



OWHAOKO
B&D LANDS TRUST

OWHAOKO B & D TRUST

Newsletter No. 1

Matariki - July 2019

Mihimihi

I te raumati – i te makariri kai i te hinu o te whenua!

In all seasons we are sustained by the food source of our lands!

Tihei Mauriora!

Tena koutou e te nui e te rahi i te wa nei o Matariki e Piataata ana mai ki runga ki to tatou whenua ko Owhaoko – Ko te pataka kai mo te iwi. Tena koutou, tena koutou, aa tena ra koutou katoa.

I wish to mihi to you all in this the season of Matariki and this being our first Matariki newsletter to our owners and beneficiaries.

I hope you find the contents interesting and don't hesitate to contact the Trust if you have any comments or questions.

Nga mihi mahana kia koutou katoa

Richard Steedman
Chairman

Whanau Sports Day 2018

Labour weekend in Taihape and the northern Mokai Patea rohe was abuzz once again for the annual whanau sports event.

There were competitor numbers of approximately 500+ and at least another 250+ supporters and whanau attended. Representatives were from three marae and nine whanau teams.

It was great to see whanau from throughout the country, travel home.

- to connect
- to participate
- to tautoko and
- to strengthen their links to this rohe.

Written by:

Barbara Ball



Great skills shown and a fun time was had by all.

Improving Communication

Owhaoko B & D Trust administers the following seven (7) land blocks:

Owhaoko B No.1B Owhaoko D No. 1 Owhaoko D No. 3 Owhaoko D No.4B

Owhaoko D No. 8B Part Owhaoko D7B Owhaoko B East

We are reviewing how we can improve communication and want to promote Owner Registrations. If you are an Owner, or know Owners who are in the blocks above, you can assist us to update our register by providing contact details. Registration gives you the opportunity to receive important Trust communications, hui and AGM notices. We encourage Owners and Beneficiaries to share the newsletter with their whanau.

Contact details for Owhaoko B & D Trust are set out below. You will find that the Owhaoko B&D Trust website has information about Owner Registration (look under the heading 'ABOUT'). Alternatively, email us your contact details and we will send you a Registration form to complete.

CONTACT DETAILS:

PHONE: 0800 274 374 EMAIL: info@owhaoko.co.nz WEBSITE: www.owhaoko.co.nz



Old Golden Hills Hut—Built 1925



New framing and cladding

Golden Hills Hut Restoration

The restoration of the Old Golden Hills Hut had been mooted many years ago by previous Trustees and up until two years ago when we decided that it was time to put a budget together and carry this 'Take' a little further, Doug Gartner started the ball rolling.

As in my Report to the owners at our last AGM in May 2019, work towards this milestone proceeded under the due care and attention of Murray Nichols and his band of volunteer carpenters and bushmen. Murray Nichols is a self-employed business person in the carpentry trade. He has a great passion for outdoor recreational habitats especially in Historical or Heritage Huts like our Golden Hills Hut. It has been through his enthusiasm, expertise and personality that enables him to bring along volunteer chippies and bushman to complete the restoration required on the Golden Hills Hut (GHH).

Thanks to Tony Orr and his Helisika pilots for flying the workers to and from Poronui Station to complete work on the Golden Hills Hut.

It has been an exciting journey thus far to see the results of this work steadily progressing. The photos shown herein are testament to this. (More photos will be available on our website in the near future).

I am pleased to have personal involvement in this project as my older brother Herbert was responsible for the foundation of the Golden Hills Airstrip many years ago.

Thanks again to Murray and to all those people he has been able to get donations and reduced prices from, for various materials.

Nga mihinui kia koutou katoa

Written by

Terry Steedman



Chimney re-instated



Rangitikei river at the southwest boundary of trust lands

Our Hikoi and Huts—Improving Owner Access to the Whenua

The kaupapa of “*out there doing it*” was a way of life for our ancestors before the era of colonisation, commoditisation, urbanisation and whanau not having to catch or grow their own food (‘KFC-isation’).

