



## TRiG Newsletter No 1, August 2011

Herewith the first newsletter of our new group! Please let me know if you know anyone who might want to receive the newsletter.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> Cory, Jenny, June, Mike and Robyn met Brenda of the Kae Miller Trust to discuss doing work around the Alice Krebs Cottage and forming a group to plant up the Te Raekaihau headland. We started the ball rolling by planting some trees in a grassy clearing near the cottage including a special South Coast lacebark to remember Robert Logan, who disappeared one year ago. We couldn't resist forming a track through the grove, which will eventually lead somewhere....

The group will be called Te Raekaihau Restoration Group (TRiG), but will work with the Kae Miller Trust for any "official" negotiations.

Trees planted: 12 Karamu, 4 Wharangi, 4 fivefinger, 3 cabbage trees, 1 lacebark (Total 24)

### Working Bee – September 3<sup>rd</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will meet at the Road end of View Road South. June is bringing 75+ trees, so we will be doing a bit of carrying to start with. I will bring a wheelbarrow, but I don't know how well it will work. There are some Council black trays at Brenda's place which we can also use for transporting trees. My suggested plan is we take half the trees over the Beacon to the seat near the Peace Grove. We will clear and plant around the seat (mostly flaxes) as well as cut down the karo blocking the view. About 10 metres or so past the seat is a good entry point for the beginning of the Peace Grove Track, possibly an old track, which will have the added bonus of actually going through the Grove. We will do as much of the track as we can, but we will have to concentrate on planting the rest of the flaxes below the cottage where there is a clearish bank. These plants can be taken up the lower track to the cottage. We may need to find homes for cabbage trees beside the track up to the Beacon.

Tools needed are spades, loppers, and pruning saws. Also gloves and afternoon tea. See you there!



## TRiG Newsletter No 2, September 2011

Welcome to the new people on our email list! Please let me know if you know anyone who would like to be on it as well.

Due to not being able to do a working bee on the 17<sup>th</sup> (we are planning to meet fortnightly, fitting around the Forest and Bird Nursery sessions) there has been a bit of a break in the on-the-ground activity, but lots of other good stuff has been happening. Grant has put us in touch with *Te Raekaihau Coast Care* who formed from the *Save the Point* Group and have been working on obtaining legal protection and planting the Point itself. There are three core people who are keen to combine forces for developing an overall plan for the restoration of the headland, and they also have a big email list of volunteers to help with planting.



On September 3<sup>rd</sup> a slightly different group of 5 met to work on liberating Kae Miller's Peace Grove plantings. We cleared the area in front of the seat on the main track and planted low growing flaxes in front of it to preserve the view which Dave gradually restored through major "pruning" of some large Karo trees. Other trees were planted close by, and in fact we managed to plant all the trees in that area. We will do in front of the cottage another time.



Trees planted: 36 swamp flax; 2 coastal flax; 3 Wharangi; 4 fivefinger; 6 cabbage trees; 2 lacebark; 3 kowhai; 4 kawakawa; 5 akeake; 1 ngaio; 1 rangiora; 1 griselinia; 1 whau; 4 coprosma sp?? (Total 73)

### Next Working Bee – October 1st (2pm – 5pm)

We will meet at the seat on the main track about 25m past the Beacon. We will be working on forming the beginning of the Peace Grove Track which we didn't quite get onto last time. We will also tidy and chop up some of the cleared material from the last two sessions so it looks more like a Peaceful Grove than a tornado strike. No doubt a few more Karo will get pruned(!!)

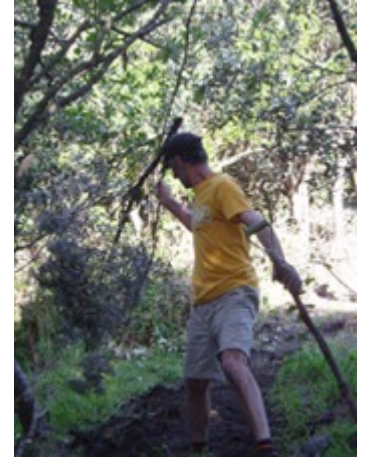
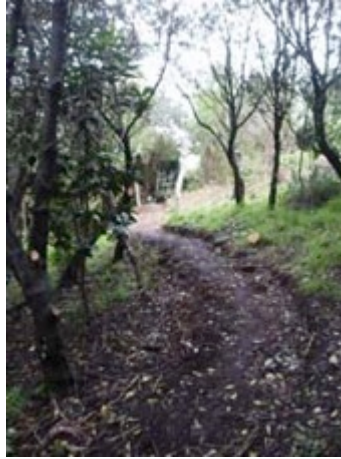
Tools needed are pruning saws, loppers, secateurs and spades for shelving the track. If it has been dry a few buckets might be good for watering plants. Also gloves and afternoon tea. See you there!

