

Owhango



Owhango Village Newsletter

Winter 2018

Welcome from ORRIS

Chairman's Report May 2018

Welcome readers

It's been a busy time for the Society With a lot of planning and consultation centred around community aspirations for Owhango's future, upgrading the Hall kitchen and keeping pace with the construction phase of the new public toilets.

Thanks go out to all who have participated in the various projects that are shaping our future and as a community defining who we want to be.

April saw the commissioning of the public toilets and memorial plaque at the old pool with an official opening ceremony and blessing by local Kaumatua and Clergy.

ORRIS also made a submission to the Ruapehu District Long Term Plan advocating continued seal extensions within the urban zone and including Ohinetonga Bush Road and improving. Transfer Station access.

The submission supported Township Revitalisation. Economic Development, Water quality and supply, however stopped short of supporting Cycle Trail Development, given the current state of the 42nd Traverse. This issue has been raised with the Department of Conservation.

May started with the T42 mountain bike event, a major fundraiser for the village. Thanks to Annette Taylor-Lacy, who is retiring, for her efforts over the years that this event has been running.

Discussion has taken place with Council in regard to improvements to the Domain pavilion and power supply.

ORRIS received and rejected a ruling from the Utilities Disputes Commission related to a complaint about Lines Company charges for the Hall. As yet no reply has been received.

And finally the Domain gates have been repaired and galvanised to complement a recent tidy up of the ticket box. A big thank you to Laurie Bryan, Bruce Fredericks, Bill O'Donnell and Dave Edhouse.

Jim Paul

Chairman

Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society Incorporated

What's on in Owhango

ORRIS Community Pot luck Dinner will be held on **Sunday June 17th 6pm** at the Owhango Hall. All welcome to come and chat and catch up.

Indoor Bowls Keen to learn or play? Come to Owhango Hall **Sundays 2pm. \$2 entry fee.**

Owhango Playgroup meets every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. Ph. Trudie Wheeler 8966864

Owhango Market Day- The first Sunday of every month except January at 9am-1pm

For a stall booking contact Sally Lashmar or Mark Fredericks 07 8954443

Hall Bookings Phone Laurie Bryan 07 8954870

F Y I -Ruapehu Neighbourhood Support

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

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, featuring a pink and black geometric pattern and a pink circle with the number 7. The right card is for Sally Lashmar, a Massage Therapist, with a colorful abstract painting of a bird in the background.

Foxglove Frames & Interiors
Toni Grass : Mobile Drape and Blind Service
Pictureframing
0276353262 : foxgloveframes@gmail.com
078954436

Sally Lashmar
Taumarunui & Owhango
Massage Therapist - Regd
(Diploma Therapeutic Massage)
Ph 07 895 4443 0274 044266
Neuromuscular Therapy Deep Tissue
Relaxation Reflexology
Sports, Remedial

Our next newsletter is due out in September 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. owhanqorris@yahoo.co.nz or boaties@xtra.co.nz

Community messages for Winter

Owhango Beekeepers Club Report .

The beekeepers Club had its final meeting of the season in the comparative warmth of the Leahy home in mid- May. Hives have been reduced in size, insulated and treated for varroa. Lots of different experiences were shared amongst those present. If you are interested in keeping bees, Google the Club or call **Tim Leahy 0276334523**

Owhango School News

Following our request in the last ORRIS newsletter for suggestions on how we can fundraise enough money to replace our school swimming pool cover, we had a wonderful offer from Mark Fredericks to organize and run a pub quiz night at the Owhango Hotel. Our grateful thanks to Grant Lethborg for the use of his venue and the bar tab prizes.

This went ahead on Thursday 17th May and was a great success, both socially and financially. The pub was packed with people and we raised \$1680.90. If we add this to the \$500 donation from one of our families we have enough for a new pool cover. I would like to thank everyone who helped us with this. Our school really appreciates your support. Much of the money was raised by selling raffle tickets but we have still got some to sell before we draw these prizes. If you are interested in staying at Wood Pigeon Lodge's Tree House for two nights, doing the 5 tunnel tour in Forgotten World Adventures rail carts, a season pass for an adult and child at Mt Ruapehu, a carved garden sculpture by Mike Walsh, a huge slab of timber suitable for a bench or sign, or some farm stuff (Teat Spray, Cydectin, Glyphosate, Minerals) then contact the school to purchase tickets. Any additional money raised goes to the school's PTA which in turn funds trips and equipment for our tamariki.

Thanks again

Ewan Starkey, Principal, Owhango School

FIRE AND EMERGENCY NZ

by Dave Edhouse

Well here we are again with an update on your local brigade. How time flies. The weather is closing in and that means fires, heaters and other forms of keeping warm are being used. Just remember to check your smoke alarms are working with new batteries for the winter. Alarms will not work without the battery and you and your family do need the warning they provide in the event of a fire in the home. Good time to talk with family members about your exit plans from the home in the event of a fire in the home and your assembly point outside. The brigade continues to be called to help those in need. We recently assisted with the aftermath of the National Park Village tornado. It was quite a different incident to be called to. Luckily there were no injuries to residents but there was substantial property damage. We were once again involved with the community at this year's T42 event washing around 260 bikes.

