

WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 February 2017

Next working bee: Sunday Feb 5th. 9 to noon

Liffet will be coordinating: activities will be decided on the day.

Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2 – grant approved from DOC's Community Conservation Fund

Many thanks to DOC's CCF for a grant of \$15,000 to extend the Ramaroa Wetland area to the Marines' Reservoir. This will give protection to a significant swampy gully as well as both banks of the small stream draining the reservoir overflow and the slopes above. Planting this wetland area will occupy 2017/18.

In addition a flat area adjacent to an existing shelter belt planting will be set up as a Commemorative Planting area. It has good access and will provide an opportunity for people to plant a specimen tree such as totara to commemorate events.



The protected area will now extend from the left of the pines to the reservoir on the right including the biggest gullies

Pleasingly another CCF grant was made to a nearby group, the Kotukutuku Ecological Restoration Project - \$8,700 for predator control work in native forest on private land near Paraparaumu along Waterfall/Valley Road. This will enhance the work of our pest control group.

Tree falls in Ramaroa Bush and Te Ara Ramaroa.

We await DOC action to clear a way through – it is a pity it has been closed during the school holidays as the Ramaroa Bush and Valley are accessible for family use and give nice stream and bush experiences for children. Interestingly, the children's' trails leaflets have been vanishing at a good rate from the info bay during the holidays, as have the little maps – great that they are being used.

Kereru

Lots of kereru are flying about, probably enjoying the current tawa and karaka fruiting; groups of four have been spotted.

Catchment View Track

This will be a “trampling” tramping track, it won't be mown but rely on regular walking along the marked line to keep the grass down. Volunteers have planned the exact route for easiest walking and for good views into the catchment valleys on either side of the ridge. This involves some fence wire cutting to get the best contours. Marking has begun but it will probably be late March/April before it is opened



Sandra with marker poles and cutting fence wire to allow the track to follow the contours. Views look into 2 big valleys.



Theo in the upper pit, a man-made embankment is evident. The top section of the track route, up to Campbell's Mill Rd.

Three interesting “pits” are passed along the route. We don't know their origin: the larger one near the top might be from the Marines' time, as a look out during their exercises. We know they had foxholes in the Tararua foothills. View is amazing but it is all pretty steep.

SNIPPETS:

Wednesday Weeders had a well-earned rest in January. They started again Feb 1st. Thanks Liffet for coordinating and to the weeders: Dawn, Penny, Ian, Denise and Sandra. Anyone is welcome to join them, 9am Wednesdays.

Trappers and Pests: the trappers continue their regular activities. Rats seem to be aware of the traps so new techniques are being tried such as moving the traps around. Weta numbers in the motels are good.

Toilet cleaning: a new contractor is keeping the toilets in a good state. Visitors still manage to block them sometimes, not a pleasant job to sort it out!

Security: Vehicles have had their windows smashed in the carpark; there were two on a Saturday morning recently. Please do not leave any valuables in your car and if you suffer such an event please notify the police ASAP. Also please keep a good watch on what goes on in the carpark and record any suspicious car numbers eg someone just driving through and not stopping – they may be casing out the possibilities.

Cattle in plantings. Cattle managed to cross over the main farm ridge to get into the Ramaroa plantings next to the bush. Mostly the carex and bushes just had a vigorous prune but the beasts obviously could not manage cabbage tree and about a dozen were lying on the ground – they have been replanted. A reminder to please leave all gates as they are found.

Taxidermy: One of the Whareroa weasels has been turned into a stuffed weasel by Sarah Bell. Thanks Sarah (and to Sue who does regular postmortems on captured pests to analyse their condition and what they have been eating).

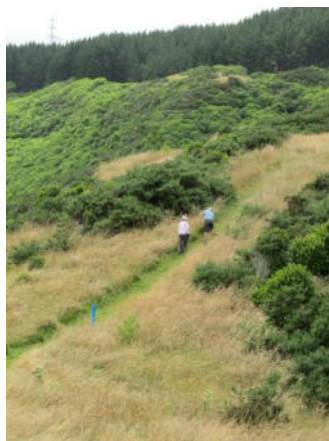


Trustees Ruby, Sue and Liffet meet the Whareroa weasel, as does Theo's cat, at a recent meeting.

Track Mowing: Other volunteers have been busy mowing the incredible early summer grass growth along East Ridge, the Ti Kouka Loop and in the Dell. The track to the Marines' Water Intake is mown regularly to keep it wide for safety as both bikers and walkers use this section. The beginning of Catchment View Track, along with an area for a picnic table by the intake has also been mown.



Erica in Upper Dell,



East Ridge track – Penny and Ian



Many thanks to Richard Caldwell, Ian & Penny Redward, Ann Evans, Nathan McKenzie and Erica Cammack. John Rowland has been mowing the mountain bikers' new track as well. Many thanks to Linda Hill for donating a weed eater. If anyone would like to join the mowers/weed-eaters please send us an email:

whareroa.guardians@gmail.com

Blackberry and gorse spraying: Joe Clarkson, a volunteer from way back has offered to do some spraying, using his commercial tank and a 200m hose – we hope the blackberry in the pines along the Water Intake Track will soon be turning up its toes. Unfortunately, birds spread the seed as the fruit is so delicious. Many thanks Joe.

Mountain Bike Club new downhill track: after a long gestation, the 2nd bridge is almost completed. Foundations were very hard to dig as into rock – it should last many years! Well done guys.

Save the Date: Sat Mar 11th. Family picnic in the Dell 3-6pm

COME AND JOIN US TO RELAX AND ENJOY THIS LOVELY SPOT.

Children's activities, guided walks to "off track" areas like Matai Bush and the "Vollies' track". Parking will be at the Hub. BYO food and drink. BYO guitars etc.



Walking into the Dell



Under the whau tree on Dell Upper Terrace

The Dell continues to be developed as a family picnic area. There are two tables on the flat, a seat looking over it and on the Dell Terrace another seat and bench, with good views. A track continues from the picnic area around the Upper Dell which will soon connect to East Ridge Track. Thanks Bernard for building the Dell tracks. It is hoped that Kapiti College eco-group may adopt the Upper Dell as the area needs some loving care and further planting.

Future working bees: Sunday March 5th and April 2nd

AGM: Monday April 3rd 7pm in Paraparaumu Library meeting room

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk: Sunday 28th May

Our contact info:

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

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

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

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



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 26 February 2017

Next working bee: Sunday Mar 5th. 9 to noon

Activities will be decided on the day.

Sat. Mar 11th. Family Picnic and Music in the Dell 3-6pm. All welcome.

There will be children's activities, guided walks to "off piste" areas like Matai Bush and the "Vollies' track". Parking will be at the Hub. BYO food and drink. BYO guitars, drums etc.

A new band, the Whareroa Five has been formed by Rachel Kiel-Taylor and Phill Simmonds with Gina Kiel, Joe Simmonds and one other. They had their inaugural gig at the Raumati South Social Club recently. Some of the group will come along and play for 30 mins or so at the picnic. That's great, thanks a lot. Rachel and Phill were key movers in the "Saving" of Whareroa back in 2003/05 and Phill's song: "Whareroa, The People's Land" is on YouTube: you can find the original video here:

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

Main gates unlocked 2.00 to 6.30pm; ***please close the gate behind you.*** Drive in, following flags to the Hub then, still following flags, walk down the hill and across the little stream to the Dell.



In the Dell on Opening Day, April 2011.



One of the old ngaio trees in the Dell



Crossing the stream before the Dell, walking into the Dell and playing on the way.

Last working bee: Sunday Feb 5th



From Liffet: We had a lovely sunny working bee this morning. Those not included in photo are Don and Theo who were off doing fencey things.

We unloaded a whole lot of carpet cut from Richard; (roll on next planting season!) weeded the meuhlenbekias up at the look out, released the Marines' plantings and had a pretty good go on the slopes at beginning of Ramaroa.

Many thanks to: Richard Caldwell, Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, Don Beggs, Linda Hill, Dawn Bush, Bernard McManus, Bill Jensen, Dave Cox, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Ian & Penny Redward and Anne Sullivan. Thanks also to Don Beggs for many hours removing fences by the Gums and to Mary Beggs and Dawn Bush who have been painting posts blue along the Catchment View Track.

Tree falls in Ramaroa Bush and closure of Te Ara Ramaroa.

