

Friends of PMM Newsletter

OCTOBER 2017



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

C/o Guardian Trust ■ PO Box 1375 ■ Hamilton

Dear Friends

A Note from the Chairman- October Working Bee

Today, the 28th October 2017, I thought the working bee would be totally unsubscribed. It started raining early in the morning and didn't stop all day. But no, we had the most rewarding day, wet yes! but full of good humour and camaraderie. It started with Noel delivering two full trailer loads of gravel from the quarry. No small feat in the rain and mud. Then I waited with some anticipation to see how many might arrive in the persistent rain. First was Kate 1 then Regina and Petrina, then Linda, Corry and Chris, Kate 2 and Paul, all eager to get stuck in, I could not dissuade them.

The job of the day, given it was too wet to spray, was to bag up and carry track gravel for track repairs. Into it with a will we all went, and we were fortunate that Chris could show us how to load the bags of metal onto our backs. After a couple of hours we had transported well over half a tonne of metal to the very muddy area near the glow worm stream. We all agreed that it was, if not fun, at least very satisfying to know we had achieved a little more towards the development of the bush and its facilities. I have to say it was a joy to work with such a willing and committed group in such trying circumstances both underfoot and from above. The picture below tells the story, all smiling to order.



A few more messages from me: Firstly at the board meeting of trustees of the Bush Trust I indicated I would retire from chair of the board during the next year. Also during discussion today I reiterated this and indicated I would no longer be managing the day to day activities of the friends, and shared the view that we should be considering a new manager.

The **Friends of Pukemokemoke** having won the Conservation Network prize of the year for restoration have been invited to the prize giving in Hokitika in November. I am unable to go and Paul has indicated he is able to represent us there, Thank you Paul you will do us proud, especially as you are doing such a great job on the plant identification key.

Finally I am off to Bhutan on Monday and I invite you to Google the TED talk on *TED Bhutan YouTube* and listen to Tshering Tobgay, the Bhutanese PM give a most inspiring talk from a tiny country, a little bit like NZ, but with an incredible vision of Gross National Happiness, not GDP and the only country with a negative Carbon balance.

No apologies for the length of this message it was such a great day amongst fabulous friends, and a special message to Petrina who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh Hillary award. You did amazing work today we are so pleased to have you as one of the team.

Warwick

Recent PMM Activities

Mark continues to do great work maintaining the reserve, including drainage work which has been a big help given the recent floods. Below is a photo of the two 1000 litre water tanks recently acquired by Mark to collect water for spraying, thanks to the addition of the roof and spouting on the container. **The next working bee is on Saturday the 18th of November.** Hopefully there will be plenty of sunshine and we can make use of the roof water to give the weeds a good spraying!



Finally a big thank you again to all those who attended the October working bee, your hard work and enthusiasm in the wet weather was very much appreciated. We certainly got a good workout carrying those gravel bags up the track! 😊 Look forward to catching up with people at next month's working bee.

Kind regards
Kate