



WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 July 2020

1st planting bee for 2020 Sunday July 5th 9 to noon

Plant unloading 8.15am Thursday July 2nd

We will start with the most difficult site – top end of Upper Ti Kouka Stream. There is a hill walk of 15-20 minutes to the site. Later sessions will be easier to access. Theo will have transported the plants, so volunteers just need to get themselves and a spade up there. The sprayed spots are showing well, they make hole digging easier as well as reducing weed competition for first little while. Richard has cut lots of carpet squares. Morning tea will be provided and hot dog at Guardians' shed afterwards. A register will be taken. Please wear strong footwear and warm clothes.

The plants will arrive from The Greenery Thursday morning – please can anyone who is free come along to help unload and stack near the entrance. Theo will then shuttle the first 400 up the hill ready for Sunday – help would be appreciated with this too.

Trees that Count is the main plant donor, giving us 1500 plants this year; in addition, Barefoot Sport (who run X-Terra) have donated \$400 for plants. Many thanks to these organisations.



Looking back: 2009 pics of Lower Ti Kouka Valley before planting. Just some gorse along the stream edge. Matai Bush visible in background in pic on right.

AGM

This was well attended and a very positive gathering, it was good to meet up after Covid restrictions. Attached is the full Report from the Chair and annual Pest Control report.

“**Wainuiwhenua**”. Peter Handford and Keith Johnston gave an interesting presentation about proposed community use & development of the residual NZTA land after Transmission Gully has been completed. A strong group in Paekakariki is working on this. Google Wainuiwhenua for info.

Old Dunny foundations

A small working group comprising Theo, John Rowland, Bruce Bulmer, Ian Redward, Richard Caldwell and Peter Davis spent several hours digging foundations, inserting piles and attaching bearers last weekend. Drew will kindly move the structure with his tractor. It will then be attached to the foundation, a small deck built in front, painted and the new seat inserted.

Farm Lease

Beetham Pastoral are not renewing their grazing lease for QEP and Whareroa. This is primarily due to economic pressure and to changes at QEP; Whareroa is too small a unit to stand alone. Discussions about what happens next are occurring. The Guardians found them to be good co-users of the land; the stock always looked healthy and were very docile and manager Drew is helpful in supporting our activities. Our only significant gripe was about weeds, especially thistles! We hope a suitable arrangement can be found as the grasslands need to be grazed and having farm animals is important for children, showing how food is grown – as well as for food production itself. Over the longer term steep hill slopes will be gradually reforested with native trees as they are unstable and prone to erosion, but this needs to be done in a systematic way. We do not want the grass suddenly left for weeds to take over, particularly blackberry. We wish Drew and his family well for the future.

International visitors and archives

On browsing through the visitor book in the caravan, we noted visitors from 18 countries outside NZ including Oz, Brazil, Japan, China, USA, Belgium, UK, Switzerland – lovely to see. A new book has started, please use it for observations and suggestions. Newsletters from 2018 are also filed in the caravan for background interest. There is now a significant archive of newsletters going back to 2006, recording the changes. They are stored on Nature Space.

Help needed

Are you interested in becoming a bee keeping volunteer? Training will be given.
Contact Theo 027 546 7019

Bamboo sticks needed – index finger/thumb thickness. 600mm to 1m long.
Contact Bruce 021 236 9394

Another area for 2020 planting – between the Dell and East Ridge



2009 pic: from East Ridge showing the Dell on the left with impressive gorse in flower on the bank – now all cleared away. Kamahi Bush peeping up behind and the bare Ti Kouka and Ramaroa Streams beyond.



Approximately the same view 2019. Planting will happen in this foreground this year.

Are you downsizing or clearing out your shed? Pre-loved spades and grubbers are needed. Phone Ann 021 162 3559 to collect.