DOC have decided that due to high risk of further tree falls above the track in Ramaroa Bush, the Guardians will have to make an alternate route, away from this hazard. This is feasible, probably by keeping to the west of the stream in the bush, but it will take a few weeks to survey, clear and mark the track. The original track followed a path which had existed since Lands and Survey days back in the 1980's. However, the old pines and macrocarpa high on the bank above the track are post mature and now some have fallen others are likely to follow. We will keep you posted.



Ramaroa Bush views

Farm Gates

Drew, the farm manager, had to spend an hour recently rounding up sheep which had been let out of their paddock. Please always keep the little gate from the carpark closed and leave all farm gates as you find them. As the grazed land is in two separate blocks, stock sometimes need to be moved past the visitor centre; if this is happening when you arrive, please wait until they have passed through. Whareroa, whilst being a recreation reserve is also a working farm.

A Whareroa sheep was killed and butchered recently, from Emerald Glen Rd paddocks. Please be watchful and report any concerning activity to the police immediately.



Sheep passing the info bay, the gates are set up so as to make a temporary race when needed.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome to join them.

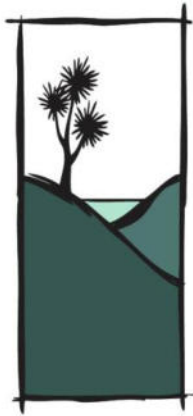
AGM: Monday April 3rd 7pm in Paraparaumu Library meeting room

After the AGM, Team Leaders from Kapiti Biodiversity Project will give a review of their first two years' work. They are all good presenters and interesting information is being gathered about Whareroa, QEP and the Escarpment. All welcome.

Future working bees: Sundays April 2nd and May 7th

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk: Sunday 28th May

"The 6th Kapiti Joggers and Walkers "In the Footsteps of the Marines" event is coming up at Whareroa Farm on Sunday 28th May and it's time to start training! Entries and information are now available on the enteronline website. Entries are \$25 and you can enter (1) as a social walker/slow jogger, (2) as a race walker, or (3) as a runner. As usual, there will be spot prizes and refreshments available after the race. Pam Childs, Race coordinator". *This is always a fun day and the Guardians have received welcome donations from the proceeds.*



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 31 March 2017

Next working bee: Sunday April 2nd, 9 to noon

Work around the Water Intake and Catchment View Track. Exact work will be decided on the day. Blue plastic poles to mark the bottom of the new track need securing with lengths of reinforcing iron. The fence line along by the pines is to be removed and dead grass along the bottom and any vegetation needs clearing so the wires can be unraveled. Some may drive to the top of the new track along Campbell's Mill Rd to work down, marking and cutting fence wires. Tools needed include strong gloves, grubbers, hand saws. Special tools eg wire cutters will be provided.

AGM: Monday April 3rd, 7pm in Paraparaumu Library meeting room

New trustees needed – Laura van Peer is sadly resigning as heading off for adventures and there was already a vacancy. It is really good to be actively involved in the planning as well as the doing so if you are interested please speak to us. After the AGM, Team Leaders from Kapiti Biodiversity Project will give a review of their first two years' work. They are all good presenters and interesting information is being gathered about Whareroa, QEP and the Escarpment. All welcome.

Last working bee: Sunday March 5th

The Dell was prepared for the "picnic" with weed eating, mowing and raking.



Theo and "Miss Piggy"



Transporting a bench made by Sascha Wassong into the Dell



Relaxing in the Dell after some hard work

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Linda Hill, Dawn Bush, Bernard McManus, Jan Nisbet, Ian & Penny Redward, Sue Campbell, Ann Evans and June & Sandra Rowland.

Family Picnic & Music in the Dell - sadly this did not happen

The weather was totally inclement and it was disappointing particularly after all the hard work by volunteers the previous weekend to get the Dell looking lovely (see pics above). We were looking forward to hearing *The Whareroa Five*. The Dell Track now continues all the way to the East Ridge Track, and gives a nice short loop: many thanks Bernard C. It is well worth an explore. Weed control and planting in the Upper Dell are still “work in progress”.

Kids' Nature Trails. New “O” Map

Ian Basire and Jan Nisbet have worked together to upgrade the Nature Trails, producing a coloured map with a new point by the Water Intake. It can be downloaded from Nature Space:

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/documents/whareroa-track-network>

An updated black and white “printer friendly” version is in the pipe line.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome to join them.

Future working bee: Sunday May 7th

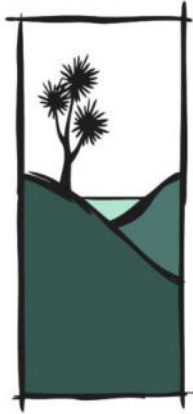
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The 6th Kapiti Joggers and Walkers “In the Footsteps of the Marines” event is coming up at Whareroa Farm on Sunday 28th May and it's time to start training! Entries and race information are now available on the enteronline website.

<http://www.enteronline.co.nz/index.cfm?page=EventDetails&ID=5283>

Planting Dates: Sundays: June 4th & 18th, July 2nd & 16th, Aug 6th & 20th.

(First and third Sundays of these months). Nine to noon followed by hot dog. We will have about 2,000 plants to put in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2 and hope to do some Upper Dell planting as well. Please put in your diaries now. Many thanks



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 May 2017

Next working bee: Sunday May 7th, 9 to noon

This month we move to Ramaroa Bush. A treefall closed the track and DOC have advised that, due to high risk of further tree falls, it is not economic to clear the old man pine. We thus had to find an alternative route, on the seaward side of the Ramaroa Stream. Volunteers have sussed this out and roughly cleared it. We now need to properly clear and mark this path. Tools needed include strong gloves, grubbers, hand saws and loppers. In places we will move stones to mark the edge of the track. A fence post will be needed to mark the new entrance to the bush. We will go in by the "Double Stiles". Follow the flags. As always, morning tea will be provided.

Last working bee: Sunday April 2nd

A fantastic session working on the lower section of Catchment View Track



Two new volunteers: Dan and Andrew with Thomas did sterling work carrying seats up the hill. The track is marked to about half way with two rest spots. The lower bench is in one of the mystery pits with a good outlook. (Seats made by Penny and Dick). Some cleared gorse by the Water Intake to open up the entrance to the new track and others removed fence wire. Morning tea almost didn't make it due to LUV swamping. Fortunately some ultra-fit runners arrived at just the right moment to lift it out. *Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Bernard McManus, Ian & Penny Redward, Sue Campbell, Ann Evans, Bruce Bulmer, Dick Caldwell, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Bill Jansen, Peter Kentish, Thomas Porter, Liffet Stewart, Shane Williamson, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Luke, Dan Kelly and Andrew Underwood.*



AGM: Monday April 3rd, 7pm in Paraparaumu Library meeting room

A good turnout had a review of the year from Chair Theo. Kieran from DOC updated us. Welcome to new trustee Ian Redward. Ian has been a stalwart of our volunteer group from the beginning and brings good skills. Your trustees are now: Theo Barsanti (Chair), Liffet Stewart (Vice-chair), Michael Keith (Treasurer), Ann Evans (Secretary) with Sue Blaikie, Ruby Durrant-Bush and Sandra Rowland. Carol Reihana is our Iwi trustee. There is still one vacancy if anyone has skills they would like to contribute to the group. After the AGM, team leaders of the kapiti.Biodiversity Project updated us – los of interesting info but even more questions arise. Thanks to the group for their presentation.

Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2

The line for the new fence has been agreed and marked with Brian from Topline fencing.



Whareroa Geyser



Some of the old pipe work from the 1940's is showing its age. The loss was enough to lower the level in the reservoir significantly. Luckily there has been enough rain to fill it again.

Upper Dell link to East Ridge Track and 2014 plantings beyond Matai Bush



New sign marks the junction on East Ridge Track.



Connector plantings look great after the wet summer

Rhabdothamnus solandri need help!



These little taurepo plants in the Dell need regular loving care to keep the weeds down around them and inside their protectors. Can someone adopt them please?

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome to join them. They have been going for a year and are making a big difference. Thanks weeders.

Xterra Running Event

On Sunday 30th April, 300 runners raced around Whareroa doing one of three courses - the hardest involved 17km run, 1220m climb and went up and down the various tracks to the top three times. Good to see the reserve being used for different activities and glad to have the Catchment Ridge route well trampled. (We are waiting for Transpower to complete works on Campbell's Mill Rd before we can finish the top of the track.)



