

The Caravan Story

one of Whareroa Farm's Special Places
as told from Supporters' Updates, Newspapers & Facebook postings

October 19, 2017

KAPITI NEWS

Makeover underway for historic caravan

19 Oct, 2017 12:11 AM

🕒 2 minutes to read



An old caravan in Whareroa Farm, about to be transported to Menzshed Kapiti, is getting a major revamp.

Kapiti News
By: David Haxton



A scruffy weather beaten historical caravan in Whareroa Farm is getting a much-needed makeover.

The caravan has been sitting near the farm's information centre for a long time braving the elements.

"This wonderful historical caravan has contributed hugely to conservation on the Kapiti Coast," said Liffet Stewart, of Whareroa Guardians Community Trust.

"National Provident Fund sponsored it on Kapiti Island where it was a base for rangers and pest controllers.

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"It has been pivotal in the eradication of pest species from Kapiti Island.

"Once it was no longer required there it was helicoptered to Whareroa Farm by Department of Conservation where it has been awaiting a makeover.

"The caravan was recently transported to MenzShed Kapiti in Waikanae where it is being overhauled, fitted with seats and painted, ready to be returned to Whareroa.

"It will be moved back to the farm to become a meeting place and shelter for cyclists and walkers using the farm tracks.

"Once it is in its new site the exterior will be painted with a mural by artist Julie Oliver."

The Whareroa Guardians Community Trust is currently seeking funding for the project through a grant application.

Whareroa Farm is located next to Queen Elizabeth Park, which is between Paekakariki and Raumati South.

Web link: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kapiti-news/news/makeover-underway-for-historic-caravan/YAALZ2KV2ZXJ2B55D2PZ7RA5RA/>

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March 18, 2018

Kiwi Caravan & Mural

The caravan has now been completed by Menzshed volunteers. Many many thanks to their team and to Shane Cave for coordinating the project.

Piles were inserted by Shane Cave, Shane Williamson and Peter Davis and it is hoped that the caravan will be transported back to Whareroa to its new home at the Hub by mid-April. M2PP Alliance are donating the transport as part of their community support – thanks NZTA.

Julie Oliver, artist will come as soon as weather settled – volunteers will be needed to help with painting. Send us an email if you would like to be involved. whareroa.guardians@gmail.com



Piles ready for caravan



As it was

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May 3, 2018

Kiwi Caravan

After considerable thought it was decided that the proposed location of the caravan was too close to the fence so a gang turned up on April 15th to dig new foundations on a more open site. Richard's generator was invaluable to run the skill saw. *Many thanks to builder Bill Duncan for putting up the profiles and to Peter Davis, Theo Barsanti, Shane Cave, Bruce Bulmer, Darrell Sutherland, Rodney Hopkirk, Richard Caldwell, John Rowland and Ann Evans.*



Digging holes



DOC's cement mixer



Checking levels



Richard & Rodney with extracted pile



Piles ready for bench seat



John, Peter, Theo, Richard, Rodney, Darrel & Bruce



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Rough ground was evened using soil from holes and the original piles will be used to make a bench seat. Peter Davis designed the seat and a deck. This area will now really be a "Hub" with plenty of seating and a shelter. John Rowland dug in 3 more piles for a deck and a further working bee on April 22nd saw the deck bearers attached. Mitre10 give us discount *Thanks John, Peter, Richard and Ann.*



Kapiti Menzshed restored the caravan over many months.



Many thanks to Menzshed workers Fred Borrett, Brian Devane, John Orr & Robbie McKee



Fred and Brian at Menzshed

The following weekend saw the deck built. Peter supervised the building and Theo measured and hammered. Richard was in charge of the saws. Ann did lots of hammering lying on her back underneath the caravan. Bruce's chalk marker ensured the lines of nails were straight.

Artist Julie Oliver will come when free and weather looks settled to paint the mural (funded by a grant from Wellington Community Trust with paint donated by Dulux).

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Finishing touches



DOC's Suzi with trustees after a meeting at farm

The caravan was transported back thanks to the M2PP Alliance. It will be locked until inside work finished and mural painted. Once work is completed it will be open for all visitors to enjoy.



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May 30, 2018

Kiwi Caravan Opening with Kohekohe Flowering Celebration

Sun June 3rd 10.30am at the Hub. All welcome.

You have already received details. The kohekohe flowers are really amazing this year, we can show places “off the beaten track” to appreciate them. After opening the caravan will be left unlocked for visitors to use (except when artist Julie comes back to complete the mural). We are delighted with the emerging art work – Julie will return in August/Sept.



It is essential that the door is bolted closed on leaving to protect the inside from the weather.

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Last working bee: 06 May



Further carpentry saw the bench seat built, more fixings under the caravan and polyurethaning of caravan interior. Ground levelling was done and LOTS of gorse removed between the Gums and the Forest Loop Walk – a diversion of the track may be needed due to stream erosion at the footbridge. Theo and John dug in two more totara fence posts above the Dell – now there are five reminders of the early settlers and their clearance of the bush. Next to them are two totara seats as well as a bench and table made from more recent fencing materials. Linda released plants and Bernard worked on the track in the Dell.



Beauden helping with earth works



New bench.



Area west of Gums cleared of gorse


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One of the cut gorse piles



From this to  this in a couple of hours. Peter D design



Thanks to Richard who has built and donated an additional bench to sit inside the caravan.

More on the mural:



Julie has so far spent four days painting the mural. It has been a privilege watching her work. She applies multiple layers of paint to give depth; moving around constantly so that the image flows around corners and fits into its location. Each side reflects different aspects of Whareroa.

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Kohekohe Flowering Day

and a celebration of the

“Kiwi Caravan” & Bird Sign at the Hub

Sunday June 3rd at 10.30am

Whareroa Farm Reserve, Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki



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June 14, 2018

Kiwi Caravan Opening with Kohekohe Flowering Celebration

This was a wonderful event on June 3rd with about 60 people aged 2 to 90 turning out on a chilly morning. Theo thanked all involved especially Kapiti Menzshed, Wellington Community Trust for funding the artist and display cabinets and Dulux NZ for donating all the paint (and of course Guardians' volunteers).



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Paul Jansen and Rogan Colburn shared anecdotes from their time living in the caravan on Kapiti Island, studying kiwi. Fred Borrett described the challenges of restoration, Suzi Tiffin spoke about DOC's work with the Guardians, Jenny Rowan spoke about the saving of Whareroa, Ann thanked the donor of the lovely Bird Sign then Ruby "opened" the caravan with her feeling of hope for the future, inspired by Whareroa.



Paul and Rogan



Fred



Ruby



Interior showing information displays



Father and son, Bill & Paul



Jill & Bruce under kohekohe

A wonderful shared morning tea was enjoyed; thanks to donors of the "goodies".

Artist Julie will return in August/Sept to complete the mural.

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Kiwi Caravan Mural completed.

Artist Julie Oliver and partner Tim have just spent 4 more days completing the mural with lots more detail including “aspirational” birds. They gave generously of their time as visitors observed the work progressing and even allowed children to do some sketching.

Many thanks to Julie and Tim and to the Wellington Community Trust for funding this art work.



Document date: August 24, 2021

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