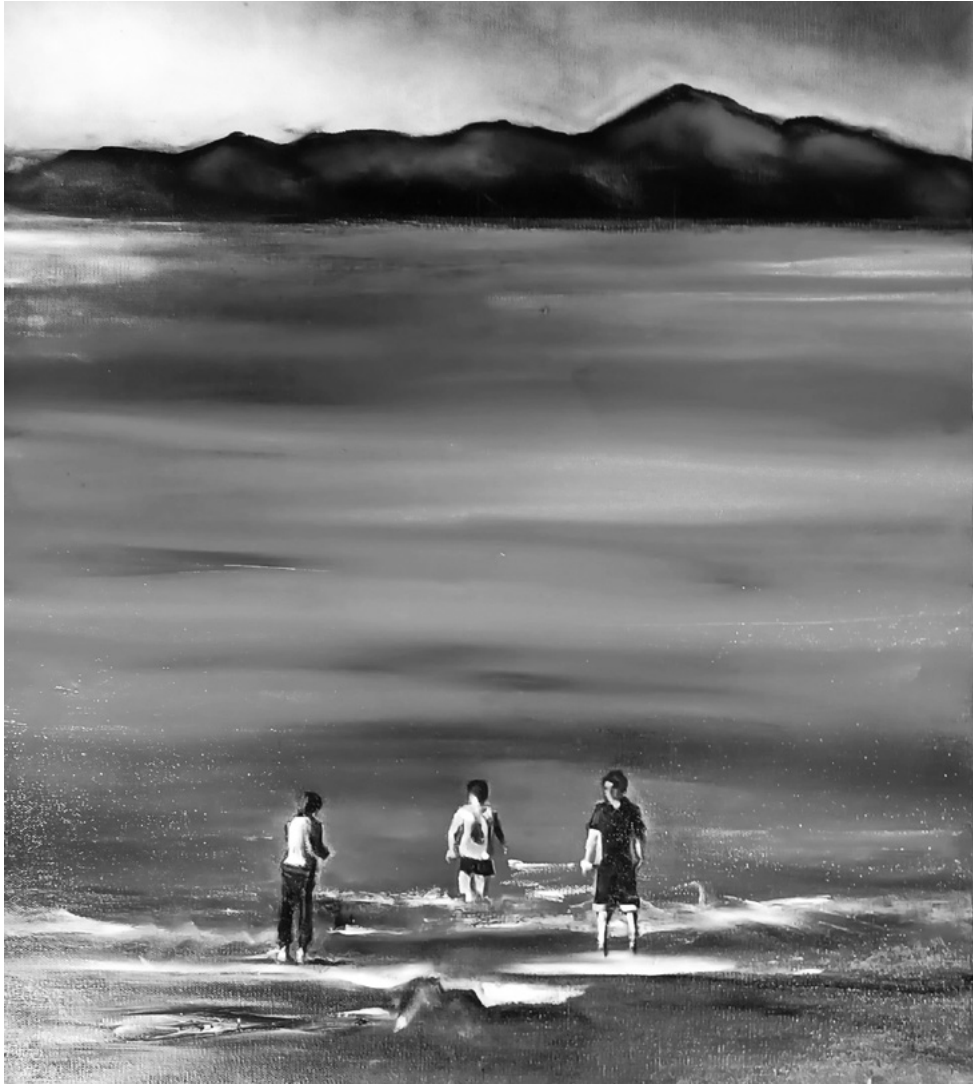


Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay

Vol 3, Issue 1
February 2023



Detail from "Pukerua", nā Conor Twyford.

Kia ora

It's our great pleasure to bring you the first issue of *Kōrero* for 2023.

In our first issue, we said, "We want *Kōrero* to be a place of celebration, where we can share the good things that are happening in our place and the things that give us resilience to get through tough times." That's still our purpose – we'd be grateful for any feedback on how we're doing and anything we could do better. If anyone would like to join the editorial team or help with deliveries, do let us know.

This issue is drawn together by the theme of water. We have two items where long-time residents share memories. Tony Quayle tells us about his family's long association with Pukerua Bay and especially his love of our marine environment (pages 4–5). For those of us who don't know, it's fascinating to read about what is out there, in our "underwater world".

Iain MacLean and Marian Dreaver tell us about Tony Jackman's work in leading the restoration of Waimapihi Stream and the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngaro and educating tamariki about our natural environment (pages 10–11). Does anyone else have stories or photographs to share about this work?

