

# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 31 January 2019

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Welcome to 2019 at Whareroa

**Next working bee: Sunday 03 February: 9 to noon with morning tea**

*At Ramaroa Wetland*

Releasing this year's and last year's plants and chipping away at gorse plants and grubbing thistles. Also looking at possible routes for a Ramaroa Wetland Track to connect the Marines' Reservoir to the Ramaroa Stream.

Please bring hand saws and loppers to remove gorse and grubbers to tackle weeds and small gorse plants. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags. Remember sunhat and screen.

*Last session 03 December – Ramaroa Wetland & Dave's table*



17 volunteers had a warm time releasing the 2018 plantings. This picnic table, near the apex of the wetland, was donated in memory of Dave Barber. Many thanks to Audrey. Richard Caldwell built it to his usual high standard and Audrey's friends and relations put it in place. Another "destination" with wonderful views over the Reserve and out to Kapiti Island. Do go and check it out; evening is a lovely time to be there.

**Many thanks to:** *Chris Barber, Audrey Barber, Greg Sherley June & Sandra Rowland, Sue Campbell, Ian & Penny Redward, Dawn Bush, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Tom Porter, Richard Caldwell, Ellen Soulliere, Peter Kentish, Theo Barsanti, Bernard McManus and Bruce Bulmer.*

### ***Donation from Kapiti Pakeke Lions Club.***

Theo and Sandra attended an evening with the Kapiti Pakeke Lions along with other recipients of grants. We were privileged to receive a donation of \$1,750. This will be used to erect another information sign, about native lizards, to go next to the bird sign by the caravan at the Hub

**Many thanks to the club.**

### ***Bad things***

**Burglary at the Shed.** Mower Kermit was stolen, along with various tools and pest control gear. If anyone sees Kermit let us or the police know.

**Wall demolition.** Apparently an intoxicated driver took out this big chunk. At least he did not hit another vehicle. We are gutted as hundreds of volunteer hours went into building the wall in 2011, led by Sascha Wassong.







It will be a huge job to repair it. The Trust will explore options.

### *Good things*

**Upper Ti Kouka Stream Fencing.** Materials have been placed and work is expected to start in a couple of weeks. We have begun planning planting options. Gorse is establishing on the slopes and we will use this as part of the restoration programme with perimeter plantings. An application for plant funding has been submitted.

**Lizards at Whareroa Project.** A small group has met to determine how best to proceed with establishing a lizard friendly zone at Whareroa. This would involve planting, monitoring and trapping. Whareroa may be suitable to establish a “relocation refuge” for lizards displaced by development or roading projects. This would involve very intensive pest control.



Some of the Lizard Group assessing potential locations.

**LUV Training** More volunteers successfully completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> day of LUV training – well done Liffet Stewart, Ian Redward, Shane Cave and Jason Bohmer. We now have a good complement of drivers. It is so useful to transport tools and equipment such as spraying gear and weed-eaters.

**DOC's Tracks have been beautifully mown.** Thanks DOC. Try the “Downhill – Upper Link - Horsetrack” loop.

**Trapping.** Numbers of pests have been low this summer with a few possums and rats. It is hoped this reflects the effectiveness of the trapping regime but monitoring will be done to confirm that. A big concern is the potential for new pests accessing Whareroa from further north, using the Expressway plantings as their own Expressway. Nga Manu in Waikanae have trapped several ferrets recently, these are new to Kapiti and a particularly nasty predator.



## Orchard



All the trees have established. They were pruned by Liffet under the guidance of Cree Hatfield. The fruit was culled as as to encourage strong growth. Things look hopeful and it is planned to plant more this winter.

## Snippets



A long-tailed cuckoo hit a window in Raumati

Rata flowers Ti Kouka

Swamp Maire fruit in Upper Dell

Whareroa Guardians AGM Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7pm,  
Kotare Room, Ramaroa Visitor Centre, QEPark *File the date*

**Regular Working Bees continue, first Sunday of the month: 9 to noon**

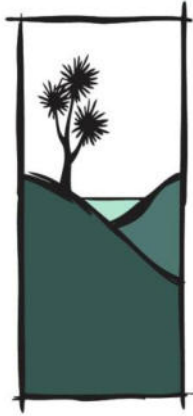
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 27 February 2019

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**Next working bee: Sunday 03 March: 9 to noon with morning tea**

### *In the Dell*

Releasing last year's school plantings and continuing weed clearance of the valley floor of the Upper Dell. There's a bit of gorse and inkweed. We aim to plant the valley floor with masses of flax with a few more swamp trees – pukeatea, ti kouka and nikau. Seeds have been gathered from Whareroa flax. We'll also push back encroaching gorse/inkweed on the valley sides above the track – trees are getting established. Please bring hand saws and loppers to remove gorse and grubbers to tackle weeds and small gorse plants. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags. Remember sunhat and screen.



Middle section of the Dell.



## *Last session 03 January – Ramaroa Wetland*



The Picnic table donated by Kapiti Joggers and Walkers from their 2018 “In the Footsteps of the Marines” run has found its resting place, quite close to the Marines’ Reservoir with a nice view over the Marines’ camp site and across QEP to Kapiti Island. This flat area is set aside for a future “commemorative planting” site. The group chipped away at weeds around the new plants, especially gorse. The totara trees along the ridge are establishing well despite the dry conditions.

Theo and Ann explored a route for a walking track to connect the Reservoir to Ramaroa Stream. This will require some surveying (Ian) and earthworks in a future working bee.



Theo with spray can, post and sledge hammer marking a route, these plantings are three or four years old.



**Many thanks to:** Audrey Barber, Penny & Ian Redward, Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Peter Kentish, Theo Barsanti, Bernard McManus, Liffet Stewart, Sue Campbell, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Sandra Rowland, Ann Evans and Bruce Bulmer.

### ***Donation received from Lion Foundation***

We applied to Lion Foundation for money for this year's plants to start the Upper Ti Kouka restoration. We have received \$6,000; this will purchase 1,500 plants. An ordering list is being compiled. Many thanks to the Foundation. Their local hostelry is The Boundary in Raumati Beach.

### ***Volunteer Input 2018***

In 2018 164 volunteers participated and donated 3779 recorded hours (worth over \$75,000 at \$20 per hour). 150 school children also planted trees. We know that your activities are often not recorded so this is an underestimate. This does not include the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club's work. This is a HUGE contribution to the reserve and reflects how strong is the community's attachment to Whareroa. ***Thank you, thank you to all!***

### ***Trust meeting at Kiwi Caravan***



As you can see, trust meetings are very serious affairs. Mic, Sue, Lynette, Sandra, Dawn, Ruby, Theo & Ian (Ann took pic)

The Board meet about 8 times a year to discuss projects, apply for funding, liaise with DOC and generally support the improvement of Whareroa.

## Lizards



Lyn Adams, DOC's lizard expert, visited Whareroa to assess possibilities for relocating lizards from places where their habitat will be destroyed eg by new roads. It looks hopeful that the Cairn can be approved as such a site, with very intensive pest trapping. Kapiti Biodiversity Group is looking at lizard options in the wider area. We are fortunate to have such a good trapping group. Thanks guys.

## Odds and Ends



Early morning gorse clearing gang

A leak (being fixed)

Bumper cicada year

## Whareroa Guardians AGM Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm

Kotare Room, Ramaroa Visitor Centre, Mackays Crossing entrance, QEPark

**Jack Mace, Operations Manager, Department of Conservation, Kapiti Wellington District will be our guest speaker.** Jack lives in Raumati and will consider some of the wider issues for DOC as well as the role of Whareroa.

**Regular Working Bees continue, first Sunday of the month: 9 to noon**

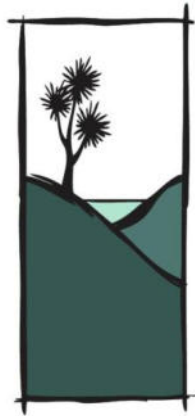
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 27 March 2019

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### **Next working bee: Sunday 07 April: 9 to noon with morning tea**

Up at the Cairn – soon to be a Lizard Relocation Site. See pics later. Please bring hand saws and loppers to remove gorse and grubbers to tackle weeds and small gorse plants. Also removing some fence wire & battens. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags.

### ***Last session 03 March – In the Dell***

A lovely morning passed releasing last year's school plantings and continuing weed clearance of the slopes and valley floor of the Upper Dell. There was quite a bit of gorse as well as some nasty blackberry. Trees were found hiding and given space. Sadly, some had been lost under inkweed.

