



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 12 July 2022

Next Planting Sunday, Aug 7th. 9 to Noon

NO planting July 17th due to culvert work on farm race.

Last Working Bee July 3rd

900 wetland plants – carex, rushes and sedges and a few coprosma were planted to start the restoration of the wetland below Matai Bush. These will start to return the rank pasture back to its original state and re-establish native vegetation up the valley past Matai Bush and later Upper Bush. Cardboard guards and bamboos were placed around smaller plants to protect them from pukeko and rabbits. Hot dogs were enjoyed afterwards, back at the shed.







Many thanks to the planters – names in the next Update.

New culvert for Ramaroa Stream under the farm race.

Work has started. That section of the race will be closed for a couple of weeks.

Walkers will use the Coastal Lookout/Forest Loop tracks; bikers and horses (and walkers if they wish) will follow a temporary bypass route across hilly paddocks, accessed off the road to the farmhouse and joining the track to the Cairn. It will be well marked. Take care as it is not a developed track and the ground is pretty wet.



Whew, a big job!

Thanks Rachel and Jan for photos

Whareroa Farm Plan Review – your thoughts invited please.

Our first comprehensive Farm Plan was prepared in 2012. It is due for review. It is accessible on the website (see below). All feedback welcome.

www.kapitibiodiversity.org.nz/whareroa

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 05 August 2022

Tree Planting Sunday, Aug 7th. 9 to Noon then BBQ sausages

600 lovely native trees are awaiting planting. There are several sites: at a retired section of picnic ground near entrance, along main Whareroa Stream valley, along lower Ramaroa and some ti kouka to go in the wetland. Trees are parked as close as possible and will need to be carried. Shopping bags would be useful though the manuka/kanuka can be carried in clumps of 4-5. Wear gumboots or boots as the ground is very wet. These trees came from Totara Glen Nursery at Palmerston and were funded by Trees That Count. Additional trees were grown by trustees Bruce and Ann. The wetland ti kouka **must** have guards or pukeko will have them out in no time. Further manuka and kanuka will be in trailer by the new culvert. *PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MORNING TEA. THANKS*



For main valley planting



Ready for Ramaroa by the stile



A suggestion for carrying plants easily

Last Working Bee July 3rd. Wetland – names of volunteers

The wetland certainly is wet – little streams are running over it.



Many thanks to: Shane Williamson, Peter Kentish, Dawn Bush, Ellen Soulliere, Jan Nisbet, Ann Evans, Rachel Calvert, Ian Redward, Dean Arthur, Liffet Stewart, Bruce Bulmer, Sue Campbell, Denys Crengle, Kerry Gray, Brian Law, Janet Walker and the Roberts's: Anias, Danika, Devon, Jamie and Mali for planting 900 carex & others. The last 100 were planted on July 17th by Shane, Rachel, Dawn & Denys. And of course, sausages after were cooked by Darrel and Diane. Fantastic work everyone.

New culvert for Ramaroa Stream under the farm race.



The culvert is in place, without damage to the historic pillars. This should last many years and provide secure access to the reserve. There was a significant risk of wash out of the original road. Final works are still to be completed.

Many thanks to DOC staff and contractors; it has been a long complex process over some time involving initial planning, engineers' reports, funding application, regional council consent and the actual work.

Whareroa Farm Plan Review – your thoughts still welcome please.

Our first comprehensive Farm Plan was prepared in 2012. It is due for review. It is accessible on the website (see below). All feedback welcome – to our e-mail address.

Planting on Aug 7th and probably 21st (in Mamaku Valley)

Darrel and Diane will provide BBQ sausages afterwards, back at the shed.

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 18 August 2022

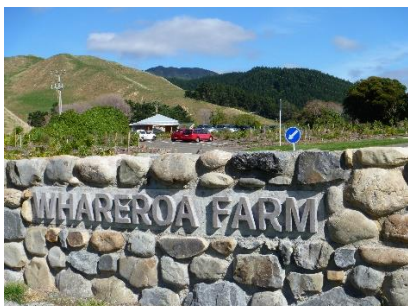
Tree Planting Sunday, Aug 21st 9 to Noon then BBQ sausages