There cannot be many local artists who are not inspired by the "bay" itself. That's apparent in the cover image by Conor Twyford, and Friederike Nuerge's photographs (opposite).

Gillian Candler and Judith Frost-Evans paint pictures in words – Gillian in her poem, "Waves", and Judith in retelling an ancient Chinese story containing an important message that matters today (pages 12–13).

While water is the source of life, it can also be destructive, and it needs to be managed. That's more than apparent in our own community and in the devastating flooding across parts of the country this summer. Moira Lawler's item on the proposed Three Waters reforms invites us to weigh up the pros and cons of this as a solution (pages 8–9).

It's wonderful to see that the school gala is back in our calendar for 2023 (page 7). Traditionally, this has been one of the highlights of our year. Let's get in behind it and show the school and our tamariki how much they matter to us!

In these difficult times, we value the generosity of our advertisers and sponsors more than ever. If you can find a way to support them, please do! And if you'd like to contribute content for our next issue, we'd love to hear from you. The theme is sport and recreation. We know you have some stories.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa.

Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

We acknowledge mana whenua of Pukerua Bay, Ngāti Toa Rangatira. For Ngāti Toa news, see ngatittoa.iwi.nz

Pukerua summer

Friederike Nuerge contributed these incredible photos of Pukerua Bay. One captures the clarity of the water on a still summer's day. In the other, tamariki enjoy the novelty of a trampoline on the beach against the backdrop of Kāpiti.

"Pukerua"

This issue, our cover features "Pukerua", a painting by local artist, community development worker, and environmentalist, Conor Twyford. Conor created this painting in 2016. It depicts her two sons, Paddy and Joey Rockell, and their friend Arita Tahana-Campbell, when they were all about eleven. It expresses the joy and contentment we all feel when at play on our beloved beach.

Ngā mihi: Our thanks to Conor and Friederike for sharing your images with us. We feel your aroha for Pukerua and your deep sense of kaitiakitanga.

*Toitu te marae a Tane,
Toitu te marae a Tangaroa,
Toitu te iwi.*

*If the land is well,
And the sea is well,
The people will thrive.*



This whakataukī speaks to the deep connections we have with the land and sea and the fact that our own hauora (health and wellbeing) is deeply intertwined with theirs. This is the principle reflected in our community's value of kaitiakitanga.

Life's a beach at Pukerua Bay



Tony in his special place. Photo taken by Adele.

Although I was born in England (of Kiwi parents) my family has deep roots in Pukerua Bay. Five generations of us have lived here.

My paternal grandparents bought land in Te Pari Pari Road (then a segment of the main road) back in the 1930s, when some of the earliest subdivision of the Gray farm was taking place, and eventually built a bach for weekend escapes from Wellington city. My earliest memories of the Bay are at the bach, fishing for kōkopu, inanga, and kōura in the two nearby creeks.

In 1959, my parents, Doug and Faye Quayle, took over the property and we moved here that summer. Over the next year or so, the bach was expanded into a house. The beach and hills soon became my playground. As soon as I learned to swim, I bought goggles and a snorkel and became enchanted with the local marine life.

Wind forward a few years and, after a period living elsewhere, I returned with my wife, Adele, and our two young children, settling down in a new home

of our own. My interest in snorkelling quickly evolved into scuba diving, which became my main recreation interest for around 30 years. Along with similarly minded friends, Dene Wade and Richard Fah, I explored Pukerua's amazing underwater world, initially enjoying our crayfish catches and the moki and butterfish we speared, but quickly developing a strong interest in the amazing variety of marine life that flourishes here.

A move to the beach in 1988 allowed our family to make full use of the marine environment, with one son following me into diving and both sons taking up surfing as teenagers. My youngest son Mark and his wife Sandy now live in the Bay, and grandchildren Lucy, Ben, and Sophie enjoy getting out in kayaks from time to time.

While our inshore shallows are dominated by seaweed, pretty enough in its own right, the deeper reefs are endowed with spectacular orange sponges, carpets of anemones, ghostly white hydroid trees, and feathery bryozoans. Schools of butterfly perch sweep and swirl over the reef tops, while copper-coloured common roughy (a relative of the better-known orange roughy) lurk with crayfish in rocky crevices. Occasional John Dory stalk by amongst the schools of moki and tarakihi that weave between rock pinnacles. Occasionally, mostly in summer, groups of majestic kingfish glide by.