Climbing Catchment View Track



Running down from the Rocks

In the Footsteps of the Marines Run/Walk: Sunday 28th May

The 6th Kapiti Joggers and Walkers "In the Footsteps of the Marines" event is coming up at Whareroa Farm. Entries and race information are now available on the enteronline website.

<http://www.enteronline.co.nz/index.cfm?page=EventDetails&ID=5283>

Kapiti Mainland Island Animal Pest Workshop Sat Jun 17th. 9am to 1.45pm

This will review animal pest control from Waterfall Rd to Pukerua Bay. If interested please contact: paul.callister@outlook.com. It is at St Peter's Hall, Paekakariki.

Planting Dates: Sundays: June 4th & 18th, July 2nd & 16th, Aug 6th & 20th.

(First and third Sundays of these months). Nine to noon followed by hot dog. We have about 1,500 plants to put in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2 but will start with some Upper Dell planting as the fence won't be done till end of June. Please put in your diaries now. Many thanks.



Part of last year's Ramaroa Wetland planting, cleaning run off from the grazed paddocks.



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 June 2017

Next working bee: Sunday June 4th 9 to noon. Hot dog at the shed after.

We know many will be away for the long weekend but those who are around are invited to join us for the first planting session of 2017. We will be planting in the Upper Dell. Ten years ago Al and Nicola donated trees following their wedding for a “love grove”. These trees are growing well but need company. Bernard C has finished a track connecting the Dell to East Ridge Track and plants are needed in the valley bottom and to enclose the edge of gorse above the track. All welcome.

Catchment View Track Opening: Sunday June 18th 10.30am (after 9am planting)

We will meet to plant trees near the Water Intake at 9am. Morning tea and cake at the Water Intake picnic table at 10.30am and then Ric Cullinane from Walking Access will “cut the ribbon”.

Many thanks to Walking Access Aotearoa for funding the 3 new metal signs and to Transpower for a lovely stile on Campbell’s Mill Rd giving easy access to the new track.

And of course, many many thanks to the volunteers who have worked on this route over recent months: marking, cutting gorse and fence wire, painting posts, carrying up seats and poles and weed-eating. It is a great achievement and completes the last of the major tracks proposed in the 2012 Whareroa Farm Plan.

People can then explore the track. There are a couple of seats near the beginning giving lovely views over Upper Bush to Matai Bush. The whole loop via Campbell’s Mill Rd takes about 2-3 hours, depending upon speed.



Liffet & Sandra by stile Campbell’s Mill Rd



Theo & Ian in snow flurries



John, Theo & Don lifting Don’s table over



Liffet & marker pole



John putting in post for sign



Ann at Don's recycled table, at about 260m

A group gathered to complete the work at the top on May 20th - cutting gaps in fence to allow the track to follow a more gentle line (or perhaps that should be, slightly less steep) and putting up marker poles. Other jobs were erecting the new signs, weedeating and cutting gorse. Don Beggs has made a picnic table from recycled fence posts and batters; this was erected high on the track.

Thanks to: Don Beggs, Theo Barsanti, Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland, Liffet Stewart and Ann Evans.

Last working bee: Sunday May 7th. Ramaroa Track now reopened. Yeah!!

A fantastic session opened up the alternative track through Ramaroa Bush. Tree falls and weeds were cleared, bypassing the dodgy track section. Stones were placed to mark the edge of the track. Signage was erected to mark the new entrance to the bush. We think it is an improvement as it is flat and excludes two stream crossings. It passes some huge kohekohe trees and a giant NZ passionfruit vine.



Fuelling up LUV, with new tray



Don & Kieran cutting stumps down



Shane raking the path



Liffet, Shane & Sue moving stones



Theo & Don clearing tree falls



Enjoying the ambience

Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Bernard McManus, Sue Campbell, Ann Evans, Don & Mary Beggs, Thomas Porter, Liffet Stewart, Shane Williamson, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Theo Barsanti, Ralph, Zara & Harvey Cammack with supporters Nicola Vinton & Beauden, Sandra & June Rowland. Ron Eckman from the Bay of Plenty joined us again and Dick Caldwell was mowing.



The group emerging from the new entrance to the bush



Morning tea at the double stiles

Marines' Hut at QEP



Jenny Rowan, Chair of MarinesNZ opens the hut



Interior furnished with original gear

This Marines' hut was restored by MenzShed Waikanae and opened at the Memorial Day Service at QE Park on May 29th. It is hoped to eventually have several restored huts at the site. Whareroa has a Marines' Heritage Trail with photos demonstrating the remains of Camp Mackay on the farm.

HELP NEEDED with catering at planting bees please

Laura and June, more recently assisted by Sandra, have run the working bee morning teas and planting BBQ's for several years. Laura is exploring the world and only occasionally available and June's vision limits her involvement and Sandra is not always here. Their commitment has been much appreciated. PLEASE can anyone help out; it does not have to be every time. It involves buying food, filling thermoses, chopping onions and cooking the sausages. Full info will be given. Please phone Ann 021 162 3559 or send us an email if you can help, even if only for one session a year.

"In the Footsteps of the Marines" event May 28th.

Another well run event by Kapiti Joggers and Walkers had a good crowd doing the 13km re-enactment of the Marines' training run, starting and finishing at Whareroa. We appreciate the donation from this event which provided the picnic table by the Marines' Water Intake (built by Richard Caldwell)

Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2

Spots have been sprayed ready for planting, thanks Sandra and Ann. The plants have been checked over at the nursery – The Greenery at Manakau. They look good. Fencing is due to start mid-June to

be ready for planting in July/August. An additional gain from this fencing will be the ability to have a track from the reservoir across to the Ramaroa Stream making a small loop close to the entrance.

DOC have provided a tray for the LUV

This is already proving very useful for moving spray gear, plants etc. Thanks DOC.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome to join them. They have been going for a year and are making a big difference. They have moved into the Dell to tackle the blackberry above the Rhabdothamnus. Thanks weeders.

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We have about 1,500 plants to put in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2. Please put in your diaries now.

Many thanks.

Looking across to Kapiti Island from top of Catchment View Track



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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 14 June 2017

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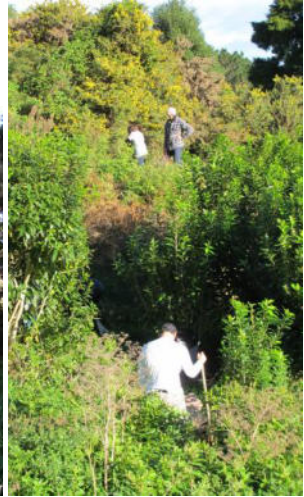
We will meet to plant trees near the Water Intake at 9am. Follow flags from entrance.

Morning tea and cake at the Water Intake picnic table at 10.30am and then Ric Cullinane from Walking Access will “cut the ribbon” along with deputy mayor Janet Holborow. People can then explore the track. Everyone is welcome either to plant or just come along at 10.30 to join us.

Last planting bee in the Dell: Sunday June 4th

Many were away for the long weekend and so we were fortunate to have a large group from Sukyo Mahikari join us for the first planting session of 2017. We planted in the Upper Dell, to enclose the edge of gorse above the track and enhance existing planting. Over 50 volunteers, including lots of children, took part and there was an enthusiastic atmosphere helped by the sunny day.





Many thanks to: Yolande Brophy, James Micael, Caroline-Charlotte Myers, Giovana Paulin, Pam Doherty, Lesley Maxwell, Kumba Lawrence, Darryl Royal, Mark Pennington, Amy Pennington, Campbell Withington, Lucas Turnbull, Claire Williamson, Jon Lloyd, Kahu Crompton, Te Rongopai Lloyd, Murray, Sandra, Lucas, Dominic & Victor Scott, Marguerite & Mr. Scott, Jake, Rebekah, Holly & Jonathon Roos, Jerome, Nicola, Theo & Samuel van Rooyen, Yvonne Cameron, Millie Bonos, Erica McArthur, Dawn Bush, Dick Caldwell, Zara, Harvey, Ralph & Beauden Cammack, Nicola Vinten, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Ann Evans, Gary Crilley, Helen Griffiths, Linda Hill, Bill Jansen, Peter Kentish, Jan Nisbet, Thomas Porter (who also did some gorse cutting), Penny & Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland, Shane Williamson



Whareroa and QEP birds

Gavin Klee has placed photos and videos of some local birds on YouTube. Lovely pics Gavin, thanks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgA8PUIC7v0>

Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2

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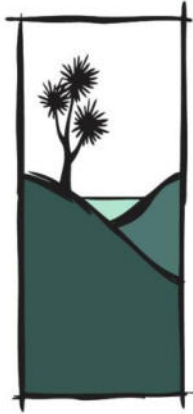
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Catchment View Track heading uphill on right, exit from Mountain Bike Club track on left



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 June 2017

Next planting bee Sunday July 2nd, 9am to noon. Plants arrive 8am.

