

Loving our place

In a few weeks, you're going to be asked to help review our Village Plan (www.pukeruabay.org.nz/resources). In the past, residents have always said that one of the things they love most about Pukerua Bay is our beautiful natural environment.

This issue of the Covid Courier looks at some of what makes our place so special and offers you a chance to be given a copy of one of Gay Hay's beautiful books! It also looks at some of the supports available as we change lockdown levels.

Kohekohe by Gillian Candler

Kohekohe trees have started flowering. It'll be worth a walk up through Raroa Reserve to see and smell the flowers sometime over the next few weeks. Raroa Reserve is a remnant kohekohe forest. These beautiful coastal trees would have covered much of the area in the past.

What's intriguing about kohekohe is the way the flowers come right out of the tree trunks. There's a name for when a tree flowers like this – 'cauliflory'. This adaptation may make it easier for insects and birds to pollinate them – tūi and korimako (bellbird) love them. But it also makes them easier for us to see and appreciate.

Kohekohe tend to have a two-year cycle of flowering strongly every second year. 2018 was a good year, so I'm hoping 2020 will be one, too. I wrote a blogpost about kohekohe in 2018 that describes several other local places where you can see kohekohe. <https://explorediscovernature.blogspot.com/2018/05/autumn-nature-walk-splendid-kohekohe.html>



Nature in Pukerua Bay by Gay Hay

Staying home for the first four weeks of Covid 19 gave me a great opportunity to sit and watch the birds in our trees. It definitely seemed that there were more tūi, pīwakawaka (fantails) and kererū. I could hear ruru (morepork) at night, but never got to see any.

All good inspiration for an author.

Now that we are allowed outside home base a bit more, why don't you take a walk through the Secret Garden? Look out for the wētā boxes. My next book features our New Zealand wētā.

The Community Garden is developing well. There are always weeds around the fruit trees to be dealt to.

Pukerua Bay has lots of little garden spots that need your help. Take time to visit the Muri train station garden and the Vi Ebbet bus stop garden.

Imagine if we all decided to get rid of the wandering willy, Cape Ivy, and asparagus fern from the Bay? Wow!

Picture this!

Here's a special opportunity. Gay has offered to donate a book in exchange for a picture. Draw a picture of a plant, animal, or scene from our local environment, and you can be one of the lucky ones!

Drop your signed pictures off to **2 Pukerua Beach Road by 22 May** – and don't forget to tell us your name and address!



We remembered

In the last issue of the Covid Courier, Margaret Blair shared the stories of Pukerua Bay people who served in the armed forces before and during World War II. On ANZAC Day, we remembered all our servicemen and servicewomen. Thanks to those who added to the commemoration with your displays of poppies. Special thanks to Julie Williams and John Pearce for making sure our ANZAC tradition continued, even though we couldn't all be together.

Coping with change

After weeks in Level 4, the change in levels comes as a relief, but it also brings new tensions. We're in the same story, but we're each experiencing it differently. While we will weather this storm in the end, some of us have had – and will continue to have – real worries. We all want to rebuild, but some of us have a lot of loss to deal with first. The story has just begun. Try to be kind – to yourself, as well as to others! See the ideas for support below.

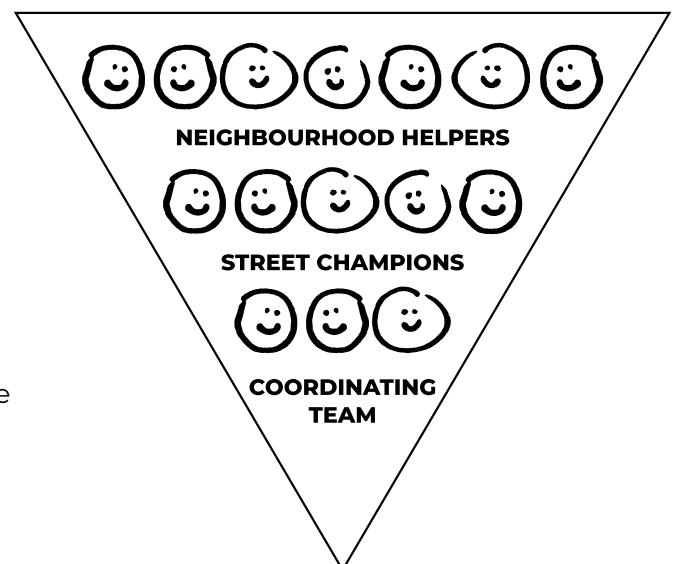
Support from within our village

Here are some places where you can find information and support.

- **Pukerua Bay Residents Association:** pukeruabay.org.nz
- **Pukerua Bay Hub:** facebook.com/PKBHub
- **the Residents Association noticeboard at the shops.**

The kindness in our community is shown by the people who have put their hands up to be part of our system of champions and neighbourhood helpers. But the system isn't perfect, largely because we've not been able to use paper to communicate. (The old ways can still be the best!) So, if you or someone you know is being overlooked, please:

- **phone Helen on 0211466421; or**
- **email Kelly at pukeruabayhub@gmail.com**



We know that a lot of people aren't on social media and can't access the Covid Courier. If you know someone in that position, please email it to them or let us know, and we can arrange to get it to them safely. You can email Kate at kate@dreaver.name or phone Helen on 0211466421.

Support from beyond our village

The City Council has a **pandemic page** at <https://porirua.govt.nz/services/alerts-updates/covid-19-pandemic> The Council has also set up a welfare support helpline. This is available throughout the week on 0800 141 967.

Lots of us are keen to support our local businesses. **The Porirua Business Directory** is there to help:

<https://porirua.govt.nz/discover-porirua/about-porirua/porirua-business-directory-love-local>

If your employment has been affected by Covid-19 or you're looking for staff, **Work and Income** has a new page that can help: <https://www.jobs-during-covid.workandincome.govt.nz>