



Friends of PMM Newsletter

AUGUST 2017

Dear Friends

Recent PMM Activities

It's been an incredibly wet winter at PMM this year, and with the increased number of visitors to PMM, the tracks have become very slippery and eroded in places. Unfortunately the August working bee was cancelled due to the rain. The river flats have also been saturated with water. A lot of work will be required at future working bees to repair the tracks.

However, great work has been done on the PMM driveway and parking area by Warwick, George and Mark N. Mark has done a wonderful job repairing the potholes in the driveway and the parking area with a load of pulverised road material, a mix of chips and tar obtained by George. This will hopefully compact well over time and help to keep the driveway and parking area maintained in the future. Mark has also been regularly working away on the drainage issues at PMM. Thank you Mark, all your work to help maintain PMM is greatly appreciated.

Rototuna Junior High School teachers and students enjoyed their visit to PMM in June so much that they will be returning next year for another big working bee. It's great to have Rototuna Junior High School join the Friends of PMM group, and we will be looking forward to their ongoing involvement in helping to protect and enhance the reserve in the future.

As we move into spring and the warmer weather there will be plenty of weeding work to be done to keep the privet that continues to evade the native bush in places under control.

Wasp Control

With the arrival of warmer weather the wasp population at PMM will start to emerge. A new company in New Zealand called Merchanto, produce a product called **Vespex** which has been very effective in reducing wasp populations in the South Island. It would be great if we could apply this at PMM. To do this we need someone to be registered to manage the baiting. **Do we have a volunteer willing to become a registered user and applicator of Vespex?** It will look great on your CV! Please see the website below for further information about how to become a registered user and applicator.

https://www.merchanto.com/vespex_faq.html#g4

Any volunteers? If you are interested please contact me asap.

A big thank you to Warwick and all of the Friends who have helped out at PMM this month. Let's hope for more sunshine and warmer days, to allow the ground at PMM to dry out, and for lots of weeding and track maintenance work to be undertaken. Looking forward to seeing people at the **next working bee on the 16th of September.**

Kind regards

Kate

Future Working Bee Dates for 2017

- **16th September**
- **21st of October**
- **18th of November**
- **16th of December**