I've seen rare species here, like the Australian magpie perch, and – from the boat – a Māui dolphin.

The crowning glory of Pukerua's underwater world is Hunter Bank, about nine kilometres out into Cook Strait. This massive pinnacle rises from depths of at least 80 metres to within 15 metres of the surface. Lying well offshore, the water there is generally much clearer than along the coast, and it's a magnet for big fish. Back in the boat after one spectacular dive, with tuna schooling near the surface, we watched a large mako shark cruise up to the stern.

Some years ago, there was a move to make Pukerua Bay a marine reserve. I'm generally an advocate for these and concerned by the plundering of pāua beds and the destructive use of recreational gill nets. However, I was also concerned that a full marine reserve would destroy the rich culture of recreational fishing that's long been a part of our community. Along with some like-minded locals, notably my neighbour and dive buddy, Tim Bright, I advocated for a more pragmatic solution. Eventually, working alongside Ngāti Toa, we struck gold, initially with a rāhui that was customised to deal with the specific issues of depleted pāua stocks and indiscriminate use of gill nets; rod and reel fishing was still allowed. Eventually, those restrictions became permanent, and marine life has generally flourished. Fisher-folk continue to enjoy good catches of such popular species as snapper, tarakihi, and gurnard. Pāua and crayfish are still abundant outside the protected area.

Tramping and flying have taken over as my main interests now, and I rarely get out on (or under) the water but Adele and I still love the beach environment in all its moods. We live in paradise.

Nā Tony Quayle



Barbara Edmonds MP for Mana

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The gala is back!

The Pukerua Bay School Gala is back after a three-year pandemic-related hiatus! We know our village is ready to come out in full force to support our beloved village event. Thank you!

Key information

Local businesses

Are you a local business or family who can offer sponsorship? We are seeking donations towards expenses and in-kind products for the raffles. Please contact Rebecca Martin: 0274707322 or email secretary.pkbft@gmail.com

Community collections

Our gala is renowned for its excellent thrift shopping. We can take good quality goods off your hands, such as bric-a-brac, appliances, machinery, tools, furniture, sporting equipment, toys, books (but only children's books this year), and clothing (but no underwear!)

Please keep in mind this is a fundraiser.

We need appliances that work and clothes that are in good condition. If we don't think it will sell, we won't accept it.

Our collection dates and times are:

- **Sunday 5 March, 9–11am**
- **Sunday 12 March, 9–11am.**

You can leave items for collection on your berm. If they are not collected by midday, it's your responsibility to take your items back.

Alternatively, you can drop off items to the School and Community Hall (Rāwhiti Road) on:

- Tuesday 7 March, from 6–8pm.
- Tuesday 14 March, from 6–8pm.

Thank you for supporting the Pukerua Bay School Gala and helping create a bright future for our tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui,
Pukerua Bay School Fundraising Trust and Friends



PUKERUA BAY SCHOOL GALA

18 MARCH 2023

PUKERUA BAY SCHOOL | 11AM - 2PM

Three Waters – time to get our sh*t together

Even in sunshine, water pours out onto roads and footpaths all over Pukerua Bay. The romantic theory is that it's underground springs and waterways. Sometimes that's true. But more often, it's failing water pipes leaking great volumes of clean, potable water.

Ashley and Margaret Blair counted nine significant water leaks on Pukerua Bay roads. In heavy rain, the stormwater pipes in Paremata, Plimmerton, and Mana are overwhelmed and flooding discharges straight into the ocean. In mid-January, a sewerage discharge off Moa Point in Wellington closed beaches for a week. Councillors tell the Residents' Association that Porirua Council is struggling to deal with the level of failing infrastructure in our city.

These issues are replicated all over the country. The Government's response is Three Waters Reform – radically changing the delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

It's been hotly contested, and misinformation and disinformation abound. Opposition to Three Waters has included personal and often racist attacks on then Local Government Minister, Nanaia Mahuta.

So, what is it?

The Government has worked with local government, iwi, and water industry leaders to create a plan. There is still debate, but legislation was introduced to Parliament in December last year.

Under this plan, four new publicly-owned water services entities will run New Zealand's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services – currently operated by councils. The existing assets go into these entities. Councils in each entity region will collectively own the assets, but new boards will run them. Government will invest around \$3 billion to establish this model and fund infrastructure upgrades.