We are starting Stage 2 of the Ramaroa Wetland: planting carex's along the edge of the big swamp. Follow the flags. It is soggy underfoot so wear gummies or boots and don't venture across the swamp!! Crossing places will be marked. Morning tea and hot dog after. All welcome to plant or distribute carpet squares – and you can see the amazing growth from the last years in Stage 1. Early birds are welcome from 8am to help distribute plants, arriving from The Greenery Nursery, Manakau.

Catchment View Track opening: June 18th 2017

After a year of planning and volunteer effort this tramping track was opened by Deputy Mayor Janet Holborow, helped by a group of children, on June 18th 2017. Over 40 volunteers and supporters gathered to plant native trees then Janet unveiled the sign and children broke the tape to open the track. Sentinel totara trees were planted. About a dozen then set off to walk the circuit.

The Guardians acknowledge with thanks the support of Walking Access Commission Aotearoa who funded the signs, and Transpower who built the stile onto Campbell's Mill Rd.



Rufus Blyth-Dibley, Lilyani Haxton, Elsa Blyth-Dibley, Zara Cammack & Yonexsi Haxton ready to break the opening tape

This is the last major walking track the Whareroa Guardians had planned, with the Dept of Conservation, in the Farm Plan prepared in 2012. It starts in the centre of the reserve, below the Hub. It follows a shared track with mountain bikers to the Marines' Water Intake, a 75 year old structure allowing sediment to settle before water flows to the farm reservoir. At the Intake, the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club's new downhill track joins (no walkers please) and the tramping track heads up the hill. It is a steep route up the ridge but there are several seats along the way, made by volunteers. Views are amazing.

There is now a good network of walking tracks for all abilities at Whareroa; maps are available in the information bay. The Guardians hope many from the community will come to explore this fantastic reserve.



Janet unveils one of the 3 signs on the track



One of many goodies shared, made by Nicola



Mark Tito from DOC talking about Whareroa. Chair Theo and Janet on his left



Kieran and Janet plant a totara

About 150 trees were planted along the stream edge and enclosing gorse including a grove of five matai and several totara. Some large gorse bushes were demolished with enthusiasm by Jan and the boys and the area planted with natives.



Heading off up Catchment View Track (it ends by pines on the skyline). A large clump of gorse was cut behind Fraser.

Many thanks for planting and gorse cutting to: Dawn Bush, Dick Caldwell, Zara, Harvey, Ralph & Bernard Cammack, Nicola Vinten, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Ann Evans, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Linda Hill, Bill Jansen, Jan Nisbet, Sally Heppenstall, Thomas Porter (who also did some gorse cutting), Penny & Ian Redward, June & John Rowland, Carol, Fraser & Rob Stone, Rufus & Elsa Blyth Dibley, Rose Dibley, Yonexsi & Lilyani Haxton, Theo Barsanti, Ron Eckman, Bernard McManus,



Amazing Volunteer Contribution – thanks heaps.

DOC requests our volunteer stats every 4 months. For March to June 2017, 112 volunteers recorded 2,191 hours. We know that is incomplete as many do not let us know what they've been doing. Extrapolated to a year that is equivalent to 3 full time workers donated by the community!!

Fencing grant from Dept of Conservation. Kieran Brocklehurst from DOC applied for funding for improvements to the boundary fences at Whareroa and \$47,000 has been granted for this sorely needed work. This applies to boundaries with neighbours (where costs are shared) as well as internal boundaries between grazing and retired. Beetham Pastural will administer & monitor this work as their contribution. Thanks DOC and Beetham Pastural.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome to join them.

They have been going for a year and are making a big difference. They have moved into the Dell to tackle the blackberry above the Rhabdothamnus. A recent Facebook posting about their work had nearly 1,400 views. (Join the Whareroa Facebook page if you want more news about activities and nature at Whareroa). Thanks weeders.



Kowhai after clearing blackberry away.



Dawn surrounded by blackberry devastation

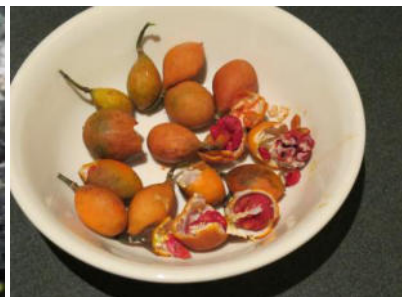
Help needed with catering at planting bees please

Please can anyone help out; it does not have to be every time. It involves buying food, filling thermoses, chopping onions and cooking the sausages. Full training will be given. Please email us.

Future Planting Dates: Sundays: July 16th, Aug 6th & 20th.

(First and third Sundays of these months). Nine to noon followed by hot dog. We have about 1,500 plants to put in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2. Planting on July 16th will include planting the new Whareroa Orchard. Please put in your diaries now. Many thanks.

Nature snippets



1st flowering of swamp maire in the Dell. Birds nest fungus on Kapiti Island (Jan's pic) NZ passionfruit from Whareroa

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



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 14 July 2017

Next planting bee Sunday July 16th, 9am to noon. Plants arrive 8am.

We are continuing Stage 2 of the Ramaroa Wetland: planting carex's along the upper edges of the big swamp and trees along the Reservoir Stream. Follow the flags up the Cairn Track. It is soggy underfoot so wear gummies or boots and don't venture across the swamp!! Morning tea and hot dog after.

All welcome to plant or distribute carpet squares. Early birds are invited from 8am to help distribute the next load of plants, arriving from The Greenery Nursery, Manakau.

Last Planting Bee July 2nd

Another great turnout on a perfect planting day, over 600 plants went in. The carex's are particularly easy apart from getting very muddy. As Peter described, you stand planting one plant and your footprint has made the hole for the next one! Penny won the muddiest volunteer contest.





Natalie from The Greenery with Liffet



Noel and skull



Planting carex both sides of swamp



"Catch"



Planting along Reservoir Stream

Many thanks to: Helen & Tony Griffiths, Thomas Porter, Mark & Pip Pennington, Yolande Brophy, Andrew Hinds, Noel Sundgren, Peter Kentish, Peter Davis, Don & Mary Beggs, June, Sandra & John Rowland, Bernard McManus. **Early birders:** Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Ian & Penny Redward. Dick Caldwell delivered another trailer load of carpet squares and Bernard Cammack was clearing gorse in the Dell.

Fencing Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2 in progress



Top end of the big swamp. Fencing will be finished before stock return to the adjacent paddocks

Lizards and habitat, goals for Whareroa

Lizard news – from NgaUruora newsletter

"Speaking of lizards, we are pleased to announce that four species of lizards have now been confirmed on the Paekākāriki-Pukerua Bay escarpment. Trent Bell from EcoGecko Consultants Ltd has been putting in a lot of

time to track them down as part of The Kāpiti Biodiversity Project.

We have Raukawa geckos, Northern grass skinks, Copper skinks and Brown skinks. Each of these species is relatively common compared to other lizard species in New Zealand. We hope that we will be able to add some new species with some spotlighting missions over summer!

Thanks to Trent for the lizard photos below.”



Northern grass skink



Brown skink



Raukawa gecko



Coprosma propinqua planted last year for lizard habitat and carex and flaxes also in Stage 1



Northern grass skinks and forest geckos have been seen at Whareroa. We hope that lizard numbers will recover following habitat improvement and enhanced pest trapping

Sascha's benches



Sascha Wassong built these totara benches originally to go by the Cairn, the building of which he coordinated, but they would not stand up to stock. Penny & Ian Redward have now placed them on the terrace above the Dell, a great spot to relax. Many thanks Sascha (and Penny & Ian).

