



Friends of PMM Newsletter

JULY 2017

Recent PMM Events

On Friday the 30th of June students from Rototuna Junior High School visited the bush reserve and with the help of Warwick Silvester and Jan Doran planted 60 rimu trees in the bush beside the kauri walkway and also finished off the metal strips on the walkway.



The Kauri Boardwalk



Rimu Trees

July Working Bee

The working bee on Saturday the 15th of July was attended by 17 Friends. Privet and blackberry clearing was undertaken as well as track maintenance activities. Step nosings were fixed in place, old steps removed and new steps built. Great to have had another productive working bee!

A big thank you to all those Friends that attended the working bee, as always your help is greatly appreciated and the reserve is a better place for everyone to enjoy because of your hard work.

PMM Monthly Focus: Privet- The Facts

At a recent working bee one of the Friends asked what privet looked like so I thought it was perhaps timely to share a bit of information about this pest plant.

There are four species of privet found within New Zealand. Tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) are the species most commonly found in PMM Bush Reserve. Privet is an environmental pest, capable of rapidly invading forest margins and crowding out canopy trees in native bush areas.

Both tree privet and Chinese privet have small creamy white flowers that appear in spring and summer and dark purple/black coloured berries that are eaten and widely dispersed by birds. Chinese privet is an evergreen shrub/small tree with dull green oval shaped leaves with wavy margins. Tree privet is a small to large evergreen tree that can grow up to 15 metres in height with glossy green leaves. Both species of privet are tolerant of drought, cold and rain, fast growing and rapidly form tall dense stands.



Chinese Privet



Tree Privet



To control privet small plants can simply be pulled out of the ground, making sure the entire root system is removed so the plant does not regrow. For larger plants if the stump is not removed it should be treated with a herbicide to ensure it doesn't regrow. Spraying is also an option for controlling privet and is best done in fine weather and during privet's active growing season (spring to autumn).

Privet's leaves and berries are poisonous to animals and people. Pollen from the flowers of privet can cause allergies in some people, including asthma and hay fever.

Remember that if you're out at Pukemokemoke you don't need to wait for a working bee to pull out the smaller privet plants, feel free to do it anytime! All efforts are greatly appreciated and regular weeding is needed to stay on top of this pest plant.

