

Friends of Maungawhau Annual Report 2011 to 2012

The Friends of Maungawhau [FoM] are an active community group calling for improved heritage management of Maungawhau and other volcanic landscapes. Members demonstrate this by volunteering on the Mountain as well as undertaking advocacy.

1 Committee

There is a small committee who have worked hard over the last year:

Kit Howden and April Glenday – Advocacy

April Glenday - Love Your Mountain Day, Secretary and funding applications

Jean Barton - Volunteer Coordinator and Stakeholders representative

Keith Ayton - Treasurer

Ian Fish - Website

Many others have helped but there is still need for more long-term active volunteers.

2 Volunteers and Batger Quarry restoration

A core group of up to 8 volunteers have meet Tues mornings over the year putting approx. 1500 hours into weeding and planting to restore the native vegetation in the old Batger Quarry and surrounds. Jean Barton acts as the volunteer coordinator and keeps the group together. She has now published over 150 weekly reports covering the activities and social life of volunteering to restore native vegetation on Maungawhau. The mid-morning break over a cup of tea and ginger biscuits has added to the enjoyment of volunteering. Any active member can sign up for these weekly reports.

Independent volunteers such as Rob Jones [nettles, rat and possum control] Jo Fillery [long-standing volunteer undertaking much innovative ecological restoration], Sel Arbuckle, Oliver Hoffmann and Jeremy.

3 Advocacy and Education

FoM are active in advocating improved care and management on Maungawhau and this year included:

- Numerous meetings with Council officers
- Submissions and reports to Council on the Auckland Plan and Long-Term Community Consultation plan.
- Funding applications
- Campaign to get greater efficiency and professional rangers [April had a good article published in the Herald]
- Many discussions to form an Memo of Understanding with the Council and a draft is now nearly ready for signing.
- Meetings with Ngāti Whātua and the Crown Treaty negotiator to update the Friends on the settlement with the Tāmaki Collective

The Friends can be proud that many of the policy issues that we have been advocating have been adopted and acted upon especially by the new Council. For example: The removal of cattle that were damaging the cone; the removal of large buses and trial engagement of Tāmaki Hikoi as guides and frontline guardians; the regional parks section of Council gradually taking more control over Maungawhau

and the other volcanic heritage parks.

Although there is greater attention and more expenditure taking place on Maungawhau and some of the other cones, the Friends question some of the priorities and effectiveness. For example, the Friends question the conversion practices undertaken in managing vegetation on the archaeological features because a monoculture will only result in a habitat for more weeds; why was so much upgrading done of the old kiosk before a comprehensive engineering report was done on the earthquake stability of the building?; the Friends had to approach Councillors to get the geo technical survey done of the Batger Quarry. Tilt meters are now installed and "green concrete" stabilisation is one option proposed to stabilize the sides of the old quarry where volunteers work. The Friends are still waiting for answers to our questions on these details so we can be confident that our volunteer work fits in with the overall long-term Council planning. There are also other stabilisation areas around Maungawhau and the other cones, resulting from historic quarrying.

4 Love Your Mountain Day

April and other volunteers put much work into the Love Your Mountain Day and although it was very wet last year it was another success. Part of the role of the Friends is education and LYMD is the main yearly event. This year the event is on Sun 9th Dec and I encourage as many of you as possible to see April and help.

5 "Volunteers on Maungawhau" Project

The committee has been working hard to implement a record of the volunteer work over the last decade as well as record the cultivation practices and history of these on Maungawhau. All this is to give a direction in the future. It is planned to have a draft ready by July and be published late this year. This is being kindly funded by the ASB Community Trust.

6 Stakeholders meetings

There are monthly meetings held with Council officers, consultants, contractors, Iwi and the Friends. Jean has represented the Friends on his group.

I also wish to thank the Albert-Eden Local Board for their encouragement and support as well as the grants they have given the FoM to cover costs for volunteer activities.

For a small volunteer group the FoM have been very active. I wish to thank you all for your support and encouragement over the year.

Kit Howden Acting Chair

FRIENDS OF MAUNGAWHAU *Caring for Maungawhau and the volcanic heritage of Auckland*

Kit Howden, Chair; April Glenday, Secretary; Jean Barton, Volunteers

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