Congratulations and many many thanks to Peter Kentish!



Peter hard at work on the Escarpment



Peter & Bernard putting up posts on Ramaroa

Congratulations to Peter Kentish, fondly known as PK, for being one of last night's four recipients of a Civic Award from KCDC. Peter received his award for all the conservation work he does with Ngā Uruora, Whareroa Guardians Community Trust and Forest & Bird at Kaitawa Reserve.

Thanks for all your hard work PK and the positive attitude you bring to everything you do. Also for your photography skills, recording the changes. We really appreciate it!

Weed spraying training opportunity. Reply needed by Monday 18th

Greater Wellington are running a Growsafe course at QEP on 17th August, this will be both a refresher - ½ day and full course - 1 day. The cost is \$240 plus GST for the refresher and \$360 plus GST for the full day. They have a couple of spare spaces. Whareroa Guardians will reimburse 50% of cost to our volunteers who would like to do this and then use these skills at Whareroa (we have the sprays etc). Please contact Wayne Boness, Principal Ranger, DDI: 04 831 3310 M: 021 667 321 E: wayne.boness@gw.govt.nz if interested and also let us know.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon. They have been going for a year and are making a big difference. They have moved into the Dell to tackle the blackberry above the Rhabdothamnos. Everyone welcome to join them

Future Planting Dates: Sundays: Aug 6th & 20th.

(First and third Sundays of these months). Nine to noon followed by hot dog. We have about 1,500 plants to put in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2. Please put in your diaries now. Many thanks.

Our contact info:

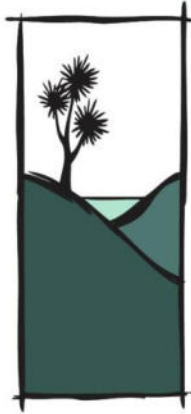
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<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations





WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 02 August 2017

Please note - NO Whareroa planting bee Aug 6th as we have done so well this year. However QEP Friends invite volunteers to join them planting on Sun Aug 6th, 9.30am at Poplar Ave entrance.

Whareroa final planting bee for 2017: Sunday Aug 20thth, 9am to noon.

We will welcome some youngsters from Kapiti College's eco group to help. We will continue Stage 2 of the Ramaroa Wetland. Follow the flags up the Cairn Track. It is soggy underfoot so wear gummies or boots and bring your planting tools. Morning tea and hot dog after. All welcome to plant or distribute carpet squares. If lots of volunteers come we may have time for a fungus search in Ramaroa Bush.

Last Planting Bee July 16th: "Whareroa Orchard and Ramaroa Wetland"



The Whareroa Orchard has begun with the planting of nine heritage fruit trees, three each of plum, apple and pear. Cree Hadfield gave us expert advice and supervision planting and pruning the saplings. There will be room eventually for perhaps 25 trees; we hope visitors will be able to enjoy the fruit before too long. This project has been managed by Liffet who ordered the plants and collected the compost, Sandra sprayed the spots, Thomas, Penny and Bruce dug the large holes.



Theo, Cree and Penny with fruit trees



Thomas and Cree

The area was fenced by farmer Drew, Shane, Shane, Theo, Thomas, Bruce, Ian and John earlier in the year.



Another great turnout on a good planting day, about 50 volunteers planted 650 plants in and along the edge of the swamp. Children planted carex, flax, cabbage trees and nikau in one zone and other volunteers managed to get right across the swamp planting carex. Only one gum boot came off.

Many thanks to: Thomas Porter , Noel Sundgren, Peter Kentish, Don & Mary Beggs, June & Sandra Rowland, Bernard McManus, Dick Caldwell , Shane Cave, Harvey, Ralph, Zara, Miyako, Bernard & Enzo Cammack, Kieran & Ruby Durrant-Bush, Andy McKay, Sally Heppenstall, Linda Hill, Jan Nisbet, Jake Roos, Russell Bell, Pene Burton-Bell, Aki Kurihara, Zoya & Timka and Mike Hosegood. Thanks also to "early birders" who came at 8am to help unload plants: Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, Bruce Bulmer, Ian & Penny Redward.



Kapiti Walkers and Joggers arrived to help after their morning jog/walk around the reserve: Chris Keating, Glenda Robb, Wendy Eglinton, Pat Gray, Peter Kennedy, Jack McAllister, Tony & Maureen Farmer, John Hammonds, Roger & Pam Childs. They have also supported Whareroa with donations from their annual “In the footsteps of the Marines” run; many thanks to the group.



This year we applied for grants for fencing and plants for Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2. We were successful in the fencing, paid for by DOC’s Community Conservation Fund. After a very heavy planting year last year we decided to have a quieter year this year but before continuing with the Ramaroa Wetland planting next year we will have to obtain a further grant.

After the superfluous fence along the northern edge is removed, we will next year thicken up the shelter belt ready for establishing a “commemorative planting” area for the district.

We also intend to open walking tracks through the wetland, connecting the Marines’ reservoir to the Ramaroa Stream, thus giving another “dry foot” walking loop for visitors. That will be a summer project for working bees. Since the leaking pipe above the main race was repaired, the start of Te Ara Ramaroa has dried out making it much nicer to walk along.

Lizards and habitat, goals for Whareroa

Further to the item in the last update, Trent Bell from EcoGecko asks that if anyone sees lizards, please can they let us know - with location and description, date and time of day and any other observations. Many thanks.

Seeds and regeneration and pests



Nikau and kahikatea have fruited well in Matai Bush this year, note the many nikau seeds and seedlings but kohekohe has hardly flowered unlike the last three years. Native trees tend to have “mast” years from time to time when there is prolific fruiting.

Pest trapping is especially important in mast years to keep rat and mustelid population down as they would otherwise breed rapidly as there is so much food. Our trapping group continues to grow; stoats and weasels are still being caught as well as rats and possums. Each pest caught enhances the safety of the reserve for birds and lizards, weta and other invertebrates. The trappers are part of a larger group working to create a “mainland island” incorporating Whareroa, QE Park and the escarpment between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay, as part of the work of the Kapiti Biodiversity Project – an area of 2,000 hectares. Thanks trappers and others involved.

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon.

Next month Working Bees will return to the first Sunday of the month, 9 to noon: Sept 3rd and October 1st.

Our contact info:

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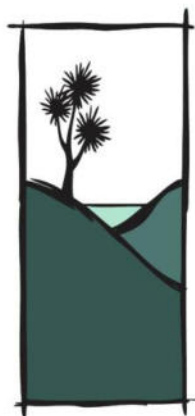
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Swamp in Ramaroa Wetland, carex have been planted in bottom



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 16 August 2017

Whareroa planting and working bee: Sunday Aug 20thth, 9am to noon.

We will welcome some youngsters from Kapiti College's eco group to help (following a talk about Whareroa given to them by trustee Ruby). We will continue Stage 2 of the Ramaroa Wetland. Follow the flags. A specific task is to plant an area where two rubbish pits were filled in. There is likely to be glass within the soil so only volunteers with strong gloves should work in this area. We don't have many plants left for this year so some small gorse bush removal from amongst plantings could be done as well. We would also like to clear grass along bottom of the fence lines for removal.

The ground is soggy underfoot so wear gummies or boots and bring your planting tools and hand saws. Morning tea and hot dog after. All welcome to plant or distribute carpet squares.



Area where rubbish pits filled in



New stile at site entrance, with adjacent fence repaired.

School Planting Day Weds (all day) Sep 13 and Thurs (morning) Sep 14

Jan is coordinating this event this year. She has already visited the students at Paraparaumu Beach School to discuss sustainability and the reserve. This will be the 4th year they have taken part. They will plant as well as having bush activities. Jan & Ann sprayed planting spots last weekend.

Volunteers are needed to help please, at least three for each session. Please contact Jan at bikeridenz@outlook.com or by phone/txt: 027 358 5611 if you can help for a session or two. Thanks.

Fencing Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2

This has now been completed, with the addition of stiles to allow easy movement from one side of the swamp to the other. Many thanks to the DOC Community Fund for the grant for this work.

Planting will continue next year. Track making will occur over the summer to connect the Cairn Track to the Ramaroa Stream and Bush.



