

# Owhango



## Owhango Village Newsletter

**Autumn 2020**

**Welcome to this issue from ORRIS**

### **Chairman's Report**

Welcome readers to the first Newsletter for 2020. First off there are a couple of farewells to mention. First off there are a couple of farewells to mention.

Committee member and Newsletter co-ordinator Christine Williams is moving north at the end of this month. Christine has been instrumental in organising and regularly producing this newsletter over the past 3 years. She is especially good at reminding people like me to get articles in on time. We wish Christine the very best for the future and a big thank you for picking up a role no one else wanted to do.

Another departure is Sally Lashmar who after nearly 9 years has resigned as Market Day Co-ordinator. Sally and Mark's efforts over this time have greatly contributed to the ongoing success of the Owhango Market. They are off on a well-deserved overseas adventure for 2 months.

The ORRIS Committee would like to thank Sally and Mark for their outstanding contribution to fostering community projects that have enhanced community wellbeing.

Work on the Hall Kitchen upgrade will commence from the 8th of March through to the beginning of May. The Hall will be closed for use during the construction period except for the April Market.



### **Farewells with high-tea at the Chateau**

Ohinetonga Loop Track (North leg) remains closed following a slip that occurred over a year ago. Negotiations with DOC to repair the track or even to allow partial use to allow access to the riverbank and boat hole have been met with stubborn resistance.

This attitude by DOC risks undermining the partnerships that exist with various interest groups that currently assist DOC with its activities within Tongariro Forest.

On a more cheerful note a well attended social game of Cricket was held on Feb 2 in the Domain. The tournament was fun, although it took a couple of days to get over the aches and pains.

Until next time keep safe and well.

Regards

Jim Paul

Chairman

Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society.

## Community messages for Autumn 2020

### **Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade newsletter**

It is with great pleasure that I am informing you of two fantastic personal achievements within our brigade. On Saturday the 29th of Feb, Tim Edhouse and Clive Gifford were presented with their Gold Star medals. This medal comes from the UFBA and is a representation of 25 years of service to what is now Fire and Emergency New Zealand (New Zealand Fire Service when these boys started) For 25 years these men have been turning out at a moment's notice to assist the public with all types of emergencies. These emergencies don't take into consideration that you may be in the middle of a busy work day, or sound asleep, or just about to sit down to dinner, or have a slice of cake with the kids for their birthday, yet they have jumped up and run out the door to help. That's what makes them such fantastic volunteers. Please join me in congratulating Tim and Clive on their achievement. On another note, we are in a Total Fire Ban now, and I would like to thank everyone for protecting our precious forests and land as this community has been very conscientious and we have not had any calls to unlawful fires. Well done and keep it up. For updates check the website:

<https://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

Let's hope we get some decent rain soon.

The Team at Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade

### **Owhango Alive Report February 2020**

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

Trap data for the months of December, January and February are as follows.

: Mice	15
: Weasels	5
: Rats	331
: Hedgehogs	22
: Possums	2
: Stoats	9
: Ferrets	5

### **Owhango Alive 2020 Calendar**

Once again, the Owhango Alive calendar was a sell-out. This is our main source of fundraising, so a big thanks to all who purchased one. The calendars have gone all over the place, both nationally and internationally, which helps to put Owhango "on the map"!

### **Mahi Aroha - Department of Conservation Summer Programme.**

This year Owhango Alive was again part of Mahi Aroha. This was held on the 11th January at Brocks Farm (many thanks to Bill and Carol O'Donnell). The day was based around how Owhango Alive started back in 2011 and what has transpired since that date. It was great to see many local families attend. The highlight was the talk about NZ Birds, bird counts and the school trap line, delivered to us by 4 students from Owhango Primary School (Nairin Higgie, Cody Bryan, Jack Owen and Lane O'Donnell). Thank you, lads.

That's it from me – if any of you feel like getting involved in any way, 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.