There is a changing of the guard at the Owhango station with Chief Fire Officer Dave Edhouse retiring after 26 years as chief and 42 years with the brigade. The brigade farewelled Dave and Judy at a dinner recently. It will be business as usual with the brigade but we do need some more members as numbers are decreasing. If you think you would like to help please contact a brigade member and come along on a Wednesday evening from 7pm and see if it is for you.

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Owhango Alive Report- May 2018

Another steady few months in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, with predator control, weed busting and working bees.

Trap data for the months of March, April and May are as follows.

: Mice 40
: Stoats 4
: Feral Cats 4
: Rats 144
: Hedgehogs 5
: Ferret 1
: Wasp nests 20

Bird counts, and general observations submitted by regular visitors to the Reserve, indicate that our birds are certainly holding their own and even increasing in population.

Mustelid (stoats, ferrets & weasels) tails collected from traps were once again sent to Hunting & Fishing Taupo – this time we won a Trail Camera!

STOP PRESS – A big slip has closed the track to the Boat Hole, by the pipe railings. We hope that DOC fix this as soon as possible, as we all know that this is a very popular walk for locals and visitors. We are all disappointed by this, of course, especially as our last working bee saw many of our volunteers carry metal in buckets and packs to fill the steps on the "Tawa Top track".

On a more positive note, 11 Whio have been seen on 3 different occasions at the Boat Hole. Each sighting was at about 8.30am. We think it's the equivalent of a youth club - the juveniles gather to check each other out and form relationships. And then have lots of lovely ducklings in the spring!!

Owhango Alive has a Facebook page, check it out.

That's it from me – if any of you feel like getting involved, just email us at owhangoalive@yahoo.com
We'd love to have you on board.

Warm regards,

Mark Fredericks and the OWHANGO ALIVE team.

Owhango History Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

(Reproduced with kind permission from the 'Owhango Spanning 100 Years' book 2004)

In 1965 Owhango experienced two major fires. One burned down the Railway Station and the other damaged the house belonging to J.M Cooper Motors beside their workshop. An informal meeting was held opposite the workshop in August 1965 to discuss forming a fire brigade and the decision was made there to hold an official meeting in the Owhango Hall. This meeting was held on the 29th August 1965, chaired by Mr Isles Baker with the Taumarunui County Clerk and members of the Manunui Fire Brigade present. Members of the community at this meeting decided to proceed with the formation of a fire brigade. Peter Bethwaite was elected secretary, a position he held until 1983. Owhango Fire Brigade was duly formed. An old yardman's hut from the Dominion Timber Co. was moved on to the section behind J.M Cooper Motors workshop. This was used to store equipment, some of which came from Manunui Fire Brigade. Maurie and Betty Cooper donated a 500 gallon water tank on a trailer which they had previously used for spraying. When the brigade purchased their first fire engine, a 1934 Ford V8, the rear of the engine was modified to allow the water tank from the trailer to be fitted. In 1967 the brigade acquired a 1948 Ford V8 fire engine (ex Taumarunui) and in the same year they moved into the old butcher's shop in the main street, next to the garage. This became the first official fire station. In 1971 they added on to the rear of this building a social room and kitchen facilities. Volunteer brigades came under the umbrella of the New Zealand Fire Service in 1976. When the first enclosed fire engine, a 1956 D Model Bedford (ex Matamata) arrived in 1979, the appliance bay floor had to be lowered to accommodate it. This was replaced in 1986 with a D Series Ford (ex Taupo) In March 1988 the present Owhango Fire Station was officially opened. A proud moment for the people of Owhango, as this was the result of a lot of donated time, hard work and support from the community, brigade members and their families. In 1993 the Owhango fire appliance was again upgraded to a 1990 FD Hino (ex Taupo) and the following year the brigade was able to purchase modern hydraulic motor vehicle extrication equipment which was much needed since becoming a rescue brigade in 1987. This purchase was made possible by a Taumarunui Lions Club community appeal convened by Ron Summers, ex Owhango firefighter. In 1998 the Station was extended to garage a Ruapehu Area spare appliance and the opportunity was taken to enlarge the social room and improve the facilities, again with community support. As at 2004 the brigade was fortunate to have one of the most up to date volunteer appliances, a 1991 Ford Iveco. In 2004 the brigade attended 50 call outs a year and these are dominated by motor vehicle accidents which require brigade members to be well trained in dealing with motor vehicle extrication and first aid as well as fighting fires. The brigade has fought many fires over the years, both in the Owhango area and assisting neighbouring brigades. Major fires fought were the Raurimu High school in 1970, Dominion Timber Co. mill fires in 1973 and 1977, Owhango Hotel in June 1984 in which the garden, lounge and public bars were destroyed and in 1990 an accommodation block at Kakahi Marae. Other types of calls they have attended have been an aircraft crash, a landslide and train derailments. One of the most unusual call outs was in January 1980 when the fire engine was stolen from the station and the firemen gave chase and caught up with it on the Raurimu hill. A police roadblock was set up outside Waikune Prison and the thieves apprehended. To the present date the Owhango brigade has had four Chief Fire officers. Jim Alker was the first fire chief, followed by Maurie Cooper in 1968, who held this position until his retirement in 1984. He was followed by Fred Richards until 1991 and then Dave Edhouse who was chief to 30 April 2018. As at 2004 four firemen have received a Gold Star. This medal recognises 25 years volunteer service. They are Peter Bethwaite, Fred Richards, Trevor Begg and Dave Edhouse.