

Friends of PMM Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026



The David Johnstone Pukemokemoke Bush Trust



Keeping Agriculture Moving



Looking at our last newsletter 6 months ago (oops where did that time go?!) I said the clocks had changed and now here we are in daylight saving time again!

Pukemokemoke update

We were blessed with the continued good weather for our working bee last Saturday.

Our enthusiastic group of volunteers, which included an eight week old baby, helped to repopulate the sides of the track with seeds and about 800 native plants.

We were most grateful for everyone's help - the working bee was followed by afternoon tea where we all enjoyed the special arrangement of chocolates our generous supporter Chris supplied. A special treat!

Article and photos supplied.



ABOVE: Michelle and Steve. BELOW: Colleen.



ABOVE: Gina (front) and Eli. BELOW: Cara, Steve and Natalie.



ABOVE: Aleksandra and Lotta (adults) with Stanislaw, Emilia and baby Helena.



ABOVE: The Pukemokemoke volunteers gather on a fine day.



ABOVE: The Pukemokemoke volunteers gather on a fine day.

As you will see from this article that was published in the Morrinsville News we had a successful working bee in May....

Both our working bees in June and July were extremely well attended thanks in a large part to Chris's efforts!

As you will see from photos below the June plantings were in a pretty muddy area but we managed to get 1300 plants in the ground – a great effort!

In July we planted 800 plants along the sides of the track between the bridge and the log haulers site and thanks to the large number of volunteers who attended this was done in less than 2 hours.

In August we planted the sides of the track going from the log haulers site up to Kawakawa junction.

September's working bee concentrated on privet control – an ongoing challenge! The areas we will be concentrating on in the future will, once privet is removed be ready for planting next season.

JUNE WORKING BEE



We would like to acknowledge the photographers Chris Biddulph and Jimmy Kirk (Contempo Media) – thanks for taking the time to capture these moments and doing such a great job.

Many of our volunteers comment on how well organized our working bees are. This is totally due to Jeremy Jackson who spends so much time preparing the plants and making everything run so smoothly. We are eternally grateful to him for all his efforts. When we ask people to bring items such as spades, trowels, secateurs etc to working bees please do not be put off if you don't have these items if there are none spare there is always something that you can do without the tools!!

JULY WORKING BEE



AUGUST WORKING BEE



SEPTEMBER WORKING BEE



On Wednesday 16th September, 2 tutors and 11 students under the leadership of Yoan Willman from the Wintec Arboriculture Course spent the day continuing the project of protecting the views from the Lookout by removing and trimming trees to improve the views.

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.



The AGM of the Pukemokemoke Bush Trust was held on the 10th September. Below please find a copy of Harpal our Chairperson's report...

Chairperson's Annual Report for period 1st April 2025-31 March 2026

Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve has flourished with a favourable growing season - warm weather with rain over the summer period. The plantings, over the winter months, had a successful strike rate. But with the ideal growing conditions the weeds prospered as well. Working bees had only a few cancellations due to adverse weather. Predator count at the Reserve has been zero - a great result. Purchase of a tractor mounted chipper has helped tidy up branches and the mulch is used around the plantings providing compost and suppressing weeds. A special mention to Hansa Products Limited for providing a very good deal for the chipper. General repairs and maintenance in the Reserve is ongoing and with support from Friends of Pukemokemoke these tasks are made easier. The patronage of the Reserve by general Public, Preschools and Tauhei School's weekly visits, continues to grow. A donation of \$15000 from WEL Energy Trust has been welcomed and used to secure the car parking capacity. Greenlea Foundation Trust continues to donate very generously to the Pukemokemoke Bush Trust Education Fund. Challenges that schools have faced with curriculum changes has meant that the Education Fund has been off their radar but hoping they will be more receptive for the coming year. Raising funds has been challenging. The economic climate, cost of living, is having an impact. There is less disposable income so donations are usually the first to go. Also people volunteering time has been affected - cost of fuel. Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve is very thankful to the various Company's, Trusts, Foundations and Individual's for their ongoing support and donating their precious time. Any help no matter how big or small is always appreciated.

Harpal Singh-Thandi

Chairperson

You may or may not be aware that Pukemokemoke Bush Reserve is administered by the Pukemokemoke Bush Trust. There are 7 trustees – Harpal Singh-Thandi (chairperson), Kevin Swney (Secretary and Treasurer), Bob Pene, Des Hansen, Cara Carter and Linda Williams. Our longstanding trustee David (Joe) Lloyd resigned last meeting since he was moving up to Auckland. We are extremely grateful to Joe for everything he has done for Pukemokemoke - he was one of the inaugural trustees of the DJPBT and has given astute governance and stewardship over Pukemokemoke for over 32 years. We wish him well in his new location.

In our meeting which was held after the AGM Jeremy Jackson was appointed as our new trustee. Thanks Jeremy for all your involvement with Pukemokemoke and for joining the Board of Trustees.

As part of Jeremy's contribution to the Reserve he collects and grows young plants which, once they are a good size, are planted at our working bees. Since he uses a lot of potting mix for this we approached Dalton's who very generously have donated a cubic metre of potting mix every year. This is special potting mix for native plants and Jeremy has been very impressed with the results. We are most grateful to Dalton's for their contribution.

We encourage Friends to support our sponsors GiltrapAgriZone 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.



Our next working bee will be on the 17th October, please refer to website for updates.