## TRiG Newsletter No 3, October 2011

I think one or two sessions more will be enough to finish off the Peace Grove Track, so start thinking of ideas for other things to do and their priority. The ones I have up my sleeve include tree releasing round the Beacon area plantings, *tradescantia* weeding elsewhere on the headland, and of course a reconnaissance mission around the headland with invited Botanical experts to start the planning for next year.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> a group of eight met to work on the beginning of the Peace Grove Track. Much fun was had by all in the glorious sunshine digging soft (!!!) soil, pruning, cutting and weeding ecological invaders and generally stashing the evidence out of sight.

Now there is a very attractive little path leading not quite to anywhere in particular yet (already there is evidence of it having been used, I hope they found their way out again). However, resolution will be achieved shortly.



### **Next Working Bee – October 15<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

We will meet at the cottage and begin working on the Peace Grove Track from the other end and work towards joining up in the middle. Again there will be tree pruning and track shelving, with the added bonus of clearing a wasteland of *tradescantia* and piling it in one place under the pine trees where it will hopefully be totally discouraged.

Tools needed are pruning saws, loppers, secateurs, spades for shelving the track, and metal rakes for carpet rolling the *tradescantia*. Also gloves and afternoon tea. See you there!

## TRiG Newsletter No 4, October 2011

Lots of stuff has been happening. I have contacted Maggy Wassilieff and she is happy to come to our next session (29<sup>th</sup>) and help us with what to plant (and what to get rid of). I have also been in touch with Myfanwy Emeny and she can also help us with plant suggestions. She also emailed me a copy of the Restoration Plan for the Point, which would be a good basis to build ours on. We can order up to 500 plants from the Council, placing our order by the end of November.

I heard through the grapevine that the alternative energy company "Negawatt" are hatching a plan to make the cottage fully autonomous with regards to power. How cool is that?

Having joined up the Peace Grove Track, I thought we wouldn't have to worry about people getting lost – it seems they mostly have been managing to find their way out again at Brenda's back door!! So I spent a couple of hours making the new track more obvious and Brenda's one less so. However, there is still plenty of work to do to make it absolutely foolproof.



On October 15<sup>th</sup>, while Brenda did some painting inside the cottage, six of us worked on Peace Grove Track. Grant worked on the middle section, Mike tackled the tree trunks near the beginning with an axe, and the rest of us ploughed our way through masses of *Tradescantia* near the

cottage, unearthing native plants, crockery and even a lone boundary peg!

We also transplanted some karamu and kawakawa that were growing too close to the track into the cleared area. With a head start we hope they can stay ahead of the weeds.

In the last minutes of play the track sections were connected, even if a little rugged in places.

### Next Working Bee – October 29<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will meet at the cottage again and finish off the Peace Grove Track, doing some refining to ensure that the track passes the general public test (being the most rigorous test known to mankind). At some stage we will take a stroll around the estate with Maggy and come up with a plan for planting for at least next winter if not for longer.

Tools needed are pruning saws, loppers and secateurs, but most importantly spades for shelving the track and making it a veritable highway. If anyone has some karamu seedlings, half a dozen would be useful for putting in the area we cleared near the cottage. The transplanted kawakawa are doing well. Also gloves and afternoon tea. See you there!

## TRiG Newsletter No 5, November 2011

The Peace Grove Track in slightly amended form was finished on October 29th to the mutual satisfaction of everyone. It is now just a small loop to the South of the Cottage.