The Trattoria Quiz – Wednesday the 8th of July

A fund raiser for the Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

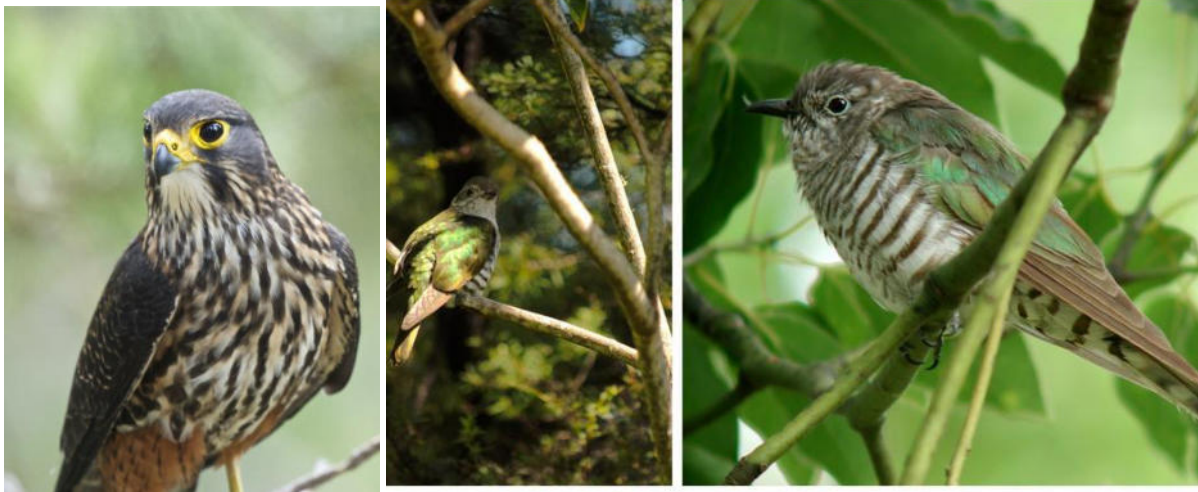
Arrive 6pm to order your meal: \$16.00 for pizza or pasta and organise teams. At the Trattoria, Coastlands between Countdown and Old Main Rd. Come alone or gather some friends; teams are 5-6 people. Quiz starts at 6.30pm. All welcome.

A koha of your choice is invited to support our work.

NZ Garden Bird Survey: 27th June - 5 July ie NOW

Spend an hour in your garden or at Whareroa or anywhere you choose, counting birds to be part of this annual citizen science project. All data is useful for comparison from year to year.

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys/taking-part/instructions>



Karearea are sometimes seen at Whareroa. Shining cuckoos are heard from October but have now flown north for winter.

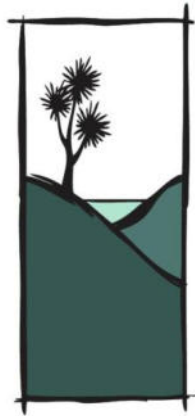
Planting also: July 19, August 02 and 16.

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 16 July 2020

2nd planting bee for 2020 Sunday July 19th 9 to noon

This session will be between East Ridge Track and Upper Dell. Follow the flags. Morning tea will be provided and hot dog at Guardians' shed afterwards. A register will be taken. Please wear strong footwear and warm clothes. Forecast is 15 degrees and dry. All welcome.

1st Planting Bee Sun July 5th, Upper Ti Kouka

35 volunteers of all ages gathered to start the 2020 Whareroa planting season. A perfect day encouraged us for the climb up the hill. Wet ground conditions hampered vehicular access, but plants and morning tea were delivered thanks to Theo and Shane and Dan. Great to see old friends returning as well as several new faces – and a special welcome to the littlies who were very busy. Delicious sausages and onions rewarded the hard workers. A fabulous start to the season.



Nearly 400 hardy natives were planted. The ti kouka were treated to "Hare spray" (Treepel) to hopefully protect them from the ravages of rabbits and hares.



At the very top of the Ti Kouka Stream. People had walked up from the entrance, way down.





Pic on right shows the lower end of the planting zone with terrain less steep. There will be another section to plant further down the valley. We hope that the other side of the valley will be planted by the 1Billion Trees project. An application has been submitted on our behalf by Ground Truth

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Shane Williamson, Ian & Penny Redward, John Rowland, Andy & Juneau Hummel, Julie, Neil & Alexander Symons, Fran Parkin, John Wilson, Daniel, Amanda, Timothy & Peter Cottrell, Jan Nisbet, Chris Paice, Carol Andrews, Rachel Calvert, Dawn Bush, Carol & Ray Molineux, Linda Hill, Susan MacDonald, Jean Macallan, Kerry Gray, Peter Kentish, Kirsten Slade, Nate & Dash McCall, Bruce Bulmer, Maia Gasson, Pete Milsom, Ravi Myhre, Bernard Cammack & Ann Evans. (If anyone omitted please let us know.)



Key found on the track – phone 021 162 3559. Dunny foundations waiting for the next stage.

Help needed

Are you interested in becoming a bee keeping volunteer? Training will be given.

Contact Theo 027 546 7019

Bamboo sticks needed – index finger/thumb thickness. 600mm to 1m long.

Contact Bruce 021 236 9394 or leave by the Guardians shed. Even small numbers are useful.

Are you downsizing or clearing out your shed? Pre-loved spades and grubbers are needed.

Thanks for the heavy-duty grubber already donated. Phone Ann 021 162 3559 to collect.

Other news

The Trattoria Quiz fund raiser for the Whareroa Guardians

This was good fun; six teams were challenged - who knew how many cylinders Theo's landrover has??? A very useful koha of \$250 was raised. Many thanks to quizmaster Shane and to the Trattoria.

Plants arrived from The Greenery nursery, Manakau



Theo, Ann, Dawn & Lynette unloaded 800 trees on a wet morning. The gale had brought down two big branches.



