

Friends of PMM Newsletter

APRIL 2026



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust



Keeping Agriculture Moving



Here we are 4 months into the year – clocks have changed and autumn has taken hold...

Our first working bee this year was taken up with the collection of grass seed which is going to be used to repopulate the areas at the side of the tracks which had been sprayed by someone. March's working bee had a good turnout and a large area of privet was cut back and poisoned. Please see photos below.





A PowerCo grant and a generous discount and repayment terms from Martin Vogel of Hansa has enabled the purchase of a Hansa Chipper. This is proving extremely useful in that Jeremy is able to chip the privet that is cut out rather than having to remove most of it in a trailer to burn off site. Now most of it can be chipped and the chips become mulch for new plantings.

The Pukemokemoke Bush Trust was the recipient of another \$10,000 from the Greenlea Foundation Trust for the Education Fund. Greenlea are great supporters of our vision of promoting environmental education and stewardship through the Fund. Check out our website www.pukemokemoke.nz for information. Within the Education Fund section you will find feedback from the kindergartens and primary schools that have been recipients of the Fund and the opportunities it has provided for hundreds of students.

On the 27th February we held an extremely successful Bat Evening for the local schools. We were very lucky to have Paul Murray and Krissy Barnes from Go Eco and Gerry Kessels from Blue Water Ecology to assist with this. Paul brought along taxidermied pests and bat costumes for the children to put on. His entertaining presentation (after a picnic at the Log Haulers site) challenged the audience with questions about pekapeka (long tailed bats). Gerry who monitors bats at Pukemokemoke on behalf of Stephenson's quarry showed everyone the various instruments that are used in his profession. After the talks 13 bat monitors were distributed between the 60 attendees and everyone waited quietly for the bats to appear. Almost exactly half an hour after sunset each monitor emitted a splatty popcorny sound as they picked up the bats flight over the log haulers site. The bats are very small (20cm wingspan and their bodies are as long as a pinky finger) but it was possible to see them clearly against the evening sky. Everyone enjoyed the evening and we are hoping to have another one later in the year when the bats become more active again after winter.



Once again Pukemokemoke hosted the Climb for Youth fundraising event which took place on 7th March and by all accounts was very successful. It involved teams of 3 (“Climbers”) to overcome the Pukemokemoke Summit 3km Loop Track as many times as they could in four hours. Climbers chose their own challenge and pledged the number of return trips to the summit and the amount to fundraise.



We encourage Friends to support our sponsors GiltrapAgriZone and those listed below should you need any of their professional services they provide. Without their support Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve would not be the great taonga that it is. Thanks also to all our Friends who support us at working bees, your hard work is much appreciated.





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**Our next working bee will be on the 18th
April 2026, please refer to website for
updates.**