

Friends of PMM Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025



**The David Johnstone
Pukemokemoke Bush Trust**



Keeping Agriculture Moving



As usual the year has flown by and here we are – the last Newsletter of 2025. Such a lot has happened this year at Pukemokemoke.... There has been a long standing lease agreement between George and Pani Hopa and Pukemokemoke, that the carpark land owned by the Hopa's was leased by Pukemokemoke and a strip of land up the driveway owned by Pukemokemoke was leased by the Hopa's. A boundary relocation has now been completed. Kevin has been working hard co-ordinating this with CKL surveyors and Allen Needham Solicitors. Thanks to WEL Energy Trust for their grant of \$15000 to cover most of the costs associated with this as well as Allen Needham who have done the legal work pro bono and Adam Musa of CKL Surveyors who has provided some of the input free of charge.

We would also like to thank Stevensons quarry for their support in mynah control and for providing metal for our tracks. Many thanks to Nick for looking after the toilets and providing all the necessary supplies - this is very much appreciated.

We decided to have our last working bee on 13th December which was a bit risky since it is a busy time of year. Thanks to the four people that attended and for your hard work dealing with privet. Since the last newsletter working bees have concentrated on the ongoing battle with privet except in November when it was necessary to spend the time tidying up after the latest bout of vandalism – very frustrating!

On a positive note Harpal presented Chris Biddulph with the Order of the Sickle (see Harpal's message below).

Some photos of recent working bees....as you will see in a couple of photos from the latest one volunteers are wearing the new hi viz vests kindly sponsored by Powerco who have awarded a \$2500 grant the balance of which is yet to be spent.

As Harpal mentions Jeremy has put a huge amount of work into Pukemokemoke organizing working bees, plantings, weed control, track work etc etc words cannot express how much he is appreciated!



On the 7th December a large group from the Auckland Natural History Walking Club visited Pukemokemoke and Zealong for their Christmas outing. Joe Lloyd (a trustee) gave a talk about the Reserve and then accompanied them to the summit.



Looking forward to next year - on the 27th February Cara has organized a Bat Evening which will include the opportunity to hear all about pekapeka (long tailed bats) and get a chance to spot one. Details to follow on how to book a free ticket.

Finally we would like to thank Mitre 10 in advance for sponsoring the renovation of our lookout next year. This is a major project and we are most grateful for their assistance providing both the materials and manpower to carry out this essential project.

A message from our Chairperson Harpal.....

Pukemokemoke End of Year Report

It is that time of year again. 2025 has flown by....

Busy times at the Reserve- planting over 1000 plants over 2 intensive working bees. Many thanks to Jeremy Jackson for all his preparatory efforts prior to the days. Holes were dug, stakes laid out, plants and seedlings were brought in. A good turnout of Friends for the plantings on the days- many hands make light work. Weather was inclement but the plants got in to the ground.

General maintenance in the Reserve continues. Help from various groups has been gratefully received.

On a not so good note, destruction in the bush has occurred on a number of occasions and is requiring remedial work. This is very disappointing as it has an impact on the bush and the users of the Reserve.

On a happier note, our Volunteer of the year Chris Biddulph was awarded the Sickie. Chris turns up to most working bees with "Friends" he has made with his other volunteering endeavours. He helps with the website and also the educational fund. Well done Chris and a very well deserved award. Keep up the great work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Trustees for all of their hard work and most of all, The Friends of Pukemokemoke for donating your time and energy to the working bees.

Have an enjoyable Festive season with family and friends, and I am hoping to see you again in 2026 energised and ready for another great year.

Nga mihi nui
Harpal Singh Thandi Chairperson Pukemokemoke

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

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. Thanks to Nick Whitten, Cara Carter, Sandra Turner and others for supplying photos.



Our next working bee will be on the 21st February 2026, please refer to website for updates.