



Owhango Village Newsletter

Summer 2017

Welcome from ORRIS

Chairman's Report

November 2017

Welcome Readers to the last report for the year on the activities of the Society.

The year will wind up with the last ORRIS meeting to be held in the Fire Station at 7.30 on December 7. All are welcome. Progress on the new Public Toilets is proceeding with construction scheduled for February. Design for the photographic image for the exterior is near completion. Another recent development is the inclusion to the Ruapehu District Council's Long Term Plan of funds to upgrade the power supply and tidy up a few maintenance items on the Pavilion at the Domain.

The November market celebrated its Tenth birthday. Well done to all those who have participated over the years with all kinds of contributions and may the spirit of local markets continue for another ten years. ORRIS has been made aware of the current state of the 42nd Traverse. It appears that DOC has not carried out regular maintenance and as a result drop outs have occurred, along with damage from winter snow falls, which have rendered this National asset virtually unusable. This situation depletes the economic and recreation values that to some extent Owhango is dependent on. To this end ORRIS is committed to lobby DOC to address this appalling situation.

Kind regards and all the best for the festive season.

Jim Paul

Chairman

Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society (inc)

Community messages for Summer

OWHANGO VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE FIRE AND EMERGENCY NZ

Welcome to our newsletter for December 2017

Where has the year gone? We certainly have hit the summer temperatures these last few days.

Things are drying out and with that the risk of scrub fires. Calls have already been received to this type of incident. Notice a lot of people burning tree cuttings etc lately. It is a good time to carry out these tasks but remember always have a plan B. No. 1 is a good water source if needed and another thing is, can a truck get down your driveway to help. Fire appliances are trucks and if we cannot get down your driveway it will take longer to run out hose and get to work on the task.

With the finer weather many will be getting out the BBQ. Take a few minutes to do a safety check on gas cylinders and hoses. LPG is a dangerous fuel. Don't take chances. Also check those smoke alarms, especially in holiday homes. It is the time of year when we celebrate with a wine or two and waking up from sleep without a warning device when there is a fire, does not always happen.

Our social committee has been busy preparing for our brigade honours evening which we are holding in January 2018. This is a time when your local team is recognised for their dedication and commitment to your community. Fifteen brigade members and a total of 250 years of service to their community. Well done guys and girls. Some of these members are retiring in the near future and the brigade needs new members to replace them. We are short of operational fire fighters, PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

This year the brigade again helped collect for the Christmas foodbank appeal around the village. Thank you to all who donated to make Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate in the wider Taumarunui community.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for the support your brigade has received over the last year.

Regards

Dave Edhouse

CFO

Owhango Volunteer Firebrigade

OWHANGO ALIVE

What a difference the weather makes to our daily lives – it certainly makes me feel like getting out the backdoor and into the veggie garden. And the bush!

So..... it's great to see people walking the tracks in our Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve – it sure is a gem of a walk. The Green Hood Orchid is flowering prolifically at the moment, especially on the track to the "Boathole" and beyond. The "bamboo orchid" is also flowering and a lovely display was spotted hanging from totara branches in the Owhango Domain.

Whio chicks have been recently seen on the Whakapapa River! Two adults and 6 ducklings were spotted upstream from the bridge and we have had regular reports of other ducklings seen, which is very encouraging. Whio are more endangered than kiwi, so it's heartening to know that they are breeding well on our river. DOC will shortly conduct a Whio census from the Whakapapa intake and down towards Kakahi - we will update you on the results in the next newsletter. Owhango Alive and other keen folk celebrated Worlds River Day on the 24 th September, at the Whakapapa River Bridge and the Ohinetonga Reserve. Great to see so many turn up, young and old. We planted in excess of 200 native trees and then went back to the Domain to have morning tea and listen to a very informative talk from Nick Singers, an Ecologist and Environmental Entrepreneur. We have recently started up a Trap Library for Predator Free 2050 - this means that if you have a problem with those pesky pests, from rats to feral cats, then you can hire a suitable trap from us, for a small fee. Please contact David on 8966963 for more information.

Great to see that a number of people in the Owhango area are targeting feral cats and you would be very surprised on the numbers that are caught regularly. So please ensure that if you no longer want your domestic cat or kittens, that you re-home them appropriately and don't just let them go in the bush because you no longer want them. It's not fair on them or the wildlife.

