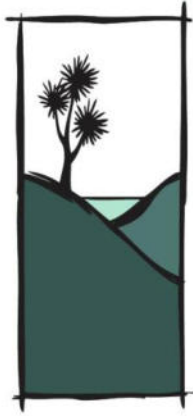
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WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 04 November 2016

Next Working Bee: Sunday 06 November - 9 to noon. Morning tea provided.

Two activities available!

1. Putting in fence posts for the new fence for the orchard. Last week farm manager Drew Brown gave a master class in fences & strainers to Shane, Bruce and Theo and there are now a row of posts to go up. The Beethams' Team will then string the wires. Many thanks guys.



2. Releasing plants along the Ramaroa Stream is high priority – the water parsnip/celery is galloping upwards, swamping the carex. The carex survived the flood but will need help this year and next against this incredibly vigorous weed. Eventually carex will outgrow it.



Through the spring and early summer grass growth is active – if you have a free hour or two, please go and grub weeds from around the plants in the Ramaroa Wetland and along the stream. These long evenings are a lovely time to be in the reserve, listening to the birds and enjoying the light on the hills. If you prefer to work with others, the Wednesday Weeders meet regularly.

Last Planting Bee Sunday 01 October

Completion of plantings above the entrance including a bank of Muehlenbeckia around the Lookout seats to give a “bouncy weed” experience for children, and habitat for lizards.



A moist but satisfied group - job well done.



The Vanbelle family: starting young



Infilling the zone towards Kapiti Lookout



Fin and Eila with more Streblus (milk trees) by Ramaroa Bush

Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, Dawn Bush, Mary Beggs, Sue Campbell, , Sandra & June & John Rowland, Penny & Ian Redward Ivor Cammack, Ann Evans, Finn & Eila Michalak, Michael, Sandra, Maya & Kyan Vanbelle.

Special thanks to Ivor and Thomas for carting those heavy Muehlenbeckia up the hill, and to the Biodiversity Project for donating the plants.

Also to Don Beggs for many many hours work removing fencing by the Gums over recent weeks, this will open up another area for children to enjoy stream exploration with easy access. And to Ian & Penny and Ann for weed-eating East Ridge Track and the Dell and to Sandra for spraying

tradescantia and to the Wednesday Weeders: Liffet, Dawn, Penny, Ian, Sue and Sandra and to John who is always doing stuff, and the Pest Gang and the “Mad Morning Maidens” and Richard for mowing and Theo and everyone else who just get on with doing things which need doing. Someone has dug a channel to drain the big puddle by the Gums – good work.



John having put up a signpost



Early morning planters



The Muehlenbeckia

July to October volunteer hours recorded were 1,916. We know lots more are done which aren't recorded – do please let us know your input as it is beneficial when we apply for grants.

Feedback from Schools' Activity Day. Another thanks to everyone involved:

From Judy Atkinson, teacher at Paraparaumu Beach School: (We are still looking forward to the kids' emails!)

Dear Ann,
Once again an awesome morning of tree planting and bush experience had by all. Your organisation is wonderful and is much appreciated by the Te Moana Syndicate. We love being a part of your work and appreciate that we have this opportunity each year. Some of these kids have returned lots over the years to see their tree! You have a great group of volunteers helping each time and they too must be acknowledged. Please pass on our appreciation. You will be receiving some emails from some of the children. (unedited)
Thanks.

Archiving

Jenny Rowan has just completed sorting paper archives from the “Saving of Whareroa” time 2003 to 2005 – several banana boxes full. These will be stored in the KCDC archives and will be available for future researchers. Jenny reports: “I now feel like it is a very comprehensive archive and will give someone, one day a good feel for how we did the job!!”

Many thanks Jenny

Invitation to an Evening with Wild for Taranaki:

The Taranaki Biodiversity Trust

The Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project is hosting a presentation from two members of the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust which is an organisation made up of 27 community groups, organisations and agencies involved in conservation work in the Taranaki region. We have asked them to tell us such things as how they were set up, how the organisation works and where their funding comes from. What is good about the way their Trust works, and what would they change?

We are thinking about the future of conservation on the Kapiti Coast and whether an umbrella group might be a way forward for our work locally.

You are very welcome to join us for their presentation, followed by questions and discussion.

Where: St Peter's Village Hall, Paekakariki

When: 7 pm Tuesday 8 November 2016

Who: All conservation groups currently working on the Kapiti Coast

And

“This is an invitation to celebrate the *halfway stage of the Kapiti Coast Biodiversity* programme. You will get an update on where this programme is up to if you join us at our **Christmas BBQ to be held at QE Park on Sunday 13 November, starting at 2.00 pm.** Please bring your own food and drink. There will be brief summaries of where each of the six projects are up to from the Project Leaders, and a report on what the Governance Group is putting in place to ensure on-going funding. Could representatives of the Trusts (Friends, Guardians, Nga Uruora and Nga Manu) please pass this invitation on to their members. Thank you”

Photo Snippets



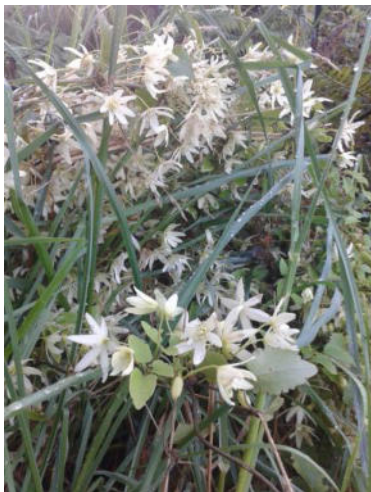
Concrete slab fell into stream in Sept



Rubbish collected from carpark Grrrr!!!



