



Owhango Village Newsletter

Winter 2019

Welcome from ORRIS

Welcome readers to another community newsletter.

Congratulations to all who participated in yet another successful T42 event. Also thanks to those who have assisted in maintaining the course so the event can happen.

The Hall committee has been meeting recently. The kitchen upgrade project is nearing the end of the planning phase. Next will be establishing a price tag to ascertain funding requirements.

At last the Hall has closure with the Lines Company dispute. The Tribunal has ruled in our favour and awarded costs about equal to what we already owe.

Under the new Lines Company pricing structure the Hall is still penalised due to infrequent and high volume energy use. This results in a \$300.00 monthly lines charge for the delivery of \$25.00 worth of energy. Unfortunately this level of operating expense is unsustainable. Options to reduce the charges or disconnect are currently being considered.

So thanks for your time and give a thought those brave people who operate our Fire and Emergency Services and who deal with the tragic carnage that happens all too often on our roads.

Jim Paul

Chairman

THANK YOU

A big thank you very much to Jim Paul and Ray Cotter for installing the two picnic tables in Owhango with some help from Karen. These are an added asset to our village for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Also, many thanks to Council, one of the tables by the swings is funded from a balance left over from Pavilion maintenance through the Long Term Plan, and the one opposite the hall was funded from ORRIS.



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 like to help on the BBQ or in the kitchen we would love to hear from you.

We are also seeking a volunteer to help co-ordinate the market stall holders.

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

Indoor Bowls-Owhango Hall every Sunday 2pm \$2

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 receive the newsletter, emailed monthly.

Recycling and rubbish disposal Owhango Transfer Station -State Highway 4:

Open Mon 1-5pm Wed, Sat & Sun 8-12noon.

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.

Community messages for Winter 2019

Owhango School News

Our bird watching club has been active this year. They have had a lesson from DoC Ranger, Jerome Guillotel, on how to do a 5 minute bird count, then gone out and practiced this skill a few times. They have also become engaged with helping monitor the new trap line, (with help from Clive Gifford), that is in the bush near the Domain. It is great to see them get involved in a local project and to get a deeper understanding of what the threats to our native birds are, and how to manage them. Next they will be looking at the ways this information is recorded online, and analysing the results over time. They are really enjoying being part of this project.

Thanks

Ewan Starkey

Principal Owhango School

Owhango Alive Report -- - June 2019

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 19
: Stoats 2
: Feral Cats 12
: Rats 177
: Hedgehogs 45
: Possums 1
: Ferrets 4
: Weasel 6

Trap Library

We currently have a supply of Rat, Stoat, Weasel & Feral Cat traps for loan. These traps are lent out for free for a period of 3 months. Please contact us on the email listed below if you require any assistance.

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 Volunteer Fire Brigade June 2019

Hi All,

I would like to ask the community to join me in congratulating Grace Bately on becoming our newest recruit. She has just completed her Recruits course at the National Training Centre in Rotorua.

Grace has been in the community a short time but has made a huge impact on everyone here and we are proud to have her on our team.

We are quite low on members at the moment and are very keen for anyone who might be interested in helping us in any way to get in touch with Cara on 0272887833.

There are a variety of roles but we really require some new firefighters to help us with callouts especially during the day.

If you think this might be you or you would like to talk to somebody about what is involved, please get in touch.

Thank you to those who came to the community BBQ in April, I hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Our thoughts are with National Park Fire Brigade with the tragic loss of one of their recruits.

Stay safe out there.

Regards

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

Our Native Birds

New Zealand pigeon

New Zealand status: Endemic

Conservation status: Not Threatened

Other names: Kererū, kereru, kukupa, kuku, wood pigeon, native pigeon, kokopa



Distribution Kereru are widespread through the country from Northland to Stewart Island, and on some offshore islands that have suitable forest / shrub land habitats.

Habitat

Kereru inhabit a wide variety of forest types: podocarp-broadleaf forest, beech forest, second growth native forest regenerating after logging, small forest remnants, and exotic plantations (especially those with an understorey and/or stream-sides of native shrubs and trees). They also occur in farmland shelterbelts, urban parks, and rural and suburban gardens.

Population Kereru are widespread through the country, and are seasonally common at some locations where they gather in moderate-sized feeding flocks (20-50 birds, and rarely over 100).

Threats and conservation Although a major issue for conservation of the kereru in the early 1900s, habitat loss probably has little impact on regional populations today. The main threat to kereru is predation by introduced mammalian predators, particularly feral cats, possums, stoats and ship rats, especially when nesting. Other mortality factors include collisions with fast moving vehicles, overhead power and telephone wires and windows, electrocution when perched on some power poles, and illegal hunting. Where pest populations are removed (offshore islands, exclusion fenced areas) or controlled to very low levels kereru populations have increased markedly.

Breeding Kereru have been recorded breeding in all months, but most eggs are laid in September-April. Pigeons in native forest have been recorded not breeding when little or no fruit was available. The nest is a platform of dead twigs, and a single egg is laid. In general, females incubate from late afternoon until mid-morning, when the male takes over. The chick is brooded constantly until it is about 10 days old and well covered with feathers. From then until fledging at about 35-40 days of age, it is left alone by day, with the occasional brief visit by a parent to feed it. When fruit is readily available, pairs are able to have overlapping nesting attempts; a large chick in one nest and an egg being incubated in another. Pairs that have failed nesting attempts (due to predators, poor nest construction or a storm) often re-nest within a week or two.