Owhango Alive is always looking for volunteers, so if you have some spare time, email us at owhangoalive@yahoo.com and we will get back to you.

Warm regards,

Mark Fredericks and the OWHANGO ALIVE team.

OWHANGO BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Tim Leahy

Hives of Activity

It's that time of year when the bee population and activity ramps up. With it, we amateur beekeepers also have some work to do.

The Owhango Beekeepers Club is alive and well. We have around a dozen members living anywhere between Whareroa, Tunakotekote Road and Raurimu. We welcome new members and observers. The club no longer owns hives but it does run field days from Spring to Autumn so we can all help each other with what we have learnt. The field days are held at a member's apiary while that bee keeper performs some function on a hive or two.

Did you know that all bee apiaries (a collection of hives) have to be geo-located and registered with MPI. At this time of year members are busy getting their hives surveyed for the dreaded American Foul Brood. We're also desperately killing wasps. If you have a wasp nest at your place please contact Mark Fredericks. Owhango Alive would appreciate koha in return for Mark dealing to your wasps. Members will soon finish varroa treatment and will start it again after the honey has been harvested. That's usually in March. You also mightn't know that the honey members sell is extracted in a licensed kitchen with the club's own extractor and that it has to be tested for tute before it can be sold.

We see the tutin plant along the banks of the Whakapapa River. When food for the bees gets short later in the season the bees are sometimes drawn to collect the sap left by vine hoppers on the tutin plant. Members' honey hasn't ever been tested positive for tute. Just as well because tute is highly poisonous. Our honey is highly delicious. The club started when bee numbers were declining sharply and our efforts helped pollination of your gardens and fruit trees.

We keep bee keeping because we love the art of it, watching them work away and the honey of course. Members are always on the lookout for swarms of bees so if you see one, please ring Tim Leahy.

OWHANGO FUTURES

There are different folk stories out there about what people want for the future of Owhango – development/growth or to stay as it is. It's great that Council is working with ORRIS on revitalising the village. The new public toilets and the surrounding area will look great. That's what's happening soon. This project is about the longer term. Tim Leahy is trying to get a handle on what we all want for our community in the longer term – 10 to 30 years. The story is better explained on a web website www.owhangofutures.co.nz The website is there to give you updates. Not a lot to report so far as Tim has been distracted but activity is ramping up. Already the support and feedback from the Owhango School has been marvellous. A link to a survey is on the website too. Tim is happy to provide paper copies of the survey to those who avoid the net. You can contact Tim by e-mailing owhangofutures@gmail.com or **txt 027 633 4523** Please complete the survey and send any feedback on the way the project is being run to Tim. The survey is one means of getting the message out there about the process. There will be a public meeting on Friday 8 December at 7.30pm in the hall. Everyone is welcome. Tim will guide us through a method that is very different to the survey to help discover what we want and don't want. The process after we've gathered your input will be to bring all that input together into something short and understandable, check back with you to see if we were listening, correct our understanding of the vision and propose a strategy and discuss that strategy with you and correct it. Then we can get to work towards an agreed vision.

Tim Leahy

Rebuilding and Painting of the Ticket Booth at the Domain



Special Thanks to Laurie Bryan and Bruce Fredericks (pictured)
and John Alker who supplied the paint.

Bouquets to these people:



1. To the Owhango School Senior room students, teacher, and parents for their working bees held last term at the Owhango Domain. They tidied up the pump track, and cleaned up and around the tennis courts. Thank you all.
2. A big thank you to the defunct Owhango Rugby Club members for the donations to Owhango Residents & Ratepayers (ORRIS) and Owhango School. A lovely surprise and our most grateful thanks from our respective groups.
3. Thank you to Claudia Zimmer for making the cake for the 10th birthday celebrations for Market Days held at the Owhango Hall in November. Thank you to all the volunteers and stall holders that make the market a success.
4. Laurie Bryan and Bruce Fredericks repaired and re-clad the ticket box at the Domain and painted it last week. Also fixed up the tennis net post and tightened up. A big thank you guys.
5. RDC for the completion of the sealing of Omatane Road. Residents are very happy. Thank you.

