

Owhango



Owhango Village Newsletter

Spring 2018

Welcome from ORRIS

Chairman's Report Aug 2018

Welcome to another quarterly report on the activities of the Society.

I have to say that the new toilet facilities are receiving more use than was initially envisioned. Perhaps it's because they're new, attractive, clean, easy to find and parking isn't an issue. ORRIS is currently considering other amenities to further enhance the Memorial Park. These include another picnic table possibly with a shelter, village welcome signs. Artwork or interpretive signage on the blank wall under the existing shelter, along with some seating. A walking track through the bush to the cemetery and updating the existing information kiosk. Footpaths may come at a later stage.

At the Domain a new power cable has been installed with a few extra lights and power points along with an external 16 amp caravan point. In addition, work has been carried out to facilitate use of one of the existing toilets without the need to access the rest of the pavilion.

Some minor building repairs have also been carried out, and the gates were taken down to repair and galvanise and have now been reinstated.

The Department of Conservation has engaged community support to determine the future of Tongariro Forest.

At a public meeting held on the 31st of May discussion focused mainly on the maintenance of access tracks and to what standard these tracks should be maintained to.

A suggestion to allow private helicopters to use Tongariro Forest was firmly rejected.

DOC also proposed the possible installation of huts along the 42nd Traverse to help cope with increasing visitor numbers. This may also require the removal of some existing huts as DOC considers these installations as illegal.

On the 30th of this month ORRIS will be holding its AGM as with last year the AGM is to be held on a Thursday evening this seems to suit most people better than a Sunday afternoon.

A reminder, that subscriptions are now due for this coming year.

Kind Regards

Jim Paul
Chairman

What's on in Owhango

Indoor Bowls - Keen to learn or play? Come to Owhango Hall **Sundays 2pm (Mar-Oct). \$2.entry.**

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

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

F Y I -Ruapehu Neighbourhood Support - Email Lou Dixon at taumarunuinsg@xtra.co.nz

Community messages for Spring

OWHANGO ALIVE REPORT - August 2018

Another steady few months in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, with predator control, weed busting and working bees and planning for World Rivers Day on Sunday the 30th September, more on that below. Trap data for the months of June, July and August are as follows.

: Mice	18
: Stoats	3
: Feral Cats	3
: Rats	101
Hedgehogs	1
Weasels	5

Great to see that there is still a lot of people using the walking tracks within the Ohinetonga Reserve despite the track being closed to the "Boat Hole". DOC are awaiting a report on the what can be done to repair the track before announcing what will happen in way of repairs.

QUIZ NIGHT

Another successful quiz night was held at the Owhango Lodge, with 14 teams participating. Grant Lethborg the Proprietor, generously donated bar tabs for the closely fought 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters. We raised \$530 on the night with entries, donations and raffle tickets. There are still raffle tickets available – prizes are a 5 tunnel tour for 2 with Forgotten World Adventures, beautiful cushions and throw from Gorjis, a great sleeping bag from Seriously Outdoors and a delicious box of assorted Barkers preserves and cordials from Farmlands.

Call Sally on 0274 044 266 if you would like to get a raffle ticket or two!

Raffles will be drawn Wed 5th September.

Top 2 winning teams on the quiz night.



World Rivers Day Sunday 30th September.

Owhango Alive will be celebrating World Rivers Day again. This year we are planting native trees and placing a bench seat in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, downriver from the Whakapapa Bridge. This event is open to everyone.

We will meet at the bridge at 10.00am and keep in mind that this is the start of daylight saving and your clock springs forward an hour!!

After the planting you are all welcome to come to the pavilion at the Owhango Domain for a cup of tea etc., and we will have a guest speaker to talk about Predator Free 2050 and how we all can be involved in protecting our own backyard. 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.

Flooding on the lower field at the Domain



OWHANGO SCHOOL NEWS

We are well into our winter term at Owhango School. One of our big highlights is our learn to ski programme. This sees the year 4-8 children skiing for five days and the year 1-3 children two days. We have some excellent support from the families who help to transport the kids to and from the mountain as well as skiing with them when they are not in a lesson. It is really pleasing to see the children's skill growing, not just with skiing but also managing themselves and their equipment on the day. This is a really rich learning experience and one that is kept affordable by the generous subsidy provided by the school Parent Teacher Association and Board of Trustees.

The second highlight of this term is our biennial school show. We are working with a drama specialist teacher from the University of Waikato to build the teachers' and students' drama skills. The show is being written and developed by the children and staff based on some picture books. The show will be on at the Owhango Hall on Tuesday 25th September (matinee) and Wednesday 26th September (evening). All community members are welcome to come and enjoy this entertainment.

Thanks

Ewan Starkey,

Principal, Owhango School

OWHANGO VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Hi everyone, this Brigade update brings about a rather major change.

Sadly Dave Edhouse has retired as Chief Fire Officer from the Owhango Brigade, whilst it is a huge loss for our Brigade as Dave takes with him many years of experience and 26 of those as Chief. We wish him all the best in his retirement and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for everything that he has done for our Brigade. He will be missed.

We also have to say goodbye to John Schroeder as he has retired to the big smoke and has decided to retire from the Brigade also. Another wealth of experience that will be sorely missed. On that note... we are always looking to recruit more members, either in operational roles or support roles. If you think this might be a bit of you, feel free to pop down to the station on a Wednesday night and talk to one of the crew or alternately contact Cara on 0272887833.

On the 17th November National Park Brigade, Whakapapa Brigade, Owhango Brigade, National Park Police and St Johns are holding a community event at National Park demonstrating what we all do and interactive activities such as; Escape My House bouncy castle and the Escape My House virtual glasses.

As daylight savings approaches it is a good time to check your smoke alarms – if you require any assistance with this please contact the brigade. We also have a Fire Risk team that can come and assess your requirements if you feel your fire detection systems need to be updated.

Thankfully for our community there have not been too many calls lately (knock on wood) but needless to say we will train nevertheless as we never know what is around the corner.

Stay safe everyone.

Regards

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

OWHANGO BEEKEEPERS CLUB REPORT.

The bee season is with us again. By the time you read this the club will have had its first meeting of 2018/19. As usual it's the bees that do all the work. Beekeepers interfere to make it a leveller playing field. Bees would prosper without us except for the influences of sprays, varroa and wasps. We treat for varroa and do what we can about wasps.

Everyone can help reduce the number of wasps. At this time of year the queen wasps are still dopey. You'll find them in your firewood or similar dark, damp places. Every queen wasp killed now is a whole nest of wasps that isn't attacking bees and us later in the season.

Varroa is a mite, just big enough to be seen with the naked eye. Each mite carries viruses that cause birth deformities in bees. Varroa mites zone in on the bee larvae. Killing the young is a sure recipe for killing the hive. There are different chemicals available for treating varroa. Some are natural and have no ill effects on the bees. Others will eventually result in the varroa building up resistance to that chemical making it useless in future years. Beekeepers use a different chemical in Spring to the chemical they use in Autumn. As beekeeping has become more profitable the number of beekeepers and hives has increased dramatically. With this are increased opportunities to train to be an Apiarist. Later in Spring we'll start to see swarms of bees. These are colonies that have split. A new queen has stayed with the old hive and the old queen has taken a swarm with her to set up a new colony. Bees that swarm are loaded with honey so are usually pretty docile. Capturing a swarm is the easiest way for a beekeeper to start a new hive. There are other methods, each with its own complexities and costs. If you see a swarm please let a beekeeper know.

If you're interested in beekeeping please contact Tim Leahy on 027 633 4523.

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.

owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz or boaties@xtra.co.nz