Theo and landrover quickly tidied up. These poplars are unsafe and DOC plans to remove them. The Wednesday Blackberry Bunch have been clearing blackberry from this area as well as near the entrance.

DOC intends to remove stumps in grass by carpark so that this can be mown.

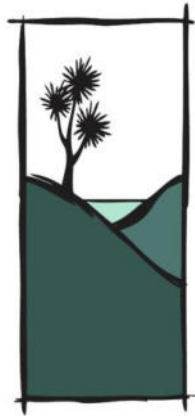
Planting dates: August 02 and 16, Sept 6th

whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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<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 28 July 2020

3rd planting bee for 2020: Sunday Aug 2nd 9 to noon

This session we will return to Ti Kouka valley but lower down than before. Follow the flags. Depending upon progress we may do some more planting in the Dell after morning tea by the caravan as we have been given lots of Carex secta. Sausage sizzle at Guardians' shed afterwards. Please wear strong footwear and warm clothes. Forecast is good. All welcome.

Plants arrive 8.15am Thursday 30th - helpers to unload welcome

2nd Planting Bee Sun July 19th, East Ridge/Upper Dell



Another wonderful morning: the sun shone, the ground was moist, lots of children were busy planting and transporting carpet squares. All the sprayed spots were filled and many other plants

given homes – about 400 altogether. The plan was to enclose the gorse edges, eventually it will be suppressed. A little children’s totara grove was planted low on East Ridge. Theo and g’son Gabe moved plants to the site the day before and Bruce spent 5 hours cutting and transporting bamboo stakes from Steve Lewis and Cherie Ruscoe’s garden. Some of today’s plants were grown from Whareroa seed by Ann: kaikomako, flax, pigeon wood, native passion fruit and kahikatea. Linda Hill and Bruce also propagate seedlings. Tiny plants can be dug up from the bush remnants and grown on – we have matai, kahikatea and totara doing this. Matai is incredibly slow. We have two biggish rimu trees but have not found seedlings as yet – maybe they are both male or not yet mature?

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, John Rowland, Andy & Juneau Hummel, Julie, Neil & Alexander Symons, John & Marilyn Wilson, , Jan Nisbet, Dawn Bush, Carol & Ray Molineux, Linda Hill, Jean Macallan, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Pete Milsom, Ravi Myhre, Bernard Cammack, Ben, Alex, Eric & Ilva Morton, Chris & Holly Worts, Grace & Manu Ngapo, Sue Campbell, Bernard McManus, Sienna Porter, Olivia McClure, Sue Hirst, Mike McGirr, Peter Davis, Liffet Stewart & Ann Evans. Frances McMillan and Bill Jansen provided morning tea and nicely cooked sausages and onions. Apologies to Ellen Soulliere who was there last time and was missed from the record; Ellen regularly drives out from Wellington to join us and has been a supporter from way back.



Manu and a small tauhou



Alex and Ilva plant a totara



Andy and Juneau doing the same



Eric moved lots of carpet



Chris & Holly

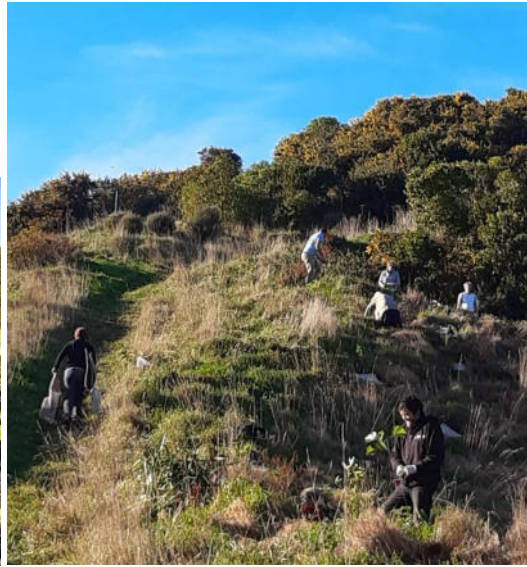


Manu and Grace and another totara

So far about 800 plants have gone in the ground. Another 700 will arrive on Thursday. We also have a number of special lizard friendly bushes to go at the Cairn site. Some of these have berries on the underside of the twigs so birds don’t see them and lizards eat them deposit the seeds in their poo.



John



Planters on East Ridge



Liffet & Peter

The Old Dunny



After much pushing, shoving and delicate tractor work the dunny made its way to its new home in the SE corner of the Hub. Several hours were then spent fixing it securely to its base and building a small deck in front. A seat will be placed after internal painting is complete. Outside painting is also needed. Many thanks to farmer Drew for tractor help & to Peter, Theo & Bruce for the carpentry.

East Ridge Track improvement





Bruce spent many hours excavating and cutting gorse to improve the zigzags on East Ridge Track. This now allows access for the LUV as well as for mowing. Many thanks Bruce – this is hugely helpful.



