



# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 29 June 2023.

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## **PLANTING STARTS THIS SUNDAY, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 to noon**

About 800 plants are sitting waiting by the new culvert. Denys has already been digging holes. Please bring wheelbarrow (to move plants) and spades. Wear gummies or boots as this is a wetland. (Some areas are dry). The plan is for Carex secta right along the stream edges and a variety of other wetland plants scattered around with a few specimen trees. 150 kanuka will be planted along stream banks up and downstream. Morning tea at the culvert at 10.30 – we will bring along - plus sausage sizzle afterwards back at the shed. Follow flags – all welcome!



Denys digging planting holes at 7.30am today



Carex Valley trees 2 years old – wonderful growth

## **AGM Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm Paraparaumu Library meeting room**

There was a good turnout for our 16th AGM. After the business section, Jim Lynch, founder of Zealandia, discussed his visionary proposal to bring kakapo back to the mainland with a predator proof fence in never logged rimu forest in the Wainuiomata-Puketahā catchment. It was inspiring to hear his recommendations for a number of fenced mainland islands to act as a backup if something eg an epidemic or predator invasion happened on the island reserves. Expensive but necessary. However, moving this concept through funding steps is proving very hard.

## 2023 AGM Acting Chair Report from Liffet Stewart

Greetings from the sunny Bay of Plenty where Shane and I are currently house and avocado orchard sitting for 5 months. We miss Whareroa and all of the wonderful people associated with the fabulous place. Keep up the good work!!!

It is a very short time since our last AGM which was delayed due to COVID and subsequent travel of key personnel. But in that intervening period much has been achieved at Whareroa.

There have been several meetings with DOC staff (Thank you Angus and Nick) to push along the Farm Plan for the next 10 years. There is agreement that gradually grazing will be reduced and reforestation will replace the farmed land. In the meantime, there will still be a contracted grazier to get protein off the hills. Brent Cuttance has a licence for 3 years. DOC is reducing the number of tracks that they maintain to four. These are the Farm Race, the Link (zigzag), Connector and Coastal Lookout/Forest Loop. They commit to maintaining to a higher standard and are applying for funds to replace the missing bridge at the end of Forest Loop.

The Guardians will continue to maintain the rest of the tramping tracks but due to the wet nature of Carex Valley it has been decided not to allow horses in this area in the future. Thus there will only be the East Ridge track that gives access to Campbell's Mill Road for riders, however they still have the Ramaroa/Ti Kouka Loop to give variety.

The mountain bikers will be approached regarding their track maintenance and as blackberry encroaches onto the Downhill/Five ways this is an important area to work on. In the meantime, Bruce has done some clearing.

The volunteers who continue to work at Whareroa and enjoy its beauty and peace are numerous and wonderful. Working bees attract both old and young and it is great to see new volunteers coming along. Planting for the 2023 season will commence on Sunday July 2nd and will focus on the newly protected Culvert Wetland on the Farm Race as well as continuing Matai Bush Wetland below the caravan. Enhancing this area and encouraging biodiversity will improve the sense of arriving at a place of bounty.

Track mowers Denys, Bruce & Brian continue with their hard work which makes the walking tracks so inviting and manageable with children. Wading through high grass is not a child's idea of a good day out. Mowing access has been extended onto Totara Ridge via the Ramaroa and this enhances the tracks in the wetland area hugely. Thank you Denys, Bruce & Brian. (Do explore!).

The weed management team of Sandra, Dawn, Sue and Alex, Lynette and Richard with rare appearances by Liffet still keep the tradescantia, gorse, blackberry, Jerusalem cherry, arum lily and other plant pests in check as much as possible however more personnel are always required .

Animal pest management continues. The team is Shane W, Jason, Tom, Darrel, Ray, John, Rodney and Shane C. Scott still manages the data as well as our website and Facebook page from afar and we appreciate his contribution. To date 8167 Pest animals have been removed from Whareroa but the true evaluation of effectiveness is in the improved bird life and seed germination and flourishing vegetation.

Lynette keeps a wonderful professional eye on the finances of the Guardians and we greatly appreciate the administrative tasks that she and Ann Evans maintain so effectively.

**Supplementary Notes of specific activities through the year (2022).**

Also see the Performance Report for Charities Commission (below) for more detail.

Covid Lock Down affected the first third of the year with no working bees until April.

However, volunteer activity continued.

Fences between grazing and retired continued to be an issue. Much but not all has been repaired.

Planting: Just over 2000 natives were planted in 4 sites. Matai Bush Wetland below the caravan, along the Lower Ramaroa Stream, more lizard friendly bushes at the Cairn and extension of restoration planting up Carex Valley to the junction with Mamaku Valley. Cubs and Keas participated at one session.

223 pests killed this year so far - includes: 15 possums, 13 mustelids (weasels and stoats) and 7 cats. The rest are mostly rats and mice.

LUV was missing for many months as stranded on the wrong side of a slip at Otaki forks. Eventually she was flown out by helicopter and has been busy since her return. Bruce and the trappers make particular use to move materials, new seats and traps.