Meanwhile Maggy Wassilieff gave us lots of good advice about what trees to plant in the open or under a tree canopy, which we can plant lots of and which only a few, and when we can make use of the karo and when it is better to chop it out. The concept for our Restoration Plan for the next few years pretty much fell into place, which was great. And Norm made a sterling job of weed-eating the lower track up to the cottage.



### Next Working Bee – November 12<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will be working at the beginning of the Peace Grove track, pruning a few more karo to make a grassy picnic area below where the seat is. June has got some more plants for us to plant as the rainy season seems to have come back again and we now have a better idea of what is appropriate to plant. We have some coastal flax to replace the swamp flax, which is not suitable for the area and which we will transplant near the large pine trees. There they can create a bit of shelter for the forest higher up and gradually fade out as the canopy grows. The *Coprosma grandifolia* needs to be shifted to a shadier spot and the Akeake also need to be replaced. We will also plant some plants around the edge of the clearing to create a “hedge” for wind shelter to the forested area. I will also explain the restoration plan as it has developed so far so we will take a look around the sites that we will be preparing over the summer and planting up next winter.

Tools needed are pruning saws, loppers, secateurs, spades for planting. A bucket, an axe and a friendly weed-eater operator would also be handy and of course gloves, hats, sun-cream and afternoon tea.

If you can meet at the View Road cul-de-sac at 2pm, for a concerted effort to carry up 50 plants that would be great.

## TRiG Newsletter No 6, December 2011

The Park (whatever it may be called) has now at least got some new track signs for quite a few of the tracks, so we can now navigate and direct without getting lost (once we learn what they are) so next time you come up take a look and familiarise yourself with them. As you will see as you read further, I haven't learnt them myself.

The Kae Miller Trust had a meeting last weekend and we have resolved on several things. Firstly, that Grant, Norm and myself are officially invited to become Trustees, although Grant has "been" a Trustee for years. We also have compiled a list of things to talk to Amber Bill about concerning the Trust and TRiG activities. Regarding the planting next year, Brenda pointed out that the Peace Grove area has traditionally been open to people wishing to do memorial plantings, so we might need to hold back on filling it up with plants, and use the ones we have allocated somewhere else. We also considered making a diversion track in front of the cottage instead of behind: as you come up the lower track you would turn off to the right and climb up to the beacon. It would also be a handy track for getting into the area for tree planting. Norm has taken on the task of keeping that lower track in good condition, which is great, but I think we can help out too, particularly with raking up the *tradescantia* and other weed control. The energy upgrade to the Cottage is concentrating on some comprehensive insulation to walls floor and ceiling, which will make a huge difference to the amount of wood needed to heat the place.



And for those who haven't heard, Cory from our group recently won a Young Conservationist of the Year Award, which some of us helped celebrate last weekend. Cory has been a devoted tree grower and planter since he was 8 years old and thoroughly deserves the recognition.

Mike has been co-ordinating the seedlings that we are able to supply for next winter and beyond, and between us all we seem to be filling in some of the gaps that were left from our main plant suppliers. The planting plan no doubt will change quite a bit from what I came up with, but that doesn't matter, just as long as we keep to the general guidelines and keep a good record of all the plants we do put in.

We have one more working bee for this year, and we will start up again on 21 January next year (executive decision open to negotiation!)

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, despite a southerly and a fair amount of rain, those of us not still cleaning up after the Houghton Valley School Fair managed to transplant the swamp flax we planted around the Peace Grove seat to under the pines where they can do some good providing shelter but eventually be shaded out by forest. We replaced them with 30 coastal flax and also planted 10 karamu around the grassy picnic area, 7 *Olearia solandri* to replace the akeake which we also put under the pines, 10 cabbage trees around the Peace Grove, and 5 ngaio and 5 taupata under the pines. The pines area has been designated a kind of an odd-bods one (oopsyland), where the trees are not too precious and we can shift any "mistakes" still able to be moved.



On November 26<sup>th</sup> we spent a lovely afternoon in the sunshine and the views working up the beacon track, releasing earlier plantings from long grass and fennel. We discovered quite a few plants, including a titoki obviously braving all the weather the South Coast can give it.

