

Friends of PMM Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

C/o Guardian Trust ■ PO Box 1375 ■ Hamilton

Dear Friends

Recent PMM Activities

NZPCN Award & the Importance of Preventing Kauri Dieback Disease

The kauri boardwalk and NZPCN award that the Friends won and the importance of preventing kauri dieback disease spreading continues to be recognised in various media publications. There is a wonderful article featuring our esteemed chairman Warwick in Waikato Unwrapped about the hard work that was done by volunteers to construct the boardwalk at Pukemokemoke- which means hill standing alone. Waikato Unwrapped is an online newsletter produced by Waikato Regional Council which describes 10 environmental projects, in order to promote the work the Council is supporting and as a way to encourage people to consider volunteering to help.

<http://www.waikatounwrapped.nz/hill-standing-alone>

There is also a media release on the Regional Council website which mentions the great work being done with schools, such as Rototuna Junior High School to promote the protect kauri message.

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/whats-happening/news/media-releases/waikato-communities-take-action-to-protect-kauri/>

The following article appeared in the No 8 Network newsletter.

<http://www.number8network.co.nz/2017/12/05/national-award-for-pukemokemoke/>

Wasp Control

Marlin has become a registered applicator and user of Vespex, the bait that will be used to control the wasp population and is making great progress with planning how to carry out the operation at PMM. Thank you Marlin we really appreciate your time and effort.

Vespex has been developed specifically to kill *Vespula* wasp species (yellow jackets). Vespex is of very low risk to people and dogs. Wasps need protein to feed their growing larvae in summer and will forage for high quality protein sources such as insects and honeydew to take back to the nest. The bait is an edible protein that is highly attractive to wasps and contains a strong but slow acting insecticide. The bait stations can be attached to trees and posts, wasps will then gather the bait from the bait station and carry it back to the nest. The bait will be shared among the wasp colony, resulting in the whole nest being destroyed.



Notes from the Chairman

The year has been quite remarkable, starting with the walkway, the moving of the container and setting up a workshop /garage within. The summer wasp plague. The winter flooding which covered the car park on six occasions, closing of the tracks, the environmental award to Friends of Pukemokemoke, planting the last of the rimu, and successful weeding and track repair. All this has been expedited by the new area managers, Noel, Jan, Mark, Kate, Paul and Jack. You guys make a great team and it all bodes well for the future of PMM.

Just a note about the Sickle award. This was first awarded to a young enthusiastic volunteer who has gone off to University, and this year again to one of our loyal and amazingly helpful young helpers. Very well done Ashleigh and also to her mentor Gina who enthusiastically manages the Ranger pack. We value all that good work and are so pleased to be part of it.

Looking forward to another productive year when I can further hand over the reins to younger hands and minds.

Warwick



December Working Bee

It was a beautiful sunny day out at PMM for the working bee on the 16th of December, with about 20 Friends attending. More bags of gravel were taken up the track and a new culvert was put in. Weeding was undertaken around the rimu trees that were planted earlier in the year and on the manuka and kanuka flats to release the native trees of convolvulus and other weeds.

At afternoon tea Warwick thanked the Friends for their hard work over the year and spoke about what a difference has been made to the reserve over the last 20 years, now that the Friends of Pukemokemoke are maintaining, protecting and looking after this beautiful piece of native bush.



Phil Thompson spoke about pest control and monitoring in the reserve. There was a zero result again in 2017 which indicates that pest levels are lower than 5%. Phil spoke about the possibility of introducing new species into the reserve in the future such as robin, mahoenui giant weta and weka. Weka could be introduced into the remnant area of native trees to the east of the reserve, near the car park. Weka (also known as Maori hen or Wood hen) is a brown flightless bird that is under threat in New Zealand.

David (Joe) Lloyd thanked everyone for all their efforts and hard work, and said that the late David Johnstone would be very happy with the progress and transformation of the area of land into a beautiful native bush reserve that is used by so many people. Joe said there is great long-term thing happening at PMM with all the volunteer work being done by the Friends.

Jan presented Ashleigh with the “Order of the Sickle” for being the PMM volunteer of the year. The “Order of the Sickle” was last awarded to the late Alan Leadley in 2014.



Thank you to all of those who attended the December working bee and contributed in varying ways. It was a great end of year celebration.

Thank you to all the Friends for helping to protect, maintain and enhance PMM in 2017. Wishing everyone a happy and safe new year! **The next working bee will be held on the 20th of January 2018.**

Please hit the reply to all button to continue the conversation and suggest new approaches to enhance the reserve.

Kind regards
Kate

Future Working Bee Dates

- **Saturday 20th January**
- **Saturday 17th February**
- **Saturday 17th March**
- **Saturday 21st April**