At the end of the year a mega clear up of the shed and its surrounds were done – useful materials were put aside for future use and we are waiting for DOC to remove the last of the debris.

DOC's major project was the new culvert under the farm race. This is a huge improvement. Following that, money from the grazing licensee Brent Cuttance was used to fence off the stream and this winter this area will be planted. It includes a wetland area and barriers across the stream have been removed to help flow.

Toilets at carpark remain closed due partly to consent issues but also due to lack of funding in DOC to maintain them.

We are very aware of reduced DOC input to the reserve – DOC are really struggling. They tell us that they have to reduce the length of track they maintain throughout the country. This puts more responsibility on the Guardians.

We are fortunate to have a core of volunteers who spend many hours “down at the farm” – not just at working bees. More self-motivated volunteers are welcome: in particular to clear vegetation along tracks – especially the far end of Carex Valley. It is good exercise and rewarding. (We can loan a saw and stump paste.) People can adopt an area to look after.

Minutes secretary Dawn Bush retired after 12 years of recording, Mic Keith kindly filled in for a while and now we are fortunate to have Sue Campbell who has taken on this role.

Ruby Durrant has been a volunteer since she was about 5. She will continue to be a supporter but has to retire as a trustee due to the needs of motherhood and employment. She has given great

input over the years. Shane Williamson will take over as trustee for the last year of Ruby's "time". Shane has also been very actively involved for years – welcome Shane.

Finally, an acknowledgement to all our Trustees: Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie, Ann Evans, Lynette Francis, Ian Redward, Bruce Bulmer, Sandra Rowland, Ruby Durrant, Rachel Calvert and of course, thanks to you all.

## Carex Valley track

Extensive work has been done by Barry and his digger – funded by DOC. Nice to have the Link Track scraped and widened. Unfortunately DOC cash did not extend to complete the work – protecting the bank from future floods by filling gabion baskets and spreading and compacting metal along the scraped track. Bruce has worked with Barry and the Guardians have funded a pipe and one truckload of rock to fill gabion baskets. Bruce has put in *many* hours moving metal, liaising with Barry and he placed the first Gabion basket yesterday. These are set back from the stream which flows to the left of the pic but in flood the stream may reach this bank. Huge thanks Bruce. Much more cash and volunteer work will be needed with special working bees in association with mountain bikers or the access to the top of the farm will be totally lost. Watch this space for details.

In addition, Shane W has been beavering at the track further up Carex Valley where the bank fell away – another ongoing project. Thanks Shane. If it was not for the work of volunteers Whareroa would be in a very rundown state as it does not get enough "points" for DOC to put in adequate resources. This is determined from "on high" - governmental priorities are a difficult balance but the back country is deteriorating all over. It will then take much more funding to recover. GRRRR.



Barry's digger



Track repaired, pipe & 1<sup>st</sup> Gabion placed

**Planting will continue July 16<sup>th</sup>, Aug 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9am to noon followed by sausage sizzle at the shed**

[www.kapitibiodiversity.org.nz/whareroa](http://www.kapitibiodiversity.org.nz/whareroa)

[whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Statement of Service Performance

“What did we do?”

for the year ended

**31 December 2022**

**Location:** Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve, Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki

### Description of the Entity’s Outcomes:

**Restoration:** reforestation of Whareroa Farm’s catchments; protection and enhancement of indigenous flora and fauna.

**Reserve public access and recreation:** development and maintenance of public tracks and recreational areas; promotion of reserve as a public amenity.

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Description and Quantification (the extent practicable) of the Entity’s’ Outputs	This Year	This Year	Last Year
Newsletters communicating with members and volunteers to maintain workforce availability and motivation (490 on email list)	13	14	14
Restoration: Trees and wetland plants planted at planting days	2040	2000	2000
Restoration: Hectares existing planting maintained. Weeding	24	23	24
Restoration: Trapping Pests killed	462	500	526
Restoration: Monitoring birds and stream life	1	1	
Access: Existing tracks – mowing & maintenance	12	11.5km	11.5km
Access: Amenities installed: 3 small benches, 4 stiles, 1 picnic table,	8	3	7
Access: Promotion of reserve as public amenity (brochures and maps)	1240	1000	1200
Access: New tracks & signage. Dell improvements Totara Ridge (160m)	300m	500m	1500m
Access: Mower maintenance	1		

### Additional Output Measures

Recorded volunteer hours: 3399 from 104 volunteers. (NB Additional hours worked but not recorded)

Meetings with Dept of Conservation, grazier and Kapiti Mountain Bike Club

Articles in local newspapers, talks to local service groups, Open day for Seniors; promoting the existence and purpose of Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve

Community orchard maintained, most trees fruiting. 2 beehives, 20kg honey for volunteers

600 trees donated by Trees that Count \$3,000; 1000 wetland plants donated Wellington Community Trust value \$6000

Social media presence on website and Facebook promoted and maintained

Additional information: Covid19 Lockdown reduced access and number of working bees.

**The Board approved the release of the Performance Report on 27 March 2023**