About 300 native trees remain. There are still about 80 to go in along lower Ramaroa but it will be too much of a swamp after this week's rain – they will have to wait till September. However, there are manuka/kanuka parked up Carex Valley (thanks Theo). These are to be planted on the slope just before Mamaku Valley – no spots sprayed so dig through grass. Some totara and taller trees to be “inplanted” amongst earlier plantings along Ti Kouka Stream and across the stepping stones on the left. Plants will be by the Gums. Kapiti Cubs plan to come, to plant some kahikatea amongst Ti Kouka by Intake Valley Track. Wear gumboots or boots as the ground is very wet and take care. Follow flags. Darrel & Diane will have sausages & onions ready in the shed from noon. Forecast might be OK.
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MORNING TEA. THANKS

AGM Sept 14th 7pm Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room

This will be our 15th AGM and the theme is “The next 10 years at Whareroa”

After the “Business” section, Andy McKay from KDCDC will set Whareroa in the context of Kapiti biodiversity and facilitate a discussion about how Whareroa could develop over the next ten years. A brief resume of the existing Farm Plan and how much has been achieved will be shown but the key question is What Next? Please come along with your input. Under Covid Orange, masks to be worn except when eating/drinking (nibbles provided)



Membership

Please renew your membership for 2022 (or join) – see application and banking details for online payment or Treasurer Lynette will be at the AGM for those who prefer cash - only paid up members can vote. Your membership helps give us credibility as an organisation and of course the money helps. All income goes to Whareroa, no honoraria go to trustees. Donations are welcome and are tax deductible as the Trust is a registered charity.

Last Planting Bee August 7th

It was so sloppy underfoot but people roamed and planted where they could, along Lower Ramaroa, Matai Wetland, beyond the entrance picnic area and along the Vollies' Track. The Lower Ramaroa Stream has lost its way and is wandering all over the place – floods have deposited stones and the plantings are not sufficient to maintain banks. Also celery weed contributes to blocking water flow but that won't go away until there is shade from trees. Eventually we hope to have the area similar to Ramaroa Bush upstream – maybe in 20 years. Though the forest giants will take much longer.



Many thanks to: Shane Williamson, Peter Kentish, Ellen Soulliere, Ann Evans, Ian Redward, Dean Arthur, Sue Campbell, Denys Crengle, Kerry Gray, Janet Walker, Theo Barsanti, Sandra Rowland, Linda Hill, Chris, Holly & Charlotte Worts and Andy, Chantelle, Waylon & Angus McKay. Sausages & onions were cooked by Darrel and Diane. Fantastic work everyone.





Ti kouka protected against pukeko, Matai Bush Wetland. Penny's pond with earlier carex plantings. There is money for another 1000 or so wetland plants for 2023 but the area could absorb 10X that number. We intend to keep plantings low to maintain the distant view up th valley.

Toilets at the carpark

Visitors and volunteers will have found these toilets to be closed. This is due to expiry of resource consent for the soakaway system. However, the toilets are expensive to maintain – not just the cleaning but plumbing issues when water supply dries up or the toilets get blocked by bad things. DOC is incredibly short of money this financial year and is struggling to manage all the demands on their funds. The Guardians have strongly advocated for these toilets to be supported. There are toilets up at the Hub and in QE Park to be used in the meantime.

Bill Jansen

Long serving volunteer Bill died in March. The family would like as many Whareroa people as would like to join them for a few words and a cuppa at the caravan which meant so much to Bill. Friday September 2 at 1.30. Meet in car park.



Planting likely on September 4th – to be confirmed

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WHARETOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 September 2022

Tree Planting/working bee Sunday, Sept 3rd 9 to Noon

At the Cairn. There are about 60 lizard friendly bushes to plant. Last year's plants suffered from sheep incursions as well as grass overshadowing. This year we will plant a small area densely, close to the main platform so we can keep an eye on them and keep the grass down. Denys has kindly weeded the area to make planting easy and the ground is lovely and soft. Also, the fence is now sound (unless another slip takes it out again). In addition we will plant a dedicated "Spaniard" area tucked away in a corner – these are vicious plants which lizards love. Only those with really thick leather gloves should tackle these babies!