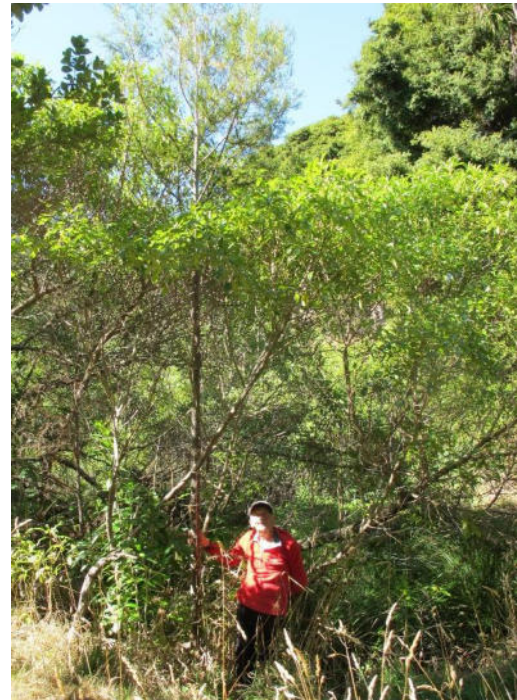


Bernard C's loop track around Upper Dell is formed, it now needs the uphill side battered. The Sept 2018 plantings by Paraparaumu Beach School look very good despite the dry conditions and some Northern Rata planted the previous year are looking fine.



Sue checking out gorse. Bernard McM & Peter were working under this mass of inkweed Markers for the "batter"

**Many thanks to:** Penny Redward, Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Peter Kentish, Bernard McManus, Sue Campbell, Sandra & June Rowland, Sarah McMurray, Ellen Soulliere, Bill Jansen, Ann Evans & Bernard Cammack.



June & Fred planted eight kahikatea in the Upper Dell in 2009. This is the same tree, emerging to the light.

## Whareroa Guardians AGM Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm

**Jack Mace, Operations Manager, Department of Conservation, Kapiti Wellington District was our guest speaker.** Jack discussed some of the wider issues for DOC as well as Whareroa. Good to have a very supportive DOC Team. Thanks, GW, for letting us use the visitor centre.

Three trustees' terms expired: Ann Evans, Sandra Rowland and Ian Redward. All were re-elected.

Chair Theo's annual report is attached.



## *Membership Subs due please – see forms with this Update*

We need a buoyant membership to give us credibility when applying for grants. Also, every year it costs about \$500 to complete the Charities Commission financial compliance requirements. If not already a member, please consider joining; if already joined we hope you will renew. Many thanks.

## *New Toyota Kiwi Guardians' Trail at Whareroa*

Those of you with children or grandchildren will know about this great scheme where trails have been set up at interesting places all over the country. Locally, NgaManu, Staglands and Battle Hill have them. After completion, children can email the “key word” and obtain a medal. A trail was prepared for Whareroa a couple of years ago but without input from the Guardians. We recommended the trail be enlarged to be more adventurous and take families right into the centre of the reserve. New signs for the trail have been placed to aid navigation and there is a different “key word”. The updated version is now online: google Toyota Kiwi Guardians Whareroa Farm or use link below.

## [Download the Whareroa Farm adventure map \(PDF, 3,100K\)](#)

Thanks to DOC and Toyota for supporting this change. Please try it out.



A navigation guide



Theo digging in the post for the new sign

## *Blackberry*

Liffet reports that the Wednesday Weeders are unable to keep on top of blackberry threatening our restoration plantings and reserve biodiversity – especially in the lower Ramaroa Valley and by Matai Bush and Upper Bush. We have put in an application to the DOC Conservation Fund for professional assistance otherwise blackberry will just spread and cause huge degradation to the reserve. The Weeders and our working bees have succeeded in controlling it in some locations but only with huge effort. We are aware that there are also problem areas along Emerald Glen Road but will concentrate on the key ecosystems in the Reserve first.

**Regular Working Bees continue, first Sunday of the month: 9 to noon**



Liffet and gorse



Theo's work in progress, Upper Ti Kouka Loop, recycling fences

A small group set out monitoring equipment at the Cairn Lizard Relocation site last week with onduline sheets and holes for pitfall traps. These are to assess whether there are currently any lizards present. Please do not touch any structures. Stock will no longer graze this area and the fence between the Cairn and the cliff will be removed. The cliff faces north so will be a heat trap.



Onduline sheet



Cairn and zone behind, onduline sheet to right of large rock



Kahikatea mast year. Two trees at SW edge of Matai Bush are covered with fruit and seed. Each little group is 100 seeds

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# Whareroa Guardians Community Trust 12<sup>th</sup> AGM - March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

## Annual Report from the Chair

### Our Trustees, Volunteers and Supporters

The last 12 months has seen significant progress at Whareroa largely through the efforts of our trustees, volunteers and supporters. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all these individuals for their contribution over this period. Without this enthusiastic group of unpaid people no progress would be achieved. As a measurement of our statutory reporting for charitable status the following key performance indicators have been achieved:-

• Trees planted	2500
• Planting maintained	20ha
• Animal pest control – kills in 2018	4,727
• New tracks opened	0.5km
• Existing tracks maintained with regular mowing	10km
• Amenities installed (Picnic Tables, Kiwi Caravan, Infographic Signs etc)	5
• Promotion (brochures, maps funded & distributed)	1100
• Email Updates to 400 recipients	16
• Volunteer hours from 164 volunteers	3779
• School planting and fun day	180 students

In addition to this our volunteers have contributed to:

- Noxious weed removal (Wednesday Weeders & others)
- Maintenance of our fruit orchard
- General maintenance of the retired land
- Facebook and Nature Space regular updates

The Board approved the release of the Performance Report on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### Our Stakeholders

#### DOC

- Our relationship with DOC at the Kapiti-Wellington office is strong. We have regular contact with our DOC relationship manager – Suzi Tuffin – who has our interests at heart and also with seniors Robert Ashe and Jack Mace. We have a raft of capital projects lodged with DOC and the associated business cases are in varying stages of progress. These include:
- Update the main maps in visitor centre and at the Hub.
- Getting a larger culvert on the farm race – Darlington Drilling plans now with DOC engineers for review – work in progress
- Bridge at end of Forest Loop walk – work in progress
- Transmission Gully Mitigation for Upper Ramaroa Stream – work in progress
- Farm Erosion Mitigation – proposal from Trustees has been reviewed by DOC, GWRC & Beetham Pastural – agreement reached for GWRC to draw up a 5 year pole planting plan for consideration by all parties
- CCTV in car park – work in progress
- Historic bid to tidy reservoir – work in progress
- Counters for Whareroa – bike counters installed – awaiting people counters

- Solution for damaged Farm entrance wall – We heard today that Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern who coordinated the initial build have offered their services pro-bono to repair it, with volunteer support (expected to take 3 Saturdays in June). DOC will contribute to materials.
- DOC / Toyota Kiwi Guardians trail at Whareroa was completed and is on line.
- Our 10 year Farm Plan has been reviewed and a draft submitted to DOC for their approval.

#### **Beetham Pastural**

- Beetham Pastural are the lessee of farmed land at Whareroa and QE Park. We have regular contact with Farm manager Drew Brown and 6 monthly meetings with William Beetham.

#### **GWRC**

- The Whareroa Guardians participate in a bi-monthly Whareroa Collaboration Group chaired by GWRC. The purpose of this group is to work closely together to develop biodiversity and recreational activities across Whareroa Farm and QE Park

#### **Kapiti Mountain Bike Club (KMC)**

- Mountain biking at Whareroa attracts a large number of riders. The Red Tape track was officially opened earlier this year and the Club have resource consent to build two more downhill tracks in the same general area.

#### **Kapiti Biodiversity Project**

- Funding for this project is all but exhausted. Discussions continue regarding a District wide application approach for addition biodiversity funding. The group are forming an incorporated society to facilitate grant applications. Whareroa Guardians support this.

### **Other Activities:**

#### **Kiwi Caravan**

- The Kiwi Caravan was officially opened in June 2018. The opening was attended by over 50 supporters. Our major supporters included:
- Kapiti MENZ Shed – renovation of caravan
- DOC – engineering design sign-off and grant towards cost of foundation
- AD Architecture advice on foundation construction
- Duncan Construction – foundation layout
- MPP Alliance – funding transportation
- Allan Shaw Carrying Ltd – transportation
- Wellington Community Trust – \$1,500 grant for mural
- Julie Oliver – mural design and painting
- Our volunteers who erected piles, fixed the caravan to supports and built the smart bench as well as coordinated the project and hosted the artists.

#### **Upper Ti Kouka Stream**

- In December 2018 funding was approved by DOC to fence and retire 3.5 hectares of leased land surrounding the Upper Ti Kouka stream This means all waterways on the retired section of the Farm will be fenced and will be nurtured by riparian planting.

#### **Signs**

- A Bird Sign next to the Kiwi Caravan was donated by an anonymous donor
- A donation was received from Pakeke Lions Kapiti to erect a Lizard sign next to the Bird Sign



#### **Lizard Relocation**

- The Guardians are working with DOC and Nga Uruora to establish the Cairn as a site for lizard relocation from development projects. This will involve planting and bringing in wood and stones to prepare suitable habitat.