Slip above the Cairn damaged fencing



Clematis forsterii by Gums



Spring lambs



Clematis paniculata in bush by Five Ways

Wednesday Weeders welcome new people: 9 to noon every week.

Sunday December 4th: Working Bee. 9 to noon. Activities to be decided

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 December 2016

Next Working Bee Sunday December 4th; 9 to noon

This will be the last working bee for 2016. We will meet by the “double stiles” along the Ramaroa and clear celery weed from the carex along the stream edge. Growing conditions for both plantings but also grass have been fantastic this spring.

Others might like to bring secateurs and loppers or hand saws and tidy up the first section of Te Ara Ramaroa – some of the trees have put out overhanging branches/twigs. We will get wet feet if working by the stream so gum boots and gardening gloves recommended. Morning tea provided

Last Working Bee Sunday 04 November



Two groups worked hard: the men put up posts for the fence for the orchard and the women released carex and trees along the lower Ramaroa Stream. Drew’s expertise was absolutely essential. We met up for morning tea! The celery weed is a real pain, the stems can grow to 2m long and it sprawls across the banks. Shallow flood plains as in lower Ramaroa give it ideal conditions; shade is the only thing to control it.

Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, Theo Barsanti, Bruce Bulmer, Shane Williamson, Shane Cave, Sue Campbell, John Rowland, Penny Redward, Ann Evans and Drew Brown (farm manager).



Weds Weeders

This group continues to meet regularly and have made a big difference to the blackberry in the entrance plantings DOC have also been working on a couple of major blackberry infestations. Unlike gorse, natives cannot get through blackberry and it will grow under the canopy until it is very dense. It is hoped that community service workers through the Corrections Dept may also contribute to weed clearing.

Living Legends.

Gordon & Tineke Hosking from Living Legends came for the final inspection of those plantings by the entrance. He was happy with the progress. The Guardians received about 9,000 plants through this project. We were one of 18 sites around NZ. Wayne Boness now GW Senior Ranger, previously of DOC, set up the Living Legends link with the Rugby World Cup in 2012. Thanks Wayne, Gordon and Project Crimson & Tindall Foundation and of course, all the planters and releasers over the last four years.



Trustee Laura reminisces with Gordon re past teacher/pupil time in Karamea. Trustee Liffet shows the cleared blackberry.



Wayne Boness, catching up with Gordon, Tineke and Theo.



Nesting in info bay – the tidy one is swallow. ? Starling.

Oops! It's happened again but now restored to verticality.



The heavy rain floated the Hub toilets out of the ground again. Thanks DOC for fixing quickly, hope the new tethering prevents it happening again

Penny's bench



Penny has designed these rustic benches, recycling fence posts and battens. She is happy to make them for a donation of \$25+ as a fundraiser for Whareroa. Send orders to penny.ian@paradise.net.nz and send donation to Whareroa Guardians Community Trust bank details: 030732 04 29996 00. Put your name and "bench" in info/

Pest Report from Shane Cave

Total pests killed since April 2013 are 3,269 including 600 possums

The monthly catch continues to be low ... But ...

Possum numbers reflect lower monthly effort - set leg-hold traps have to be checked each day they are set, which is very time consuming - but in areas previously trapped, numbers continue to be low.

ALARMING NEWS - in mid-October a ferret was found dead on State Highway One just north of McKay's Crossing. These mustelids were thought not to be present in this part of the country but that is now no longer the case. A ferret is about the size of a possum, they are very vicious.

Wednesday Weeders welcome new people: 9 to noon every week.

Save the Date: Sat Mar 11th. An event at Whareroa: Family picnic and music

No working bee in January, enjoy your summer holidays

However, the weeds will grow! If you have a spare hour or two do please go into the Ramaroa Stream and Wetland and clear weeds from around the new plants. Thank you.

Next working bee will be Sunday 05 Feb 2017

Our contact info:

Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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

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

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



Hinau flowering



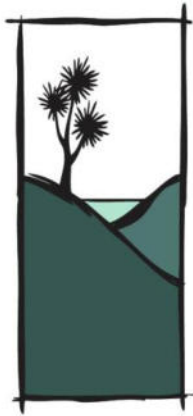
Kamahi flowering



Slip across Upper Dell Track



LUV at top of proposed Catchment View Track



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 December 2016

Walking Access Commission (WAC) grant will fund signs and Transpower provide a stile for new Catchment View Track

As some of you may have seen in Kapiti News, WAC have given us a 3rd grant: to purchase signs for this tramping track from the farm race to the Marines' Water Intake and then up the South East Ridge to Campbell's Mill Rd (CMR). The initial section of the track is shared with both walkers and mountain bikes. A picnic area will be established at the water intake. Then, trampers will head right, up the ridge and mountain bikers will approach from the left from their one way downhill track. (There is no access for bikers or walkers into the MTB track from the water intake.)