There are some bits of gorse around to cut and paste and we can release around those plants which have survived. Bring hand tools as appropriate, gloves and wear warm clothes – it is quite exposed up there.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MORNING TEA. *(No sausages as winter is hopefully over)*



The area to be planted is at edge of the far bank, near this heap of logs (lizard habitat)

AGM Sept 14th 7pm Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room

This will be our 15th AGM and the theme is “The next 10 years at Whareroa”

Three trustees’ term expires: Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland and Ann Evans. All are available to stand again. If another person is nominated, nominees can address the meeting and a secret ballot will be held. Membership can be renewed at the meeting.

A motion to amend Clause 4.39 of the Trust Deed will be tabled to allow for simpler accounting. This still fulfills the requirements of Charities Services, Dept of Internal Affairs.

“4.39 The Board, through its Treasurer, will keep proper books of accounts and will prepare annual accounts which are to be subjected to accountant’s review.”

It is proposed that the word “review” be replaced with “compilation report”.

After the “Business” section, Andy McKay from KCDC will set Whareroa in the context of Kapiti biodiversity and facilitate a discussion about how Whareroa could develop over the next ten years. The key question is What Next? Please come along with your input. Under Covid Orange, masks to be worn except when eating/drinking (nibbles provided)

Last Planting Bee August 20th

We returned to Carex Valley and planted trees beyond the area planted last year. The rain held off until we had just reached the shed for our sausages and onions when the heavens opened. Theo again transported the trees as far as possible and we carried them the rest of the way. We had hoped to plant more in the lower Ramaroa but ground conditions are just too wet with water flowing over the surface. A gigantic earthworm was found by Rachel. Apparently they can grow even bigger. It was steep terrain, the goal is to stop further progression of gorse down the slope. Great to have two new volunteers – Jono and Arapaoa.



Many thanks to: Shane Cave, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Rachel Calvert, Liffet Stewart, Sue Campbell, Jono Ziaja, Arapaoa Moffat, Denys Crengle, Kerry Gray, Janet Walker, Theo Barsanti, Sandra Rowland, Linda Hill, Chris, Holly & Charlotte Worts Brian Law, Matt Whittaker, Bruce Bulmer & Jan Nisbet. Sausages & onions were cooked by Darrel and Diane. Fantastic work everyone.



A new Minutes Secretary for the Guardians' meetings is needed please.

Dawn Bush has recorded our meetings since May 2010 – Huge thanks to Dawn for her hard work. She will resign at the end of this year. It makes the meetings so much easier for trustees to have a scribe. We meet in our homes about eight times a year, in the evening.

If anyone would be interested in sitting in on our meetings and really getting to know what goes on “behind the scenes” please contact Ann 021 162 3559 or Liffet 021 044 9728

Forest & Bird calenders (\$15) and diaries (\$23)

These are available at a reduced price and support Forest & Bird.
Contact Peter Kentish 021 027 70520

Te Wiki Kaumatua. “Whareroa Wanders” - Sun 09 October 10am-Noon

Seniors week is at the beginning of October. KCDC are coordinating various events. The Guardians have offered to host “Whareroa Wanders” – an introduction to Whareroa Farm with small groups going to different places. If you can help as a guide, please email or call Ann 021 162 3559. Thanks.

Catchment View Track

Denys Crengle & Bruce Bulmer have done some amazing work on Catchment View Track. Denys mowed it all the way up to Campbell’s Mill Rd - a four hour epic. Bruce has improved the marking and cleared gorse at various locations. Legends!

Now is your chance to try this out. It is **steep** but exhilarating and has amazing views. When the top is reached. turn left and walk north along Campbell’s Mill Rd for 20 minutes to re-enter Whareroa and descend by East Ridge or Carex Valley Tracks for a great circuit.



Looking down to beginning by the silt trap



Table built by Don Beggs from recycled materials

Working Bees: Sunday October 1st & November 5th

www.kapitibiodiversity.org.nz/whareroa

whareroa.guardians@gmail.com for email

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



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 30 September 2022

Working bee Sunday, Oct 2nd 9 to Noon

Lower Ramaroa Track.

It is time for the annual spring tidy up of the track. Flax and bushes are straggling over the track and need trimming back. The old “bridge” has been washed downstream and needs extracting. Arum Lilies are flowering and needed beheading before they seed. Bits of gorse need cutting and pasting. And some thought is needed about how to improve the track where it is too wet.

Please bring suitable tools (secateurs are best for the lilies and shopping bags to put the flowers in). The ground will be wet after this rain so wear boots.