### Next Working Bee – December 10<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

This will be the last for the year, and we will finish tree releasing around the beacon area and perhaps tackle (topple) the two large karo near the Peace Grove seat where the grassy picnic space is. One sad karamu that rolled away on us a while ago also needs to be planted. We should also locate some of the larger pieces of wood from our prunings and take them up to the cottage for firewood. Then we will have a relaxed afternoon tea to celebrate three and a half months of existence and the festive season, so bring something appropriate.

Tools needed are pruning saws, an axe, loppers, secateurs, hedge clippers, a spade for planting and of course gloves, hats, sun-cream etc.

## TRiG Newsletter No 7, March 2012

It has been a while since the last newsletter, but I have been distracted by building renovations lately. But there have still been a few things happening.

Several Houghton Bay residents celebrated the summer solstice on December the 21<sup>st</sup> with a picnic on the beacon. It was splendid weather if a trifle cold, and we could see the sun go down at its southernmost point.

The Kae Miller Trust (Trustees pictured) had a meeting in mid January with Amber Bill of Wellington City Council to talk about various issues concerning the Te Raekaihau Park. In the end there wasn't a lot of time, but we managed to introduce ourselves and some of our concerns. One thing was fairly clear: the budget for trimming pines is not there, so it will be best not to plant too close to them for while: and the budget for steps in the tricky places is maybe next year, but possibly the year after. So we might need to do a bit of a spade job near the Peace Grove seat for our own safety.

In addition to the seedlings collected by Mike, June and Jennifer, Cory is working on potting up surplus seedlings from the Berhampore Nursery, so we are going to make quite a contribution towards the total number of trees to be planted.

On a beautifully hot (!! ) afternoon (December 10<sup>th</sup>) we retreated to the Peace Grove where it was shadier and tidied up the picnic clearing. Norman cut the grass after working on the track up to the cottage and we felled the two large karo left in the middle, and generally tidied up the area. We then celebrated with a festive lunch.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> June and Mike extricated a small proportion of the seedlings that had appeared this season in an area cleared and planted last winter at Mike's place. With Jennifer Bennett's contribution we now have enough ngaio, taupata, mahoe and kawakawa for this year's planting plan and probably for next year as well. June will be supplying the cabbage trees from her garden. The weather was ideal for young plants, but less so for old potters, both of whom got quite wet. Nevertheless plants and potters are all doing well.

### Next Working Bee – March 3<sup>rd</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will meet at the cottage and work on some weed control along the track up to the cottage. It will mostly be a rake and pile up of *tradescantia*, but there will be some bone seed to chop out as well.

Tools needed are mainly metal rakes, but pruning saws and secateurs could be handy too. Who knows, maybe you can dust off the sunhat and suncream too!



## TRiG Newsletter No 8, April 2012

On March 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> we concentrated on clearing the *Tradescantia* from around the Alice Krebs Cottage, where there was quite an infestation. We piled it up into the smallest footprint possible, where a lot will mulch down and the top layer can be either managed or covered with black polythene.

The pictures below show the progression over three sessions.



### Next Working Bees – April 21<sup>st</sup> and 28th (2pm – 5pm)

Over the next two Saturdays we will be getting the area below the Peace Grove ready for planting, and possibly some other areas. Due to some subsequent factors, the original planting plan is going to change a little, but we can adapt it and keep records of what we do. Our preparation will involve cutting light wells into the canopy by removing some of the smaller karo or exotics. We also need to discuss our plan of attack for planting the first 350 trees due in May, that is, dates, publicity etc.

Tools needed are pruning saws, axes, loppers and secateurs, or whatever you like best to fell trees in the name of saving the environment. Also gloves and afternoon tea. Suncream is probably optional now. We will meet at the Peace Grove Seat, beyond the beacon. See you there!



## TRiG Newsletter No 9, May 2012

We have been busy planning the beginning of the planting season, and are going to start with a planting afternoon on June 9<sup>th</sup> to make a big hole in our collection of 400 trees. Attached is a flyer with more details. Please forward it on to any tree planting friends or groups you know of. It would be great to get a large number of them planted. Meanwhile there is plenty to do to get ready....

