

# Owhango



## Owhango Village Newsletter

**Summer 2018**

**Welcome from ORRIS**

### **Chairman's Report November 2018.**

Once again it is my pleasure to present this report on the Societies' activities for the year.

A busy time with a number of interesting projects going on and thankfully quite a large and interested committee to deal with it all .

The big success is the Memorial Park Toilets a much needed amenity given the amount of use it has received.

These toilets are a part of Council's Township Revitalisation Initiative to assist communities meet the demands of increasing visitor numbers.

Further improvements are planned for this coming year. With more picnic tables, welcome signs, tree planting and a walking track to the cemetery.

The Domain has also received upgrading work with a new power feed to the pavilion, and a 16 amp external caravan point. Some minor building repairs and the main gates and ticket box have received a tidy up.

On Council matters ORRIS made a submission to the Long Term Plan continuing to push for seal extensions and improvement to the Transfer Station access. Also mentioned was the deteriorating state of the 42nd Traverse.

In regard to Tongariro Forest, DOC have recently engaged with the Community to determine and gain support for maintaining the existing asset and the consideration of future activities within Tongariro Forest.

Newsletters have been consistent throughout the year thanks goes to all those involved.

Another successful T42 event was held in May.

In April local Kaumatua offered their blessing to the settlers' memorial at the Old Swimming Pool and the new Memorial Park Toilets. This event was well supported.

August AGM saw the addition of Margaret Roxburgh to the committee.

Owhango Futures, an initiative to determine how Owhango could develop in the future is still in progress.

Also in progress are plans to upgrade the Hall kitchen which has been overshadowed by other events this year.

The Lines Company dispute is still on going with no resolution yet.

Owhango Market days are still going well with more spring produce available.

I would like to finish by thanking all the people who have participated in various community activities over the past year.

Have an enjoyable festive season coming up real soon.

Jim Paul

Chairman

Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society Incorporated

## WANTED

### Market Day helpers and Working Bee volunteers

The Market in Owhango Hall held on the first Sunday of the month is run by volunteers. If you would to help on the BBQ or in the kitchen we would love to hear from you. Working Bees are held several times a year for maintenance work and beautification projects in the Village. If you can spare a few hours occasionally let us know your details and availability. Phone Toni Grass 07 8954436

### What's on in Owhango

**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](mailto: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.

### Community messages for Summer

#### **Owhango Beekeepers Club Report .**

During October and November members have experienced varied behaviour. In one case bees abandoned a hive, perhaps due to the death of an old queen. In another case a member is looking for of a solution to clean bee poo from windows to keep his holiday home neighbour happy.

Several members are on the lookout for swarms but there seem very few swarms so far in our area. On the other hand there seem to be swarms a plenty in Whareroa. Capturing a swarm is a cheap way of getting a new hive. Few beekeepers are prepared to sell queens of nucs anymore. Two members have combined hives and another two members are waiting to see the results of purchasing virgin queens. Have they been accepted by the hive? One member tried this unsuccessfully earlier in the season. That member has since broken off a queen cell from a strong hive and implanted that in a queenless hive – here's hoping.

One hint to get the bees working earlier on making honey is to feed them sugar water in the month leading up to spring. Most amateurs leave honey in the hive over winter as food for the bees. The commercial beekeepers tend to take all the honey and feed sugar water over the whole winter.

There was a fair bit of conversation at our recent meeting about the chemistry and methods to treat for varroa. One innovative member has found an alternate use for an otherwise useless steam cleaner she bought at the fieldays – cleaning plastic frames.

The Owhango Beekeepers Club meets roughly monthly and non-members or people just interested in beekeeping are very welcome. Just let Tim Leahy know and he'll keep you up to date.

Tim's contact is by txt to 0276334523 or through the club's website.

## **OWHANGO ALIVE REPORT -November 2018**

Another steady few months in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, with predator control, weed-busting, working bees and planning for World Rivers Day on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> September, more on that below. Trap data for the months of September, October and November are as follows.