Ramaroa Wetland fence panorama: Stage 2 in foreground, Stage 1 bottom right corner



Simple stile, one of two, to bypass the culvert



Fenced off pond, previously polluted by cattle



Connections between Stages 1 & 2 now open for future tracks. The obsolete fence will be removed by volunteers

Reminder: Wednesday Weeders every week - 9 to noon.

Next month Working Bees will return to the first Sunday of the month, 9 to noon: Sept 3rd and October 1st.

No hot dogs with regular working bees so last chance to enjoy one is this Sunday!



Following a request from the Guardians, we are delighted that DOC has provided an extension to the entrance sign, illustrating the range of activities available for visitors. Thanks DOC.

Our contact info:

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

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STOP PRESS



The Kiwi Caravan is on the move today! This caravan was helicoptered off Kapiti Island following decades of use in the Kiwi programme. We hope to transform it into an attractive shelter for the Reserve at the Hub.

It is off to MenzShed Waikanae for assessment for restoration and transformation. Many thanks to MenzShed.



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 31 August 2017

Next working bee Sunday Sept 3rd 9am to noon.

We will do some tidying up at Ramaroa Wetland including finishing the removal of the fence separating Stages 1 & 2 then consider track routes and check out last year's plants for releasing. A few ribbonwoods need popping into pre-dug holes. A couple of smallish flax from last year need shifting as too close to the track. Also small gorse bushes amongst this year's plants could be grubbed out. The ground is still pretty wet and muddy so wear boots or gummies. Please bring grubbers, hand saws and secateurs. Morning tea provided.

Last planting bee Aug 20th

We welcomed some youngsters from Kapiti College's eco group - much appreciated. We planted an area where two rubbish pits were filled in with a mixture of reveg native trees. It was very muddy. The Symons family came over from the Hutt - thanks guys and Sarah brought g'son Felix who loved the puddles and sheep. Thomas dealt to a huge pampas plant then he and Theo removed half of the fence splitting the retired area including a stream barrier thus allowing easier flow.





Mela from Kapiti College



June chatting with Kata & Emma at morning tea



Planting in the rain



It had dried out a week later



Felix getting over the stile



Emma & Kata with cabbage trees



Tom dealing to pampas

Many thanks to: Julie, Alexander & Neil Symons, Emma Ruwhiu, Kata Brown, Mela McCormick Wolf, Theo Barsanti, Tom Porter, Richard Caldwell, Sarah McMurray with Felix, Jan Nisbet, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Bernard Cammack and of course June & Sandra Rowland for the last magnificent hot dog feast with delicious relish.

Kieran Brocklehurst, our manager from DOC is leaving. We particularly thank him for the LUV and working to get money for more fencing. Good luck Kieran in your next role overseas.



Tom and Theo removing the fence between the two sections of the Wetland; NB 2016 plants on the banks

School Planting Day Weds (all day) Sep 13 and Fri (morning) Sep 15

Jan is coordinating this event this year for Paraparaumu Beach School, 180 children are expected. They will plant about 3 trees each and also have some bush experience learning about pests and weeds and some will dig up Rangiora seedlings to replant immediately. Whittakers have kindly donated mini chocolate bars again. **More volunteers are needed to help please.** Please contact Jan at bikeridenz@outlook.com or by phone/txt: 027 358 5611 if you can help for a session or two.

Volunteer activity and gear



Darryl, one of our intrepid trappers with a baby weasel. LUV loaded for action. It is invaluable to the Guardians This was caught just by the Rhabdothamnos bushes in the Dell. These are only pollinated by bellbirds so weasels need to be removed.

Do you want a pohutakawa tree?

We have found about 3 misplanted pohutakawa. When tiny they and rata look the same but it is now obvious that there are some interlopers – they will be dug up on Sunday - free to a good home.

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



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 September 2017

Next working bee Sunday Oct 1st 9am to noon.

We will check out last year's plantings in Ramaroa and also tidy up bushes encroaching on to the track, trimming them back. A couple of smallish flax from last year need shifting as too close to the track. Also small gorse bushes could be grubbed out. The ground is still pretty wet and muddy so wear boots or gummies. Please bring grubbers, hand saws and secateurs. Morning tea provided.

Last working bee Aug 20th



We removed some more fencing and released small trees and removed gorse from amongst the planting.

Many thanks to: Mela McCormick Wolf, Bruce Bulmer, Theo Barsanti, Tom Porter, Richard Caldwell, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Shane Cave, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Bernard Cammack, Sue Campbell, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Linda Hill, Bernard McManus, Shane Williamson, John & Sandra Rowland.



School Whareroa Day Weds Sep 13 and Fri Sep 15

This was an amazing experience for all concerned. About 180 students from Paraparaumu Beach School came in three groups. They planted about 3 trees each, were shown pest traps by Shane Cave and learnt about sustainability and identifying tree seedlings in the bush with Jan Nisbet. Jan organised the event including visits to the school before and after the day. Whittakers kindly donated mini chocolate bars again. Getting kids involved is the key to the future. Thanks Jan!

Jan's notes below:

A great big thanks to you all for the part you played in the very successful planting you were an integral part of the plan.

Just trying to track down the spanner that was attached to the beautifully routed sign post that Ann made

Sandra – almost all the carpet was used so the three trips you made to get it all up there very much appreciated

Theo thanks for taking all the tools and various plants up - your rustic land rover always adds a something special to Whareroa events!

Noel and Thomas – the great hole digging brigade – thank you for your effort – it certainly meant we got more plants put in – thankyou also for donating your lunch box Noel for the spider container -spider safely returned to the wilds.

Penny Dawn and Liffet – thank you heaps for all your digging, planting, supervising and quality control.

Turning all the adults into “pesky Pukeko pulling at the plants checkers” worked really well

Shane – the looks of engagement on the children’s faces was wonderful to see – thanks heaps – it certainly added to the day

Phillipa – thanks heaps for your generous donation of plants

Special thanks for the yummy cake – Penny

Thanks every one, Jan

One class wrote a heap of thankyou emails which were very touching:

Dear Jan,

I loved Whareroa Farm so much. It was the best trip I've ever had in my entier life. Whareroa Farm is one of the best place in the world. When I'm older. I will come again one day. Its calm and pecfull and buttifull.

To Jan and others

Hi Jan I'm Nevaeh, I'm here to thank you for showing us the beautiful green trees that waved in the sun when we walked through the gate we were sure to have fun. At the very start my heart fell apart when I heard the birds were dying but it's our job to stop those pests from thriving.

Those traps really gave me the shivers now I know why that humans never dare to touch them as they quiver. It was a sunny day that made me feel of as the sun rays bounced back and forth of my back. The environment was stunning to see as the tees grew and birds flew and the flowers waved as the sun rays hit them. I loved when we went through the bush I imagined I was a bird making its nests nice and safe and away from pests. I giggled when i saw little munches of caterpillar bites on the sparkling wet leaves as the raindrops fell on me from the big greeny trees. I hope I can come again in the summer when my tree will grow and all birds will nest there leaving tiny little feathers for me to see I loved going to waharoa farm there is no need to be alarmed. You will have fun at Whareroa Farm.

Dear Jan and Everyone else Involved

We enjoyed planting trees in the spring breeze.
We enjoyed looking at the pretty coloured leaves and weird shaped trees.
We heard the trees sway as we walked thru the forest.
We felt the brown dirt on our hands as the little worms wriggled around.
The carpet was perfect to protect the plants from predators.
All the plants were lush and green like i've never seen.
The view was beautiful it blew my mind away.
All the holes were as deep as souls
We thank you for showing us the traps that trap predators to DEATH.

Thank you for letting us come to whareroa farm we had lots of fun at Whareroa Farm!

From Lily-Rose and Anika



One of the three groups.