#### **Special donation**

- When supporter Dave Barber died last year he asked that donations be made to the Whareroa Guardians. About \$6000 was received and a picnic table erected in Upper Ramaroa Wetland in his memory. This is gratefully acknowledged.

#### **In the Footsteps of the Marines Run**

- Thanks to Kapiti Joggers & Walkers for donation of \$600

#### **Plant a Billion Trees**

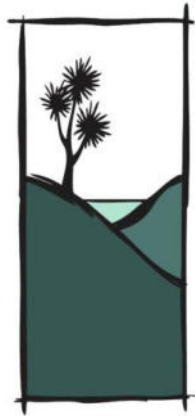
- The Trustees are investigating whether we are eligible for funding under this Regional Development Scheme. This could potentially support mass planting on Whareroa retired land – the scope of which would exceed all our volunteer capacity. Early days on this project.

#### **Next 12 Months**

- Planting – This year our focus is planting the Upper Ti Kouka stream area – potentially a 3 year project. \$6,000 grant for 1500 plants from the Lion Foundation has been received.
- Blackberry Control – Infestations of blackberry are threatening to invade sections of our planting plus natural bush segments. An application has been lodged with DOC Community Fund to sponsor a contractor to spray the blackberry over a three year period.
- Update Information Centre – We will update our information display in the visitor entrance.
- New Track from Marines' Water Reservoir to Ramaroa Steam – planning to finish this track within the next 6 months.
- Update Track Maps including Walking & MTB Tracks in liaison with DOC – GPS mapping to create new maps.
- Work with KCDC on Open Spaces Strategy – the Trustees have attended an initial workshop sponsored by KCDC to collaborate on the development of Kapiti's open spaces
- Erosion Control – work with DOC, GWRC & Beethams on a pole planting programme

***Thanks again to everyone who contributes to making Whareroa such a special place.***

*Theo Barsanti*



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 02 May 2019

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**Next working bee: Sunday 05 May: 9 to noon with morning tea**

Up at the Cairn and Ramaroa Wetland. The forecast looks good. Please bring hand saws and loppers to remove gorse and grubbers to tackle weeds and small gorse plants. A stile needs to be made so we can lock the gate into the Lizard site to ensure no stock get in. The last sections of fence wire need rolling up. If there is time, we'd like to release the totara on the ridge in Ramaroa Wetland. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags.

### *Upper Ti Kouka Fencing and Planting*



The elegant fence is now finished and includes all the headwaters of this stream. Brian Jones and his team did a great job; Theo liaised with them and DOC funded the job. Many thanks to all involved.

Planting will focus on the most vulnerable areas – the headwaters and areas of unstable ground where slips and erosion have occurred. Some spot spraying has already been done in preparation for planting. The gorse will generally be left to act as a nursery plant but along the track we aim to have a native boundary as well as planting scattered groups of trees higher up to provide seed sources. Thistles and inkweed will be a problem until ground cover occurs.

The Wednesday Weeders have removed blackberry from along the Ti Kouka Stream. Thanks +++



## *Last session 07 April – At the Cairn*

A good session clearing weeds around the “face” and removing fencing. The grass was mown – stock will no longer be present so the flat area round the Cairn will need to be mown from now on. A select group worked hard. This report from Dawn: “Seven of us: Theo, Bruce, Richard, Tom, Ellen, me and Sandra with morning tea. Great progress on removing gorse from cairn cliff face, Theo and Tom hanging in there like mountain goats. Only a couple of gorse bushes left now but we were all a bit stuffed by 12 o'clock. Bruce removed some more fence and Richard mowed around the Cairn and all in all we were happy with the morning's work.” The area is almost already for some more lizard friendly planting this winter. No pic was taken but **many thanks to:** Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Sandra Rowland, Ellen Soulliere, Theo Barsanti, Tom Porter & Bruce Bulmer.

## *Wall Repair – strong volunteers needed Saturdays in June*



Simon & Sascha in 2011.

This is planned to happen in June, on Saturdays starting June 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We are very grateful that stone masons Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern who built the original wall are prepared to undertake the repairs. They expect it to take about 3 working days. About 5/6 Whareroa volunteers will be needed on each day to help Sascha and Simon. They will need to be able to mix and wheelbarrow cement, move and lift rocks and able to work all day. Please can you let us know if you would like to help with this project – trustee Ian Redward will coordinate the volunteers. Please phone Ian at 04 297 0904 or send us an email at [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved on one or more days and we will get back to you. Many thanks.

## *Lizard monitoring results*

Monitoring equipment was set up at the Cairn Lizard Relocation site last month. As expected, no lizards were found. This is a good outcome as it means that lizards brought in will have a clear site without competition and it will also give definitive results as to whether this is a good relocation site. Many thanks to the Lizard group especially Paul Callister, Vicki Worts, Shane Cave and Angus from DOC.

## *One Billion Trees*

Peter Handford from Ground Truth met Theo and Ann from the Guardians to consider whether Whareroa could take part in this scheme, in association with other local groups. Watch this space.

## *Membership Subs due please*

Many thanks to those who have joined/re-joined and made donations. This is much appreciated. For those who haven't got around to it the membership form is attached. If not already a member, please consider joining; if already joined we hope you will renew. Thanks again.

## **Regular Working Bees continue, first Sunday of the month: 9 to noon**

**Planting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months, starting mid-June:**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - 9 to noon, followed by hot dog.**



Early morning walkers and thistle grubbers: Lynette, Penny & Liffet. Just above Ti Kouka.

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 30 May 2019

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### **Next working bee: Sunday 02 June: 9 to noon with morning tea**

Back at the Dell to clear weeds around young trees. We'll check out the kohekohe flowering. We know it's a public holiday so anyone who is around is welcome. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags. Morning tea provided.

### ***Urgent - Volunteers needed for the Wall Repair***

This will start soon with stone masons Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern. They expect it to take about 3 weekend days. About 4/5 Whareroa volunteers will be needed on each day to help Sascha and Simon. Thanks for offers to date. Please can you let us know if you can help with this project – trustee Ian Redward will coordinate the volunteers. **Please phone Ian at 04 297 0904** or send us an email at [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com). Many thanks.



Volunteers at the Cairn last working bee

## *Last session 05 May- At the Cairn and Ramaroa Wetland*



Getting to know the cliff face above the Cairn very intimately.

A good session finished removal of gorse from the “face” – Liffet and Jake were up high. All the fence wire was rolled up and removed. The posts were sawn off at ground level and they and battens brought down to the store. Great to have that job done. Inkweed was also removed from banks. Various grandchildren visited and enjoyed exploring; little Barsantis were fearless in climbing the face and Finn can’t wait to be a LUV driver. It’s lovely to see the next generation exposed to the pleasure of being out on the land and working together. Bruce couldn’t be at the session but did several hours work during the week before. More gorse was cleared in Ramaroa Wetland - especially around totara on the ridge. Eventually there will be several tracks around the wetland. **Many thanks to:** Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Sandra & June Rowland, Ellen Soulliere, Christine Elmiger, Theo Barsanti, Tom Porter, Bernard McManus, Peter Kentish, Jake Roos, Chris Barri, Penny & Ian Redward, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart (& Bruce Bulmer). Also: Bengy, Isla, Ellie & Gabe Barsanti and Bernard & Erica Cammack with Finn.



Men versus post – the post won – until the chainsaw came out

Young Barsanti mountain goats

## *One Billion Trees*

Peter Handford from Ground Truth met Theo and Ann from the Guardians to consider whether Whareroa could take part in this scheme, in association with other local groups. Watch this space.



## *Lizard monitoring results*

Monitoring equipment was set up at the Cairn Lizard Relocation site last month. As expected, no lizards were found. This is a good outcome as it means that new lizards brought in will have a clear site without competition and it will also give definitive answers as to whether this is a good relocation site. Many thanks to the Lizard group especially Paul Callister, Vicki Worts, Shane Cave and DOC's Angus.

## *Hot dog chef (or two) needed please*

We like to reward our planters with a hotdog at the end of the morning. June, Laura and Sandra have looked after this for several years and are ready to involve another one or two people in this exciting activity or even pass it on. If you could help on the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings in July and August, please get in touch. Full training provided! 021 162 3559 or email.

## *Another burglary at Whareroa*

We were shocked to find thieves had targeted Whareroa again and made off with the LUV. Fortunately, they were not able to hotwire it and abandoned it in the bushes. It has been repaired but will be kept in a more secure location. Smaller tools were also stolen. Security will be upgraded.



