

# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 03 February 2024.

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### **Next working Bee Sun Feb 4th 9am to noon. Meet at Caravan**

Preparation for the picnic and Open Day. Jobs include:  
Spring cleaning the caravan, Old Dunny and Mini hut (we will bring cleaning materials).  
Checking stream crossings are good.  
Planning Guided Walks – guide volunteers needed please.  
Also clearing water weed from streams or releasing in the Wetland.  
Everyone is welcome. Please bring your morning tea. Follow the flags.

### **Whareroa Picnic and Open Day Sunday Feb 11th from 10am**

It's been a while since we had an Open Day – Covid. We invite you all to come along.

Do a guided walk (some “off piste” eg into Matai Bush, up Mamaku Valley, through Toetoe Flats), join in a trapping demo, visit weta motels with a weta enthusiast, do a “botanical” wander. Meet at the Caravan, or just hang out with friends and family.

Our track mowers will have been out to make sure they are nice to walk along.



Earlier picnics

BYO picnic. There are several picnic tables in the reserve: by the caravan, in the Dell and just beyond the Gums in Carex Valley. Also Lower Ramaroa Valley under giant kahikatea & matai. Totara Ridge, above Matai Bush, at Five Ways and others as well as various seats. See Map on the day. Have you visited them all?

## Lizards

It looks as though relocation of lizards to Whareroa is closer.

To learn more come along to the next Forest & Bird meeting. Paul Callister will talk on Kapiti Lizards Weds Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 7.15 at 43 Ngaio Rd, Waikanae. Gold coin koha and a raffle.

## PESTS – Cats and Weeds

Cats have been spotted, one with kittens. Cats are the Ace Predator for killing native birds and lizards. Send us a message if you see cats, with location. Thanks.

## Weeds

New Zealand has 2,500 native plants and 35,000 exotic introduced plants of which 1,200 are pest plants.

**Montbretia** – Whareroa's latest weed. This was found along the stream above the water intake. There is also some **Himalayan honeysuckle** along the climbing section of Carex Valley (Horse) Track

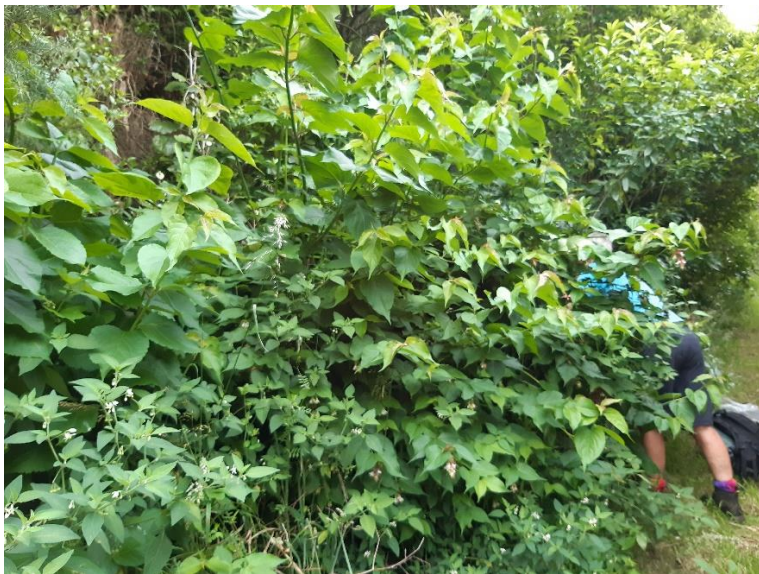


NB the many bulbs which makes it difficult to eradicate. Himalayan honeysuckle  
If you see either of these please pull it up (even though they are very pretty) or let us know location.

To add to our concerns, NZ's worst weed, Purple Loosestrife, was spotted in Kapiti by Pene Burton-Bell from Forest & Bird. Greater Wellington eradicated it the next day – it is notifiable so please let GW know if you spot it. It is a huge pest at Lake Horowhenua, it can even out compete raupo. GW contact: 0800 496 734 or [pest.plants@gw.govt.nz](mailto:pest.plants@gw.govt.nz)



Purple loosestrife



Himalayan honeysuckle bush, Carex Valley Track – and after cutting and piling by Jan & Ann



Hemlock, a prolific seed producer is a concern at the Ground Truth plantings on the Western Hills. Kanuka seedling visible after hemlock pulled up. Guardians have been doing some releasing in Upper Mamaku Valley.

To cheer you up, check out this YouTube (thanks Linda for forwarding it)

[Restoring land into native forest - The Timata Method \(youtube.com\)](#)

This is the technique used by Groundtruth to establish native forest on Whareroa's hills. Interesting to see the progress at Lake Tutira over 10 years, and the difference between the high slopes and the lower.

### **Carex Valley is open for horses again**

Shane Williamson and Shane Cave have recovered the section where the track had subsided. It is again safe for walkers and horses to complete the circuit. This track is now maintained by volunteers. There are stream crossings on this track and steep banks on the uphill section (Bruce & Denys have been trimming the vegetation). Many thanks guys.



### **Future Working Bees**

**Sun March 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 to noon**

**Sun April 7<sup>th</sup> 9 to noon**