Please bring your own morning tea to have at the kahikatea picnic area.

Planting September 4th – at the Cairn



About 100 lizard friendly bushes were planted at the Cairn
In addition a dedicated “Spaniard” area was established by Shane and Denys.
Gorse was cleared on the cliff face and around the dam above the Cairn.



Denys & Shane, well gloved up, planting Spaniards



These bushes will need regular releasing – please take a grubber and keep weeds down



Many thanks to: Shane Williamson, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Jono Ziaja, Denys Crengle, Janet Walker, Dawn Bush, John Rowland, Bruce Bulmer Ellen Soulliere & Jan Nisbet. Theo Barsanti delivered plants to the site the day before.



The ephemeral pond above the Cairn, natives are getting established around it.

Cubs and Keas planting, Sept 18th

34 keen cubs and keas and parents planted forest trees below the Hub & at the entrance to the Dell.



Many thanks to: Kate & Jack Foley; Norrita & Lily Attwood; Keith, Hana & Neko Miller; Hana & Bonnie; Karen, Lewis & Oliver Melville; Becca, Ewen, Ella & Isaac; Laura, Steve, Rose & Mae Kearny; Marcus, Albie & Fred Hopkinson; Cushla & Tavian; Heather, Josh, Isla, Zoe & Evie; Raquel, James, Lucy & Theo Barros.



AGM Sept 14th 7pm Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room

An amazing turnout of 35 people came to the AGM. It was wonderful to reconnect and Andy Mackay stimulated good discussion. See attached AGM report.

Te Wiki Kaumatua. “Whareroa Wanders” - Sun 09 October 10am-Noon

Seniors week is at the beginning of October. KCDC are coordinating various events. The Guardians have offered to host “Whareroa Wanders” – an introduction to Whareroa Farm with small groups going to different places. *Helpers needed to be guides, please email or call Ann 021 162 3559.*
Thanks.

See KCDC advertising below:

Whareroa Farm Wanders Sunday 9 October | 10am – 12pm | Whareroa Farm, Mackays Crossing, Paekākāriki | Koha.

Guided walks at Whareroa Farm – difficulty will be according to abilities of visitors but need to be able to walk at least 1km. Introduction to biodiversity of the reserve. See restoration progress over the last 15 years. Bring your own “morning tea” to carry with you. Parking at entrance. Toilets 600m walk from entrance or at QE Park. Wear suitable footwear – tracks may be muddy and uneven. Stream crossings and/or steps on some walks.

Working Bees: Sunday November 5th & December 4th

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 November 2022

Working bee Sunday, Nov 6th, 9 to Noon

Activity to be decided; probably more tidying along the Ramaroa Track and Stream, higher up. Please bring secateurs, saws, grubbers & morning tea. Follow flags. Everyone welcome.

Working Bee 2nd October. Lower Ramaroa Track.

Flax and bushes straggling over the track were trimmed back. The old “bridge” had been washed downstream and was extracted. Arum Lilies were flowering and lots were beheading before they seeded. Gorse was cut and pasted. Stream barriers and redundant fencing were removed. A bypass of a short boggy section was marked and cleared. We gathered at the kahikatea picnic area for morning tea and caught up.



Many thanks to: Shane Williamson, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Jono Ziaja, Denys Crengle, Bruce Bulmer, Linda Hill, Ian Redward, Mic Keith, Sally Heppenstall & Jan Nisbet.



Ramaroa Stream: Extracting old “bridge” and clearing stream obstructions. These obstructions have pushed the stream over and increased erosion under our plantings.

LUV returns

After several months stuck on the wrong side of the slip on the Otaki Gorge Rd, LUV was at last rescued. Bruce has already made good use catching up on more distant jobs needing LUV to carry tools. Work pics from Bruce, LUV flying from DOC.



Flying home



“No Bikes” sign installed at far end of Forest Loop Track



Denys with redundant fencing from Ramaroa Track and a new seat above Mamaku Valley

Kapiti Mountain Bike Club

Kapiti MTB Club has dug in a huge soakaway pit, all that messy concrete has disappeared! Then a proper bike wash will be built. Kapiti MTB Club have suggested a big tidy up in this area. We hope to arrange a joint working bee to do this.