Autumn is fungus time. These were seen on the Water Intake Track



Finn working it out



Liffet clearing intake



Ti Kouka loop bridge



Chris & Tom, stile prep



Kohekohe flowers and seeds photographed this week by Sue Blaikie. She reported lots of tui and piwakawaka in Kohekohe Bush. The track is covered in seeds - heavy fruiting confirms that pest numbers are low, which leads on to the:

### **Pest Report from Shane Cave**

Trapping has continued on. To date, 829 possums, 165 mustelids and 2,100 rats have been caught as well as many other pests. There is nothing remarkable to report other than to thank our assiduous trappers, John Rowland, Darrel Sutherland, Jason Bohmer, Shane Williamson, Rodney Hopkirk and Scott Hill (who returned from Switzerland over the summer to kill possums at Whareroa - to the mystification of his Swiss friends). We are slightly mystified at the preferences of the creep / creeps who recently broke into the Whareroa shed and stole stuff, including a half-full bucket of the blue scented lure we use for rodents, possums and hedgehogs. Unlike the late-night visitors our blugu isn't toxic. DoC immediately gave us a new supply - thanks.

## **Whareroa Planting 2019 – mainly Upper Ti Kouka**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months, starting mid-June. Please put these dates in your diary:**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - 9 to noon - followed by hot dog.**

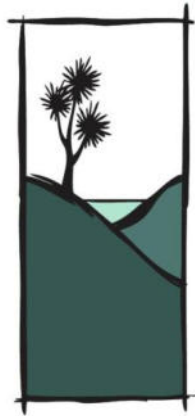
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 13 June 2019

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**Planting: Sunday 16 June: 9 to noon with morning tea, hotdog after.**

Another planting season is upon us. This will be the most challenging yet as we will start at the Ti Kouka headwaters, quite high up the valley. Spots are showing well so the grass is well dead. 1000 plants were delivered up to the planting sites a few days ago. The shortest access walk is to park at the Hub or along the farm race and walk up the western side of Ti Kouka Stream, under the big pines. Close gates if driving in. If walking from the carpark, go along farm race to Ti Kouka stile. Follow the flags. Morning tea will be brought up to us in LUV. With this area of riparian planting, all the significant streams in the retired section of Whareroa will be regenerating.

The site is exposed and steep in places so wear warm clothes and boots. Lower down the hill, later in the season, conditions will be easier. Hot dog after planting back at the shed (and see item later).

***Wall Repair has started***



The Whareroa Wall is rising from the rubble – many thanks to stone masons Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern with volunteers Ian Redward, Shane Williamson, Luke Brazier, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Chris Barriball, John Wilson & Bruce Bulmer; Dawn Bush & Penny Redward provided nourishment. Day one saw planning and layout and partial rebuilding. Work had to stop as the wet concrete would not support more rocks. All being well, it will be completed this Saturday.

### *Last working bee, 02 May- in the Dell*

A horrible cold, wet start saw 12 hardy volunteers keen to get stuck in to ink weed and release new plants. Seven nikau, grown from Whareroa seed by Nicola and Al were planted, in the upper Dell. The sun came out and we then had a beautiful morning. Lots of last year's school plantings were released. They are doing well. Bernard continued with his loop track.



Richard brought along some giant carpet squares – these were placed in the orchard to kill grass prior to seven more fruit trees going into the ground. He also changed the carpet in the caravan.

We treated ourselves to a trip into the base of Kamahi Bush to check out kohekohe flowering and seeding. The regeneration on the ground is amazing – masses of small nikau, pigeon wood, titoki and others. The seeds will have been brought in by birds as there are no nikau in this area. Fungi were also colourful.

**Many thanks to:** Chris & Holly Worts, Sandra Rowland, Chris Barriball, Ellen Soulliere, Dawn Bush, Sue Campbell, Ann Evans, Bernard Cammack, Richard Caldwell and Penny & Ian Redward



**Also thanks to:** Theo Barsanti, Liffet Stewart, Sandra Rowland, Ann Evans, Bernard Cammack, Lynette Francis and Dawn Bush for unloading 1000 trees and transporting them up the hill.

It was good to have LUV back in action after ignition damage by thieves. Theo's landrover was indispensable for moving good quantities of plants.



Carpet for caravan



Holly & Chris planting nikau



Ellen & Dawn tackling inkweed



Kamaha Bush, immediately to south of the Dell



Stream confluence by the Gums



Unloading 1000 plants



Penny weeding rhabdothamnus in Dell



Ann with LUV

### ***Hot dog chef (or two) urgently needed please***

We like to reward our planters with a hotdog at the end of each winter planting morning. June, Laura and Sandra have looked after this for several years and are unable to continue. We need to involve another one or two people in this exciting activity and pass on the role. Only Sandra remains from the original team. If you could help on the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings in July and August, please get in touch. Full training provided! 021 162 3559 or email [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) .

## *Kapiti Joggers & Walkers: “In the Footsteps of the Marines” Event*



About 150 competitors took part in the eighth running of the “In the Footsteps of the Marines” off road event in Whareroa Farm on Sunday May 26th. Competitors took to the hills and appreciated the dry tracks and unsealed roads on the 10.3km and 12.2km courses in fine conditions. After the finish everyone enjoyed soup and rolls at the Ramaroa Centre in QE Park, and there was a 1 in 3 chance of winning a spot prize. Local businesses supplied most prizes; many thanks to supporters.

In the Footsteps of the Marines is a charity event & the Kapiti Joggers and Walkers expect to donate about \$2000 to local groups and charities. This year the main recipient is Life Education Trust.

### *Xterra Race at Whareroa. May 2019*

Over 600 runners took part in the three courses, some involving a double climb of the Whareroa hills. It was amazing seeing a long line of runners heading up Catchment View Track. Those many feet also help keep the hill tracks “trampled”. Many thanks to Ian and Theo for helping with carparking and to the organisers for a \$500 donation to Whareroa Guardians.

## **Whareroa Planting 2019 – mainly Upper Ti Kouka**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months, starting mid-June. Please put these dates in your diary:**

**July 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 9 to noon - followed by hot dog.**

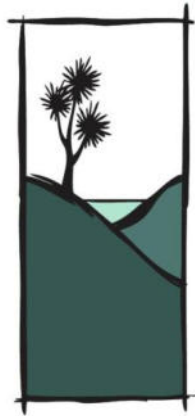
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 03 July 2019

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**Next Planting: Sunday 07 July: 9 to noon with morning tea, BBQ after.**

Upper Ti Kouka planting continues after a fantastic first session. The walk is now shorter – you can drive into The Hub along the farm race and walk up the western side of Ti Kouka Stream, under the big pines. Close gates if driving in. If walking from the carpark, go along farm race to Ti Kouka stile then up the hill. Follow the flags. Morning tea on site, hog dog back at the shed afterwards.

The site is steep and may be slippery in places so wear warm clothes, boots and gloves.

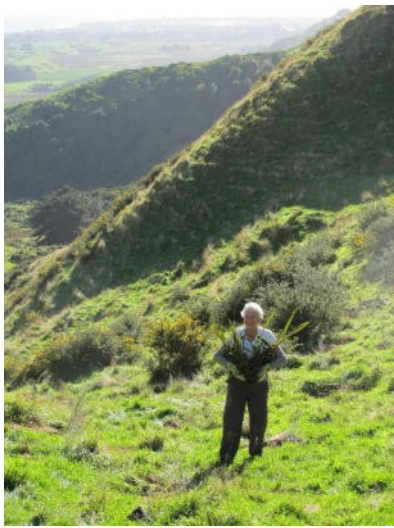
*Last planting bee, 15 June – Upper Ti Kouka*



It was a beautiful morning for our first session – access took longer than usual but the view was fantastic and many plants went in to the ground around the source of the Ti Kouka Stream. Planting was helped by the hard work of John and Sandra Rowland beforehand, digging holes. Welcome to



two new volunteers: Kerry & Sylvia and nice to have a couple of enthusiastic children joining in. The trees will need to be tough as the site is exposed: hardy stalwarts like *Olearia solandri*, tauhini, manuka and kanuka, toetoe and flax are going in. Steepness will reduce as we come down the valley.



Sylvia



Fran



Jake & Jonathon plant a totara



Showing the steep terrain



Linda, Peter & Bill



Tom & Sienna also planted a totara



It wasn't all work - what a site for morning tea

**Many thanks to:** Dawn Bush, Ann Evans, Ian Redward, Jan Nisbet, Fran Parkin, Jake & Jonathon Roos, Bill Jensen, Peter Kentish, Tom & Sienna Porter, Bruce Bulmer, Linda Hill, Kerry Gray, Sylvia Hill Audrey Barber and Liffet Stewart, with support from Anna & baby pre-volunteer Kenya Cave. Also to



*Richard Caldwell for more carpet squares. And to John & Sandra Rowland for pre-digging holes. Bernard Cammack continued the Dell Loop Track. Catering by Laura van Peer and Penny Redward.*



John and Sandra digging planting holes. The spots had been sprayed by Ann a few weeks earlier.

