



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 01 December 2023.

Next working Bee Sun Dec 3rd 9am to noon. At the Dell

Annual tidy up including releasing of trees such as totara, matai, kamahi and pukatea. Cutting back any branches overhanging the tracks. Clearing gorse bushes growing over the stream bank just at the entrance and big gorse in the Upper Dell. Clearing some dead ngaio near the entrance. Weed trimmers invited to do the long grass along the downhill sides of the tracks (the uphill sides have been done). Ditch enthusiasts can clear the little stream as it leaves the Dell to stop flooding over the main track. Come along and celebrate the end of another successful Whareroa year. Please bring your morning tea. Follow the flags.

Another Award!



Matt Clarke, CEO, Wellington Airport & Trustees: Bruce Bulmer, Liffet Stewart & Ann Evans

The Guardians were delighted to receive the Heritage and Environment award at the recent Regional Community Awards. This came with another \$1,000 so that gives a total of \$3,000 from these awards. A good boost to our wetland plant fund. We were struck by the huge diversity and commitment of volunteers across the region. It is worth looking at the 30 mini videos made for each finalist. Many thanks to Wellington Airport for funding this annual event

Last working bee, at the Cairn, Nov 5th



Morning tea



Lynette & thistles



The blue blob is Richard attacking gorse by the dam

Lots of useful jobs were done. The connection to Ti Kouka/Rocks Track was cleared by Bruce, Shane & Denys. The long grass around the Cairn was thoroughly cleared by Peter & Bernard. Gorse was tackled by Richard & Matt, thistles by Lynette. Ann, Sandra, Jan & Rachel worked on finding lizard bushes among the horribly long grass. Jan went on a purple weed expedition up the hill – so far we have removed 6 of these from Whareroa this year – if you see one PLEASE pull it up. We do not want our hills looking like those further south.



Job done!



The open passage



Spaniards (lizard delicacy)

Many thanks to: Sue Blaikie, Peter Kentish, Shane Williamson, Jan Nisbet, Sandra Rowland, Bernard McManus, Denys Crengle, Rachel Calvert, Bruce Bulmer, Ann Evans, Lynette Francis, Richard Lambert, Bruce Bulmer, Matt Whittaker & Shane Williamson.

Would someone like to “Adopt” the Cairn? It needs a dedicated person(s) to visit regularly to clear grass from bushes to make it a more hospitable place for lizards. It is possible that some may be released soon. It’s a lovely place to potter and feel good. Why not do it with a friend?

Recent volunteer activities – all much appreciated!

Denys removed a length of old fencing under the bank by Toetoe Flats. He also cleared out a silted up area to reduce flooding. Janet W continues her gorse campaign by Totara Ridge. The mowers, Bruce & Brian have mowed regularly, Ann weeded Dell banks, Bernard continues on Dell tracks, Jan & Ann planted carex. Lots of other stuff is quietly done; volunteers are down there most days.

The blackberry gang hosted volunteers from Cuttriss Consultants for a day's clearing and planting. "Despite the prickles and scratches, the team thoroughly enjoyed the day!" See below. Great work everyone, thanks.



Raumati Beach School trip to Whareroa.

Here is some of the feedback from the kids:

The environment was beautiful
Jan taught us a lot of really cool stuff about the bush.
It was really nice walking through the trees and cool in the shade.
I liked seeing the funghi and going through the forest.
I googled white dots of death tree and couldn't find it. Then I found out it was Ngaio.
I liked seeing the spider in the weta house. It was cool.
The most best thing was rolling down the hill!

As a koha from our school, we have donated \$150 to the Whareroa Guardian Trust. Thank you again and we look forward to visiting again, next year hopefully.

Shellee May and the Te Moana year 5 & 6 teachers