

# Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay

Vol 3, Issue 4  
September 2023



*German glass artist Olaf Wehr-Candler at work in his Pukerua Bay studio.*

## Kia ora

The values of whanaungatanga and manaakitanga are strong in Pukerua Bay. We honour and respect those whose roots go back hundreds of years, those who were born and raised here, and those who have come from far away. This precious place is home to us all.

In this issue, we reach out to some members of our community whose hearts are in two places, here in Aotearoa and in the land of their birth. We have stories from a range of perspectives. Each is unique, but all of them give us insight into the experience of immigration and its impact on identity.

All our stories are part of who we are. By sharing them, we acknowledge the past, are better able to understand the present, and are better able to plan and prepare for the future. We hope all of you feel that *Kōrero* is a safe place for telling your stories.

The first item in this issue is from Olaf Wehr-Candler, whose stained-glass studio has been a feature of Pukerua Bay for many years (page 3). We asked Olaf to tell us about what brought him from Germany to Aotearoa, and how that move has impacted his practice as an artist.

We all remember our first day at school, some fondly, some not so much. Indira Wieringa had a second “first day”, having moved from the Netherlands to Aotearoa at the age of ten. A mostly successful transition ... (page 4!)

Claire Conradie and Megan Melidonis both came to Aotearoa from South

Africa as young mothers. Claire’s article is an excerpt from her blog, giving us an insight into the everyday reality of such a profound experience (page 5). Megan reflects on the emotional side of immigration, her sense of conflict, and her journey to resolution (pages 6–7).

Other items in this issue remind us of just what a great place this is in which to live! There’s a report on our recent climate action workshops (page 8) and invitations to take part in the spring festival at the Community Forest and Food Garden (page 9), a course in sustainable horticulture (page 9), an open day at the tennis club (page 12), and the Residents’ Association’s AGM (page 10). There’s also an opportunity to support He Ara Pukerua through purchasing a beautiful historic photo (page 10).

Our next issue brings us to summer! Lots of us have big plans for our holiday reading. Is there a book you’d like to recommend? Do you have special memories of summer reading? Maybe there’s a story you’d like to tell? All contributions welcomed – please get them to us by 9 October.

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*Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa.*

Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

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We acknowledge mana whenua of Pukerua Bay, Ngāti Toa Rangatira. For Ngāti Toa news, see [ngatitoa.iwi.nz](http://ngatitoa.iwi.nz)

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## The best decision I have made

My name is Olaf Wehr-Candler.

I was born in Berlin, a city which was divided by ‘The Wall’ going up in 1961. It also found itself at the hot end of the Cold War during my upbringing. But it was also a place full of history and cultural offerings for anybody interested.

While I enjoyed living and working there, things changed somewhat when I married my Kiwi girlfriend Gillian Candler, and we decided to move to New Zealand in 1984. We moved to Pukerua Bay in 1987. Never having lived in a village setting, I found that a few more adjustments were required.

I started Pukerua Glass Studio in 1987, enabling me to work from home most of the time. I design, manufacture, and install stained glass commissions all over New Zealand, with some work overseas. I still feel that I’ve the best of both worlds; business contacts in Germany and other European countries, as most of the materials and tools required are imported, while being able to live in an environment that I find constantly inspiring.

Although the basic principles of the trade have changed very little over the centuries, I’ve found that my designs have developed in new directions as I’ve taken inspiration from New Zealand flora and fauna and elements of South Pacific design. The example on this page is part of a native bird series commissioned for a home in the Wairarapa.

I also work as a stained-glass conservator, often in conjunction with or for



*Tūi. Window and image © Olaf Wehr-Candler.*

Heritage New Zealand. I feel privileged to be able to help maintain the built heritage of our young country. It’s constantly amazing to discover what treasures can be hidden in buildings that once were part of thriving communities.

Without exaggeration, marrying Gillian and moving to New Zealand was the best decision I’ve made to date.