### ***Wall Repair completed after 3 sessions and over 100 hours labour***

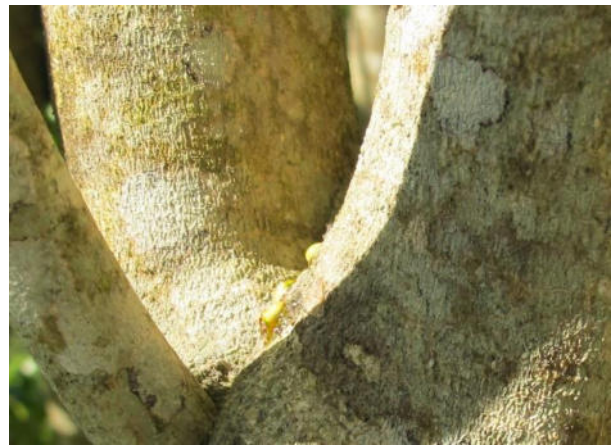


Many thanks to stone masons Sascha Wassong and Simon Fern with volunteers Ian Redward, Shane Williamson, John Wilson, Bernard McManus, Chris Barriball, Luke Brazier, Robert Ashe, Ruby Durrant-Bush & Bruce Bulmer; Dawn Bush & Penny Redward provided delicious nourishment.

### *Hot dog and morning tea catering sorted*

Laura van Peer and Penny Redward with Bill Jensen have stepped up to provide this essential service to our volunteers. Sepcial thanks to Laura who has already done this for many years, with June Rowland. The hotdogs are enhanced by perfect onions and homemade chutney. Huge thanks as this is the less glamorous side to planting, especially important in mid-winter. Thanks also to Sandra Rowland who organised last year. The job involves shopping, maintaining the BBQ, chopping lots of onions, buttering bread, filling thermoses, cooking, laying the table and of course, washing up.

### *Other news*



Theo, Ian and Bruce built a retaining wall to protect the track The yellow blobs are mistletoe seeds, given by Peter Kiernan

**Brownies:** Jan Nisbet coordinated a visit in the dark to Whareroa by a group of about 25 Brownies with their leaders and parents. They saw glow worms and heard ruru and experienced total darkness under the kohekohe canopy. Thanks Jan and volunteers Shane, Liffet, Sylvia and Ann.

Many self-motivated volunteers go down to the farm to do “stuff” such as weeding, mowing the tracks, preparing for planting etc. Feel free to join them – and please let us know the time spent as more recorded volunteer hours increase the amount of support DOC can provide.

## **Whareroa Planting 2019 – mainly Upper Ti Kouka**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months. Please put these dates in your diary:**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 9 to noon - followed by hot dog.**

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## STOP PRESS - NEW "LIZARD" SIGN FOR WHAREROA

Here it is, close to Kiwi Caravan and the "Bird" sign, so lots of people will see it.

Many thanks to Kapiti Pakeke Lions for the donation from their book sale last October - we will arrange a "photo-op" with them when convenient. The Trust has also purchased a half size one to put up by the lizard relocation area at the Cairn.

Thanks to Kapiti Biodiversity Project who designed the sign and allowed us to adapt it for Whareroa. Also thanks to Sue B and Glenda who have seen this through the many months to the final placement.

We hope "weta" and "fish" signs will follow – but they cost nearly \$2,000 each! Any keen donors out there?? (All donations are tax deductible)



New sign & trustee Sue Blaikie



Both "bird" & "lizard" signs are close to the Kiwi Caravan. The logs will be taken to the Cairn for lizard habitat



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 17 July 2019

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### **Next Planting: Sunday 21 July: 9 to noon with morning tea, BBQ after.**

Upper Ti Kouka planting continues after two good sessions. We have completed the really steep sections at the headwaters. The walk is now shorter – drive into The Hub along the farm race and walk up the western side of Ti Kouka Stream, under the big pines. Close gates if driving in. If walking from the carpark, go along farm race to Ti Kouka stile then up the hill. Notice the 8-year-old plantings on your left. Follow the flags. Morning tea on site, hot dog back at the shed afterwards. Wear warm clothes, boots and gloves.

### *Last planting bee, 07 July – Upper Ti Kouka*



Some were so keen they had already headed back down the hill to continue planting before photo time



It was a beautiful morning for our second session after a very wintry wet Saturday. Twenty four volunteers worked hard, we have planted about 700 this season, on very difficult terrain. Thanks again to John Rowland for pre-digging holes. Welcome to two new volunteers: Seth & Svenja and nice to have college students Kate, Josie & Fraser back again. Penny and Bill expertly provided hotdogs with onions. It was nice to have trappers Darrel & Rodney join us for lunch having found 6 dead rodents on their round – it is important traps are checked regularly as once set off they can't catch anything else. Jan took a small group into the kohekohe forest to check out the wetas.





**Many thanks to:** Ann Evans, Ian Redward, Jan Nisbet, Peter Kentish, Tom & Sienna Porter, Bruce Bulmer, Kerry Gray, John & Sandra Rowland, Josie Hope, Kate Day, Chris, Imogen and baby Lyla Barriball, Rob, Carol & Fraser Stone, Ellen Soulliere, Seth & Svenja Donlon (just moved to Kapiti from Vermont). Bernard Cammack continued excavations in the Dell. Catering by Penny Redward & Bill Jensen.

### *New Guardians' Display in Information Bay*





The original display, put together in 2011 had become very tired so a new display is now up. Some of the original pics are still of interest and so retained. Many thanks to Kapiti Joggers & Walkers for the \$250 donation from their recent "In the Footsteps of the Marines" event which has covered the cost of printing & laminating. There is a timeline 1850 to now. Thanks to all involved for ideas, poetry, photos etc. but mostly to everyone who volunteers at Whareroa.

Thanks also to Tim from DOC for cleaning up the information bay.

### *Thieving and Litter and clearing carpark vegetation*

More petty theft at Whareroa. Can there really be a market for 2<sup>nd</sup> hand leaflet holders?? Our three smart perspex holders were carefully unscrewed and removed as well as two belonging to QE Park. (see pic below). These held track maps and the children's Kiwi Guardians course map. Several thousand leaflets had been used. Each holder cost about \$50.

Sadly, repeated thievings have led DOC and the Guardians to decide to clear much of the vegetation in the carpark to improve sight lines and thus security. Cameras will also be installed. It is very frustrating when volunteers give their time and often contribute financially but pathetic people steal in this way. Litter is also left – Jan regularly spends an hour gathering miscellaneous rubbish and no doubt others also pick up litter – thank you. A reminder that if you see someone acting suspiciously, please take car numbers/photos and contact the police straight away. They are happy to be called.



Missing leaflet holders



New sign at top of Red Tape bike track. NO Walkers

## **Whareroa Planting 2019. NB At Cairn next time**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months. Please put these dates in your diary:**

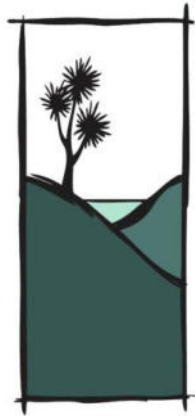
**August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 9 to noon - followed by hot dog.**

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 29 July 2019

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### **Next Planting: Sun. 04 August: 9 to noon with morning tea, BBQ after**

This session we will plant more trees and bushes near the Cairn and round the pond with emphasis on lizard friendly plants. Paul Callister from Nga Uruora is providing us with some special species. The last 500 plants funded by The Lion Foundation will arrive on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>; their support is appreciated.

We are also extending the orchard with 6 more fruit trees. Liffet is coordinating this.

Follow the flags. Morning tea on site, sausage sizzle back at the shed afterwards (the Update compiler has been firmly told that we are *not* providing hot dogs, but a sausage sizzle!).

Wear warm clothes, boots and gloves.



2013 - Looking down on Cairn with pond left foreground, Ramaroa Wetland beyond; now fenced off from stock



## *Last planting bee, 21 July - Upper Ti Kouka*

The wettest planting session for years, about 15mm rain fell between 9am and noon and it felt like it. Nevertheless, 21 of you turned out and completed the Upper Ti Kouka block for this year, apart from a few gaps and carpeting. The ground was saturated and pre-dug holes were full of water – we hope the flax and ti kouka like it. Over a thousand plants are now in the ground in the valley to protect the stream from erosion and run-off. Welcome to new volunteer Mike Bradstock who brought along a dozen lovely whau trees he had grown from seed. Thanks again to John Rowland for pre-digging holes. Penny and Bill expertly provided sausages with onions in bread. Many of the photos have blurry bits due to water on the lens!



The group after morning tea/coffee, refreshed with home baking from Sue & Penny (thanks++). A brief interlude of no rain.