Pros and cons

Advantages include:

- much-needed investment in underfunded infrastructure
- access to secure long-term funding, rather than reliance on rates rises
- operational efficiencies, including workforce planning
- the ability to plan across water catchments, rather than city by city.

Much has been made of plans to increase iwi/Māori participation in water management. The proposed legislation includes statutory recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Mana o Te Wai (the vital importance of water). It creates mana whenua groups to guide strategy for each entity and requires the boards to include Māori expertise. Underpinning this approach is the view that the three waters need to be managed in a holistic way, not as separate services, as is consistent with best practice environmental management.

Concerns include:

- loss of local control of three waters services
- potential increased charges to rebuild our three waters services
- the potential for future governments to privatise three waters delivery.

You may have seen the attempts of the Green Party to protect the water entities from future privatisation. It failed, and the issue is still a live one.

The concern for local democracy feels, to me, too little too late. In last year's local body elections, around 37% of eligible voters in Porirua City voted. Those that do participate represent a demographic more likely to have a focus on retaining the status quo and on rates

reduction. The investment needed will never be prioritised in this context, and our infrastructure and environment can't wait.

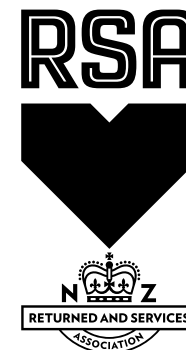
What next?

The Water Services Legislation Bill was referred to Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee, which called for public submissions. Public submissions have now closed, and we can expect amendments. Whatever happens, the tragic events of the summer have made it all too clear – it's time to get our sh*t together.

You can learn more at dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme

Nā Moira Lawler

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Facebook: **Pukerua Bay RSA and Community Club**

Waimapihi Stream — a hidden jewel

Waimapihi Stream starts in the hills above Muri Road and behind St. Mary's Estate, before flowing under Muri Road and the train station. It emerges into the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngāro, but disappears again under the state highway, before coming out into Raroa Reserve gully next to the highway. It eventually flows under the bridge on Ocean Parade and into the sea.

Like many waterways in urban areas, the stream is forced through culverts where it crosses roads and is victim to careless human activity — litter, pollution, weeds, and runoff from earthworks. All these intruders clog it and threaten its health. The stream is hidden from casual view; for some people, it's 'out of sight, out of mind'. Despite that, it's had a lot of care from many people over the years.

Local identity Tony Jackman has been one of the stream's most ardent protectors and, over the past two decades, has encouraged many of our younger residents to get involved in protecting it. When Tony first got involved, it was, for him, a combination of educating youngsters on the value of the environment, making his new home a better place, and, initially, rehabilitating himself from ill health.

When Tony and his wife, Helen, moved here over 20 years ago, they needed to live close to the train station, as Tony could no longer drive. So, they bought a house a stone's throw from the station, across the road from Waimapihi Stream and the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngāro.

"At the time, there was 50 years' worth of rubbish in the valley," says Tony. "I thought, 'I'm living in a rubbish dump! How can I get the rubbish out, do something useful, and teach about the environment at the same time?'"

So, Tony used his knack for connecting with people and organised working and planting days to clean up the stream and help rejuvenate it. It was common to find more than a dozen older Pukerua Bay School students working along the stream with their siblings and parents. Alongside them were other residents, including members of Keep Pukerua Bay Beautiful, a local group that was active in caring for many parts of the Bay. Tonnes of rubbish were taken out, including the front section of a Hillman Imp. This was dragged out by one of the workers who had a winch on their 4WD.

Tony worked with several local schools, taking field trips to places like Battle Hill and running programmes in the education centre pavilion he set up in the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngāro, where he taught students about healthy environments and water quality. Many of the young people Tony taught still remember his lessons. He has passed on his knowledge and a love of the environment that has stayed with them, and which many are now passing on to their children.

Tony admits he wasn't just doing it for the good of the environment — there was some self-interest involved.

"After my spell of ill health, I was not very mobile and couldn't talk very well, so I wanted to work with the young people, run education programmes, and share what I knew, but also regain my health. It worked and, 20 years later, the stream is healthier, and I'm still here."

Nā Iain MacLen



L to R: Tony Jackman, Tyler Dimcheff, Marian Dreaver, Gary Lassak, Patrick Herd, 'Nga'



June and Mike Penhey (and friend) building the walkway through the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngāro.

