



Owhango Village Newsletter – June 2020

Welcome to this Winter issue

from ORRIS

Well we have all kept ourselves healthy and safe during this National Lockdown. We, in the Ruapehu District have been blessed with few cases, therefore we can be especially grateful. We still need to keep our distance, with plenty of hand washing and sanitiser.

Who is ORRIS? (Owhango Residents & Ratepayers Society Inc.)

We are a committee of nominated residents that volunteer to do good for our community and community assets. We liaise with the Ruapehu District Council. We oversee bookings for the Owhango Hall, Owhango Domain and Pavilion, and run the monthly market day. We are responsible to see that the maintenance of the hall is kept to a good standard. Working Bees are held occasionally during the year for maintenance and beautification projects in and around the Village. Market day funds have enabled us to complete projects like upgrading the hall toilets, new ramps and door replacements, concreting driveway and paths to the Hall entrances and accesses. We are in the process of upgrading the kitchen which has been heavily funded by Lottery Grants.

The hall is closed to all users until this work is completed.

We have many new residents, business and home owners to the village. Welcome to you all.

If you feel you would like to become involved, or volunteer for a specific interest, ORRIS meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Owhango Fire Station, 7pm (winter hours) and 7:30pm during daylight saving hours. Contact Chairman Jim Paul cell 027 5566660.



OUR GRATEFUL THANKS
TO NZ LOTTERY



ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL POPPIES

Community Group Reports

From Owhango Residents Chairman

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

As you can imagine not a lot has happened since lockdown. Committee meetings scheduled for April and May were cancelled as were the monthly markets.

Also affected was work on the Hall kitchen which had commenced prior to lockdown. I am pleased to report that work has resumed and is ready for cabinets and fixtures to be installed, with completion expected in time for the July market.

As July is a month away it is difficult to ascertain what extra Health and Safety regulations will need to be in place for the safe operation of our Market.

Also resuming will be the monthly committee meetings of the Society; the first commencing at 7:00pm, 4th July, at the Owhango Fire Station.

With recent property sales and the Covid-19 lockdown creating stressful times for business operations, we have included a Local Business Directory. Be Kind: Give them your best support.

Omitted or new business owners wanting to be included in this directory, or if you wish to advertise in future newsletters, please contact Toni Grass cell 027 6353262.

Until next time do stay safe and be happy.

Jim Paul

Owhango Alive Report

Covid 19 certainly brought a quick halt to our trapping programme within the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve. We were lucky to be able to continue with some of our trap checking on private land surrounding the Reserve and north of the village. A big thanks to Dave Edhouse and Gordy Bryan who are trapping along the Kakahi stream and catching a number of ferrets and other predators.

Trap data for the months of March, April and May are as follows.

- Weasels 1
- Mice 10
- Rats 206
- Hedgehogs 39
- Possums 9
- Stoats 12
- Ferrets 7



There has been an influx of rats into residents' homes in the last few weeks - nothing like a warm human's home to settle in to for winter! Volunteers have helped out with despatching the pesky intruders from some of these homes – many thanks for the generous donations to our cause.

Trap maintenance:

During the lockdown and since level two was introduced, David Johnston has repaired over 40 of our DOC 200 traps. The traps have been carried in and out from the tracks by Tania Coles, Heather Morrell, Sally Lashmar and myself. Some of the repaired traps had been out in the bush since 2013 so it was time to give them a makeover.

Autumn is a great time to forage for fungi in the bush and we certainly have a great variety in the Ohinetonga Reserve. Checkout Owhango Alive's facebook page for some of the fungi found by walkers on the tracks.

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

It has been an interesting time working through the Covid-19 Lockdown at school. This was a rapid and radical change to our everyday life and how we teach children. It has made me appreciate how supportive and flexible our school and wider community are. Within a few days we had reconfigured how to educate children to a home-based model using an internet application. It took two days for all the kids and parents to download the App and get themselves familiar with it.

We were well aware of the complication with families sharing one device and that we didn't want the kids to be in front of a screen for excessive amounts of time, so we designed many activities that were not screen based, but could be done both inside and outside their home bubbles. We also stressed that what is most important at this time is the children's health, both physical and mental; for parents to do what works best for them, there was no pressure to do all or even any of the work that we were providing. That having happy children was more important at these potentially stressful times.

At the time of writing we are preparing our school for the return of the students. We are ready and looking forward to transitioning back into school. We have taken the advice of educationalist experts in the field of trauma and change, people who have supported Christchurch schools after the earthquake. We will not be getting straight into our normal intensive programme, but easing in, slowly. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again, seeing the kids, and giving them a chance to catch up and enjoy each other.

Note: while still in Alert Level 2, if you need to visit the school you will need to sign in and out at the front office. If your visit can be dealt with over the phone then please call, or email.

Ewan Starkey
Principal
Owhango School

What's on in Owhango

Owhango Market Day

The Market day is run by volunteers, and is held in the Owhango Hall on the first Sunday of the month February – December, from 9am-1pm. If you would like to assist with the BBQ, or in the kitchen we would appreciate hearing from you. For a stall booking contact 027 334 3131.

Owhango Volunteer Fire Brigade meets Wednesdays at the Fire Station.

Fire Chief: Cara O'Donnell phone 07 8954600

Fantails Women's group meet Thursdays, 7- 9pm at Owhango Domain Pavilion. Bring your craft work or just come for a cuppa and a chat. Gold coin please per evening.

Women's exercise Group

Meets Wednesdays 9am at Owhango Domain building. Gold coin please.
If anyone is interested in a 6am class phone Chris Weir 0274106188
Friday 9am Yoga Class. Cost: \$10 per session for the Teacher. Take a mat.

Hall & Domain Bookings Phone Laurie Bryan 07 8954870

Ruapehu Neighbourhood Support Group

Email Lou Dixon at taumarunuinsg@xtra.co.nz to receive the newsletter, emailed monthly.

Recycling and Rubbish Disposal -Owhango Transfer Station -State Highway 4 Owhango

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

Mail: Postal services in our district are received through Rural Deliveries; RD1 (postcode 3989), Peter Jacobsen: 027 7157896 & RD2 or CMB boxes in the village (postcode 3990) Tui: 027 3927801, or contact NZPost if you need any of these services.

VOLUNTEER WANTED. We are seeking a volunteer to co-ordinate our quarterly community newsletter. If you can spare a few hours occasionally, please contact us phone 027 3343131 or email owhangorris@yahoo.co.nz

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please supply your address to this address.

*This poem was received during Covid-19 lockdown. Claimed to be originally written by Kathleen O'Mara in 1869, and reprinted during 1918 pandemic.
This is timeless and so reflects the recent lockdown.*

*And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being.
And stopped and listened more deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow.
And people began to think differently
And people healed.*

*And in the absence of people
Who lived in ignorant ways,
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless.
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended
And people found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.*

