

# Friends of PMM Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025



**The David Johnstone  
Pukemokemoke Bush Trust**



Sorry it has been such a long time since our last newsletter, we have had a few events happen at Pukemokemoke since then.....

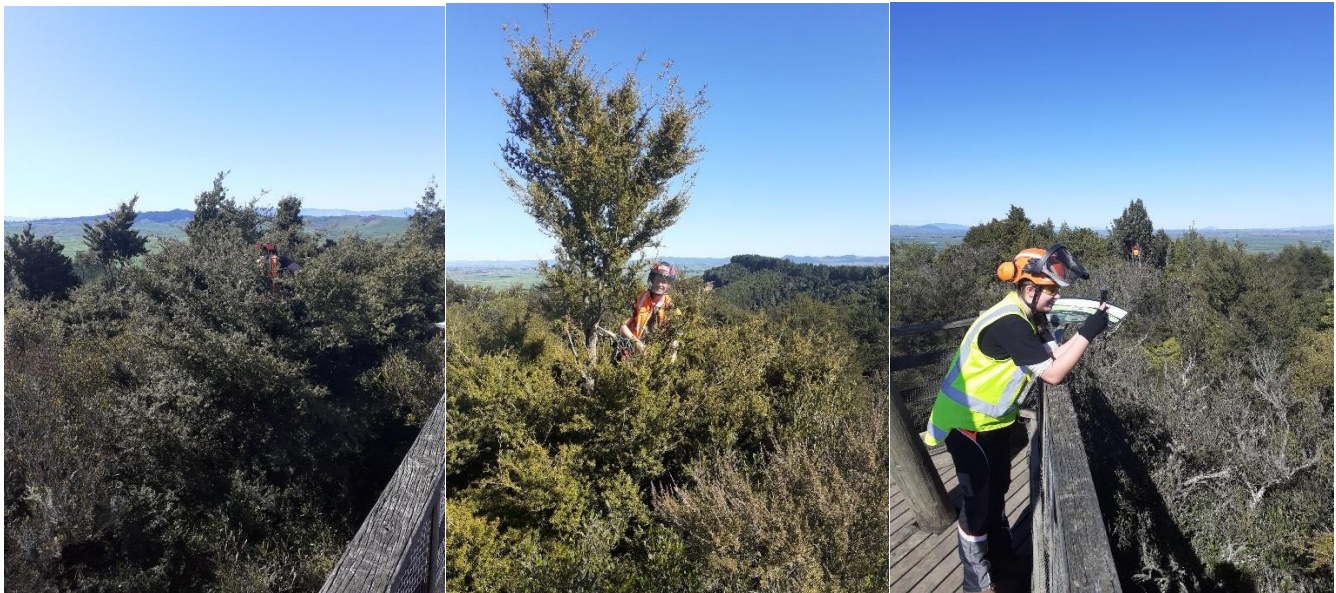
In March it was the location for the Climb for Youth Fundraiser. Climb for Youth raises funds for the Graeme Dingle Foundation who deliver programmes of positive youth development by empowering young people to overcome life's obstacles. It was great that we could support this fantastic initiative. This unique fundraising event involved walking and running the Pukemokemoke Loop Track as many times as the sponsored participants could do in 4 hours. George Hopa, the local Kaumatua, opened the day with a karakia.





On 13<sup>th</sup> May one of our Friends, Martin Pizzini, provided his equipment to add a layer of metal on the track from the Log Haulers site to the Orini Downs boundary. Thank you very much Martin for the work you have done to keep up the repairs and maintenance on this track.

On 13<sup>th</sup> August the Wintec Arboriculture team, under the tuition of Andrew Harrison, came out to continue the project of protecting the views from the lookout by removing and trimming trees to improve views from the lookout. Rather than cutting all trees to a height that enables 360 degrees of vision, they are judiciously working to create corridors of vision. This is an on-going project that relies on the expertise of the Wintec team and we thank them for providing their time voluntarily.





On 10<sup>th</sup> September Ric Balfour who works for EcoQuest brought a group of 22 US students to Pukemokemoke for a field exercise to introduce them to NZ native forest ecology and plant identification. Jeremy kindly introduced them to Pukemokemoke and helped identify the plants and trees. During the day they also carried some sacks of gravel down the track.



Since our last newsletter we have had 5 successful working bees at the reserve. We had a great turnout in June, July and August which meant that a grand total of over 3000 plants were planted. Jeremy did an outstanding job organizing the plantings and growing a lot of the plants to be planted. Apart from organizing the plants we purchase he also spends a long time sourcing seedlings and growing them in pots to be planted at the reserve. We are extremely grateful to him for his hard work doing this - it makes a huge financial difference sourcing our own plants. This leads me to mention that Mitre 10 have kindly donated 9 bags of potting mix for future plantings.

Below please find an assortment of photos taken at the last few working bees. As always, we are very appreciative of everyone who took the time out of their busy lives to come along and help at Pukemokemoke. Thanks to Chris Biddulph for supplying the photos as well as promoting the working bees and Pukemokemoke to everyone he meets!









We encourage Friends to support our sponsors Giltrap AgriZone and those listed below should you need any of their professional services they provide. Without their support Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve would not be the great taonga that it is. Thanks also to all our Friends who support us at working bees, your hard work is much appreciated. Thanks to Kevin Swney, Chris Biddulph, Ric Balfour and others for supplying photos.



**Our next working bee will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025, please refer to website for updates.**