We had a meeting with Amber Bill and Brian Thomas regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCC and the Kae Miller Trust, which includes any activities we are involved with. The main point to note is that we cannot use any mechanical devices on Council land except a nylon cutter type weed-eater, and then only by people who have demonstrated their competency to the Council. Possibly we need to negotiate a few square metres of land outside the lodge in the new lease so that firewood can be chopped up with a chainsaw without having to cart it down to Brenda's place and back again!! We will also be given a First Aid Kit to have on hand for our working bees, and a Site Safety Assessment has been made.

We spent a few sessions (April 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>) around the Peace Grove area, pulling out waist high nightshade along the track and in the grass, and discovering waist high plants. It certainly has been a great growing season if nothing else. Apart from necessary maintenance, we wanted to be able to show people what we have already done, not a sea of weeds! We have also been tackling karo removal, perhaps not in the WCC best practice manner (see photo), but we shall co-ordinate it better for next season.



Just for the record our emerging policy for karo removal is:

For creating light wells in the karo canopy we are pruning out any small saplings and also cutting out larger specimens here and there (to be done by WCC). We wish to cut so that you can see sky but not sea, we want to keep a "hedge" as wind and possibly weed protection. The prunings need to be piled in the darker corners, we need the light areas for the new trees. Any large trunks need to be removed before planting. There is not much point pruning where the pine needles are too thick, firstly seedlings may not grow and secondly some of the pines are due for pruning and plants may get damaged.

### **Next Working Bees – May 25<sup>th</sup> (1.30pm – 3.30pm) and May 26<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

This Friday the plants are being delivered from Berhampore Nursery and Tim Harkness will bring his 4WD to help us take them up as far up to the lodge as we can, with wheelbarrows from then on in. If you have a free afternoon please join us for a good fun workout.

Saturday will be busy creating more plantable area near the lodge. There will be less emphasis on cutting large karo, and more on smaller saplings and clearing pockets in scrubby sections near the lodge (Area 4). Also the slope below the cottage still needs trimming back. So bring a suitable range of (hand ☺) tools, gloves, sturdy footwear etc etc. We will meet at the lodge, see you there!

## TRiG Newsletter No 10, June 2012

The plant delivery (May 25<sup>th</sup>) was relatively effortless in the end, thanks to the Council 4WD taking the trays up the steepest part of the track.

The next afternoon we cleared a space between the lower track to the lodge and the beacon. Just as we were saying a track would be good as a diversion past the lodge we discovered an old track that used to come up directly from View Road. That was the easiest track creation ever, about ten minutes all told!

On June 4<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Birthday Monday) we decided to spend another afternoon preparing for the planting day, clearing the sites of the piles of karo trimmings, instead layering them into terraces or swales across the slopes in the hopes that they will collect debris and slow down water runoff. Particularly notable over the last few sessions has been the increased focus and the enjoyment of all from really starting to make a difference.

The planting day was a great success, and was enjoyed by everyone (approx 22 people). We planted nearly 300 trees both under the existing canopy and in more exposed areas. We would have done more but a team got distracted with moving the memorial rock at the lookout from where it had been rolled, back to the top of the hill. It was very satisfying though, as members of Kae's family were there and were pleased to see it assume a more right-side-up aspect. We also found part of a plaque in the scrub associated with the blue seat.



The day started early for several of the group intent on getting just a little bit more area ready for planting, as well as sorting out what plants would go where – a little difficult as the plants received and the planting areas available for planting had changed quite a bit since the initial plan. However, it all worked out fine. We had a meeting between TRiG and Kae Miller Trust peoples (some of which were the same) and worked out some ideas for the future.



Below is a comment from Norman about the day:

*"I thought yesterday was highly successful in every way, congratulations to you and everyone. It also set up the basis for continuing collaboration between TRiG and the Kae Millar Trust. For my part I'll look to set up asap a secure place to store tools."*

### Next Working Bee – June 23<sup>rd</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will continue planting trees (about 120 remain), but will focus on the ones to go in exposed areas. We will need to clear as we go; so as well as bringing spades, bring the usual saws, loppers, secateurs, gloves, sturdy footwear, refreshments etc. We will meet at the Lodge for the afternoon's briefing, see you there!

## TRiG Newsletter No 11, September 2012

It has been a while since the last Newsletter, but it doesn't mean nothing has been happening, on the contrary! All our recent working bees are described below, but there have also been a few other important developments:

We have had a meeting with members of Te Raekaihau Coast Care, with the aim of combining our efforts when necessary and looking at the restoration of the Point and the Headland as one entity. There is a combined working bee this Sunday, so if you can make it please come along to help forge this partnership.