Owhango History

Owhango Hotel 1956

(Kind permission given to reproduce the article by Fred and Beth Richards from 'Owhango spanning 100 years')

It was the first hotel to open in the King Country, the nearest north was at Kihikihi, south at Taihape and over the old metal logging road at Tokaanu.

The first Publican was Reg Slater. There were nine barmen working on Fridays and Saturdays. Only two were permanent staff. There was the Public Bar, the Bottle Store and the Escort Bar. Mrs Bunt was the first cook and Mary Richards was assistant cook.

All vehicles had to be off the premises by 6.30 pm unless you were a registered guest. It was Fred Richards' job to clear the car park, often finding it easiest to drive the cars out on to the road for patrons. Fred was seventeen years of age, working part time illegally on licensed premises. He was employed in the Bottle Store filling flagons and keeping the beer up to the counter in kegs, cartons and crates. Saturdays were very busy filling flagons till 4 pm. There was no time after that.

Beer and spirits were sold by the truckload, trucks coming from Kakahi, Raurimu, Piriaka, and Taumarunui. Kaitieke bought by the boot full. It was quite common to put three gallons of beer into a cream can. The first time one turned up, Fred refused to fill it. The Publican asked if they had the money, and they did, so he was told to fill it up. After that he filled all cream cans.

The Bottle Store till was emptied of change three times a day. All notes were thrown into a beer carton under the counter and this was emptied twice a day.

After hours the floor of the main bar was cleaned up with a cow shed broom and a square mouth shovel. From Friday after work and all day Saturday, it was common for the queue to be four deep at the bar waiting to be served. T

he Pub opened at 9 am and customers were often waiting then for service.

On Boxing Day 1960 Fred drove Monzy Begg's A5 Bedford to Hamilton for a load of beer. The road was not sealed then. "We left Owhango at 6 am and drove the truck up a one way street the wrong way before finding the brewery. The truck was duly loaded and we returned post haste to Owhango, driving into the car park at about 3 pm. It was a stinking hot day and as we arrived the Pub ran out of beer, so the till was brought out and the beer was sold off the back of the truck".

It was not uncommon to receive tips which were pooled to be drunk by the staff after closing time. These often amounted to 60 or 70 pounds STG.

One night Fred was sitting on the bar with his beer when the Senior Sergeant from Taumarunui Police walked in. He walked right up to Fred, looked him in the eye and said, "don't just sit there boy, pour me a beer!" Needless to say, he did!

Wanted

Parking for a six metre caravan for up to three months in the Owhango district. Please call Anita 0274551956

Tennis Anyone ?

The 2 tennis courts and nets at the Domain have had a spruce up thanks to school children, plus Laurie Bryan and Merv Aitken. All they need now are some keen tennis players.

What's on in Owhango

The Pub Café is open Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Meet Diana and her team.

Owhango Hotel is extending hours to include Saturday nights until 8.30pm.

Owhango Playgroup meets every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. Ph. Cara 07 8954600

Owhango Market Day- The first Sunday of every month except January at 9am-1pm For a stall booking contact Sally Lashmar 07 8954443

Hall Bookings Phone Laurie Bryan 07 8954870

Recycling and rubbish disposal Owhango Transfer Station -State Highway 4: Open Mon 1-5pm Wed, Sat & Sun 8-12noon

Please share your story or news with us for the next newsletter which is produced four times per year. Do you have a local service you would like listed in a directory published in this newsletter. If so email the name and brief description to fit on one line. Alternatively if you would like your business card advertised in the newsletter please email it to me for a Business Directory advertisement. This will be \$10 for one calendar year.



The image shows two business cards. The left card is for 'Foxglove Frames & Interiors' with a pink and black geometric pattern background. It lists Toni Grass as the contact, providing phone numbers 0276353262 and 078954436, and an email address foxgloveframes@gmail.com. The right card is for 'Sally Lashmar', a Massage Therapist, with a landscape painting background. It lists her contact number as 07 895 4443 and 0274 044266, and lists services: Neuromuscular Therapy, Relaxation, Sports, Remedial, Deep Tissue, and Reflexology.

Our next newsletter is due out in March 2018. You can pick up a copy at the Owhango Market Day or have it emailed to you. Contact Owhango Residents & Ratepayers Society Secretary Karen Erni or Newsletter co-ordinator Chris Williams. owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz or boaties@xtra.co.nz