

Update 01 November 2023.

Next working Bee Sun Nov 5th 9am to noon. At the Cairn

A variety of tasks – improving the connection between the Cairn and Ti Kouka Track – involves cutting gorse back and some playing in the mud. (See pics below) At the Cairn there are a few small gorse bushes on the slopes which need dealing to – also a big clump of gorse by the "Secret Dam". Muehlenbeckia (bouncy weed) need bamboo stakes to clamber up above the vigorous grass. Some bushes need releasing - the grass is a pain at the moment. Thistles around the fenced off area can be grubbed out to reduce risk of seeding. The long grass around the Cairn rocks and under benches and sign needs weed strimming – is someone please able to bring their gear for that? (Pic at end).

Bring appropriate tools and also your morning tea. We do have some grubbers for thistle bashing. We will get together for a break at about 10.30 at the Cairn (sorry for misunderstanding last time!).





Last working Bee Sun Oct 1st Lower Ramaroa

Lower Ramaroa Valley – releasing plantings, cutting back any vegetation overhanging the tracks and chopping the flowers off arum lilies. Those arum lilies are proliferating apace but we are winning in the Dell. The trick is to start at top of each catchment and work down – for at least 3 years!





Janet in gorse attack gear

Catching up at Kahikatea picnic table

Many thanks to: Sue Campbell, Peter Kentish, Ian Redward, Shane Williamson, Jan Nisbet, Sandra Rowland, , Bernard McManus, Rachel Calvert, Bruce Bulmer, Shane Cave, Liffet Stewart, Andy & Juneau Hummel, Bruce Bulmer, Kerry Spinks and Janet Walker.

Recent volunteer activities and help needed

Mowing – spring growth is happening and many hours have been done by Bruce and Brian. They need another volunteer or two to assist with this task – time needed varies according to growth, Please contact us if you can help (return email). Ann has been trimming the track banks in the Dell, Bruce has done work on the mower and track improvement, Janet has continued gorse cutting Ramaroa Wetland and planted the gaps. Would anyone like to help with track bank strimming?

Rachel has devoted several hours to clearing celery weed from Ramaroa Stream – feel free to spend an hour or so doing this anytime!, Sandra continues her campaign against tradescantia and of course the blackberry group meet every Tuesday morning – now they've done 3 years. What would the place be like without their ongoing hard work??? *Again, anyone is welcome to join them,* it is very satisfying. Our trappers beaver away relentlessly.

New grass is germinating on the latest section of Dell track, should be open by Xmas.





New grass Dell track

Dell track banks trimmed and raked – still some more to do

Raumati Beach School trip to Whareroa

140 school children with teachers and parents visited Whareroa this week. Jan and Sylvia planned activities with the teachers and a great time was had. Different groups visited different places; some just enjoyed the exercise, others were more interested in the botany and insects. A highlight was racing and rolling down the hill. Thanks Jan and Sylvia.



Spring is here



Clematis forsteri by Gums



Whau



Mistletoe flowers



and early fruit. We have now found 3 mistletoe plants.



Strimming needed