The Council are going to work on the main track (Te Ranga a Hiwi), widening it to 1m, and putting in steps in the steep places. This will probably be done by the end of the year. Hurrah!

Work on the pine trees near the lodge has been done by the Council, so some more firewood to stack.

During July we had almost weekly sessions, including finishing planting the first lot of trees after the planting day and celebrating Founding Day for the Kae Miller Trust on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather was not great for the Founding day, we still managed some planting, and had a cosy afternoon tea in the lodge. The following week we cleared the rubbish from under the lodge and piled it further down the track for the Ranger to take away when he came to deliver the second order of trees. The chair pictured is the last piece awaiting removal, it didn't fit on the ute. And one session our local chainsaw-ist (Council approved!) cut up the pile of logs under the lodge for firewood.



Our second planting day on August 4<sup>th</sup> was not very loudly published so was consequently a quieter, but still productive and enjoyable afternoon: we have had some stunning weather for planting so far, yet plenty of rain in between to help the plants settle in. Since then we have been working on finishing planting the second lot of trees, as well as bringing up a few more obtained from the Forest and Bird Nursery. August 18<sup>th</sup> was a particularly enjoyable session planting up the junction between the main track and Kotare track. The combination of landscaping and planting for the environment, sunshine and views is very satisfying.

### **Next Working Bee – Sept 15<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

We will continue planting trees (about 100 remain from the second lot); these are mostly ones to go in exposed areas. Please come and help us finish these off: spring is advancing rapidly! We will be clearing as we go; so as well as bringing spades bring the usual saws, loppers, secateurs, gloves, sturdy footwear, refreshments etc. We will meet at the corner of the main track and Kotare track, halfway up to the beacon to continue planting up the right hand side of the main track.

### **Extra Working Bee – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> (10am – 12noon)**

In conjunction with the Coastal Cleanup, Te Raekaihau Coast Care is planting at Te Raekaihau Point. We have been invited along to help. The planting will be to fill in and soften the boundaries between the car park and the rest of the Point and help create a more natural looking distribution. Council will bring some grubbers to help with the hard pan that exists in some places. Bring along any tools you may find useful yourself to use.

## TRiG Newsletter No 12, November 2012

Over the last few sessions we planted the last of the plants, including 75 rescued grasses and flaxes that were about to be thrown out from the Forest and Bird nursery, kindly brought along by June. We have made good inroads into releasing some of the earlier plantings, even those planted in June have grown phenomenally and many we planted last year are already topping the tallest grass.



I have counted up the number we planted this year – all told 730. So congratulations folks! Plant orders are already being asked for by WCC, this time we will go for the full 500, as well as what we can get from the Forest and Bird nursery and Mike and June's backyard production lines. I shall eventually get a map together showing the planted areas, and what we plan to do next year, but again it will be a combination of in the karo forest and out on the exposed hillsides.

### **Working bee – Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

We need another day working on looking after our plantings, so we will be focussing on the Peace Grove: making hay in the picnic area, finishing off releasing the plants, weeding the track and carting up the rest of the firewood. So bring along suitable haymaking equipment, gloves and pruning tools.

### **Potting up session – Nov 24<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

The potting up session at Mike's place will be this weekend now, at 55 Farnham St, Mornington. Bring along gloves and suitable tools for digging out and potting up plants.

### **Headland walkabout and end-of-year-celebration – Dec 8<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)**

We are going to celebrate our achievements this year by exploring the rest of the headland (just to see how much else there is to do!) However, it's a beautiful walk and hopefully the weather will be great. We will be noting what is there – both natives and weeds – and see what in the way of projects we can dream up. Bring along sturdy walking shoes, sun protection gear and something for a bang-up picnic feast. Meet at the Lodge.

Then there will be a short intermission – AKA Christmas holidays.....

## TRiG Newsletter No 13, April 2013

It's been a while since the last newsletter, the summer break was perhaps longer than intended due to one thing and another. However activity is starting to warm up again as the weather cools down and the rain has finally made an appearance.

