

Friends of PMM Newsletter

OCTOBER 2018



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust

C/o Perpetual Guardian Trust ■ PO Box 1375 ■ Hamilton

Dear Friends

Notes from the Chairman of the PMM Trust,

Three exciting things happening at the bush. **Firstly**, in conversation with Ben Wolfe, Ecological planner at Waikato District Council, we learned that Landcare was releasing a biological control agent for privet GREAT NEWS. Of even greater news Ben volunteered to share some of their soon arriving inoculum of bugs. So sometime this month we will have a release of the lace bug and hopefully watch it slowly work its way into the privet population.

Here is a brief summary from Landcare web site.

*There are two privet species that are significant weeds in New Zealand. Both are native to China, and were introduced as ornamentals and as hedging plants. The control agent the privet lace bug *Leptophya hospita* will attack both. Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) was first recorded in the wild in New Zealand in 1950, but is now present from Nelson northwards. It grows to about 5m tall. It is shade-tolerant and readily invades sensitive areas such as bush remnants, forest margins and riparian areas. Local research indicates that the presence of Chinese privet reduces biodiversity in invaded areas. Tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) grows to 10 m tall and was first recorded as naturalised in 1958. It is present from West Coast northwards. It can also grow under, and displace native vegetation (see image). Both species flower prolifically in spring and the scent of the flowers from both species is thought to aggravate allergies. Both species are dispersed when birds eat the fruits.*



Secondly, we are now in throes of preparing for the arrival of the new boot wash station. We anticipate its arrival later this month or early December. Jack and Noel have “volunteered” to manage the construction and implementation of the device. It will look a bit like this and will be self-contained requiring little maintenance. Some of you will have seen this in operation at the beginning of the kauri track at Hakarimata.

Thirdly, We have been developing a five year plan of development that involves the drive, parking, tracks, planting, toilets and a possible contestable fund for schools to do conservation projects in collaboration with the reserve. We are having discussions with interested parties to refine our plans and would welcome feed back from our volunteers. I don't want to clog your inboxes with too much material but if you'd like to see the current plan please respond to this to me at silvester@hnpl.net and I will send a copy for you to review and for you to send back ideas of how we might proceed.

Warwick

October Working Bee



A small turn out last month but a lot was done. All the bags were filled with gravel and collected at the bottom of the track. A lot of that work was done by Gina and her happy band of rangers who are amongst our most regular achievers at the working bees. Thank you Linda for the notice which encourage walkers to carry bags up the track.

The result of that encouragement, photographed by Linda, is that a number of bags do actually reach the top and that is a great inspiration to our track workers. There must be as many as 60 bags of metal strung out along the track and on the summit.



And while all that was going on Paul was taking lessons in handling the new Kubota tractor, while at the same time showing Warwick just where to go!

Next working bee is 17th November. There will be more track work now that the gravel is up there. Also demolition of the old boot wash station and site preparation for the new one. Also, more planting as we have good manuka cover on the flats suitable for tree species.

PS We have a vacancy for someone to help with doing the Newsletters. This would be to work with Linda who maintains our email mail out list. An ideal job for someone with some computer skills, but training would be given.

PPS please respond if you'd like to see the five year plan and contribute to developing that some more.

See you on the 17th
Warwick

Thank you also to all the Friends who attended the most recent working bee at PMM

The next working bee is coming up on the 17th of November 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.**

Future Working Bee Dates

- **Saturday 17th November**
- **Saturday 15th December**