



Pukerua Bay Residents' Association  
www.pukeruabay.org.nz

# Pukerua Bay Residents Association Annual General Meeting

19 October 2022

**Venue:** Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall.

**Committee members present:** Paul FitzGerald, Jonathan Harker, Margaret Blair, Mel Galletly, Kate Dreaver, Nikky Winchester, Iain MacLean, Kelly McClean.

**Public attendees:** Ashley Blair, Rosemary Ibrahim.

**Apologies:** Pauline Morse, Conor Twyford, Pauline Morum, Moira Lawler.

**Guest speaker:** Tony Sutorius, Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade, Deputy Chief.

## Guest speaker

Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade operates between the Paremata bridge and Pukerua Bay, and east to Pauatahanui. Have never had members from Pukerua Bay because it's too far away from the station (fire fighters need to be able to get an engine out the door in four minutes). However, the brigade is keen to engage more with us. If anyone from Pukerua Bay is keen, they have non-operational roles as well as fire fighters. They have about 20 members, which is only just enough to keep it going given that people are volunteers.

It would take an engine a minimum of 11 minutes to get to Pukerua Bay (four minutes to get out the station door, and seven minutes to drive here).

The brigade gets around 120-130 calls a year. This includes serious medical events, and they often arrive first, which is a surprise to people. The brigade has done a lot of thinking about how to interact with people in traumatic situations.

Tony has seen road accidents change quite considerably with many fewer fatal accidents in the district. They are now very rare, when a few years ago it was common every weekend. Changes to the road have saved hundreds of lives, often not local people. Adding median barriers was very positive on the highway.

The statistics are more nuanced, but house fires have reduced significantly. There is a clear split depending on the wealth of the area. Poorer houses have older appliances (people should get rid of old bar heaters), and open fires, which are also more common in rural areas. There are also some social changes, such as fewer people cooking with oil in a deep fryer. More people get their chimneys cleaned, and there are stricter regulations of wood burners installations. House holders should get old wood burners checked, especially the chimneys.

The biggest thing that has made a difference is smoke detectors. There are about 20–30 deaths locally a year and 80 percent are in houses that don't have smoke detectors. Need to be tested and vacuumed regularly because dust sets them off. The new 10-year batteries don't last 10 years, and go off rather than just pip. Detectors should be between the bedrooms and the front door to protect your escape path. Put them on different levels, and put them in accessible spots so they are easy to maintain.

Two dozen houses burnt down because of kitchen with nook door, which can activate the toaster when the door is pulled down!

Other causes of fires in batteries, such as the very high energy high activity types, e.g. e-bikes. Also poor quality hand tools. Sometimes cell phones cause fires, but they don't often cause house fires. Vapes can overheat and put out a lot of energy and set fire quickly. Battery quality is important – buy the best quality name brands types. They cost more, but are safer. They often fail with visual clues, e.g. battery swelling, that tell you they are at risk. Turn them off and let them discharge before using them again.

Multi plug adaptors are risky when they are old. Once again, buy good quality. They should never be used for high load devices that you leave plugged in. Lint from dryers is dangerous. Need to clean it out regularly. Put a smoke detector in the laundry.

New smoke detectors are not radioactive. They shine a light in a hole and when smoke gets in there it breaks the light beam and sets it off. Can also be set off by anything that breaks the beam. Can also get heat detectors that you can put into kitchens.

The brigade is getting ready for their first EV incident. When an EV catches fire, they are very hard to extinguish. However, they are rare and happen only about 1 percent as often as petrol car fires. They are also a risk of being explosive.

Wild fires are fairly seasonal. Expecting it to be a more serious issue with climate change. If you own a house with close exposure to natural vegetation, make sure you have a clear zone between the house and vegetation. Also be aware of the slope of the hill; with every 10 degrees of slope, the fire's speed doubles uphill. They generally position crews to protect what might be burnt rather than what is on fire. FENZ website has information on safe gaps, and Tony suggests a 10–15 metre gap between a house and vegetation.

The principle of fire fighting is that 'nothing should get any worse'. They follow RRECEO: **Risk** (what's dangerous about being here) and **Rescue** (enormous emphasis on this – losing your house is bad, but dying is worse. If there is a fire, the officer in charge needs someone to tell them the situation – has everyone evacuated? Households should have an evacuation plan.) **Exposures** to stop the fire going further. **Containment** to stop the rest of the house from burning down (close doors as you go through the house to create fire compartments, which can resist fire for 20–30 minutes), **Extinguish** the fire. **Overhaul** the scene.

By the time you become aware of a fire they will be incompatible with life because of poisonous gases. If you are in a smoke-filled room, drop to the floor and get out as quickly as possible. You can pass out within seconds. The most important thing is to get everyone out as quickly as possible to save their life.

## Adoption of 2021 AGM minutes

Moved: Ashley Blair, seconded Mel Galletly. Accepted by meeting.

## **Adoption of 2022 reports**

Adoption of 2022 Annual Report from the Chair and Committee, taken as read. Meeting also considered reports from:

- Village Plan – taken as read
- He Ara Pukerua – taken as read
- Community Garden and Food Forest – taken as read
- Surfers' Seat – taken as read
- Kōrero – taken as read
- Waste Free Pukerua – taken as read.

## **Adoption of Financial Report**

Moved by Paul FitzGerald, seconded by Iain MacLean. Approved by the meeting.

## **General Business**

- Adoption of the Village Plan
- Climate Change
- Incorporate Societies Act 2022 changes to constitution

### ***Village Plan adoption***

Presentation by Kate Dreaver. Thanks to everyone who has worked on it over the years. Hope it will continue as a living document giving guidance in the future. We can continue to engage with the community with its offspring, e.g. climate change. Giving voice to the aspirations of residents, e.g. Climate Change workshop coming out of it.

Moved by Kate Dreaver / seconded by Jonathan Harker. Adopted by the meeting.

### ***Climate change***

This was one of the initiatives proposed in the VP and we've done it, starting with a workshop that included the mayor and three councillors. Facilitated by Conor Twyford, Barbara Nebel, Moira Lawler and Kelly McClean. Looking at sustainable development goals. Lots of good ideas on worksheets.

Plenty of people want to stay involved.

### ***Changes to constitution***

Iain MacLean introduced the changes that the Residents Association will have to make to the constitution as a result of a change to the law. Can we set up a good mailing list as the basis for a membership list? We already have groups for various purposes. Discuss at the next committee meeting.

## **Election of Executive Committee members**

The following people were elected (i.e. volunteered) to the Executive Committee for the next year:

- Paul FitzGerald

- Mel Galletly
- Jonathan Harker
- Nikky Winchester
- Margaret Blair
- Iain MacLean
- Moira Lawler (in absentia)

Many thanks for the members standing down:

- Kate Dreaver
- Kelly McClean
- Pauline Morum

Meeting ended 8:56pm