Nā Olaf Wehr-Candler

See: [pukeruaglass.co.nz/pages/gallery](http://pukeruaglass.co.nz/pages/gallery)

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*Kia whakatōmuri  
te haere whakamua.*

*I walk backwards into the  
future with my eyes fixed  
on the past.*

---



*At school in the Netherlands and ...*



*... here in New Zealand.*

## “I’m not wearing that!”

I had just had my tenth birthday. It was the end of the school year and the summer holidays had just begun. It was the Netherlands in the 1980s. My favourite school outfit was a fuchsia-pink and white denim-style jacket, blue pants, legwarmers, and my red MaryJane clogs. Had I attended the following school year beginning that September, English would have formed part of my curriculum for the first time.

We immigrated to New Zealand in early June 1984. My parents wanted a freer, less stressful future for us kids. My father got offered a job here and, shortly after that, our family of four flew into Wanganui (now ‘Whanganui’) Airport.

People often ask if it was difficult for me but no, not at all. My brother and I rode the international-relocation wave in the safety of our parents’ shadow. There were many firsts, of course: lemon trees in backyards, not lemons imported from southern Europe; tamarillos; ponga trees; and Peter Williams commentating on the Summer Olympics.

I remember my first day of school well – my parents walked me up the steps into the Standard Three classroom. The wooden floors, double-sashed, multi-paned windows, and lidded wooden desks with inkwells, represented a step back in time for us. I spoke no English.

There are many experiences that only people who are the blended sum of immigration will know: being fluent in two languages; living with two identities; and the idiosyncrasies of not quite remembering children’s songs in your first language but having been too old to know them from your second. I am without lullabies.

Moving to New Zealand was a wonderfully happy time of discovery and richness. However, I do remember school uniforms were not one of them, especially a tartan tunic dress. I defiantly stated, “I’m not wearing that!”

Groeten,  
Indira Wieringa

## New beginnings – adapted from a blog Claire wrote on her family’s immigration experience.



*Claire and her children, recent arrivals from South Africa.*

Kia ora! My first post from my new home.

Aotearoa, Land of the Long White Cloud. We are in New Zealand, after many months of paperwork and patience.

It’s a surreal feeling to realise I live here now, and this isn’t just a holiday. Maybe when school starts up for the kids and I start working, it will sink in.

First impressions ... really friendly and helpful people, slow speed limit, beautiful scenery, and all four seasons in one day!

On the first day, I take to the roads, rather cautiously and with much trepidation, and go for a drive to get the feel for the area. Luckily, cars drive on the same side of the road as in South Africa. What I will have to remember is to actually stop at a pedestrian crossing! I know, it sounds like common sense ...

I got cracking and sorted out my admin while on my drive-about. Things like converting my driver’s license at the AA, opening a bank account, and getting a tax number. If you’ve been following me you may remember the driver’s license debacle that took 18 months

of frustration and several trips to the transport agency, with little success. I’m pleased to announce that after 20 minutes in the AA, I have a temporary driver’s license, and the new one will be mailed to me within a week. Result!

My kids are happy to discover that some familiar favourites also grace the grocery shelves here. Things like Coco Pops, and two-minute noodles, although slightly different, are quickly added to our shopping trolley.

Learning new phone numbers will take some time, but at least I’ve got the address where we’re staying memorised, should I ever find myself lost and needing to ask for directions home.

Another new and exciting activity the family has discovered ... thrifting! Now, I know these shops are not new, but to us it is a wonderful discovery and the source of our newly purchased couch and dining table. The first pieces of furniture that will grace our yet-to-be-found new home.

That’s the next big step – finding a place to rent. Check back soon for progress...

Nā Claire Conradie





## It's not all or nothing

When we emigrated from South Africa in 2009, I felt guilty. Guilty for giving up on my country, guilty for no longer providing income for people marginalised by society, guilty for abandoning my family, guilty for turning a blind eye on all the suffering, guilty for wanting more when others had so little. And grief. I felt a deep, penetrating sadness that my family was not safe in our own home.

Then my son and I joined 'Daddy' on this special little island nation at the bottom of the world. I walked alone in the mountains without fear. I swam in the ocean without having to bury my house keys deep in the sand to be safe from theft. I saw people being celebrated for who they are, and I felt truly free for the first time in my life! It was a gradual realisation, but I now know that

embracing the duality of African roots and a New Zealand home makes life so much richer, filling my cup so that I can shine light into the world. Instead of feeling guilty for every privilege I have, I have learnt to use my energy in a way that uplifts the people around me.