This gives an option for a good 3 hour tramping loop using both Whareroa entrances onto CMR. Transpower are currently working up there upgrading their transmission lines and they have offered to improve the southern access and build us a stile. Over the summer volunteers may be seen battling through the long grass putting up markers, cutting some gorse and removing sections of fencing to allow the track to meander up the ridge. It is a steep route, through grass and will give a shorter way to reach Mt Wainui. It won't be mown but rely on trampling to keep the grass down. The views are stunning.

Many thanks to Walking Access and Transpower.



Bernard part way up the ridge.



Transpower reps met Theo & Ann at the Whareroa south entrance

Last Working Bee Sunday 04 December

Two groups worked hard again: some on the Orchard fence – it is now complete with 9 wires and battens. Great work and thanks again to Drew for further assistance stringing the wires. Others continued to release carex and trees along the lower Ramaroa Stream. A good number of plants were given breathing space. This year's grass growth must be the best yet!



Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, Bruce Bulmer, Shane Williamson, Shane Cave, Sue Campbell, Sandra & June Rowland, Penny & Ian Redward, Tim Belton, Denise Heals (welcome back), Bernard MacManus, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart and Drew Brown

Bikers' Tree and Peter Woodman-Aldridge

Visitors to Five Ways will have seen this year's Christmas tree from the Mountain Bikers' Coastal Crew. A lovely touch. However we were very sad to hear of the sudden death of Peter Woodman-Aldridge, a key member of the Kapiti mountain bike club who had been very involved in planning and working on their downhill track. Our condolences to his family and friends.



Jan relaxing by the tree



The Coastal Crew loaded up ready to carry the tree up the hill

Ramaroa Wetland Stage 1 final inspection. Thanks to DOC Community Fund

Matt Barnett from DOC visited to inspect the result of the last two years' planting. A DOC Community Fund grant paid for 6,000 native plants. Many were hiding in the long grass but we were able to show they were there. Trapping has been extended into the area and there are roughly

mown walking tracks accessed from the first section of Te Ara Ramaroa which visitors are welcome to use to check out the wetland.

Tree falls in Ramaroa Bush and Te Ara Ramaroa.

A couple of tree falls in early December in the Ramaroa Bush led to closure of Te Ara Ramaroa. Kieran, Suzi & Mark of DOC responded promptly with chain saw action. Unfortunately strong winds last night led to the toppling of two giant leaning pines – it is good that they have fallen but the track is now totally blocked and will be closed until DOC have had time to clear the logs and debris. It is a pity it is at peak holiday time. One can still walk in to the kahikatea picnic area, about 500m from the farm race and access the Ramaroa Wetland but please, no entry beyond the” double stiles”.



The track went under this mess; there could still be further falls. Warning signs have been erected.

Rhabdothamnus solandri (taurepo) and rata flowering

These little bushes are already flowering in the Dell. Maybe next year they will be above their protectors and bell birds will be able to pollinate them to start another seed source. The plants were propagated by Otari Native Botanic Garden from a natural group at Battle Hill.



Taurepo in the Dell.

Rata trees along Emerald Glen Rd through Whareroa.

SNIPPETS:

Helicopter spraying of gorse and some thistle: this happened last month, on the grazed pastures. Unfortunately delays due to spring windy conditions meant that thistle had already set seed. The Guardians try and keep them grubbed along our tracks and in planting zones.

Wednesday Weeders are having a rest. They start again Feb 1st. Thanks Liffet for coordinating.

Trappers and Pests: possums and mustelids are still being caught but rats are the biggest catch. Some goats have also been culled; they cause huge damage to young natives.

Rata trees are flowering along Emerald Glen Rd, planted by NZTA. They are lovely.

M2PP gift - thanks also to NZTA and M2PP for donating and delivering some "left over" lengths of pipe and other oddments to the Guardians to assist with track building. They'll be very useful.

Plant donation: Many thanks to Pene Burton-Bell for several hundred small plants to be nurtured for planting next winter.

No working bee in January, enjoy your summer holidays

However, the weeds will grow! If you have a spare hour or two do please go to the lower Ramaroa Stream and Wetland and clear weeds from around the new plants. Thank you.

Next working bee will be Sunday 05 Feb 2017

Save the Date: Sat Mar 11th. An event at Whareroa: Family picnic and music



A reminder of progress: 2014 plantings to connect Matai Bush to Upper Bush, 2,500 native trees went in, most survived.

And, finally, thank you all so much for your input in 2016 and indeed, since planting began in 2007. Without you Whareroa would be so much poorer. The Guardians wish you a happy and healthy 2017 and of course we hope to see you back and busy next year.

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