

# Friends of PMM Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024



**The David Johnstone  
Pukemokemoke Bush Trust**



Dear Friends

Sorry there has not been a newsletter sent out for a while. I can't believe it is nearly December already!

Since the last newsletter in June we had to cancel our July and August working bees due to bad weather. We have had more luck in the subsequent months.

On August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> a team of 2 tutors and 12 students from Wintec arboriculture course spent the first day pruning the dead wood and lower branches off trees along the track to the log haulers site.

The next day they started on the trees obstructing the views from the lookout. Some trees will be retained in their natural state and the others trimmed to make corridors of vision.

They will be spending another 2 days later in the year to complete the project.

The DJPBT are extremely fortunate that they are donating their technical knowledge and time to do this necessary work.



We had a successful working bee in September. For once the weather played ball! One group went up the main walkway and laid wire netting on the boardwalk while the second group (which included Gina and her Rangers) planted one hundred nikau palms on the loop track above the log haulers site. It was great to welcome some new members and we are very grateful for their hard work.



In October prior to the start of our working bee Jeremy Jackson was presented the Order of the Sickle by our chairperson Harpal Singh-Thandi. This is awarded every year to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to Pukemokemoke. As you are probably aware Jeremy is a volunteer who lives in Hamilton and travels out to



Pukemokemoke nearly every day doing a huge amount of work. He collects and grows seedlings to be planted in the future, he picks up plants from various organisations and plans all the plantings. He upgrades tracks and plans all the working bees. We are all extremely grateful to him for his dedication to Pukemokemoke Reserve.

After the presentation we had a very successful working bee with some new volunteers joining us. One group went up the main walkway and continued to lay wire netting on the boardwalk while the second group spent their time doing privet control. Privet is an extremely invasive weed and is one of the most prolific so it is very important to keep control of it.



Our November Working Bee involved the same work as the previous one i.e. continuing laying wire netting and privet control as you can see in photos below.



Below please see an end of year message to everyone from Harpal our Chairperson. As you will see she mentions the website team, one of whom we would especially like to thank - Chris Biddulph - not only for everything he does keeping it up to date and secure but also for all the promoting he does recruiting new Friends to our group and getting them along to the working bees. He has also been instrumental in helping us create signs with QR codes, you may have seen them recently at Pukemokemoke. These enable people to link up directly with the donation page on our website.

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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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

## A message from Harpal

It seems as though I was writing this summary only the other day, how fast 2024 has gone.

Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve looks picture perfect. The bush is lush with new growth and bird life is abundant. This is all thanks to the hard work of all of you- Volunteers. I appreciate how much of your valuable time you donate to the Reserve.

Yet again the weather played a major part over the year. The wet caused numerous cancellations of working bees. A mini tornado whipped up the South Western side of the Maunga causing tree fall, some boardwalk damage which was repaired promptly. Around 3000 plants were planted. Last year's plants have had a great strike rate due to the advantageous summer and autumn weather conditions.

A drive to remove more of the privet is our next maintenance project. This is an arduous task but with many hands and plugging away at it, we will be able to make a difference. A new gel product is been used to paint on the cut stems.

A group of around 50 WEL Energy employees came for a morning working bee in March. They made a substantial impact on the track along the Eastern boundary. They carried metal to fill in the track as they were building it. Throughout the year other groups have come for which we are very appreciative, and we hope to see them again.

The board walks have had the plastic mesh removed and replaced with wire mesh- less slippery. New board walk is having wire mesh applied. Thank you to the team for their effort as it is no mean feat having to carry a roll of wire mesh up to the sites.

The Education Fund has blossomed. On the website you can see how the schools have benefited from this Fund.

Thank you to the team who have taken ownership of the website - [www.pukemokemoke.nz](http://www.pukemokemoke.nz) This website is updated regularly with photos, news of upcoming events, working bees and more.

Finally, I would personally like all of you to accept this as a token of my appreciation of all the hard work you volunteers put into Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve. The Reserve would not be such an icon in the Waikato without your efforts.

Have a safe and restful holiday period. Enjoy time with whanau and friends. I hope to see you in 2025.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Harpal Singh-Thandi  
Chairperson Pukemokemoke Bush Trust