



# The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

Dear Friends and Supporters.

2021 has been a big year at Pukemokemoke. With new plantings, extension of the boardwalk and now the expansion of the carpark

The biggest event though, is the well-deserved retirement of Warwick Silvester after sixteen years as Chairman of the Trust administering the Bush Reserve.

It has been his energy, drive and passion for the Bush that has guided the development of the area into the jewel it has become.

The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust was formed in 1994, as a gift from David Johnstone to the people of New Zealand.

The trustees believe that with our last push to complete the forementioned projects, the bulk of the heavy lifting will be completed and the vision of a gift for the people of New Zealand will be achieved.

It would be nice to think we can sit back and let the trees and the summit views do the talking. However, there will always be ongoing administration and a need for careful maintenance into the future. But we can turn the page on the major projects and look back with pride at the achievement of the Trust, the Trustees and the Friends delivering this outstanding remnant of native bush to the people of New Zealand.

## **An overview of our current projects:**

**Plantings-** 2021 was an extraordinary step in our goal to revive this slice of paradise to its former glory with over 1115 trees planted this year. Additionally, it is heartwarming to see the survival of many of our larger rimu, kahikatea, pukatea and matai trees amongst the manuka cover. A big thankyou to Jeremy for his involvement and input into this integral part of the Bush restoration. Funding from Waikato District Council's Conservative Fund enables us to purchase the plants to move forward in Pukemokemoke's journey.

**Boardwalk-** Throughout the year Noel has led this construction project, targeting areas where track degradation and the protection of tree roots is paramount for the survival of trees. There is still much to be done on this front as grants from Awarua Trust, and ANZ Staff Foundation, has enabled us to purchase the resources to conduct the extension of the boardwalk. However, a few more volunteers at Noel's working bees would be gladly appreciated and would help move this project along into the future

**Carpark-** This project that has come to fruition firstly by a grant from the WEL Energy Trust which gave us the confidence to proceed. Secondly the generosity of the following individuals and firms that have donated or generously discounted their services:

Jim Anniss, the adjoining land owner who has donated the land.

CKL who have provided engineering, technical support and surveying

Stevenson Quarries who provided the metal and cartage

Paul Steiner Contracting for formation of the carpark surface

Bruce Leslie for Fencing

## **Thanks**

Firstly, to all the volunteers who have faithfully joined in the working bees. Jeremy's and Noel's input has already been mentioned but we would also like to convey our thanks to Nick for keeping the toilets neat and tidy, and to Linda for her administration of our "Friends". Others of you have also operated the tractor and topper for mowing the grass. For some months the tractor has been out of commission but at this stage, a replacement has not been secured.

Thank you to all of those who have made donations. A shout out to Bootleg Brewery for their donation. Warwick dropped in at their Matangi factory and highly recommends their craft beers. The Greenlea Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Educational Fund that we are setting up to promote environmental education in junior schools. Schools would be invited to write proposals for environmental education and apply for funds to support their work. This could be the hire of a bus, lab materials, books or videos etc. Further support was received by way of a donation of \$1,000 from Craig Investment Partners to be used as the trustees see fit.

Please consider and support the businesses that have been mentioned in this newsletter if you are requiring the special expertise that they provide.

Lastly with Warwick's resignation there is a trustee vacancy. We are asking for expressions of interest from people who support the visions of David Johnstone. To manage the Reserve for the enjoyment of the public, and to showcase methods of Forest enhancement, restoration and management in the Waikato.

**Wishing You all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

