

Friends of PMM Newsletter

JANUARY 2018



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

C/o Guardian Trust ■ PO Box 1375 ■ Hamilton

Dear Friends

Recent PMM Activities

A few days of stormy weather in mid January resulted in a lot of fallen trees and branches at PMM and damage to the picnic shelter. Thanks to Mark1 for doing such a fantastic job of cleaning up.

Warwick called an extra working bee on the 15th of January asking for volunteers to help rebuild the picnic shelter.

The call for helpers appeared in the following article in the Piako Post newspaper on the 17th of January. Thank you Katrina Tanirau it's wonderful to see the activities of the friends and working bees at PMM being promoted locally.

<https://www.pressreader.com/new-zealand/piako-post/20180117/281578061070780>

I've already written about the great things achieved at the working bee on the 15th in the previous newsletter, but thank you again to those of you who gave up your time to lend a hand.

Jan is meeting with DOC to discuss the possibility of Tomtits being introduced to PMM. Tomtits are small birds with a large head and short beak and tail. There are five subspecies of tomtits in NZ, each subspecies inhabits a different island: North Island, South Island, the Chatham Islands, the Snares Islands and the Auckland Islands. The male North Island tomtit is black and white and the female is brown and white.



Rototuna JHS Visiting PMM in February

As Warwick has mentioned, Rototuna Junior High School students will be at PMM for four days in February to help with maintenance activities. **The dates are February 7th, 9th, 12th and 16th. There will be a morning group at 9.30-11.30am and an afternoon group at 12.30-2.30pm on each day.** These visits are part of the student's community service programme. It's wonderful to have PMM benefit from the enthusiasm and commitment of these children and it will be a great learning experience for them, as well as us.

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to help supervise sessions. If you're keen to be a part of these visits just add your name to the table, which lists all the sessions in Warwick's latest email.

January Working Bee

It was a beautiful sunny day out at PMM for the monthly working bee on the 20th of January, which was attended by 16 Friends. Harpal, Harjeet and Tom did a great job painting the picnic shelter. It looks fantastic. The picnic shelter was donated to PMM in 2009 by the Des Forges family in memory of Brooke Des Forges, who was the first chairman of the David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Trust.



Chris and Nick carted gravel up the loop track to the end of the kauri boardwalk where new steps were constructed last year and laid gravel on the steps. This should be a big help in preventing this part of the track becoming muddy and slippery in winter.

Weeding of convolvulus and other weeds was undertaken by Paul, Kate B, Harprem, Eli, Nick and Georgina to release the native trees on the manuka and kanuka flats. Jack, Jan, Eli and Georgina also cut down privet trees and painted the stumps with poison. Thanks also to Vitus and Lew.

A big thank you to everyone that attended the January working bee. Your hard work in the hot weather, help maintaining and clearing the tracks, and weeding/destroying of the convolvulus and privet is as always greatly appreciated.



The next working bee will be held on the 17th of February at 1pm.

Please hit the reply to all button to continue the conversation and suggest new approaches to enhance the reserve. **We'd love to get some more feedback from you.**

Kind regards
Kate

Future Working Bee Dates

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