In 2002, as part of the science curriculum at Pukerua Bay School, Tony taught my class about water quality and how to improve it. As part of this module, Tyler, Gary, and I arranged to plant natives gifted by Porirua City Council along a bare part of the bank in the Secret Valley | Kōawa Ngāro. Tony kindly came to our planting and taught us how to place them to make them look natural. I now walk past this spot most days and love seeing the healthy native bush that Tony gave us.

Nā Marian Dreaver

Want to play football?

Registration for **PUKERUA BAY SOCCER CLUB** for players aged 4 to 14 is open until **5 March 2023**.



- Low registration fees: \$55 for grades 4–6, \$90 for grades 7–12, \$100 for grades 13&14 (mixed boys and girls competition). Includes Nike shirt and shorts.
- Family discounts available.
- Practices potentially in Pukerua Bay and/or Plimmerton (or wherever most suits the team).

To register or for more information visit www.pkbsoccer.nz or call **Iain MacLean** (0274203056) or email pkb@pkbsoccer.nz

The leaky bucket

An elderly woman had two large buckets. Each bucket hung on the ends of a long pole, which she carried across her neck. One of those buckets had a crack in it and the other bucket was perfect. The perfect bucket always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the house. But the cracked bucket arrived only half full.

For a full two years, the woman went daily to the stream with the two buckets, and she would carry home one-and-one-half buckets of water. Of course, the perfect bucket was proud of its accomplishments. The cracked bucket, however, was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been created to do.

One day, after two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked bucket spoke to the woman by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house and you work so hard."

The old woman smiled and said, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other bucket's side? I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water the flowers. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace my house and give me so much joy."

Chinese fable, retold by Judith Frost-Evans

Wave

sea
surges
builds up
to a towering
mountain of water
until at its highest peak
the wave is like green glass
rimmed with frothy white-caps
it can't hold, gravity demands
that it will topple, curling over
into a perfect forward roll
it plunges falls
crashes
splashes
foams
up the
beach
until
that
is
it

Nā Gillian Candler

First published in a fine line, NZ Poetry Society magazine, Winter 2022



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Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

Next issue

Our theme for the next issue is **sport and recreation**. We welcome your contributions of stories, photos, poems, articles, or community notices.

Kōrero relies upon its advertisers and sponsors to keep going. Please get in touch if you're interested.

The copy deadline for the next issue is **14 March**. Our email address is newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz



98 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay

Hours 8am-1pm
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Our team

Kōrero is brought to you by Kate Dreaver, Jonathan Harker, Anne Johnston, Iain MacLean, Moira Lawler, Nikky Winchester, and Mel Galletly.

It is supported by the Pukerua Bay Residents' Association and by all our valued contributors, sponsors, and advertisers.

Advertising and sponsorship

Kōrero comes out approximately every eight weeks. We need your support to keep it going. Please consider donating or placing paid advertising.

Advertising rates for **five issues** start at just \$50 for a local listing (see opposite); \$80 for a card-sized ad; \$160 for a half-page ad; and \$220 for a full-page ad.

Advertising rates for **one issue** are \$20 for a card-sized ad, \$40 for a half-page ad, and \$60 for a full-page ad.

You can **sponsor** an entire issue for \$300.

Community notices are very welcome, but please consider a koha.



OUR SKINK: The image of the Whitaker's Skink on our banner, and in the Residents' Association logo, was created by local artist, Pauline Morse.

Pukerua Bay Community website and directory

The Pukerua Bay community website pukeruabay.org.nz holds lots of useful information, including a local business directory.

You can download a PDF of *Kōrero* from the website at: pkb.nz/korero or via this QR code.

If you would prefer not to receive a newsletter in your letterbox, please let us know. And, if you have suggestions for the website, please email: newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz



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Events calendar

- 5 March:** Early bird Soccer Club registrations close (see page 11)

5 March: Gala community collection, 9–11 am

7 March: Census Day

7 March: School and Community Hall open to receive gala items, 6–8pm

12 March: Gala community collection, 9–11 am

14 March: Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9.00 pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd.

14 March: School and Community Hall open to receive gala items, 6–8pm

18 March: Pukerua Bay School Gala, Pukerua Bay School, Rāwhiti Rd.

11 April: Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9.00 pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd.
- To list an event in the **April** issue, please email by **14 March**: newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz

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