## **Fantails**

Who would have believed that Owhango held such talent. Every Thursday evening, 7pm to 9pm, women of the village gather at the Owhango Hall. Some ladies have developed their talents over many decades while others are learning which are the sharp end of knitting needles. There is one piece of embroidery that is being finished off many, many years after it was started. We have seen crocheted wash and hand cloths, knitted booties with woollen soles, upholstered chairs, knitted jackets and patchwork squares. Brave women carry in their sewing machines and even braver women look through magazines and keep the conversation rolling along. Our December Gathering was a potluck dinner at the swimming hole. No swimming actually occurred but 15 women had a very enjoyable evening. Generally, no fancy treats to eat at our meetings, we are there for serious crafting you know, however, a wide range of herbal teas as well as coffee round off our wonderful evenings.

Please do consider joining our group. You can craft, teach, learn and laugh the evening away.

## **Ladies Picnic Dinner at Swimming Pool December 2019**



**Some ladies gathered and rode around the village and finished with coffee at the Café!**

## **Owhango School News**

Owhango School has got off to an excellent start this year. We are enjoying the hot, sunny weather and are getting in a lot of swimming lessons in our pool. We are grateful to have a pool cover as it keeps the pool about four degrees warmer than without it. We are also excited to be taking our senior students on a waka trip down the Whanganui river, courtesy of Owhango Adventures. We have a few building projects in the planning stage, including a refurbishment of the senior toilet block and two new drinking fountains. Anyone who has used our current fountain will know how frustrating it is as you tend to get a facewash rather than a drink!

One issue that we would love help from the community is with housing. We often have families say they would love to come to our school but cannot find a house to rent. As I walk around the village, I often see empty houses; some are holiday homes, but others are always empty. If you know of any

rentals available or the contact number for the owners of an empty home, can you please give me a call at school? Having a few more kids in our school would mean we would get an additional teacher.

Ewan Starkey  
Principal  
Owhango School

### **Owhango Residents & Ratepayers Society Inc. (ORRIS)**

We are a committee of nominated residents that volunteer to do good for our community and community assets. We take bookings for the Owhango Village Hall and run the market days each month. We are responsible to keep the maintenance of the hall to a good standard and major projects like the toilet upgrade and renovating the kitchen this year are heavily funded by Lottery grants. The Owhango Playgroup has recently gone into recess, so we have taken on Domain use bookings as well. We have many new residents, business and homeowners to the village. Welcome to you all. If you feel you would like to become involved, or volunteer for a specific interest, meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month 7:30pm at the Fire Station during daylight saving hours, and 7pm winter hours.

### **Market Day helpers and/ or 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.

Working Bees are held occasionally during the year for maintenance work and beautification projects in the Village.

We are seeking a volunteer that may like to be the newsletter co-ordinator for our quarterly community newsletter.

If you can spare a few hours occasionally, please make contact on phone 027 3343131 or email

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

Thank you.

### **What's on in Owhango**

**Fantails** Women's group meet Thurs.7 to 9 pm. Owhango Hall. Gold coin. Cuppa and chat. Craft work.

### **Women's exercise Group**

Meets Wednesdays 9 am at Owhango Domain building. Gold coin.

If anyone is interested in a 6 am class ph Chris Weir 0274106188

Friday 9am Yoga Class \$10 per session for the Teacher. Take a mat.

**Owhango Market Day**- The first Sunday of every month February – December from 9am-1pm

For a stall booking contact 027 3343131

**Hall & Domain Bookings** Phone Laurie Bryan 07 8954870

### **Ruapehu Neighbourhood Support**

Email Lou Dixon at [taumarunuinsg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:taumarunuinsg@xtra.co.nz) to receive the newsletter, emailed monthly. Can you be the contact person in Owhango to receive these newsletters and put up at the mailboxes. Ph.

Christine 0272112924

**Recycling and rubbish disposal** -Owhango Transfer Station -State Highway 4 Owhango.

Open Mondays, 1pm-5pm Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 8am-12noon.

**Mail:** Postal services in our district are received through Rural Deliveries; RD1 (postcode 3989) & RD2 or CMB boxes in the village (postcode 3990). Contact NZPost if you need any of these services.