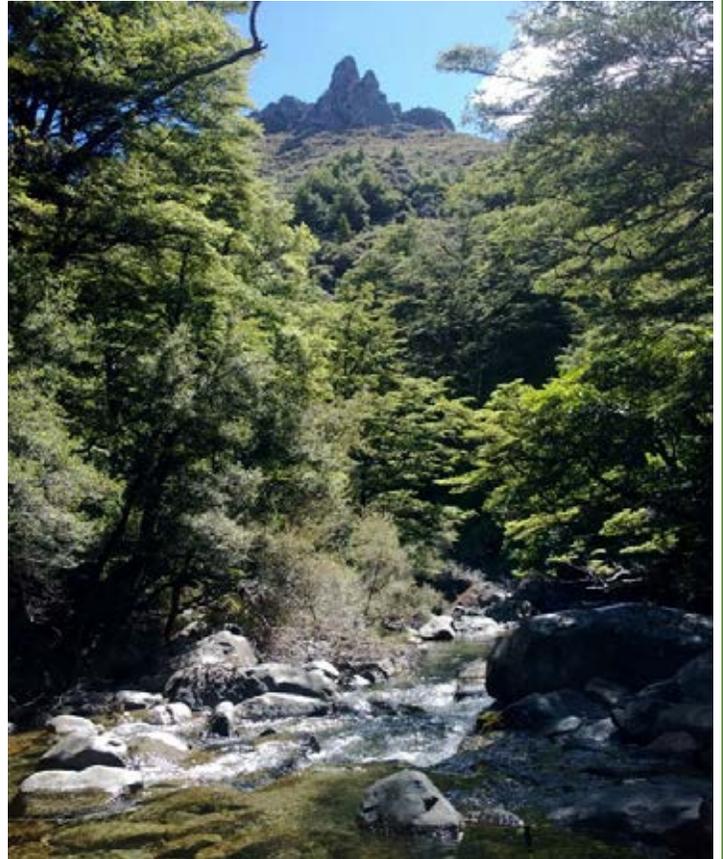
Increasing the range of opportunities for our owners to actively connect with their whenua is a key goal. Owhaoko is remote natural wilderness, so we aim to do this in a way that meets best practice outdoor safety, while being affordable for both Owners and the Trust.

Currently these opportunities include:

Annual Hikoi – a 3 day guided trek across trust lands each summer; main meals and tent accommodation are prepared in advance of arriving at each campsite.

Ngamahanga “Owners Whare” – hut accommodation and helicopter transport are provided at no cost for up to 10 bookings by owner parties at the Ngamahanga Owners block each year; and

Voucher System for Other Huts – hut accommodation is provided at no cost and helicopter transport at a discounted rate for up to 20 bookings by owner parties, to other huts on Trust lands each year.



Parties requesting to book huts should contain no more than 5 members and include a majority of members who are owners, or descendants of an owner, in Owhaoko B&D Trust. All parties are provided a health and safety induction with a Trust field officer prior to visiting Trust lands.

In considering applications for participating on the hikoi or booking huts, preference is given to parties with Owners or descendants who have not visited their Trust lands before.

(for more information about our Hikoi & Huts, please contact the Owhaoko B&D Trust office via email: info@owhaoko.co.nz or visit www.owhaoko.co.nz)

Written by:

Mark Ross

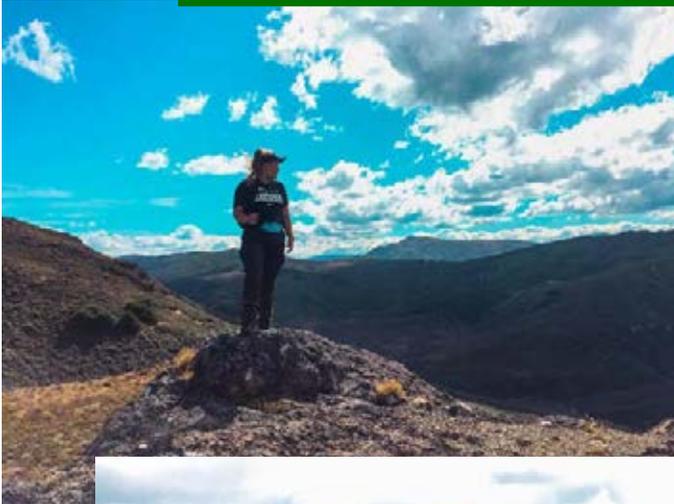
The Golden Hills Hut looks good during the Owners Hikoi
January 2019



Hikoi participants at the Ngamahanga Owners Hut



View of the New Golden Hills Hut looking toward Omarukoko



Photographs courtesy of Jade Wikaira

Watching Out for Wilding Pines

Our land is vulnerable to introduced wilding conifer trees which include pines, cedars, firs, cypress, larches, and spruces.

“Wilding conifer” is the general term for these type of invasive plants that spread across the landscape – self-sown and unwanted. They are a threat to natural biodiversity and land productivity and often invade tussock grasslands. These wilding trees can quickly grow into dense forest which could become costly to control.

