

# Owhango



## Owhango Village Newsletter

Summer 2019/2020

### OWHANGO RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS REPORT

Welcome Readers to another quarterly newsletter. The Christmas rush is on, so unfortunately, I'll need to be brief.

The activities of the ORRIS Committee over the past three months have been steady with good results especially in the area of fund raising.

I am pleased to advise that ORRIS has been awarded \$49,220.00 from the Lotteries Commission to assist with the Hall kitchen upgrade.

ORRIS was also successful in securing a grant from an application to the Pride of Place funding round. The purpose of this grant is to provide historical information signage to be placed in various locations around the Village.

I attended a meeting with the Department of Conservation and other interest groups aimed at finding a solution to repair the closed section of Ohinetonga Loop Track.

I would like to wish everyone a happy festive season and isn't it great to have the Cafe open again.

Kind Regards

Jim Paul

Chairman

We had a successful working bee in the Memorial Park held on November 13, 2019.

We had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to all for coming along, a special thanks to Heather for the use of her chipper and Mark for his early start with the wattle trees.

A few of us met the following Wednesday and limbed up the trees so hopefully the mower can get in closer and keep that long grass at bay.

If you want to become involved in our community. ORRIS meets on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Secretary email [owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz)





A new information panel has been erected at the Owhango Domain. Thank you to Wayne Stewart for erecting it last week. Go and check it out.

### **WANTED**

#### **Market Day helpers and Working Bee volunteers**

The Owhango Market held on the first Sunday of the month in Owhango Hall is run by volunteers.

If you would like 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**

**Fantails:** Women's group meet every Thursday in the Owhango Hall 7-9pm. Gold coin. Chat, do craft, etc.

**Community Fun Day:** Owhango Domain, Sunday Feb 2, 2020 3pm. B Y O

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

*NOTE new details for a stall booking:* contact Toni, cell 027 6353262 or email

owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz

**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 receive the newsletter, emailed monthly.

### **Community messages for Summer 2019/2020**

#### **OWHANGO SCHOOL NEWS**

We are winding up to the end of the school year, winding down happens after we close!

We have several projects on the go. Stage one of our court's refurbishment has been completed with the lines being repainted. Next year we will be doing stage two: installing new netball and basketball goals.

We are getting the pool prepared for our opening day; contact the school office if you would like a key so that you can use it over the Summer. We are getting out into our local environment and challenging the children's fitness next week: the seniors are doing the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and the juniors are doing the Taranaki Falls walk.

We have our annual end of year pilgrimage to Brock's Farm (O'Donnell's Farm really) down by the Whakapapa river, where the tamariki will be enjoying biking down the hill, sliding on the water slide, tubing down the river and some fun games. We love that we have so many exciting environments to explore and utilise near to our school We really are lucky.

The whole community is invited to our school break-up on Thursday 19th December at 6pm in the Owhango Hall. There will be a pot-luck shared meal afterwards (approximately 7pm) which is a great chance to catch up with the locals. We would love to see you there.

Have an enjoyable summer festive season.

Ewan Starkey

Principal, Owhango School

## **OWHANGO BEE KEEPERS**

Seven members of the Owhango Bee keepers Club met on Tuesday. Over the winter several people had enquired with interest in bee keeping but none were able to make this meeting. Every member has lost hives over winter. Some commercial bee keepers have lost 30% of their hives. Things are looking up in Spring but so far there have been very few swarms to capture and allow members to start new hives. Members have had their American Foul brood (AFB) inspections. AFB returns must be submitted by 30 November. If a hive gets infected by AFB it must be burnt to the ground. AFB is spread by bees from infected hives. Various measures are used to keep wasps under control. Wasps attack bee hives rob the honey and kill the bees. A strong beehive will repel wasps but a hive that has a small colony or is weakened by cold, bee diseases or a weak queen is open to destruction particularly in late summer. Now is the time to kill the queen wasps and reduce the overall wasp population. Wasps also threaten our bird life by feeding on the same things that birds eat. Several members are using oxalic acid impregnated straps to kill varroa. These straps are made by a club member. Varroa attacks the pupae of the bees, spreads diseases, causes deformities and ultimately kills bees and the hive. Oxalic acid is a natural way of dealing with varroa where the varroa don't build up immunity, unlike some commercial varroa treatments. Bruce demonstrated a prototype of a honey extraction machine. The benefit of this machine is that individual frames can be extracted in the field without the need to move a whole box of frames to an extraction facility. It is very simple and with lots of potential. It is easy to keep the working area clear of honey and thereby clear of interested bees. Everyone is making new discoveries about how to manage their bees using a speed brush to wax plastic frames, storing frames over winter with Tansy to discourage wax moth, you might get a better financial return (but less of the enjoyment) by hosting a commercial bee keeper's hives on your property than from owning your own hives