Photos from Sue Blaikie:

Kereru in nikau

Liffet & Shane tending the orchard

Planting dates: August 16, possibly Sept 6th

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WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 13 Aug 2020

4th planting bee for 2020: Sunday Aug 16th 9 to noon
Probably back under Covid Level 2 rules.

Please bring your own morning tea and sorry, no BBQ.

If we are in Covid Level 3 this will be cancelled

Remember social distancing and hand sanitising – sanitiser will be provided. A register will be kept as usual and a QR code is onsite – please log in. This session we will visit the Cairn for the first time this year. We have trees to plant around the base of the hill within the fence line and lizard friendly bushes to plant just below the edge of the flat terrace. We need to mark these special plants with bamboos. There are also some more sprayed spots on the slope above the dam. Please wear strong footwear and warm clothes. Forecast is sunny and cold. All welcome.

3rd Planting Bee Aug 2nd: Finished Upper Ti kouka and more in Dell



Looking up the Ti Kouka Valley; Nathan Wiri & Robynne



The slope, now fully planted; Dawn & Bernard



Bill distributing carpet squares



Amanda delivering titoki trees in to the Dell



Juneau, Peter & Timothy planted a pukatea tree & then went to stand under one planted about 10 years ago

It was another lovely planting session, welcome to new volunteers. It was good to have a group of Scouts with leaders Dan, Amanda and Allan. Scouts have come annually to Whareroa planting for some years – much appreciated. Both sides of the bottom half of the Ti Kouka Valley and the upper western slope between the track and stream are now planted. We hope that the steeper eastern slope may be planted next winter by workers as part of the 1Billion trees project – it would be impossible for volunteers to manage this.

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, John Rowland, Andy & Juneau Hummel, Julie, Neil & Alexander Symons, Jan Nisbet, Dawn Bush, Carol & Ray Molineux, Linda Hill, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Bernard Cammack, Bernard McManus, Sienna Porter, Peter Davis, Aki, Kentaro & Takumi Baggott, Holly Carson, Josie Hope, Trinity Jurgensen, Bill Jansen, Richard Caldwell, Shane Williamson, Ann Evans, Daniel, Amanda, Timothy & Peter Cottrell, Allan & Cuinn Walmsley, Nathan Martin, Robynne Black, Wirihana Piohona, Emma-Lee Whitaker, Liv Hockey-Norris and Susan Macdonald. Penny & Ian Redward and Neil catered – extra thanks to Penny for a special cake (see below).

The Old Dunny and a birthday

Richard fixed the seat boards and at morning tea we “opened” the newest structure at Whareroa – an old Tatarua Hut “dunny” which has been cleaned and repainted and has a new seat, providing a little shelter with a view up the valley past Matai and Upper Bush.

At morning tea Theo congratulated Richard on hitting 90 and thanked him for his huge contribution to the reserve – he makes our 3rd over-90 volunteer, joining Bill and June.



The shelter



Richard and Bill



Peter, Juneau and Andy



June reminded us about the progress at Whareroa in the last 15 years since it was “saved” and made some observations about the Guardians’ knack for recycling unlikely objects - the caravan and dunny



Holly, Josie & Trinity



Scout group



Theo addresses the group. NB Special cake on the table

Mower helpers needed – generous donations have allowed us to purchase a **very** grunty new 4WD mower. Richard needs regular help with this task which will now be much easier, even fun!

If you can help, please contact Theo: 027 546 7019

Next working bee: hopefully Sunday Sept 6th

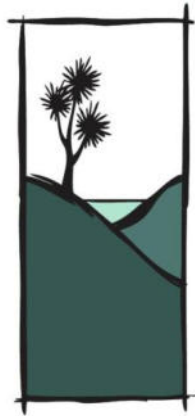
Possibly planting if still unfinished, otherwise track work. Detail in next Update.

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WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 Sept 2020

**5th and last planting bee for 2020: Sunday Sep 6th
9 to noon. Still under Covid Level 2 rules.**

Please bring your own morning tea and sorry, no BBQ.

Remember social distancing and hand sanitising. A register will be kept as usual and a QR code is onsite – please log in. This session we will revisit the Cairn and the zone above the Dam to complete the block started last session. There are perhaps 200 trees left to plant. There is some gorse and inkweed on the cliff face which needs removal. We also need to mark the smaller plants around the rim of the flat with bamboos. Please wear strong footwear and warm clothes and **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TOOLS – SPADES, GRUBBERS, HAND SAWS**. All welcome.