Richard and Liffet heading off to find places for whau



Theo, Kerry & Bruce digging in plants just below the new fence

**Many thanks to:** Bruce Bulmer, Kerry Gray, John & Sandra Rowland, Ann Evans, Ian Redward, Chris, Barriball, Rob Stone, Ellen Soulliere, Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, Richard Caldwell, Peter Davis, Mike



*Bradstock, Sue Campbell, Chris & Holly Worts, Dawn Bush and Bernard McManus. Catering by Penny Redward & Bill Jensen.*



Mike with one of his whau



Sue firming a flax into the ground, Dawn blurred out



Forest stages: foreground - planting today, then 8 year old plantings, then kahikatea and the tops of Matai Bush, (?100yrs old), then the Gums (40yrs old), and then gorse on hills with native regeneration coming through – not been grazed for about 14 years. NB Some isolated mature totara survived, below the gorse.





Planting means lots of bending over (Ellen), grubbing out holes for toetoe (Sandra), & then cleaning tools & vehicles (Theo)



Reward after: Penny & Bill with sausages & onions; particularly appreciated as we were all cold & wet (but happy).

## Whareroa Planting 2019.

### NB At Cairn & orchard on 18th

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of winter months. Please put these dates in your diary:

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** 9 to noon - followed by nourishment back at base.

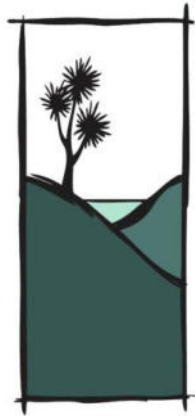
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> will possibly be a planting day depending on progress. If all completed it will be a normal working bee.

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 15 August 2019

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### **Next Planting: Sun 18 August - 9 to noon with morning tea; BBQ after**

As the land is very saturated after recent rain we will work in the Dell this Sunday and then finish off Ti Kouka and Cairn on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. We have carex and toetoe and some other trees to plant as well as some weed removal. Follow the flags. Morning tea on site, sausage sizzle back at the shed afterwards.

Wear warm clothes, boots and gloves.

### ***Last planting bee, 04 August. Orchard and Cairn***





We planted more trees and bushes near the Cairn and round the pond with emphasis on lizard friendly plants. Paul Callister from Nga Uruora provided some special species and placed them in strategic groups around slopes of the Cairn platform and on the cliff face. Theo and Peter D closed the gap in the fence to stop sheep getting in; a slip had damaged the fence. It will be repaired properly in the future but for the meantime they did a "Number 8 wire" job recycling old fencing. Lots of tough trees went along the fence line above the Cairn and around the pond. Again, nice to have new participants with little children. We hope they will come again.



Laura & Frances with morning tea



Bill carrying plants



Jan



Mary Jane & Ra & family



Paul



Peter



Alexander



Chris



Six more fruit trees were planted and staked in the Orchard by Liffet and Bruce, John R had pre-dug the holes. There are now 15 trees, we look forward to being able to pick a plum, apricot, apple, pear or fig as we walk past. Possum control will be particularly important when they fruit.

**Many thanks to:** Bruce Bulmer, Kerry Gray, John Rowland, Ann Evans, Chris, Imogen and Iyla Barriball, Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, Peter Davis, Sue Campbell, Dawn Bush, Paul Callister, Peter Kentish, Jan Nisbet, Tom & Sienna Porter, Julie, Neil & Alexander Symons, Bill van Peer, Marilyn Wilson, and new family: Ra, Mahaki, Kahukura & Mahina Hori and Mary Jane Winiata. Richard Caldwell was mowing and Bernard Cammack in the Dell. Catering by Laura van Peer, Frances McMillan & Bill Jensen.



Fruit trees in the orchard, pruned by Liffet.

## Carpark clearing

DOC and Guardians have had working bees to clear vegetation in the car park. Fortunately, there will still be a green backdrop as the perimeter trees and some central trees remain. Thanks to Ann & Bernard, John, Bruce, Dawn, Darrel, Helen and the DOC staff.



## Erosion Planting

DOC and Beetham Pastoral are funding the planting of poplar poles on some of the steep erosion prone slopes over the next three years. GW experts planned the project in consultation with the Guardians, DOC and Beetham Pastoral. The first planting was done by contractors last week – above



Upper Ti Kouka and the Cairn where significant slips happened about 3-4 years ago. They start at the bottom of the at risk area and work up it. The poles have protectors so that stock can still graze. When grown, the trees will provide shade and fodder as well as holding the ground. Modern poplar clones do not become weeds. Thanks GW, Beethams & DOC.



Our Ti Kouka plantings to left of the fence will also contribute to stabilising the ground.



Car park clearing

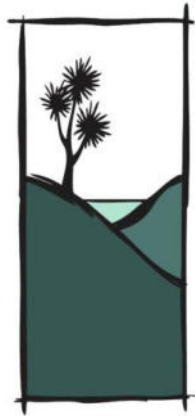
**Sept 1<sup>st</sup> working bee will be back at the Cairn and Upper Ti Kouka**

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 28 August 2019

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### **Next Planting: Sun 01 Sept - 9 to noon with morning tea; BBQ after**

We will finish off Upper Ti Kouka and Cairn. There re perhaps 100 more plants and lots of carpet squares to do. Follow the flags. Morning tea on site, sausage sizzle back at the shed afterwards. Wear warm clothes, boots and gloves.

### *Last planting bee, 18 August. The Dell*



Peter, Dawn, Frances, Penny, Sarah, Bernard, Bruce, Ann, Richard, Cindy, Josie, Isla, Theo & Ian



14 volunteers braved the showers to have a pleasant morning planting in the Dell. Toetoe and flax were planted on slopes, carex secta on the boggy floor and some bush plants below the new track. Five more totara planted. Several whau grown by Anthony Dreaver and Jennifer Ramshaw went in (thanks A & J) as well as kowhai. We have been spoiled with home baking this year, thanks cooks.

Recent rain (70+mm in the last week) has eroded the stream crossing by the gums and Bruce, Peter and Theo did some shifting of concrete posts and rocks to try and reduce further erosion. Whareroa's wild streams are very unpredictable.



Looking down Upper Dell from bench site



Sarah on the new track (waiting for topsoil & grass)



Josie & Isla carpeting totara





Planting toetoe on slopes



Carex secta on valley floor



Job done



Blokes chatting



Gabe cleaning the tools





Frances and the sausages and onions



Theo's grandchildren enjoying the tucker

**Many thanks to:** Bruce Bulmer, Ann Evans, Theo & Gabe Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Richard Caldwell, Bernard McManus, Sarah McMurray, Ian Redward, Josie Hope, Isla Day and welcome to new volunteer Cindy Horne. Catering by Penny Redward & Frances McMillan.



Steve & Dawn from MTB Club with new electric barrow



Trying again with leaflet holders. Info is on display as well.

## Lift from Wellington for volunteers?

A couple living in central Wellington, visiting Whareroa, were interested to volunteer but have no transport. If anyone is coming out to working bees and would be able to offer transport can they contact us. Thanks.

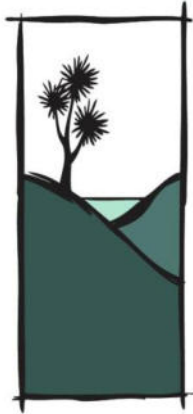
## Sept 1<sup>st</sup> working bee will be back at the Cairn and Upper Ti Kouka

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 02 October 2019

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### **Next Working Bee: Sun 06 Sept - 9 to noon with morning tea**

We will work in the Lower Ramaroa and Ramaroa Wetland. There will be a big bike race starting by the yards. We will need to go past them to get onto the Ramaroa Track. We want to cut back overhanging vegetation to open the track up for the summer and also do some cutting back along the proposed route for a Ramaroa Wetland Track from the Reservoir to the Kahikatea picnic area. Bring hand saws, loppers and secateurs. Arum lilies are flowering and need grubbing out. They are becoming a significant weed at Whareroa. Follow flags and watch out for bikers.

### *Last planting bee, 01 September. Upper Ti Kouka & Cairn*



Chatting at morning tea by the Cairn





Dawn & Tina, Sandra & Tom planting swan plants in the orchard to encourage Monarch butterflies



**Many thanks to:** Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Bernard McManus, Ian Redward, Josie Hope, Isla, Andy, Kate & Millie Day, Sue Campbell, Peter & Isaac Davis, Sandra & June Rowland, Tina Phillips, Rob, Carol & Levon Stone, Tom Porter, Fran Parkin. Catering by Laura van Peer, Frances McMillan, Penny Redward & Bill Jansen.

It was a morning of variety: the last 200 or so plants went into Upper Ti Kouka and by the Cairn. The frame for a lizard sign by the Cairn was erected. Stones were loaded and transported to backfill a supporting wall to protect an area of erosion along the Upper Ti Kouka Track. More work will be done over the summer. A lovely day to finish the planting season.