Bee keeping continues to be a challenging but rewarding art. If you're interested in bee keeping or have a swarm on your property, contact Tim on 027 633 4523.

## **OWHANGO VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2019**

Merry Christmas,

Well the weather has turned it up a bit for summer and we have already had quite a few calls to vegetation fires. Some were just bonfires or controlled burns, but others were not.

Look up the website [checkitsalright](#) as this has valuable information on when we are in a restricted or prohibited fire season and also where you can apply for a permit if you wish to have a fire in a restricted season. It also explains what types of fires you can have without a permit.

I trust everybody has checked their smoke alarms as this is your first warning system in case of fire.

If you need assistance with these please get in touch and we can help you out.

Have a very safe and happy holiday.

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

## **OWHANGO ALIVE November 2019**

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

Trap data for the months of September, October and November are as follows.

: Mice	38	: Hedgehogs	12
: Weasels	2	: Possums	4
: Rats	208		

It is certainly a “mast” year, as we only caught 105 rats during the same period in 2018.

#### OBITUARY - Mike Williams 15/2/1955 to 30/9/2019

It is with sadness that Owhango Alive volunteer, Mike Williams, passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Mike became an integral part of Owhango Alive, since moving to Owhango three and a half years ago, with his wife Chris. Mike was passionate about conservation and loved to watch and listen to the native birds visiting in their garden, which bounds the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve. To help protect the bird life, Mike became a dedicated predator trapper. He would check his trap line each week, sending us the details of what he had caught and where – this often contained great cartoon photos and a story to tell. I well remember when he sent the Owhango Alive trapping teams a photo of a truck laden with huge logs – Mike had changed the caption from “Logging in China” to read “Mark! I saw this truck coming up the Ohinetonga Bush Road today”. That afternoon I received phone calls from concerned members of Owhango Alive asking me what I was going to do about the illegal logging! The hospitality that Mike and Chris have shown, not just to Owhango Alive but the whole community, is amazing. The cooking, baking, home brewing and humour will be sorely missed. It has been a pleasure to have known you, Mike. Please rest assured that Owhango as a community will be here to support Chris in whatever she needs, now and in the times to come.

RIP Mike Williams



We have produced our annual calendar – it’s for sale at \$20.00 (great Christmas present!) The calendar contains photos from within the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve. Sales to date have been fantastic and only limited stock is available. Contact us on the email below if you would like to purchase one.

#### **World Rivers Day.**

We once again we celebrated this day at the Whakapapa River on 29<sup>th</sup> September. The occasion was opened with a karakia and waiata from Peter Te Ahuru (Ngati Hikairo) and a blessing from Rev. Mervyn Aitken. We planted native trees and then headed upstream to the Swimming Hole where a picnic table in memory of Storm Lacy was erected. Lunch was at the Owhango Domain where 4 students from Owhango Primary School (Jack Owen, Nairin Higgie, Cody Bryan and Lane O’Donnell) gave a great presentation on birds, trapping and monitoring.

Alison Beath (DOC Senior Biodiversity Ranger) talked about ferret incursions on our Kiwi in the Tongariro Forest Park. Alison also talked about the Short-Tailed Bat, which have reportedly been seen at dusk in the village recently!

#### **Birth Notice**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Violet Paige Sinton. She was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> November weighing 7.6lbs. Violet, Mum and Dad (Bryony Filleul and Luke Sinton) are all doing well. Bryony is an integral part of Owhango Alive having been a trapper and now our Facebook “go to” person. 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 .027 539 4359

M

E