I still crave my homeland soil, so I travel back to see my family and friends often. It does not mean that I do not love my new country or that people should continue to see me as a foreigner. I have dedicated my heart to two countries, and I love the challenges and opportunities that brings for me, my family, and others around me. And one day our children might move on to discover other worldly wonders, but I know they will always have roots here in beautiful Aotearoa.

Nā Megan Melidonis

## Currents of contrast

*From a young age, watching Dad and Grandpa dive,*

*She knew that in the ocean's depths she did thrive.*

*The child longed to feel the freedom of a fish underwater*

*And refused to study law and be the good daughter.*

*Instead, she learned about all creatures marine,*

*Spending her holidays giving fish tanks a clean.*

*After years of consulting, reducing pollution and waste,*

*They had an energetic son and decided to emigrate.*

*The tide pulled the family to a beautiful island far away,*

*From Cape Town, to Aotearoa, to start a new day.*

*The lions were gone, replaced with wild Kiwi song,*

*But her love for the ocean still lingered so strong.*

*She found her peace in sleepy Pukerua Bay,  
Where they now also have a daughter who loves to play*

*In the rolling hills and on the pebble beach,*

*Where the sea sparkles and glimmers at arm's reach.*

*The strong breezes cool her, the calm waters embracing,*

*Still longing for the Cape of Storms but no longer chasing.*

*New purpose and passion have sprung to life,*

*Rather than fixating on people's strife.*

*Instead, she fills up her cup to shine a bright light*

*To empower and uplift people and continue to fight*

*For our precious Earth that sustains our life force,*

*And for Nature that provides food, air, and water resource.*

*In our little village we have a Climate Action Group*

*But if that's not your jam, Litter Intelligence is a great troop.*

*So, join the adventure, the discovery, the journey*

*To share this knowledge with children who are learning*

*How to look after our ecosystem and our Earth with its Sun*

*So we may enjoy our rare species for generations to come.*

Nā Megan Melidonis



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## Climate Action workshops

August saw Pukerua Bay's Climate Action Group move from planning to action with a series of workshops where we learned how to:

- measure, track, and improve our households' carbon footprints
- create a 'circular economy' – one in which waste has been designed out, material is kept in use, and natural systems can regenerate
- maximise recycling at home and make our own cleaning products
- prepare our households and community for emergencies.

Along the way, there were lots of suggestions about what we can do to achieve our vision of working together,

as a community, to mitigate and address the impact of climate change. You can read about what happened at the workshops and find out about some of the ideas we shared by going to the community website: [pukeruabay.org.nz](http://pukeruabay.org.nz)



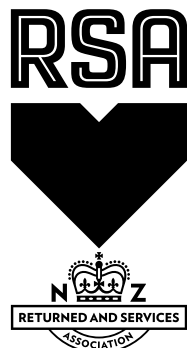
*Megan Melidonis leads discussion on how to track your household's carbon footprint. To try this yourself, take a look at a free calculator, like Futurefit: [futurefit.nz/questionnaire](http://futurefit.nz/questionnaire)*

## COME ALONG AND JOIN THE PUKERUA BAY RSA & COMMUNITY CLUB

OPEN: **4.30 – 11PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**  
**4.30 – 8PM SATURDAY**

WHERE: **5-7 WAIRAKA ROAD**

For more information, email [pukbayrsa@gmail.com](mailto:pukbayrsa@gmail.com) or call 04 239 9083.  
Facebook: **Pukerua Bay RSA and Community Club**



## COMMUNITY GARDEN & FOOD FOREST SPRING FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER**  
**10am – 12pm**

Join us at the Community Garden (off the platform at Muri Station) for a family-friendly fun day, with cups of tea and baking.

**Everybody is welcome.**

[PukeruaBayCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:PukeruaBayCommunityGarden@gmail.com)



[@PukeruaBayCommunityGarden](https://www.facebook.com/PukeruaBayCommunityGarden)



### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FROM LOCAL GARDEN EXPERT, HANNAH ZWARTZ

I am teaching a new part-time course in Sustainable Horticulture from **September 16** in Te-Whanganui-a-Tara region. Soil, design, compost and worms, basics of biodynamics and permaculture, seed saving, bees and chickens and more! It's great for people wanting to extend knowledge, gain a qualification, design their own backyard or start a small enterprise.

