



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 03 March 2022

No working bees March and April due to Covid

We're sorry about this but we are "playing safe". Organised activity should start again in May and there will be over 2,500 plants to plant this winter. However, volunteers are very welcome to continue releasing, track trimming, thistle grubbing, picking up litter or anything that needs doing! A number of volunteers spend many hours at Whareroa mowing, clearing blackberry and noxious weeds, improving tracks, building stiles, collecting litter and being generally useful. All help is appreciated, many thanks to those volunteers.



Carex Valley: plantings beyond the table (the last one built by Richard).

Richard Caldwell and Tony (Griff) Griffiths. RIP

We are sad to report the loss of two of our longest serving volunteers. Tony & Helen were there at the very first planting in 2007 and Richard was at most working bees for over ten years. Both were quiet, observant and had a dry sense of humour.

Richard was our “go to” man. His practical skill in all sorts of ways will be really missed. His engineering background led him to adopt Miss Piggy after Leon died. He kept our lower tracks mown for many years and stripped down the motor and replaced drive belts as needed. When windows were broken in the caravan, Richard had them repaired in no time, even making new brass catches. Then as Miss Piggy aged, he adopted the new mower and was still mowing in his early 90’s – he would get (quietly) cross if one of the other mowers did his section. Richard’s other incredible contribution was in carpentry: six picnic tables, two seats and about ten little benches were made by him. His wife Audrey would come down to the farm and knit while he mowed – our condolences to her and the family.



Miss Piggy



New mower on her maiden mow at the Cairn.



Richard and Bruce at his table by Ti Kouka, Theo’s landrover transported

Tony's special contribution was growing numerous kowhai trees from seeds obtained on the Raumati Escarpment and then nurturing them until they could stand on their own. Many of the middle-sized kowhai at Whareroa were Tony's. He would put his hand to any task, planting, clearing the stream, removing fence wire and in particular, supporting Helen's regular bird monitoring trips. He discovered Whareroa's own peripatus whilst cleaning a drain on Carex Valley track. Again, our condolences to Helen and family.



Peripatus, Carex Valley



Tony at the back in green



Stream clearing



One of Tony's kowhai, with blue marker

Close up of some of last year's plantings in Carex Valley



Wineberry



Totara



Carex secta

An amazing vine – *Passiflora tetrandra* in Ramaroa Bush



Flowering at present



Clearing blackberry – a regular Tues job

Keep enjoying Whareroa and we look forward to meeting up again soon.

www.kapitibiodiversity.org.nz/whareroa

whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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

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