The end of year headland walkabout and picnic (December 8<sup>th</sup>) was a great success: we scouted round exploring various tracks and potential planting sites (heaps of those!) and enjoyed the newly refurbished track that the Council was getting done. It's a great walk now, with a good, wide track and plenty of steps on the steep parts. The picnic was at Pete's seat at the end of the headland, complete with freshly mown grass.

We started up working bees again towards the end of February, checking up on how the plants were surviving the drought (at that stage not too bad) and weeding the remaining *Tradescantia* by the lodge while it was at a low ebb. Three weeks later (March 16<sup>th</sup>) it was very dry and some of the plants looking very sad. Our intention of bucket watering was a bit stymied by the beginning of the handwatering ban, but we made use of the leaking pipe up at the beacon (it had been leaking for about 4 weeks), it only took a minute to fill a bucket. (It has been fixed now!) We have probably lost about 10% of our plants, which isn't too bad considering, and it has given us a good indication of which species did best and which didn't (podocarps and kanono). Also we found it is quite important not to take out too much of the karo cover, enough for light, but not a lot of direct sunlight.

For our latest working bee on April 13<sup>th</sup>, we got stuck into preparing some of the karo forest for underplanting, pruning out a few of the trees and using the brushwood to make swale-like terraces to capture leafy matter and slow down the water runoff. We had a great turnout too – 10 people!



### Working bee – Apr 27<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will spend some more time finishing off the work in the karo grove, mostly processing the cut wood a bit more. Once finished there, we will move to the other side of the hill to start clearing planting spots in the open gorse areas. So bring along suitable cutting and sawing equipment and gloves, afternoon tea etc.

June is bringing some flax plants (90) from the Forest and Bird nursery to plant along the newly cleared route up to the beacon (back from the edge that is). So bring spades as well. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of View Road South

Say goodbye to the big trees at the corner, they are about to be taken down.....



## TRiG Newsletter No 14, June 2013

We have had a busy time over the last six weeks getting ready for the planting season, as well as putting in a few plants along the way.

At the end of April (27<sup>th</sup>) we planted 80 odd flax near the View Road South entrance, which will tidy up a fairly weedy corner. Sometime we will have a go at the rampant Japanese Honeysuckle just beyond it. Then we went up and finished off the preparation of the bushy area in (Area 6). The next session was cancelled due to stormy weather, but a couple missed the notice and went anyway, finding a sheltered spot in the valley behind the Pines to cut some light wells and planting 8 totara. On May 18<sup>th</sup> a few of us put in an extra afternoon and planted 25 more flax up by Kotare Track corner, and started shaping up some plans for the season's planting.



Then on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May a keen group of 9 made some inroads into the gorse patches just below the main track off Kotare Track (Area 7), which can now be planted. We

planted a dozen plants donated to the group along the Te Ranga a Hiwi Track edge – some of them very much in need of more room for their roots! And last Friday afternoon 4 of us met Brian Thomas with a ute and trailer full of plants, so we now have nearly 800 trees and shrubs stashed up the hill ready to find a home.



### Working bee – June 8<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We will meet at the junction where the lower track goes off to the Lodge. We have two large groups of trees to sort into the right mixes for planting out. If you can, bring along any spare black plastic trays you might have hanging around. One or two buckets for watering and some spades in case we can start planting would also be useful. Also gloves, afternoon tea etc.

### Working bee – June 22<sup>nd</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

We are hoping to host the recently displaced *Places for Penguins* group from Tarakena Bay and get them to plant up possible *Holiday Destinations for Penguins*. There will be more details on this later, but basically we will be planting the exposure plants, in Area 7 and the Southern edge of Area 4 by the track. See map below. So bring along spades and gloves, sturdy shoes, afternoon tea etc.

### Working bee – July 6<sup>th</sup> (2pm – 5pm)

This will probably be a combination of more trackside planting and some work getting the Lodge and Peace Grove looking good for Founder's Day.

### Kae Miller Trust Founder's Day Celebration – July 13<sup>th</sup> (1pm – 5pm)

The Kae Miller Trust will be hosting a public afternoon, with a headland walk and history tour, tree planting in the bushy area (Area 6), afternoon tea and scones and some memorial plantings. More details closer to the time.