: Mice	30
: Stoats	5
: Feral Cats	1
: Rats	87
: Hedgehogs	0
: Weasels	1

Great to see that there are still good numbers of people using the walking tracks within the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, despite the riverside track being closed to the “Boat Hole” since June. We have chased up DOC on what’s happening with the slip and should hear by the end of November on what they propose to do. We hope, as I presume you all do, that it will be repaired in the very near future. You can still access the “Boat Hole” from the loop track off the Ohinetonga Road. The bird life on this section of the track is great – if you stop and listen occasionally, you will be amazed by the bird song.

### **World Rivers Day Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

For the fourth year running, we celebrated World Rivers Day on the banks of the Whakapapa River in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve.

A good turnout of young and old attended the celebration. During the morning we planted 50 trees in the Reserve, along with placement of a bench seat downriver from the bridge. Many thanks to David Johnston for his hard work in designing and constructing the seat. After all the tree planting and seat placement we adjourned to the pavilion at the Owhango Domain for refreshments and presentations from Owhango Primary School students, Jack Owen and Nairin Higgie, on the Whio (NZ blue duck). After lunch, Danial Van Der Lubbe of Predator Free 2050 talked about different types of predator traps, baits and lure and placement of the traps.

### **Owhango Alive calendars**

David Robinson has created a great calendar which Owhango Alive is selling for \$20.00.

If you would like one, be in quick as we only have about 20 left!

All photos have been taken in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve. Photographers are John Martin, David Robinson, Tim Holmes and Mikayla Donnelly.

### **Trap vandalism.**

Sometime between the 5<sup>th</sup> November to the 12<sup>th</sup> the “Tawa” line were vandalised. Some were simply just upended, resulting in the bait and lures being damaged. Six of the eighteen traps had been thrown down steep banks and it took a considerable amount of time and effort to locate them. All traps are now back in place and working.

The traps in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve all are owned and maintained by Owhango Alive. These have all been purchased by generous donations from local businesses, trap sponsorship from individuals and businesses, and general fundraising.

The traps target the predators (rats, stoats, weasels etc.) that predate on the native birds that make their home in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve and its surrounds.

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](mailto:owhangoalive@yahoo.com)

We’d love to have you on board.

Warm regards,

Mark Fredericks and the OWHANGO ALIVE team.

## Owhango School News

Recently I had a student come to me asking if he could set up a bird watching club. Of course I said yes, and asked him to have a think about how it might work. He came back a week later with a list of names of children who are interested in joining and a plan of how the club might work including an example of what a data collection sheet might look like. I am now working with him to do some research into a more detailed sheet, with perhaps a bird identification sheet, and some possible trips we could go on next year where we can see some of our rarer birds.

I went to the Trout Hatchery a few years ago when they had about 25 Whio being raised, they were fascinating to watch; I also saw a kokako in the Otorohanga Kiwi House and was mesmerised by its call.

If anyone out there has any suggestions on how we can develop this club and the learning that could weave through it then I would love you to contact me at the school.

Thanks

Ewan Starkey

Principal

Owhango School

## OWHANGO VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

Hi All,

Welcome to summer....hopefully!

Whilst we are having a good amount of rain at the moment, the river levels are low and there was a prediction of a 'long hot summer' coming. So conserve water wherever possible, just in case.

With the change of the Fire Service becoming Fire and Emergency New Zealand, they have also taken on the role of issuing fire permits.

At this point there are no restrictions in place but if you need to light a fire check on this website; <http://www.checkitsalright.nz/> before you do. This very easy to use site will guide you through the permit process if it is required.

Unfortunately the planned community day with National Park did not go ahead but is being planned for early next year. We will let you know and put up some flyers.

We are pretty excited to have two new recruits join us at the station but this comes amongst more sad news that we are losing another long term member, Mark Gifford, who was married last weekend. Congratulations Mark and Katy. They are leaving Owhango to move to Hunterville. We wish them all the best and thank Mark for his many years of service and commitment to our brigade.

Luckily we have not had many callouts again in this quarter and hopefully it stays that way over the Christmas break.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a great break over the holidays. Take care out there.

Regards

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

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](mailto:owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz) or [boaties@xtra.co.nz](mailto:boaties@xtra.co.nz)