4th Planting Bee Aug 16th: The Cairn



Richard trying out new mower



Barsanti family – 3 generations planting (& Dawn)

It was another lovely planting session, managed under Level 2 regulations. Lots of lizard friendly plants found a home on the slope below the Cairn. Trees were planted right around the lower slopes

to form a bush edge to the retired section. Richard tried out the new mower – it is approved! Peter K made some rabbit barriers to protect the Spaniards. Ian, Theo, Bruce & Ann erected the sign for Ramaroa Wetland Track – and Richard mowed the first section.

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Jan Nisbet, Dawn Bush, Linda Hill, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Bernard Cammack, Richard Caldwell, Ann Evans, Kerry Gray, Paul Callister, Sue Campbell, Bernard McManus, Sally Heppenstall, Susan Macdonald, Ian Redward, Ben, Alex, Eric & Ilva Morton, Ellen Soulliere, John Wilson, Richard Caldwell, Bengy and Gillian Barsanti with Ellie, Isla and Indie.



Sally dealing to gorse



Jan planting *Olearia solandrii* along boundary



Socially distanced morning tea and planting





and the well spaced group photo (gorse and inkweed visible on the face)



Ben & Alex isolating



One of PK's rabbit excluders – Spaniard in the middle



New sign for Ramaroa Wetland Track. Theo & Bruce. Theo & Bruce again, with Shane – Bee site



Bees

DOC have given permission for the Guardians to have a couple of beehives – not for commercial use, any honey will be donated to volunteers! Theo, Liffet and Peter D will be our bee keepers & are having training. Two hives and colonies are due this weekend – they will be placed on a north facing site to north of Matai Bush. Please do not disturb them as they settle in to their new home.

Ramaroa Track – Kahikatea Picnic area



A reminder that these lovely trees – kahikatea and matai are just 10 minutes from the entrance up the Ramaroa Track – an easy walk for little ones. From there you can head east along the Ramaroa Wetland Track or continue up the Ramaroa Valley to Ramaroa Bush and beyond.

Mower helpers needed – generous donations have allowed us to purchase a **very** grunty new 4WD mower. Richard needs regular help with this task which will now be much easier, even fun! If you can help, please contact Theo: 027 546 7019

Next working bees: Sunday October 4th and November 1st

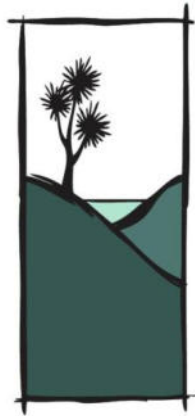
Probably work on Ramaroa Wetland Track – cutting back side growth etc.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 Oct 2020

Next working bee Sun Oct 4th. 9-noon. All welcome

Planting is finished, well done everyone. Now we get back to other tasks, such as looking after the tracks. This session we will work on the Lower Ramaroa and Ramaroa Wetland Tracks – trimming back overhanging vegetation eg flaxes and small branches and generally tidying up. There are likely to be some thistles needing grubbing out. A small group will work on the slumped corner of the deck by caravan. Please bring hand saws, loppers, secateurs and gardening gloves. Morning tea provided.

5th Planting Bee Sept 6th: The Cairn

It was another good planting session, in breezy moist conditions. More trees found a home on the slope below the Cairn and around the ephemeral pond. Richard also mowed up East Ridge.



Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Richard Caldwell, Kerry Gray, Paul Callister, Sue Campbell, Linda Hill, Bernard McManus, Ellen Soulliere, John Rowland, Shane

Cave, Liffet Stewart, Rachel Calvert, Adhyatma & Ravi Myhre, Matt Whittaker and Chris & Holly Worts.



Resting after a busy morning

Bees

The bees have arrived; Theo, Liffet and Peter D spent a busy day learning what to do, supported by local bee keeper Ken. Please do not disturb them as they settle in to their new home.



The two hives near nikau, sheltered by Matai Bush from the southerlies.



Liffet and Peter garbing up.



Ann & 10 year old miro on north slope of the Dell

Mower helpers needed –Richard needs regular help with this task which will now be much easier with the new mower. If you can help, please contact Theo: 027 546 7019.

Weed eater Also many thanks to Peter Davis for donating his pre-loved weed eater – this will be useful at working bees. Speak to Ann about PP gear needed to use this.

Rubbish – Not only did Rachel do a full morning's planting, she then collected a heap of rubbish from the carpark. She had good training having helped with the Fox River clean up.



Jan Nisbet also regularly collects rubbish, as of course do DOC staff and others pick up random bottles etc. What a pain some people are.



A new seat is now in place next to the mini hut. The materials were donated by Tom Porter's family, in his memory. Richard built the seat, Bruce prepared the site, then he, Theo and Shane erected it. Many thanks to everyone involved. It is a wonderful location.

Spring is here!

Baby pukekos were seen near the Ramaroa Stream where it goes under the main race. Kereru are stuffing themselves on new leaves in the tawa in Matai Bush and the Dell, bellbirds are calling. The mini clematis just across the stream by the Gums is flowering and the flax are in bud.

