

Owhango



Owhango Village Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Welcome from ORRIS

Chairman's Report

From the Chairman February 2018

Welcome Readers

Well the toilet block has arrived, plumbing and power connections are in progress as I write this report. Image transfers and shelter are still to be installed as is the septic tank and outfield.



At its last meeting ORRIS decided to sell its King Country Energy shares we had, in the recent offer by King Country Energy Trust.

If you are interested in the future of Owhango now is the time to have your say through an online questionnaire at www.owhangofutures.co.nz or alternatively you can attend a public workshop on the 22 of March 7.30pm at the Hall. The Lines Company saga continues with our case now going to an independent commissioner for a ruling on the matter. Although an offer from the Lines Company was reasonable the process involved in getting to this point was not. As ORRIS represents ratepayer interests the meeting felt the matter should be pursued further in the interest of others who have similar issues with the Lines Company pricing regime.

Plans for the upgrade of the Hall kitchen are in progress with discussion on the layout near completion. Next step is to ensure all compliance issues are addressed before plans are finalised. The work can then be quantified and funding applied for.

Kind regards

Jim Paul

Chairman

Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society (inc)

F Y I

Ruapehu Neighbourhood Support

Email Lou Dixon at taumarunuinsg@xtra.co.nz to be added to the monthly emailed newsletter.

Community messages for Autumn

Ewan Starkey

Owhango School Principal

Owhango School has started the year making the most of the warmer weather by getting into the school pool and improving our swimming skills. We are lucky to have a pool at a time when many schools are removing theirs because of the cost of maintaining and running them. Our pool was built by the community through fundraising and volunteer efforts; something we are grateful to our elders for. We are pleased to share the pool with the community during the holidays and after school for a small fee. Our main ongoing costs are for the electricity to run the pumps 24/7, and the chlorine chemical. We also have one-off costs such as the repairs we needed to make to the fibreglass lining this summer, and our pool cover which is at the end of its 8 year life. We are investigating getting a thermal blanket to replace the current plastic bubble cover as it would keep the heat in more effectively and extend the season a lot. We struggle to keep the children in the water long enough for a full lesson; ten minutes in the pool is not long enough to teach them to swim. If anyone in the community has any ideas of how we can fundraise the \$3500 needed for a thermal blanket then contact me.

Thanks, Ewan Starkey. Principal.

Dave Edhouse

FIRE AND EMERGENCY NZ

Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hi Everyone. Just an update on what has been happening at the brigade. Summer looked like it was going to be a real fire risk with the hot weather we had to start with, but then the rains come and changed all that. With the rain though there has been exceptional growth and autumn is going to be a fire risk period as this vegetation dies off and is dried out with the aid of frosts. We have had one herbage fire caused by a lightning strike in trees during the stormy weather.

At the end of January we held a social evening in the Owhango Community hall to celebrate some milestone service achievements. John Schroeder was presented his Double Gold Star for 50 years volunteer service to the community. Mark Blair was presented with his Gold Star for 25 years service to the community. All other members received recognition for various lengths of service.

As we see some of our older members retiring the brigade is looking for new members as replacements. If you are willing or know someone who may be able to help please contact the brigade as we need help to provide an ongoing cover to our community. Don't burden the few remember many hands make light work. It is an interesting and rewarding volunteer occupation. Some of our members are booked to attend training courses in the next few months to increase their skills and qualifications.

The first Saturday of May is not far away and the brigade will be once again doing the bike wash and car parking for the T42.

Daylight saving ends on the 1st of April and we can already notice the daylight hours lessening. This is a good time of year to once again check smoke alarms in the home and rental properties. If you need help or advice with this contact the brigade and we can help.

For those with children it is a chance to discuss safety around fires and heaters as well as a family exit plan in case of a fire. Remember take care out there.

Regards

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mark Fredericks

OWHANGO ALIVE

Great to see the bush alive with a healthy population of native birds, by all accounts it's been a great breeding season with excellent numbers of Whio on the Whakapapa River.

Our trappers are busy every week checking their traps and we have caught over 42 rats, 4 stoats, and 13 hedgehogs and destroyed 10 wasp nests already this year. Please feel free to email us if you do see something in a trap while you are walking through the Ohinetonga Reserve. Just supply the trap number. Just a reminder about Owhango Alive's "Trap Library" for Predator Free 2050. So if you have a problem with 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.

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

Warm regards,

Mark Fredericks and the OWHANGO ALIVE team.

Tim Leahy

Owhango Beekeepers Club Report

This should be the busy time of the year. The bees are certainly busy – that's when it's not raining, however the results are variable. Some hives have honey and others not so much. We had a field day at Leahy's on Sunday the 14th and our first meeting of 2018 on the Tuesday following. The vespex might be doing its job because there aren't many wasps around – yet! Similarly varroa seems to be under control too. One member has come up with some innovative oxalic acid strips and some of us are trialing it. The club has money in the bank and around a dozen financial members but bees are in comparatively short supply. There weren't many swarms early in the season. We're now nearing the end of the season when we harvest the honey and close down the hives for winter.

Owhango Futures Update

ORRIS is facilitating a process to understand your vision for Owhango and developing a strategy to help us get there. This is longer term than the current revitalisation projects like the new toilet.

After we've learnt what you want we'll -

Bring all that input together into something short and understandable

1. Check back with you to see if we were listening
2. Correct our understanding of the vision and propose a strategy
3. Discuss that strategy with you and correct it

Have a look at www.owhangofutures.co.nz and complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PGMVGWR>

There will be a **public meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 22 March in the hall** – all welcome. This won't be a talk-fest or debate. It'll be a safe way for everyone to communicate their ideas and wants. Please spread the word.

Any questions, e-mail Tim at owhangofutures@gmail.com

What's on in Owhango

Indoor Bowls Keen to learn or play? Come to a meeting at Owhango Hall **Sunday 11 March 2pm.**

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 side-by-side. The left card is for 'Foxglove Frames & Interiors' and features a black background with a pink and black geometric pattern at the top and bottom. A pink circle with the number '7' is in the top right. The text on the card includes the business name, 'Toni Grass', 'Mobile Drape and Blind Service', 'Pictureframing', and contact details: '0276353262', '078954436', and 'foxgloveframes@gmail.com'. The right card is for 'Sally Lashmar' and features a white background with a colorful illustration of a bird in a landscape. The text on the card includes the name 'Sally Lashmar', 'Taumarunui & Owhango', 'Massage Therapist - Regd (Diploma Therapeutic Massage)', phone numbers 'Ph 07 895 4443' and '0274 044266', and a list of services: 'Neuromuscular Therapy', 'Relaxation', 'Sports, Remedial', 'Deep Tissue', and 'Reflexology'.

Our next newsletter is due out in June 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