Gumboot girls



Plants ready to go in



Carpet squares showing area planted

Kiwi Caravan location



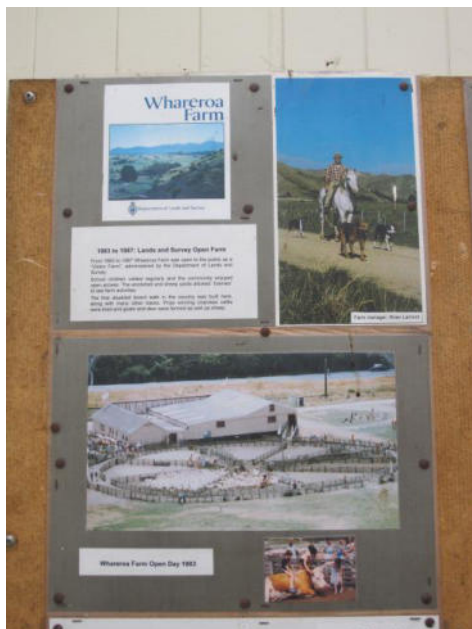
Last weekend there were discussions about the location of the Kiwi Caravan, currently undergoing repairs at the MenzShed. (Pic shows Ian, Theo, Shane and Peter) After much deliberation, it was decided that it would be best placed in the corner of the Hub and the picnic table would be moved to be close by. We also noticed some Whareroa “graffiti” on the table, see above.

Mud, cattle and fences

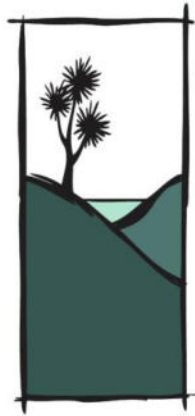
This has been a very wet winter and several people have contacted us to express concern about the impact of cattle on fences, paddocks and waterways. Beethams Pastoral is about to supervise a significant fencing programme, funded by DOC, to improve fences and stock management.

The Whareroa Farm Plan 2012 includes a goal of exclusion of stock from waterways; the Guardians totally support this. Significant lengths of waterway have already been retired but more is needed.

Bryan Lamont



Visitors may have seen some flowers and a memorial card for Bryan Lamont in the information bay. He was the farm manager at Whareroa for Lands and Survey in the 1970's/80's – the man on the horse riding down the farm race. He was actively involved in developing Whareroa as an Open Farm with regular school visits, open days, orienteering and well-marked tracks covering much of the farm. Some of us recall taking our children to the farm's open day in 1983 (lower pic) with deer, angora goats, prize winning Charolais cattle and thousands of sheep (and no gorse!). Under Landcorp the farm was “lost” to public access for 24 Years.



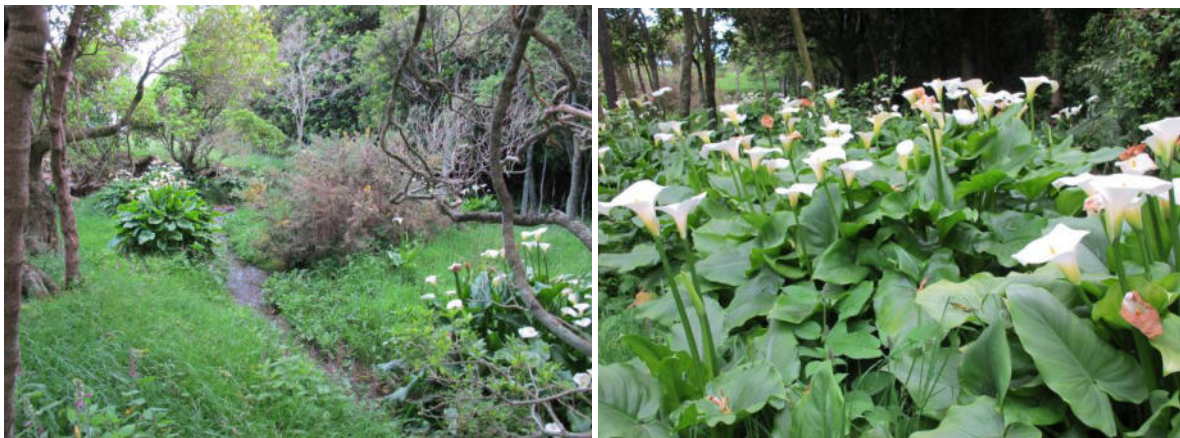
WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 09 November 2017

Next working bee Sunday Nov 12th 9am to noon.

We will work in and above Ramaroa Bush, access over “double stiles”. Follow the flags. We will walk through the bush to streamside in the paddock above and work clearing gorse bushes and attacking the arum lillies by cutting off flower heads before they seed. See pics below. Apparently this will slow their spread. The main plant can be grubbed up as can thistles. We might get up as far as the giant pohutakawa trees. The ground is still pretty wet and muddy so wear boots or gummies. Please bring grubbers, hand saws, secateurs or strong scissors. Other possible activities include doing more track edge marking with stones in Ramaroa Bush and clearing celery weed from the stream.

A group of brownies will be joining us; they came last year too and we welcome their involvement. Morning tea provided.



Last working bee Oct 1st

We released around last year's plants, in some places it was “hunt the plant”. Another of Penny and Ian's seat creations was moved into the wetland. Bruce's spade and a flax bush had a battle – the flax won! More gorse bit the dust and the track accesses to Ramaroa Wetland from Te Ara Ramaroa were cut back (Bernard with his scimitar). When a new track goes through the whole of the wetland, signage will need clarification.



Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Sue Campbell, Bernard McManus, June Rowland, Richard Caldwell, Christine Elmiger, Ian & Penny Redward, Jan Nisbet, Pip Pennington and Andrew Hinds.

Grant for Art Work on the Kiwi Caravan from Wellington Community Trust

We acknowledge with thanks a recent grant of \$2,610 from Wellington Community Trust to fund the painting of a mural on the Kiwi Caravan and to purchase display cabinets. This is great news. In addition we are trying to find old photos and information about its use on Kapiti Island to provide historic information. DOC staff are working on this. The Kapiti MenzShed volunteers are busy working on the restoration of the caravan to make it into a useful shelter.

Toyota Kiwi Guardians

Parents and grandparents may have noticed that Whareroa is now included in the Toyota Kiwi Guardians scheme. This is a wonderful resource giving projects for children to do at various places all over NZ and to then be able to get a “medal”. Local sites include Nga Manu, Battle Hill, Zealandia and now Whareroa. However, the Guardians are very disappointed with our version and DOC have promised that this will be amended, with our involvement, probably early next year after the Kiwi Caravan is on site. Watch this space. In the meantime it can be used. Some info follows:

“Toyota Kiwi Guardians, the programme set up to help children ditch screen time in favour of exploring the great outdoors with their families, has seen more than 7,000 participants gain medals in its first year. Launched in March 2016 by Toyota and the Department of Conservation (DOC), Toyota Kiwi Guardians aims to increase Kiwi kids’ connection with the natural world across the nation.”

“We are excited to be working with DOC on a project that encourages Kiwi kids to conserve our natural environment and have fun doing it,” said Toyota New Zealand CEO, Alistair Davis.

The most popular sites are those close to large urban areas including: North Head, Auckland; Manawatu Gorge, Palmerston North; Wilton’s Bush, Wellington; Riccarton Bush at Christchurch and Lawyer’s Head at Dunedin.

Families can get started on their adventures today by visiting: www.kiwiguardians.co.nz”-

Pest Report

The 7 Whareroa pest trappers continue their activity with 18 possums in October. Worryingly, a ferret has been caught this month – they are large mustelids and new to the area – it is thought they are arriving along the expressway.

Thefts at Whareroa

Smash and grab in the carpark continues, even with people around as happened a couple of weeks ago. Please do NOT leave anything of value visible eg i-phone. A particularly nasty theft was the unscrewing & taking of a steel plaque from the picnic table at Five Ways. This recorded the donation from the “In the Footsteps of the Marines” run in 2015 and cost \$85. How mean can you get?

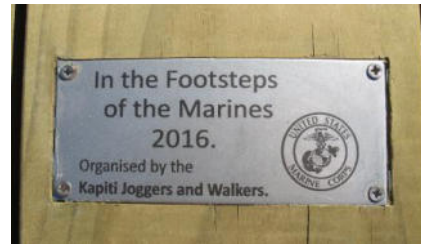
We hope that vandal proof cameras will soon be recording all activities at the carpark.



Location of missing plaque



The table at Five Ways



The 2016 plaque by farm race

Bike track

A large biking event was held last weekend using the new Kapiti Mountain Bike downhill track which is now officially open with four beautiful bridges. Congratulations to the Club who have met and overcome huge challenges to complete the track.

Tramping

Kapiti Monday Walkers also enjoyed the challenging tramping circuits last month. Over winter the Ramaroa Track was very muddy but it is now drying out and worth a look. It is good to see Whareroa increasingly on the map.