Grazing. All stock will leave the farm this month as the farm lease ends. We wait to hear what is next proposed for the pasturelands. DOC and GW are discussing the options.

Q E Park Friends AGM Monday Oct 5th 7pm Community Centre.

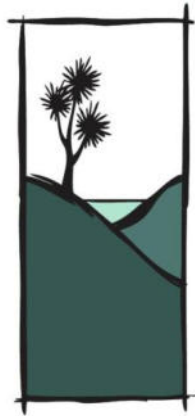
Guest speaker will discuss management of wetlands including re-wetting the peat in QEP.

Future working bees: Sunday November 1st and Dec 6th

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 Oct 2020

Next working bee Sun Nov 1st. 9-noon. All welcome

Forecast might be OK. We will decide on exact activities on the day – possibly releasing and staking up by the Cairn or, if wet, working around the Hub and Dell. Please bring hand saws, loppers, secateurs, and gardening gloves. Morning tea provided (a carrot cake is promised).

Last Working Bee Oct 4th: Ramaroa Wetland Track

A good session clearing side growth along the Ramaroa Track through to Ramaroa Bush then clearing gorse on Totara Ridge to release young totara and clear a way through. Richard mowed the tracks. Penny brought pikelets and Sue fruit cake so we were well nourished under the big turepo tree.





Bruce & Theo excavated under the corner of the deck to strengthen the pile which had subsided. Bruce went back a few days later to complete the job. Below: Liffet, Dawn, Ellen & Bernard M tackling gorse.





Theo the younger polishing off goodies.



An unusual blue toadstool.



The finished job, deck is level again.



A released totara, planted 4 years ago

Many thanks to: Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Richard Caldwell, Sue Campbell, Bernard McManus, Ellen Soulliere, Liffet Stewart, Penny & Ian Redward, Bernard Cammack, Ann Evans, Jerome, Theo & Samuel van Rooyen.



Excavations on the middle ridge show start of a 2nd bike track coming down from Campbell's Mill Rd to join Red Tape Track. Thistles on paddock high above Emerald Glen Rd. Weeds will get away if a long gap in farming

One Billion Trees. The Trust is in discussion with Ground Truth and Rotary about funding to plant 30 hectares of steep hillside in natives. This would be done by contractors as work creation. We are optimistic. All this land, across to Campbell's Mill Rd and the pines is Whareroa.



This is Mamaku Valley, heading west from Carex Valley, it forms part of the reforestation proposal as are the hill tops to far right of the pic, above Matai and Upper Bush going from Upper Ti Kouka to the Rocks.

Mower helpers needed – Richard needs regular help with this task which will now be much easier with the new mower. Bruce has been doing some, but he does lots of other jobs as well. If you can help, please contact Theo: 027 546 7019.

Training. Volunteers have been re-accrediting in chain saw use and first aid as required under our Health & Safety Plan.

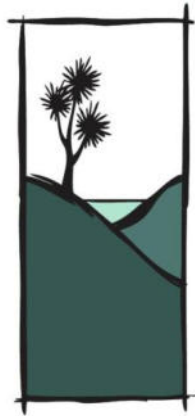
Future working bees: Sunday Dec 6th then Feb 7th

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 28 Nov 2020

Next working bee Sun Dec 6th. 9-noon. All welcome

Working around the Dell, releasing this years' plants and general tidy up. This will be the last working bee for 2020. Many thanks for all your volunteer effort.

Last Working Bee Nov 1st: Cairn and Dam

Another good session releasing and marking plants around the Cairn and clearing gorse on the bank. Many plants are quite small bushes for lizards. Frances provided a carrot cake which was enjoyed.





Peter removing gorse from the bank



"Morning tea" with carrot cake

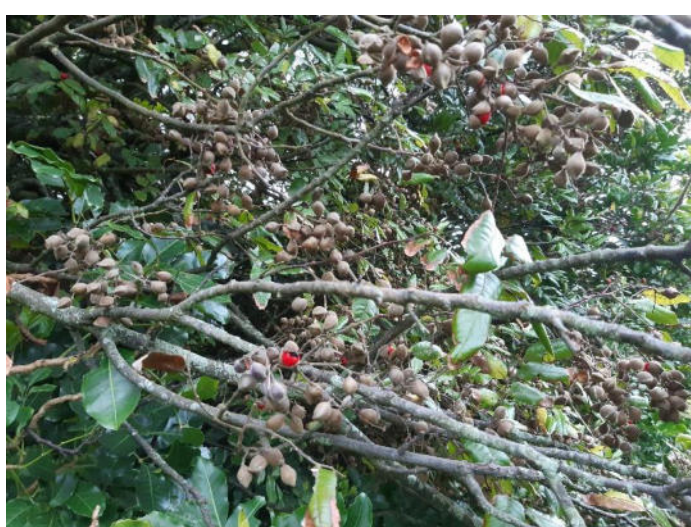


Bamboo markers to identify plants



Jake spoke to the group about a Low Carbon Kapiti concept to use a small area of land on the SW corner of Whareroa as a site for solar panels which could generate an ongoing income for the Trust as well as increasing non carbon electricity generation and reducing transmission costs. This is just under investigation at present.

Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Peter Kentish, Bruce Bulmer, Richard Caldwell, Bernard McManus, Ellen Soulliere, Rachel Calvert, Penny & Ian Redward, Bernard Cammack, Ann Evans, Jake Roos.

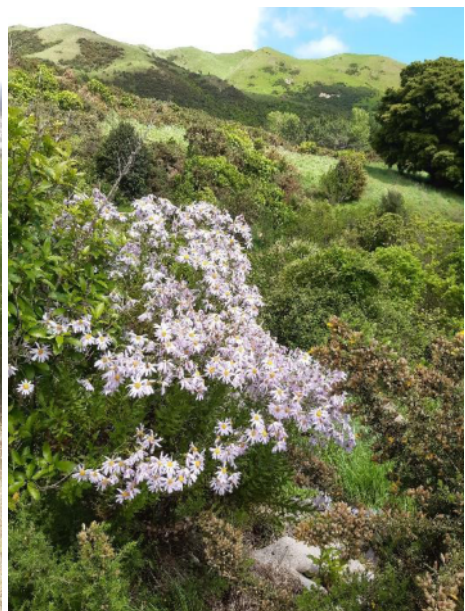


Swallows are nesting in the "Old Dunny" Titoki seeds are profuse this year



Thanks to John R who has improved drainage on Horse Track Blackberry regrowth, last year's dead stems behind. Our blackberry eradicators, Pete and Tony have completed the first spray of this summer, another will happen in Feb. This has been funded by DOC Community Fund and is a 3-year project to protect native forests. Our own Wednesday blackberry eradicators continue to work tirelessly, it is now 3 years since they started, meeting weekly. More helpers always welcome – contact us if you would like to join this important group.

A Strange Story and a new nasty weed



On 2 occasions the gates at carpark were removed. After replacing for the 3rd time these two gates were found in the ditch across the boundary fence, covered with gorse cuttings. As Alice would say "curiouser and curiouser". Weeds and animal pests are not the only nasty things about.

If you see this purple weed please pull up and remove from the farm. It is Senecio glastifolius or Holly-leaved senecio. It is spreading north – one sees it along the highway and is very prolific. This one was above the Dell and had a stem 2 inches across. Luckily it had not seeded.

Bees The initial two hives of bees have migrated. We hope to have replacements soon. Sad as there is lots of manuka and kanuka flowering at the moment.

Roading changes at Mackays Crossing

There is going to be a temporary asphalt plant to the south of Mackays Crossing for surfacing Transmission Gully. This will mean realignments to the roading and frequent trucks coming through the underpass for some months. **Please take extra care.** In addition, a NZTA Vehicle Testing Station will be built on the same site. The Guardians have made a submission to NZTA about safety aspects to reduce risks to recreation users,

Lizards and Research A group of students from Victoria University are undertaking monitoring of lizards at the Cairn. Please do not disturb their poles and other equipment. At the moment, base line monitoring is occurring. Then it is hoped that lizards will be translocated when they lost habitat eg due to housing developments. This group will continue to monitor for 3 years. This is much appreciated. Whareroa offers multiple opportunities for ecological study, it would be great to see more such projects. A couple of years ago a weta project with intensive rat trapping was undertaken.

Mower helpers needed – Richard needs regular help with this task which will now be much easier with the new mower. Bruce has been doing quite a lot, but he does lots of other jobs as well. If you can help, please contact Theo: 027 546 7019.

Future working bee: Sunday Feb 7th 2021

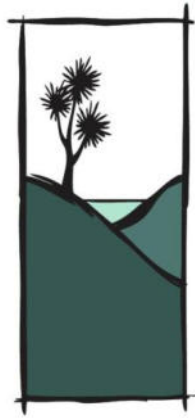


At edge of Upper Bush, NB blackberry in foreground (to be eradicated)

whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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