The course runs over a year, with a combination of remote learning and hands-on fortnightly Saturday workshop sessions, visiting different locations. It will give students a National Certificate in Sustainable Practices, a Level 4 NZQA qualification. Importantly it's also very affordable! **\$499 for a whole year.** Be in quick to assure a place.

Check out this link: <https://landbasedtraining.co.nz/pt-sustainability-courses>

## Notice of Residents' Association AGM

The Pukerua Bay Residents' Association will hold this year's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 11 October at the RSA, Wairaka Rd.

A guest speaker has been lined up and there will be reports from the Community Garden Food Forest, He Ara Pukerua, Waste Free Pukerua Bay, *Kōrero*, and the Climate Action Group, as well as the formal business of the Residents' Association, including the election of committee members.

We will also make substantial changes to the constitution to align it with new requirements in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, which have to be approved at the AGM.

A full programme for the AGM will be posted on the website [pukeruabay.org.nz](http://pukeruabay.org.nz) no later than a week before the meeting.

The Residents' Association works on behalf of the community of Pukerua Bay and surrounding areas to protect and promote the residential, social, recreational, educational, and environmental amenities of the Pukerua Bay area for the benefit of both residents and visitors. We liaise with other community-based groups on matters of common interest, and have regular contact with Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and government agencies on matters affecting Pukerua Bay.

If you are interested in coming onto the Committee or have matters you would like discussed at the AGM, please email [secretary@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:secretary@pukeruabay.org.nz) or make contact via the website.



### For sale: Panorama prints of Pukerua Bay Beach, 1929

This photo of Pukerua Bay was commissioned by Charles Gray and taken by R.P. Moore, New Zealand's greatest panorama photographer, on 2 December 1929.

Full-sized (860 x 230 mm) unframed prints of this photo are available for \$70 each. They have been scanned by New Zealand Micrographic Services Ltd and printed on 260gsm Epson Lustre stock.

To order: deposit \$70 to 02 0536 0134648 001 with your name as reference, then email [pukeruaheritage@gmail.com](mailto:pukeruaheritage@gmail.com) with your phone number. Pukerua Bay delivery only. Further details of R.P. Moore are on: [facebook.com/HeAraPukerua](https://facebook.com/HeAraPukerua)

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# EVERYONE WELCOME!

## 10 SEPT 10AM-4PM

FREE EVENT

Come give tennis a go!  
All equipment provided.  
Prizes, giveaways, BBQ & more.

love tennis



### Come play tennis at Pukerua Bay!

As you can see, the tennis club's annual Love Tennis promotion is happening on Sunday 10 September from 10am to 4pm at the tennis courts in Rāwhiti Rd. You're very welcome to join the club for what promises to be a great day – a chance to get fit while having fun! You can find out more at [facebook.com/pkbtennis](https://facebook.com/pkbtennis)

# Your local councillor

## Josh Trlin, councillor for the Northern Ward / Pukerua ki te Raki

Kia ora! My name is Josh Trlin. I'm one of your local Northern Ward councillors and I want to hear from you.

- Have an idea to improve our city?
- Concerned about an issue within our community?
- Want to know more about the work your council is doing?
- Got a problem you need council help to solve?

Drop me a line and let's have a chat.

**Labour**

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# Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

## Next issue

Our theme for the next issue is **summer reading**. 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 **9 October**. Our email address is [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)

# Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay



98 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay

Hours 8am-1pm  
(Tuesday - Saturday)

Coffee, Homemade Baking  
& Pies

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)



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## Events calendar

- 10 September** "Love Tennis!", 10.00am–4.00pm, Tennis Club, Rāwhiti Rd (see p. 12)
- 12 September** Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9.30pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 23 September** Community Garden and Food Forest spring festival, 10.00am–12pm, at the garden by Muri Station (see p. 9)
- 24 September** Daylight saving commences
- 10 October** Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9.30pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 11 October** Residents' Association AGM, 7.30–9.30pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd







To list an event in the November issue, please email by **9 October** [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)



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