The photos below were taken over 17 years from Mid Dome, Southland. They show how rapidly wilding conifers colonise the landscape when left unchecked. Once they form a closed canopy virtually all native plants are replaced because they cannot grow in deep shade. Also the quantity of water flowing from the catchment is reduced by more than 40% through water vapour released to the atmosphere through the leaves of the trees.



Image: Environment Southland

The Trust continues to carry out annual monitoring and eradication of wilding pines in association with relevant agencies. Our aim is to be part of the New Zealand wilding conifer management strategy to prevent the spread of wilding conifers to contain or eradicate areas of concern by 2030.

I am looking forward to taking up the challenge of understanding more of this environmental hazard on behalf of the Trust and attend the 2020 National Conference.

Written by

Ngaire Anne Kauika-Stevens

Introductory Bee Keeping Course



Owhaoko B & D Trust were pleased to be working with Westervelt Owhaoko Honey Ltd and Ruapehu REAP to offer an opportunity for interested whanau and individuals to take part in an ‘Introductory Bee Keeping Course’ in April 2019.



Wilding Pine in the Waingakia Valley

With the expertise of Westervelt’s Peter (PJ) Ferris as the course facilitator, the 17 participants were very pleased with what they had learnt both in class and out in the field. It was good to hear that the expectations of the course that each participant had at the start, had been met, and in some cases exceeded. Most learners were complete beginners.

The feedback from the Course participants was positive. When asked the question: What stood out for you on this Course? Replies were:

- Free sharing of knowledge and the potential for developing whanau land.
- Health & Safety
- The working of the Brood Chamber and caring of the bees.
- Honey bees are clean, intelligent, family orientated insects.
- Learning about the Queen Bee.
- The life cycle of bees and the different jobs each has within the hive. It’s amazing how they function.
- Everything was new to me so everything was amazing and interesting.
- Being hands-on at the Beehive site was the ultimate!
- The anatomy and science of Bees.
- The hospitality of staff and the food was excellent.
- PJ and Judy were awesome tutors. They made this Course interesting and exciting.

Watch out for new postings on Owhaoko B & D Trust’s website (www.owhaoko.co.nz) for updates regarding any future courses.

Westervelt Owhaoko Honey Limited Partnership

The first part of this article deals with our progress with mānuka honey production.

Although you will have heard that the last few mānuka honey harvest seasons have not been good almost across the whole country, we have been comparatively lucky in this regard with our harvests.

A major environmental characteristic of our whenua is that it is of high altitude with quite a cold climate compared to many other places in the country. This would logically seem to point to poorer harvests for us but in fact it leads to a later flowering of our mānuka and that later date is when our summer weather is more settled and our bees are able to have a more sustained harvest.

Even when our quantity is down this is more than made up for by quality.

In saying this the harvest results are coming in now for the 2019 harvest and the initial results seem to be again in-line with reports around the country – That is: the results have been variable not only within regions and districts but in our case even within valleys.

Over the last three seasons we can report the following:

Season	Total Hives	Total Harvest KGs	Trust Share of income
16/17	1,308	22,970	\$396,791
17/18	1,348	15,297	\$236,788
18/19	1,644	21,021	Not yet determined

For the 18/19 season we had an increase in hives and the harvest has increased. However, that harvest is still comparatively low on a per hive basis.

The second part of this article is on the 'Limited Partnership'

The past three years have been difficult for New Zealand bee keeping and honey companies. The effect of difficult environmental conditions and a challenging market are very evident in our most recent financial results. The fact that this situation is being experienced by most of the industry, does not

make it easier to accept, but it should make it more understandable.

Despite that the fundamentals of mānuka honey remain the same, mānuka is a unique product. There is very high international awareness of its properties and reduced production should fuel increased value.

We have a large amount of high quality mānuka honey in stock which is our backstop to the above situation, but what we have learnt however is that companies such as ours, will always be vulnerable unless we have more control over our own sales channels.

We are currently channelling all our energy to collate and consider the options available to us to improve this current situation.

On a brighter note our second Introductory Beekeeping Training Course was held in Taihape in April and was well attended. Participant evaluations showed it was very successful.

We also continue to enjoy good support from land owners and are able to harvest honey in many places throughout the country and especially in the Mōkai Pātea rohe with our hives on many of the Maori Land Trusts in Mōkai Pātea.

Watch this space for developments!

As was stated at our Meeting of Owners earlier this year, the Trust would rather be the determiner of its own destiny rather than a passive investor and while this brings some risks, good governance, management and operations can manage those risks.

Ka piki ka heke a ka piki ano I nga tārua rau o tatou whenua tupu.
Many are the rises and falls of the high ridgelines of our ancestral lands.

Written by

Richard Steedman