Bike-wash-to-be soakaway installed



Te Wiki Kaumatua. "Whareroa Wanderers" at the Dell

Seniors Week

The Guardians hosted "Whareroa Wanders" – an introduction to Whareroa Farm for Seniors' Week. Five volunteers came but only 3 visitors! We had a nice wander but it was a sad not to have more.

Summer is here!

Lambs are bouncing around the paddocks, shining cuckoos (pic below) have arrived from the Pacific for their breeding season– they lay an egg in grey warblers' nests; they have a very characteristic call – check out NZ Birds on Line for more info and to hear their song. Two baby pukeko were seen just off Farm Race. Native trees are flowering, clouds of pollen rise from kahikatea if brushed against, tui are enjoying kohutuhutu in the Dell (pic below) and kereru are frolicking.



Senecio glastifolius alert - and other plant pests

Most of us have seen the huge invasion of purple daisy along roadsides between Kapiti and Wellington. Apparently it is even getting established at the north end of Kapiti. We are trying to keep it off the restoration lands of Whareroa. If you see it, please destroy it - ideally without allowing seeds to disperse. Pic below is one removed from above Carex Valley. Unfortunately neighbouring land to the south is already infested. It thrives in disturbed ground.



Lynette with a Senecio glastifolius



Blackberry encroaching onto farm tracks



Arum lilies



Variegated thistle on paddock

Weeds are an increasing worry – blackberry, arum lilies, water celery, pampas and tradescantia being our biggest concern as well as thistles on the paddocks. Volunteers spend a lot of time tackling these pests. Any help gratefully received - just slashing flowering heads off a few reduces their spread. We have been trialing eradication of arum lilies from the Dell as a start. If succesful we will try elsewhere

Working Bee: Sunday December 4th then none till Feb 2023

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WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 December 2022

Working bee Sunday, Dec 4th, 9 to Noon. Last of the year!

This is to be a mega clear/tidy up of the shed and the “stuff” along the hedge by the entrance. Kapiti mountain bike club members will join us. There are some useful items to be kept eg fence posts and battens. There is a lot of rubbish – old fencing wire, abandoned bicycles, an old tank, metal cupboards and shelves, an old BBQ etc. Recyclables will be moved to another location. Macauley’s Metals will send a truck on Monday to take the metal away. The goal will be to totally clear the area and then keep it permanently clear. Please come in your oldest clothes, wearing gloves. If too many to do clearing, releasing plants or gorse cutting always available! Everyone welcome. **Morning tea provided.**

Miss Piggy has gone to a new home in Te Horo with Rod Clifton, to join other old farm machinery. We are glad she missed out on being crushed in a metal recycler. Thanks Denys for sorting.



Miss Piggy in an earlier time, with Richard Caldwell



Part of the “pile” to be sorted

Working Bee November 6th . Lower Ramaroa Track.

We met beyond the farmhouse at the upper end of Ramaroa Bush. We concentrated on gorse, variegated thistle and arum lily removal, from the giant Pohutukawa down to the edge

of the bush. A short botanical interlude showed impressive *Passiflora* vines and a magnificent pukatea tree as well as matai and titoki just inside Ramaroa Bush.



Shane & Peter attacking weeds



Dead thistles, Lower Ramaroa



Native jasmine, Parsonia



First flowering Spaniard at Cairn

Many thanks to: *Shane Williamson, Peter Kentish, Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Jono Ziaja, Denys Crengle, Sue Blaikie, Dawn Bush, Rachel Calvert, Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland, Ellen Soulliere & Matt Whittaker.*

Culvert wetland to be (it needs a better name!)

The areas on either side of the new culvert will be fenced off and restored to wetland/native vegetation. The cost of fencing is to be paid by the grazier. Many thanks Brent. Access to the Ramaroa Track will be improved. Planting will happen next winter; plants funded by Wellington Community Trust via Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project. Many thanks to the donors.



Pests: Coordinator Shane Cave has submitted the pest gang's annual summary – for details go to the website. They have killed a grand total of 7,811 pest animals since the programme started in April 2013. Thanks to the rest of team: Shane Williamson, Jason Bohmer, Ian Redward, Darrel Sutherland, Tom Bruynel, Ray Molineux, John Rowland, Rodney Hopkirk and John Whibley. And to Sue Blaikie for post-mortems of mustelids.