Future working bee: Sunday Dec 3rd. No working bee in January.

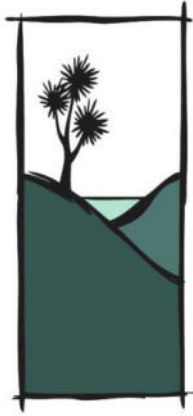
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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 30 November 2017

Next working bee Sunday Dec 3rd - 9 to noon

This will be the last working bee until February. We will work around the Hub and the Dell. Clearing a section of stream by the Gums so little kids can explore. Doing some cutting back along the existing “cattle track” width path down from Kamahi Bush lookout to make the track a bit wider. And there is always releasing of little plants and cutting gorse and bigger weeds to do. You can drive in to the Hub but please leave gates as you find them. Follow the flags. Bring hand saws, loppers, strong gloves etc. Morning tea provided.

Last working bee Sunday Nov 12th

This was “Brownies’ Day” with a good group from Paraparaumu Beach with family support, along with usual gang: Theo Barsanti, Richard Caldwell, Thomas Porter, Peter Kentish, Peter Davies Bernard McManus, Shane Cave, Shane Williamson, Dawn Bush, Ruby & Kieran Durrant-Bush, Sandra & June Rowland and Liffet Stewart. The only other than regular volunteer was Jerome and his 2 small boys Theo and Sam. Many thanks everyone. Liffet.



Brownies attack arum lilies



Helped by William



and Peter D



Morning tea by the "double stiles"



Bernard and Peter knock off another gorse bush

They worked around Ramaroa Bush. The main task was by the streamside in the paddock beyond, clearing gorse bushes and attacking arum lilies by cutting off flower heads before they seed. Some brownies also got rather wet clearing celery weed from the stream. More stones were laid alongside the track in the bush. Great work.

The Ramaroa Bush is now very accessible as Richard and Theo mowed the track, and brownies did some more edge stone laying. Follow the sign for Te Ara Ramaroa from the farm race just over the stream culvert. It is all nice and dry at the moment (too dry for growth but nice for walking).



At the entrance to Ramaroa Bush



Path with stones along the edge

Lion Foundation grant of \$8,000 for plants

The Guardians thank the Lion Foundation for this grant which will provide 2,000 more plants for the Ramaroa Wetland in 2018. We will plant mainly swamp plants with dry foot plants on the sides of the gully. Swamp plants are quick to put in as long as you don't mind getting muddy!

DOC volunteer Day

Ranger Suzi coordinated a group of about 30 DOC workers from head office. Theo and Dawn helped. They removed some flax bushes by the carpark to improve visibility and more flax along the track to the washed out bridge, cut gorse and released new plantings in the Dell and planted 3 totara to show they'd been there! Many thanks DOC for some really useful work.

Pest Report

The seven Whareroa pest trappers continue their activity with 18 possums caught in October. Worryingly, a ferret has been caught at Whareroa this month – they are large mustelids and new to the area – it is thought they are arriving along the expressway.

Drinking water

DOC and the Guardians reviewed the water supply to the main toilets and the blue pipes by the entrance and advise that this is not suitable for drinking as ducks swim (and poo) in the reservoir. Signs will be placed. The supply to the Hub toilets' basin is taken off above the reservoir and is the same as stream water above the intake. There is no stock on the farm above this point.



DOC are assessing the long term options for the reserve's water supply given that the system is now 75 years old. Theo and Ann checked out the two intakes above the silt chamber, one was blocked but Theo opened up the flow again with some judicious digging.

No working bee in January but we'll be back on Feb 4th 2018.

We hope all have a good festive season and enjoy Whareroa as part of it.

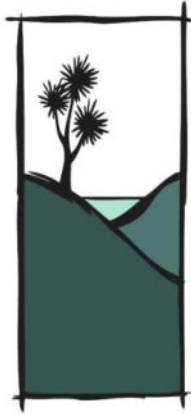
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WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 December 2017

Last working bee Sunday Dec 3rd

This was the last working bee until February. We worked around the Hub and the Dell. We cleared a section of stream by the Gums so little (and bigger) kids can explore in the water. Others cut back along the existing “cattle track” width path up and down from Kamahi Bush lookout to make the track wider into an easy, signposted, loop – there is a fantastic view from the top as well as some lovely sitting creations. Sandra and June brought end of year banana cake.

Thanks to: Sandra & June Rowland, Dawn Bush, Theo Barsanti, Ellen Soulliere, Shane Williamson, Richard Caldwell, Tom Porter, Helen & Tony Griffiths, Bernard McManus, Ian & Penny Redward, Bill Jansen, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Jan Nisbet and Ann Evans. Bernard Cammack was working on the Dell loop.



Morning tea break in the Dell



Bill, Peter & Ellen track cutting up to Kamahi Bush Lookout to form a loop walk. Bruce & Tom on the other section.



Tony & Helen clearing banks



Penny & Jan enjoying the seat



Jan watering Rhabdothamnus bushes



Bruce erecting signs for the new little loop track



Bernard McM clearing vegetation to open up the stream

Lion Foundation grant of \$8,000 for plants

The Guardians thank the Lion Foundation for this grant which will provide 2,000 more plants for the Ramaroa Wetland in 2018. We will plant mainly swamp plants with dry foot plants on the sides of the gully. Swamp plants are quick to put in as long as you don't mind getting muddy! We are

monitoring survival this hot summer to help with choices for next year - on the slopes the terrain is dry and exposed. Sadly, we have lost a number of this year's plants. We have watered some extra special ones like the Rhabdothamnus in the Dell and totara.

Blackberry, gorse and fire risk

DOC rangers Dave & Emma cleared the large blackberry infestation near Matai Bush above our plantings, to be followed with spraying as it regrows. DOC volunteers cleared access paths through the patch in Upper Dell to allow spraying and Ann has since weed eaten it down. That will also need spray as new shoots appear. When clear the big totara will be much more accessible. Ian and Penny have been cutting the large gorse area above the Dell.

At the moment fire risk is high so weed eating and mowing is limited to mornings and we have to carry fire extinguishers on our belts.



Dave from DOC celebrating hacking down blackberry by Matai Bush



Ian getting into gorse above the Dell

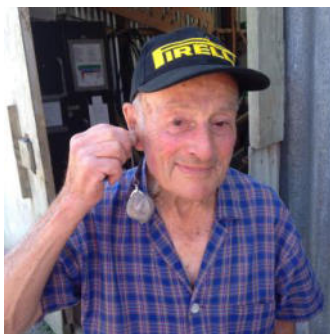


This patch of blackberry by Dell also now gone



Picnic area at Dell ready for visitors

Pest Report and Whareroa Bird photos



Richard "modelling" the new tea strainer ferret scent ear ring being trialled by the Whareroa pest trapping team. This is part of a larger research project involving several sites. Kereru in tawa, Matai Bush and grey warbler nest in Dell. Ann took the kereru pics early one morning and Penny the one of the empty nest.



Theo & Richard improved the first bridge in Te Ara Ramaroa to allow mower access. Kapiti MTB Club erected the “tree”

QE Park new visitor centre: “Ramaroa” (Long Light) and some background

The new visitor centre at Mackays Crossing was opened this month, it is a wonderful asset with fantastic views of Whareroa Farm including up the Ramaroa Valley. We hope to hold our AGM there in April.

The block of land incorporating Whareroa Farm Reserve and QE Park was historically one before it was divided first by the railway in the 1890’s and later, the highway.

Maori grew crops eg kumara and harvested and traded flax and had routes crossing the hills to the east. The peat zone below the escarpment was wetland with swamp and waterways. Whareroa Stream comes down Waterfall Rd as well as through Whareroa Farm: the two branches meet in QE Park and flow west, joining the sea below the Whareroa Pa. Flax was loaded onto boats here to be shipped away. In 1857 Ngati Toa sold a large section of this land to the Government and then the Mackay and Lynch families established farms. A Mackay homestead was named Ramaroa.

Iwi retained some areas: Wainui, Ramaroa and Whareroa “native reserves” which were sold later. These names are relevant to the whole area and are used on both sides of the highway/railway.

No working bee in January but we’ll be back on Feb 4th 2018. We hope all have a good festive season and enjoy Whareroa as part of it.

Thank you again to all our volunteers in 2017 (and indeed, since 2007).

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