



OWHAOKO
B&D LANDS TRUST

Owners Hikoi & Wānanga in January 2017

The Trust is running its annual hikoi again for owners and their whanau, in particular rangatahi, to visit and walk the whenua. This will be the 3rd annual wānanga event and enables everyone to experience the beauty and nature of their whenua, learn the history of the land, and more about the future plans. The hikoi will take four days (14-17 January), and will include a reasonable amount of hiking (up to 7 hours a day). We will fly in by helicopter and stay in huts. Registration forms and info available at www.owhaoko.co.nz or to find out more, contact Te Rangi Hawira (email raukowhai@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 752 8801).

Honey Hives

In December 2014, a total of 544 beehives were flown onto Trust lands by helicopter. This was the first time beehives had been placed on the land. Just over 19 tonne of mānuka honey was extracted. Two beekeeper businesses placed 1230 beehives on the block for the 2015/16 season. The spring in 2015 was colder than normal, and that affected the yield of honey, with a total of 23 tonne harvested.

We're now planning for this season and expect between 1200 and 1300 beehives to be placed on the land. Net income from beehives placed on Trust land is now around three times that earned from hunting and fishing.



Environment

The Trust takes the responsibility of looking after its lands seriously. In the past year, initiatives included annual night-time surveys for the presence of Kiwi on the land, and development of a deer management strategy. This year, we will continue developing the deer management strategy, focus on weed control, and restoration of the old 'Golden Hills Shepherd's Hut'. This hut was built early last century when sheep were grazed throughout the Owhaoko lands and is now derelict.

AGM NOTICE

Our AGM will be held at Opaea Marae starting at 10.00am on Saturday 19 November. Hui details and our Annual Report will be issued closer to the time and will be available at www.owhaoko.co.nz.



Update contact details

The Trust would like to communicate with owners electronically. If you are registered as an owner, but have not submitted your contact details online, please visit www.owhaoko.co.nz/about/owners-and-registration and complete the simple form. If you know owners of the blocks administered by the Owhaoko B&D Trust, you can assist us by providing their contact details using the same form.

Ecotourism

The Trust continues to investigate extending walks to provide a 'Cabin-to-Cabin' experience. The target clients are high-end, which means that a guide will probably be required. Part of the extended walking investigations considers the building of high quality accommodation that provides a hot shower and flush toilet, with furnishing for a double bedroom, a bunkroom and a lounge area. We plan to work on this in the 2017/18 year. In the meantime, our walking tracks will be extended and new ones built during 2016/17.

A limited amount of mountain biking currently occurs on the land. The Trust is looking at developing mountain biking as a major activity and seeks to do that with neighbours if possible.

Partnership with The Westervelt Company

The Westervelt Company started its own Turangi-based honey processing business in 2012 and placed their hives on Trust land in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 honey seasons.

The Trust worked with Westervelt to establish a joint venture honey business that was finalised in March of this year. The new entity, "Westervelt Owhaoko Honey Limited Partnership," has extraction and packing plants and its own marketing company, Taku Honey Ltd, with the honey produced sold both in NZ and overseas. The new packing plant in Taupo was opened in December 2015.

A key objective of the Owhaoko B & D Trust is to create job opportunities for its beneficiaries through this joint venture. This new venture already employs around 35 people in the Taupō/Turangi area. We're working with Westervelt to create further beekeeping jobs and improve the knowledge of locals in this growing industry.

We are looking for wintering sites for beehives around the Taihape area. If we can 'winter-over' in excess of 500 beehives, we may be able to train and employ two beekeepers from Taihape. We'd be keen to hear from you if you have substantial areas of native bush that are below the snow line where we can house some hives over winter.

Hunting

The hunting activity on our land is managed through Helisika who take bookings online through their website. In 2014, the Trust changed from allowing hunting all year round, to hunting only during two periods: 1 March to 30 May, and 1 October to 20 December. The change was made for two reasons - to give the deer a period of rest during the year, and to make the land available during the summer for other uses, particularly eco-tourism.



Hunters have commented that the two seasons have improved the temperament of the deer, who appear more relaxed than when hunted all the time.

The Trust has recently begun a programme of improving the quality of its huts. The objective is to provide the hunters with more comfortable accommodation during their stay on Trust lands. The Haumingi Hut was replaced with a brand new hut during 2015, in a similar design to the Golden Hills hut and has extra features such as double glazing and full insulation.

The Trust now keeps statistics on the use of its huts, number of hunters and number of deer shot. It hopes to better manage its hunting operation and hut usage from analysing the statistics.

Doug Gartner, Manager

0273 555577

www.owhaoko.co.nz



OWHAOKO
B&D LANDS TRUST