## *Blackberry eradication project*

We applied for a grant from the DOC Community Fund to employ Nga Uruora Contractors to eradicate several areas of rampant blackberry threatening our plantings and native forest, over 3 years. We are fortunate to have received the full amount requested and Pete and Tony from NgaUruora have already started. Our own Weds Weeders have worked for the last 3 years and have made huge inroads and will continue to work. Constant vigilance is needed. Thank you to DOC.



Blackberry by Upper Bush



Pete & Tony with treasurer Lynette; Ramaroa blackberry behind



Wednesday Weeders' activity – same spot before and after, north of main farm race. Wow. Huge thanks to the group (Liffet Stewart, Ian & Penny Redward (photographer), Dawn Bush, Lynette Francis and Sandra Rowland).

## *Accommodation / workspace call out from artists – a Whareroa project*

Kia ora. We are a working artist duo visiting from the West Coast to work on a community focused public art project on the Kāpiti Coast over the Summer. We are seeking house sitting, or sub lease, opportunities for the two of us and our 3-yr. old daughter between early November 2019 – March



2020. Our project will have us working in Paekākāriki, Raumati South, Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki and we hope to be able to experience living within these communities during this time.

We travel light and are happy to move between short stay opportunities. We have good housesitting and cohousing experience, take pride in caring well for homes and animals and can provide references and koha / rent if necessary.

In addition to accommodation we are looking for outdoor (covered or open) space to build our sculptures for public installation in local parks, not necessarily at the same location. The project aims at encouraging families and individuals to experience the joys of nature and community.

If you can offer either workspace or accommodation, please get in touch via [contact@keminiko.com](mailto:contact@keminiko.com) or leave a voicemail or text with 0220673486 (we are often out of range). We'd love to hear from you and chat through any possibilities. With gratitude, Kemi & Niko. *(Some of you may have already received this info but there were problems sending it out before)*

### ***Old Dunny Project and Dell Loop Track completed***

We plan to rescue the old dunny parked by the shed and turn it into a shelter up at the Hub. Plans are brewing and one or two working bees will be needed for cleaning and restoration and building piles and a deck. More info soon.



The Old Dunny



Final touches and grass seeding of Upper Dell Loop Track

Bernard Cammack has beavered quietly away in the Dell for some time, creating gentle family friendly tracks. The main track connects up to East Ridge Track (see above) and a return loop past an impressive totara is now finished. An area was levelled for a seat (foreground) and it will be usable later in the summer when new grass is established. Thanks Bernard.

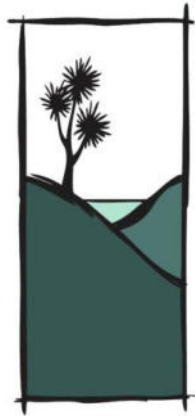
**Future working bees: Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 1st. Picnic mid-February 2020**

[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 01 November 2019

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### **Next Working Bee: Sun 03 November - 9 to noon with morning tea**

The Ramaroa Wetland is looking a bit wild - items of activity could include:

- releasing
- care of the totara plantings
- clear a path (remove gorse) along the ridge top on Western side (totara ave)
- fix picnic table in place with concrete around table feet
- more work on track connecting the “reservoir” with Kahikatea tree
- build a bridge across the reservoir overflow stream (as part of the new path)

Follow flags and bring heavy gloves, saws/secateurs/loppers.

*Last working bee, 06 October. Ramaroa Tracks*





Lots of ground was covered – especially developing a new track between the Marines’ reservoir and the Kahikatea picnic area on Lower Ramaroa Track. The final route was determined with Ian’s surveying expertise and the chaps set to with gusto to successfully dig a way down the challenging steep section.

Others prepared the Lower Ramaroa Track to beyond Ramaroa Bush, to get ready for summer use – clearing overhanging bushes and flax and clearing away gorse. Theo cleared gorse on the tip of totara headland. A great morning’s work. Morning tea at Kahikatea picnic area was enhanced by pikelets, slice and cake so we were well rewarded.



John, Chris, Bruce and John did the bulk of the digging. Audrey Ann & Sandra checked the work!



The new excavation was planted with grass seed a couple of days later, to catch spring germination.

**Many thanks to:** Audrey Barber, Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Bernard McManus, Ian Redward, Sue Campbell, Sandra & John Rowland, Bruce Bulmer, Chris Barriball, Richard Caldwell, Jan Nisbet, John & Marilyn Wilson. Catering by Penny Redward, Frances McMillan & Bill Jansen (who also tackled several gorse bushes).

## **Mowing and weedeating help needed**

Richard has been regularly mowing certain “volunteer” tracks for several years using “Miss Piggy” which he maintains. The years are beginning to catch up and he needs help, ideally with a view to eventually taking over. Each session takes about 2 hours. We may soon have access to the DOC ride on mower to make the task easier. In addition, Ian and Penny have weed-eaten East Ridge Track twice a year since opening; joints are wearing away and they can’t carry on for now. Their quiet and regular work over several years is much appreciated. This track needs urgent mowing/weed eating.

DOC have no responsibility for maintaining tracks the Guardians have developed. Catchment View looks after itself as it is a steep tramping track. Ann looks after the Dell tracks.

Anyone who could spare some time reasonably regularly will be welcomed. We will reimburse fuel costs. Please send us an email or contact Theo - 027 546 7019.

Having three or four track volunteers would be ideal.

### *Other Whareroa News*

John R has been planting natives along the Link Track.

Kapiti MTB Club are surveying a second downhill track from Campbells Mill Rd.

The Wednesday Weeders have just completed 3 years of regular blackberry removal.

NgaUruora Contracting have begun the major blackberry control project, funded by DOC.



One of these blackberry patches adjacent to Upper Bush

NZTA have plans to place a weigh station on (currently neglected) Whareroa land at the south end of Emerald Glen Rd. Their new system weighs trucks as they are driving and only those not complying will be called off the highway. The Guardians have communicated the need for protection of waterways and safety, particularly for recreation users.

Security – Main Security have installed alarms and cameras around Whareroa entrance and sheds.

**Last working bee for 2019: Dec 1st.**

**Picnic mid-February 2020 – live music at the Hub**

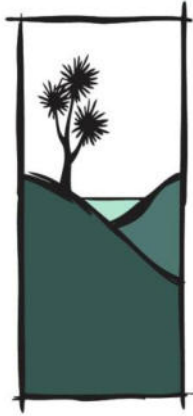
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 28 November 2019

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### **Next Working Bee: Sun 01 December - 9 to noon with morning tea**

We will make final work decisions on Sunday morning – options include: starting work at site of the “KemiNico” little hut to be above Matai Bush. Cairn plants need some releasing, the lizard sign needs attaching, a stile needs to be built looking at the “Old Dunny” site near the kiwi caravan. Follow flags and wear strong footwear and sunhat as well as gloves.

DOC have done their spring mowing of tracks. Thanks DOC.

### *Last working bee, 4 November. Ramaroa Tracks*



The Ramaroa Wetland was looking a bit wild and woolly. Work done included: releasing and care of the totara plantings and lots more work on our new track connecting the “reservoir” with Kahikatea tree including gorse clearing and weed bashing the track.

Chris built a bridge across the reservoir overflow stream.

Since then Ann marked a route for the track and Theo then mowed it so the track is ‘broken through’. It starts at the walk-over stile part way up the Cairn track and finishes at the kahikatea picnic area by Lower Ramaroa Stream. Theo also mowed up to “Dave’s table” above the wetland.

The route can now be explored though we are still waiting for signs and full blue pole marking.

**Many thanks to:** *Liffet Stewart, Theo Barsanti, Penny & Ian Redward, Ellen Soulliere, Bill Jansen, Peter Kentish, Sue Campbell, Bruce Bulmer, Dawn Bush, Chris, Imogen and Isla Barriball.*



The new bridge



Flags mark the path to be

### ***Urban Hut Club! from Kemi and Niko***

Now that the (Wellington) festival have announced their full programme we can share the title of our project.

The name was actually very hard to come up with as the project encompasses many interests and audiences. In the end we decided to keep it simple and to the point; Urban (as opposed to rural or backcountry where you'll usually find huts), Hut (that's what we're building!) and Club (that's you, and everyone who fills our creations with the life needed to activate them).

So we are now based on the beautiful Kāpiti Coast until the project's completion. We are continuing in the abundance and generosity of our community by house sitting where we can. While we have most of our time booked in, we do still have some gaps so please get in touch if you can offer any accommodation assistance. [contact@keminiko.com](mailto:contact@keminiko.com)

We will now crack on with the huge task of building five new mini huts with the help of some awesome reserve groups up the coast. We have been lucky enough to set up a workspace in the old Raumati South Bowling Club. It's an awesome space to work from, in the heart of a community we love.



If you are local, come by and say hi. We can always use more hands and more materials too, so let's chat! We'll also be starting to bring Roaming Hut out more, see more on that below. Let the hut fun begin!