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



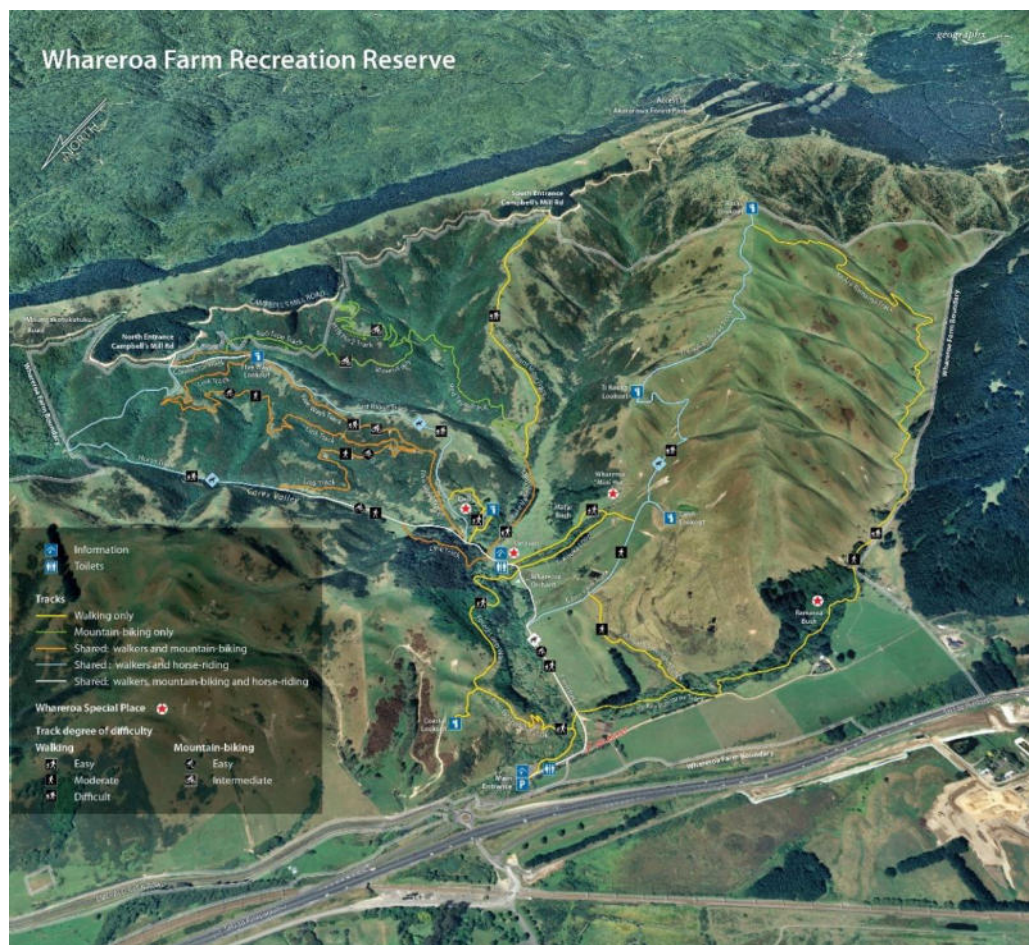
WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 31 Dec 2020

Next working bee Sun Feb 7th. 9-noon. All welcome.

A new map for info bay and Hub signs. *NB MTB No 2 Track under construction*

Hopefully these signs will go up in January. Thanks DOC. Map is downloadable from Nature Space.



Last Working Bee Dec 6th

Another good session cutting gorse along Totara Ridge above Ramaroa Wetland. Two rows of 30 totara were planted 3-4 years ago to form an avenue – most have survived; we “just” have to keep the gorse down for the next few years. Bernard, Theo and Shane Cave have undergone DOC training to use chain saws at Whareroa. Penny sent along a fruit cake which was appreciated.



There is a totara tree in here somewhere

Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Bill Jansen, Theo Barsanti, Bernard Cammack, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell and Jan Nisbet.

Bees The replacement bees seem happy at Whareroa, good as there is lots of manuka and kanuka flowering now. Please keep way from the hives.



Bees buzzing in and out



Kanuka flowers nearby

Bridge wash out on Forest Loop Track



The bridge is no longer safe to use. A bypass route connecting to the end of the Link Track in the Gums is open – wet feet to cross a small stream to get back onto the farm race or go back the way you came. Watch for mountain bikes here.



Track closed sign at kiss gate near Caravan



Mistletoe in Dell - over 1 year old and still very tiny

Pines on Water Intake / Red Tape Track



DOC have begun removing dangerous pines overhanging the track – sometimes others will have to be removed to allow safe felling. Long term we plan to plant totara to replace them (and be patient).

Orchard Thanks Shane and Shane for new stile, ready for harvest time. A good crop of fruit coming – thanks to Liffet for pruning and fruit thinning and general care. A reminder, visitors are welcome to sample but please do not strip the trees: fruit is there to share.



Funding Successes. From “Trees that Count” and “1BT” via Rotary

We have been granted 1000 trees for next winter’s Carex Valley planting by Trees that Count. And also, thanks to Peter Handford of Ground Truth, we have funds to plant 30,000 (yes thousand) natives to revegetate the tops of the steep valleys using contractors: up to the Rocks and high above Carex Valley. This is through Rotary “Forests of Peace and Remembrance” project. Our Planting will contribute to this overall project, local Rotary members will be invited to join us to plant a small area

**Thanks for all your support this year, we all hope for a better 2021.
We look forward to seeing you “down at the farm” next year.**