



WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

Update 13 July 2023.

PLANTING CONTINUES THIS SUNDAY, July 16th, 9 to noon
Sausage sizzle back at the entrance afterwards. Follow the flags

Celebrate Matariki by helping the wetland restoration at Whareroa. This week we will return to Matai Bush Wetland, beyond the caravan. Planters can drive in to the Hub to park. 600 sedges and rushes await along with toetoe for the banks. You can see last year's plants getting established; we will plant another 1200 or so in this area this year. It will be wet underfoot. Bring spade or grubber. A sharp knife or small saw would be useful to cut tight bags and potbound roots.

Last Planting session. July 2nd



The new wetland area at the beginning of the Ramaroa Track was planted with incredible speed in

just a morning. The ground was very stony despite being a wetland – the stream probably meandered around the basin in the past dropping stones. A variety of wetland plants went in – carex, giant rushes, oioi, ghania, giant umbrella sedge, wetland bushes and a few wetland trees: pukatea and swamp maire. On the dry slopes toetoe and around the perimeter a shelter belt of native trees – with several kowhai along the farm race.

On the northern side of the farm race are low bushes – Coprosma propinqua and Muehlenbeckia astonii were planted in front of the concrete pillars and more carex and sedges in the wet areas and kowhai and totara on the slopes. Altogether about 750 plants went in. Fantastic. Due to the stony ground it wasn't possible to use many guards, we hope the pukeko don't attack.

Additional plumbing work was done by Bruce & Denys after an unknown pipe was punctured by enthusiastic digging. It transpired that it was obsolete but water was back flowing. All sorted.

It was good to meet up with volunteers who hadn't been for a while and to be sharing morning tea again and to round the morning off with Darrel and Diane's sausage sizzle with onions.



Richard & Lynette



Carex along stream edge plus kanuka to right



Planters



Carol

Many thanks to: Bruce Bulmer (special award for plumbing), Denys Crengle (special award for hole digging), Ann Evans, Sue Campbell, Lynette Francis, Richard Lambert, Kerry Gray, Linda Hill, Peter Jones, Peter Kentish, Brian Law, Ray & Carol Molineux, Jan Nisbet, Mark & Pip Pennington, Ian Redward, Shane Williamson, Bernard Cammack and to Darrel & Diane Sutherland for the sizzle. **Everyone deserves a "special award" for enthusiasm and hard work.**

Rotary forest of Peace and Remembrance planting to be finished soon

A grant for 75,000 natives was obtained in 2021. This was facilitated through a national Rotary programme. Two years ago GroundTruth from Paekakariki planted 59,000 natives on the hills up to the Rocks and on the hills above the Gums up to Struggling Bush. Conditions were hard and there were losses. The survivors were mainly kanuka, manuka and flax with scattered other trees.

These plants provide the foundation for a forest and do fulfill the requirements for the 1 Billion Trees project. The remaining 16,000 trees will be planted later this month – the sprayed spots are visible on the western slopes above Carex Valley and in Mamaku Valley. Plant selection has been modified and will now be 80% really hardy trees with a few additional species for variety. These areas are not as inhospitable as the slopes up to the Rocks so good establishment is hoped for.



Sprayed spots on the hillside above the Gums. Plants two years old in foreground. Grazing occurs on the left

A celebratory event will be arranged with local Rotary in September.

The Guardians' contribution to this project was planting along Carex Valley in 2021 and 2022 and establishment of the picnic area beyond the Gums. Some further planting of more carex and wetland trees in Carex Valley will occur as part of this "event".



Part of 2021 Guardians' planting in Carex Valley. Note the original totara fencepost.

Other volunteer activities:



John making weta boxes. He is also a trapper



Ann next to one of her signs, plant protectors in hand

**Planting will continue Aug 6th & 20th
9am to noon followed by sausage sizzle at the shed**

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