*Kemi and Nico have decided on a location for their small hut to be built on Whareroa as part of the Wellington Festival. They will bring their "Roaming Hut" along on Sunday and explain it to us. Some earth work is needed so a couple of strong blokes with spades could help start off the project. They also need materials to recycle - see suggestions below.*

Materials we need to build with and add character:

- cladding (corri iron, sheet metal, weather boards, any kind of roofing material)
- a workshop radio (our faithful just broke and it is greatly missed)
- fixtures (hooks, door handles, hinges, interesting odds and ends)
- timber (planks, beams, 2x4, any native woods, plywood)
- unusual bits and bobs that you may have saved for a purpose that hasn't arrived yet. We're open to anything!



Sandra, Mandy, Nico, Kemi and Ella checking out a hut site

### ***NZTA and a Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre at Whareroa***

NZTA have plans to place a CVSC weigh station on Whareroa land at the south end of Emerald Glen Rd. Their new system weighs trucks as they are driving along the highway and only those not complying will be called off. This site would be able to monitor all traffic going in both directions. Local residents are objecting to its placement with concerns over safety and long term change to the environment. Two meetings have been held with NZTA. Public consultation will happen in February.

If it goes ahead, the Guardians have advocated to NZTA for the maximisation of safety for recreational users and protection of the environment especially waterways.

**Alarms** Do not open the Guardians' shed unless you have the alarm code. It makes a very loud noise. Contact Ann 021 162 3559 **BEFORE** you open the door please.

### ***Mowing and weedeating***

Thanks to Chris and Tom who have offered to help. Another one or two would be good, especially weed eaters for East Ridge Track. Anyone who could spare some time even a few times a year will be welcomed. We will reimburse fuel costs. Please send us an email or contact Theo - 027 546 7019.

### ***Road Works at Mackays Crossing for TG connections***

Some of you will have already come across these – see attached flyer from NZTA. Please take extra care in the area.

### ***Old Dunny***

Peter Davis from AD Architecture kindly prepared foundation plans. Thanks Peter. These are now DOC approved so work will happen over the summer.



A well-nourished bellbird at Zealandia this month

**Many thanks to all those 100 or so volunteers who have helped at Whareroa this year, including the behind the scenes volunteers.**

**Also, many thanks to Suzi, Tim, Jack, Angus, Mark & Phil and the others from DOC who have worked with us to maintain & improve Whareroa.**

**Have a good festive season and see you in 2020.**

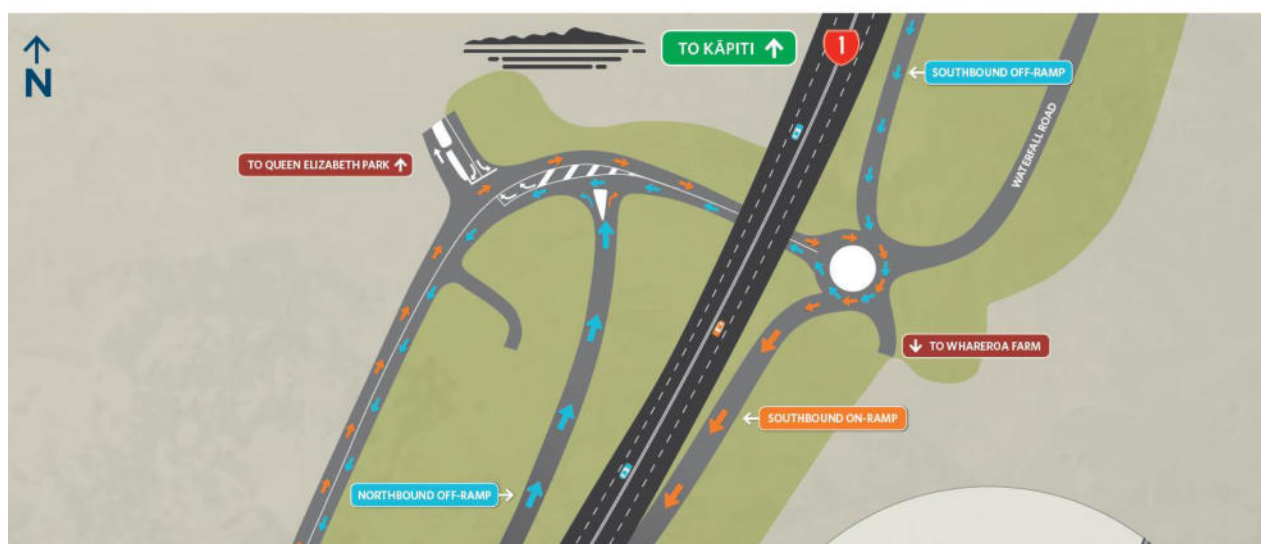
**First working bee for 2020: Sunday Feb 2nd**

**Picnic mid-February 2020 – with live music at the Hub**



18 November 2019

## Upcoming works on the Mackays Interchange with Transmission Gully



We're about to start work on local tie ins to the new interchange that will connect Mackays Crossing and the local coast road with Transmission Gully. Construction of this new interchange requires working on the current northbound offramp at Mackays Crossing. To complete these works safely and with minimum disruption to local residents and amenity users, the works are being undertaken in a staged approach but will involve periods of disruption to local residents, Queen Elizabeth Park users, Whareroa Farm users and some northbound SH1 traffic.

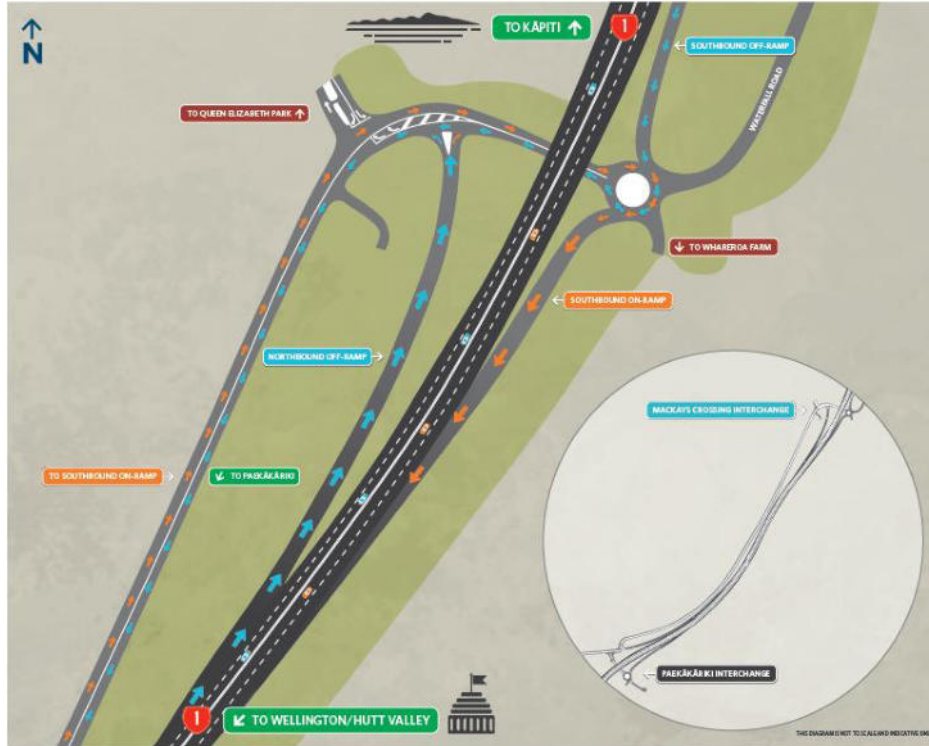
From the week starting 20 November 2019 to early January 2020 you will experience intermittent Stop/Go traffic management and shoulder closures at the end of the northbound offramp at Mackays crossing.

From 6 January 2020 for 2-4 weeks (weather dependant) the northbound off ramp at Mackays crossing will be closed to all traffic. Northbound access to QE11 Park, Whareroa Farm, Emerald Glen Road, Waterfall Road, Valley Road and Maungakotukutuku Road will be diverted to Poplar Avenue to turn around, head south on SH1 to the southbound Mackays off-ramp and under the overbridge to Queen Elizabeth Park or straight ahead to Whareroa Farm and local road connections.

There will also be no pedestrian or equestrian path or safe access under the bridge between Whareroa and Queen Elizabeth Park from 6 Jan and this extends throughout the works until late March 2020. Pedestrians and members of the equestrian community will be advised to travel and park on the side they wish to use rather than walk or ride between, and to allow extra time for travelling with horse trailers.

We appreciate this diversion presents a significant disruption to residents and are raising the plans with you early so that you can contact us to discuss any concerns. To meet or talk with one of the team please call our Project freephone on 0800 84 4636 (0800 TG INFO), or email us at [info@tg.co.nz](mailto:info@tg.co.nz)

## How the interchange will work when Transmission Gully is open to traffic Mackays Crossing



## Paekakariki

