

Friends of PMM Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

Dear Friends

After being delayed a week due to bad weather the November Working Bee involved a small but dedicated group of volunteers.



The new track along the fence line by the summit was continued and the black box was carried up to the top from the junction – no mean feat! The new signs advising of security cameras were also put up, hopefully out of reach of graffiti artists and others....
Great to see Jan there!

Below please see an end of year message to everyone from Harpal.

Just to let you know there will not be a working bee in December or January. All going well the next working bee will be on the 17th February 2024.

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Chairperson's Annual Report for the year 2023

This year has been dominated by the weather. Cyclone Hale and Gabrielle had their effect on Pukemokemoke with wind fall and flooding. The car park had been flooded numerous times this year and has held up remarkably well. This is testament to the car park construction team, well done.

Tree fall has been cleared by various people over the year, and a big thank you to you all.

The tracks have held up well with the inclement weather and also the increase in foot traffic.

There is work commencing on the north eastern aspect of the track network i.e. summit along fence line and into the bush. This is a very treacherous track in winter - Tauhei slippery clay.

Our stalwart Noel Sandford, the driving force of the track construction, has unfortunately left us. He gave us a quick lesson on track building during our last working bee. There will be a push to get this track constructed early 2024, so keep an eye out for working bee dates and come along and learn how to construct a track whilst having a good time. I have appreciated this immensely and when walking other tracks can appreciate the effort that has gone into construction.

We had the generosity of various business groups who donated their time to help us in track construction, metal cartage, weeding to name a few. We are open to more business/groups coming out to donate their time and skills. They take home an appreciation of the bush and how something like Pukemokemoke survives with voluntary help.

Plantings have gone exceptionally well, although delayed by the big wet. Jeremy, horticulture expert, with his enthusiasm has planted over 3000 plants! He is already getting next seasons plantings sorted. The bush on the river flats looks amazing due to all his efforts. If anybody would like to adopt some plants and nurture them to a reasonable size, Jeremy is willing to accommodate this for you. Drop a line through the website.

Talking about the website, this has been a great asset to Pukemokemoke and a big shout out to Gina and Chris for keeping everyone updated.

The Education Fund has completed its first year and the recipients have had an extremely positive experience. A taste of their experiences are shared on the website. Applicants for 2024 are being processed.

Now, some not so good news - Pukemokemoke had a burglary where the container was broken in to and tools taken and the tractor damaged. On hearing this disturbing news, the Friends of Pukemokemoke donated funds and replacement tools. We are eternally grateful to you and it shows there are many decent people in our community.

Finally, I would personally like to thank you all for your hard work supporting Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve. If we did not have people like you this place would not be the gem that it is today.

Enjoy Christmas with family and Friends. Stay Safe.

Hoping to see you in 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2024

Harpal Singh-Thandi

Chairperson Pukemokemoke