Planting summary 2022

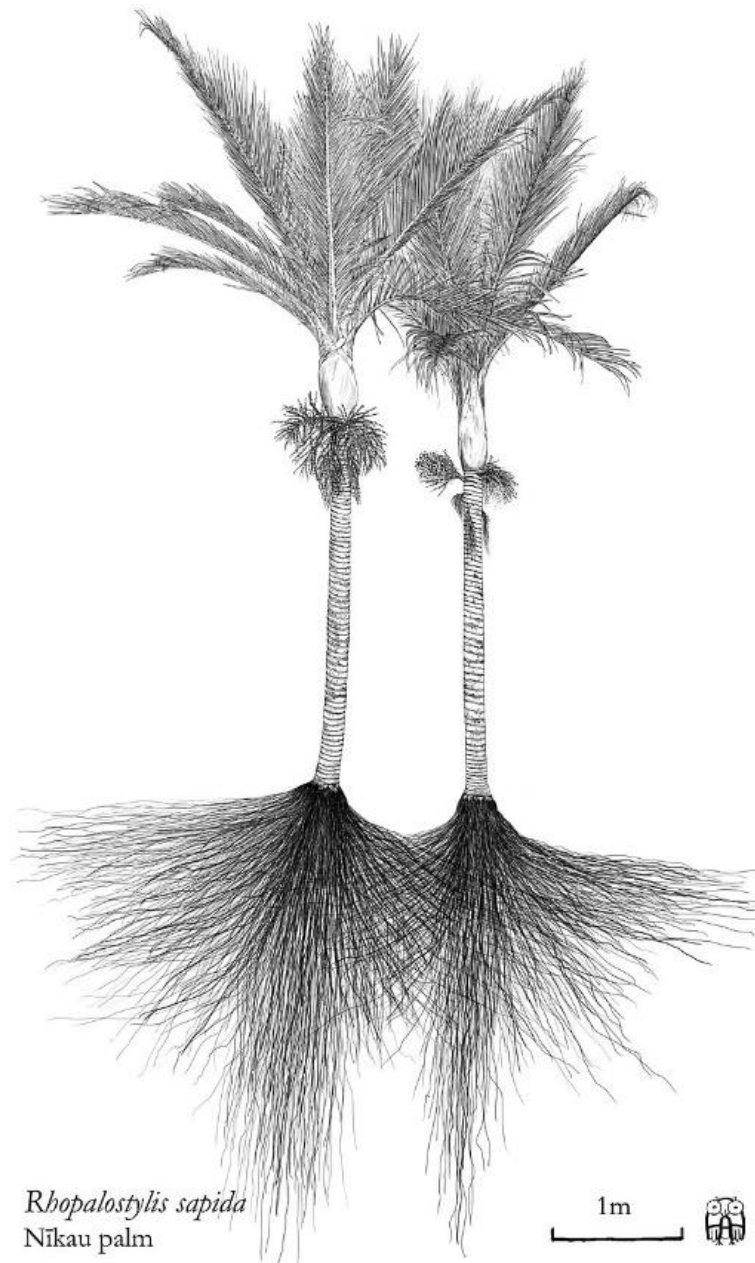
	Number	Location	Funder
2022	1,000	Matai Bush Wetland	Wellington Community Trust via Kapiti Biodiversity – 1,000
	600	Carex Valley NW	Trees that Count - 600
	400	Cairn (lizard)	} Guardians – 460
	60	Dell Infill	}
	= 2,060		

The full planting summary, year by year, since 2007 is on the website (64,960 to date)

From KCDC: Campbells Mill track – full length closure, Monday–Friday 10 November–22 December

Due to harvesting of a section of the forest directly adjacent to Campbell Mill track, foresters need to close Campbell Mill track weekdays until Christmas while trees are felled. The road will be blocked with netting and signage. While the harvesting is happening, we will also undertake maintenance of the track, trimming back overgrown vegetation. There will be a further closure 3–13 January. KCDC now put all track closure information on here:

: <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/our-district/cdem/service-status>



Working Bees will start again in February 2023

Weeds and long grass will continue to grow so if you have time, do go along and spend a bit of time releasing around young plants especially up by the Cairn and the new wetland area by the caravan.

Many thanks to all volunteers for their many hours of work in 2022 – over 4000 hours.

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