



GREENDALE RESERVE

The restoration project at Greendale Reserve in Otaihanga is having its 21st birthday this year. Of the group of initial volunteers three of us are still on the job weekly. One of us is over 90, the other two are in their eighties.

The Reserve is a 10 acre Council owned strip of land running along the Muaupoko Stream between King Arthur Drive and Greendale Drive. When the tree planting project began the block was a blackberry infested weed patch with a few mature native trees. Now it is a handsome piece of forest.



The group of 6 to 8 volunteers meets for 3 hours each week---weather permitting. The work consists of planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, track maintenance and pest animal control. From time to time more exciting jobs arise such as removing plants which have fallen into the flooded stream and chasing vagrant cattle off . The social aspect is taken care of with a shared morning tea break. Sitting around the picnic table no topic is barred from discussion. The provision of food and drink is rotated round the group. Ages range from forties to nineties with occasional child visitors. We are supported by KCDC staff when needed.

What keeps us there ? The love of growing native plants to create a beautiful environment is paramount. The family atmosphere, the increasing biodiversity and bird life, contact with Nature, the sense of contributing in a small way to the healing of the earth and combatting climate change are all important. It helps keep us fit too. I come away each week feeling happy having done something others can enjoy now and in the future. The Reserve is becoming increasingly popular with walkers and cyclists.

Challenges include the flooding stream carrying off our plants, neighbours' trees overgrowing the Reserve, and recruiting new volunteers.

If you are interested in joining a happy band on Tuesday mornings contact me at 04 2936639.


Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu
national volunteer week
21–27 JUNE 2020

**Te Hua o te
Mahi Tahī**
The benefit of working together

www.volunteerkapiti.org.nz | [#NVW2020](https://twitter.com/NVW2020)