

We will remember them

E kore rātou e kaumātuatia
Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore
Ahakoa pehea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them.



*For the Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869–1943),
published in The Times on 21 September 1914.*

Stand at Dawn

The RSA and New Zealand Defence Force would like us to remember those who gave their lives for our country. At 6:00 am on Saturday 25 April, stand at your letterbox and take a moment to remember our fallen – but please stay within your 'bubble'.

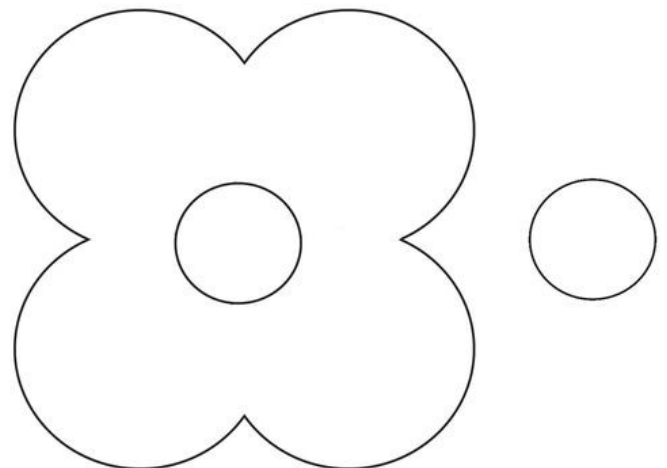
Poppy appeal

The annual poppy appeal cannot proceed as usual, but you can still donate and contribute to the RSA's work in supporting current and past service people and their families, including those in the police.

2020 Poppy Appeal: www.rsa.org.nz/donate

Colour a poppy

Colour a poppy and put it in your window. See the larger version of the template on the back page.



Early Pukerua Bay Servicemen

Pukerua Bay has a long association with servicemen. Some of the men were living in the Bay when they enlisted, but many of them were associated with the Bay through friends and family.

The Anglo Boer War and World War I

Nobby Clark, who lived near Wairaka Rock, served with the Coldstream Guards in the Anglo-Boer War. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, with Belfast, Cape Colony and Orange Free State clasps; and the King's South Africa Medal, with South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902 clasps.

At the urupā at the north end of the Bay, there is the grave of Manu Katene. Manu served as **Private Joseph (Joe) Bird Cotton, 37771** with the New Zealand (Māori) Pioneer Battalion. He was aged twenty when he enlisted in 1916, and he died at Trentham Camp in 1921.

Four men associated with the Bay enlisted during WWI. On 20 March 1917, the *New Zealand Times* reported: "At the week-end, the seaisiders of Pukerua held a pleasant gathering to send off **Mr "Bid" Gillon**, who goes into camp on Wednesday. At the same time, a wristlet watch was presented to him." **William Gillon, 51518**, was killed in action on 13 December 1917.

James Wilson, 39594, The Free Lance reported on 1 February 1918: "Jim was well known at Pukerua. He built a whare on the beach, which he fitted out with his characteristic method and neatness. In musical circles, he was also well known as a player of the cello, mandolin, and guitar.' Jim died on 8 January 1918.

Both of William and James are buried in Ypres, Belgium.

Samuel Whitehorn, 23907, a surfaceman for the railway, was a Pukerua resident, according to the 1914 census. He was killed in action in France on 1 December 1917.

Charles Cosgrove, 59327, a clerk at the Government Printing Office who was living at Pukerua when he enlisted, served in France. Pukerua residents **Horace Ames, John and Arthur Bullock, Jack Scott**, and **Nobby Clark** were reservists.

The Evening Post reported on 27 May 1915: "The Mayor has received from Mr. Charles Gray, of Pahautanui, the offer of a residential section of land at Pukerua, near Paekakariki to be sold in aid of the Wounded Soldiers' Fund."



Manu Katene's grave at Pukerua Bay urupa

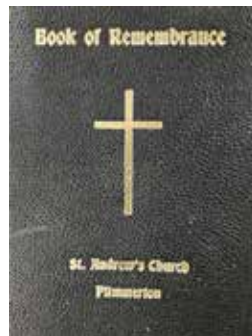
When the Armistice was signed in 1918, Pukerua tablet porter Frank Linney stopped the overnight express from Auckland with detonators on the line. The train crew's anger turned to delight when told the news. The train carried on to Wellington with the whistle sounding and passengers leaning out windows, waving and cheering. Pukerua residents heard the noise and knew what it signified.

World War II

Over one third of families living in Pukerua Bay during WWII had a member in the armed forces. Thirty-four men served from the 90 households in Pukerua Bay.

At Plimmerton's St Andrew's Church, a Book of Remembrance compiled during the war contains the names of 79 men and three women from Plimmerton and 33 men connected with Pukerua Bay who were serving in the Forces. During the war, a page of names was read out at each Sunday service at St Andrew's.

Three Pukerua Bay men died on active service during WWII. **Revell Brownie, W/3396**, served in the Navy and was lost on H.M.S. Neptune on 18 December 1941; **Thomas Henderson, 40876**, was killed in Egypt on 5 December 1941 and **Laurence Parnell, 35766**, was killed on 17 January 1944 in Italy.



St Andrew's Church, Plimmerton, Book of Remembrance



Building a future

In 1951, 40 returned servicemen worked voluntarily over a period of 34 weekends to build the RSA Hall in Teihana Road. The hall was opened in April 1952 and provided a venue for social activities, including balls, fairs, Christmas parties, private functions, school events, and a temporary classroom. The hall was moved up to Greenmeadows Reserve in 1964 to become the Scout den. The RSA then moved to its present site in Wairaka Road, where it is again the social hub of our community.

RSA Hall function, 1957

Note: This account of Pukerua Bay servicemen only includes those who served in WWII and before.

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He Ara Pukerua

This special ANZAC issue of Covid Courier was written by local historian, Margaret Blair. Many of you have read and enjoyed Margaret's posts on the Community Trading page.

To learn more about our history, you could go to:

- **Residents Association: He Ara Pukerua page:** www.pukeruabay.org.nz/he-ara-pukerua
- **He Ara Pukerua Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/HeAraPukerua

Painting by Pauline Morse, 2018



