

# Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay

Vol 3, Issue 5  
November 2023



*Declan and Zeta bond over pukapuka at the Pukerua Bay Library*

## Kia ora

We're excited to bring you the final issue of *Kōrero* for 2023. With a theme of 'summer reading', we hope that everyone finds some good reading to enjoy.

The cover photo features Declan Friend Hanley, one of our youngest residents, along with Zeta Ford, our local librarian. Zeta has written about the important place libraries can play in our lives (page 3). She has some great recommendations for children's summer reading. Declan certainly enjoyed his choice!

There's a second library in our community – the whare pukapuka constructed by Jane Comben and her whānau (page 4). It's small but special, and there's always something to interest the keen reader.

Claire Conradie asks, "Are you a bibliophile?" (page 5), and Claire James and Jenny Dawson answer, "Yes!" (pages 6–7). They share their love of books and the conversation and connection that can come from sharing our reading journey with others.

How is your Christmas shopping going? Two of our local organisations can help you find the perfect gift! He Ara Pukerua has beautiful prints for sale, and the kindergarten is getting ready for its annual Twilight Fair (pages 8–9).

Climate action work is continuing in Pukerua Bay and across Porirua. We have reports on plans for a citizens' assembly (page 12) and on our recent workshop series (page 13). You'll find opportunities to prepare for climate-related and other

emergencies (page 10) and to help clean up Brendan Beach (page 11).

Members of our community have been practising kaitiakitanga for years. In this issue, we have an update on the conservation work being done by Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project at the Pukerua Bay end of the Escarpment Track. If you have time, both Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project and the Community Garden and Food Forest whānau would greatly appreciate your help (pages 14–15).

We're sad to farewell Mel Galletly from our editorial team, and deeply thankful for all he has contributed. Mel has supported editing and overseen distribution. He's been diligent in getting each issue out to the distribution team promptly, so we can get it into your letterboxes. Haere rā, Mel. We're going to miss you. And welcome Gill England – thank you for stepping into the breach!

Our February 2024 issue will be loosely themed on our beautiful beach. As always, we welcome your contributions. In the meantime, we wish you peace, joy, and love this festive season, and always.

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*Kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i tō huarahi.*

May peace be widespread, may the sea glisten like greenstone, and may the shimmer of light guide you on your way.

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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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## Summertime reading for children

Kia ora, everyone!

I'm Zeta, the new library assistant for Pukerua Bay Library. I'm originally from Nelson but moved to Pukerua Bay five years ago and have enjoyed every minute of it!

I first started working for Porirua City Libraries in 2020, as a part-time member of the Whitby team. During this time, I developed a passion for helping children along their literary journey, regardless of skill or engagement levels. It has also reinforced my views on the importance of accessible public spaces that work for their community.

Pukerua Bay is such a unique community, and I have loved learning about the role our little library has played in our patrons' lives. I have many grand ideas for the library, such as bringing back semi-regular children's activities and building a relationship with local organisations.

After three years of working in libraries, I have accumulated a list of hidden gems, particularly for kids stuck in a reading rut. My top picks are ...

### For toddlers

The *My Big Wimmelbook* series. These board books are a cross between a *Where's Wally* and a Richard Scarry picture book. The bright colours and minimal words create a series perfect for young ones to enjoy on their own, and the search-and-find aspect keeps the books engaging for adults.

### For kids who find reading boring or frustrating

You can't go wrong with a pick-a-path book! The *You Choose* series by George Ivanoff offers nonstop adventure, set in whimsical worlds, such as a haunted circus or a city of robots. The *Fighting Fantasy* series, by Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone, casts the reader as an adventurer tasked with defeating mythical beasts, like griffins and goblin kings. Dustin Brady's *Escape from a Video Game* series adds a twist to the genre by asking the reader to solve brain teasers and puzzles as the story progresses.

### For kids who have read everything

*Māui's Taonga Tales*, published by Te Papa Press, is a collection of tales from Aotearoa New Zealand history and local legend. Each story is accompanied by a piece from Te Papa's collection, creating a tangible link between the present and the past.

I hope to see you and your whānau at the library this summer. The library is open on Saturdays from 10am–1pm, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2–5pm.

Nā Zeta Ford

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*Whaowhia te kete mātauranga.  
Fill the basket of knowledge.*

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## Pukerua Bay whare pukapuka

You can thank Trish Booth for the whare pukapuka (book shed). She shared a photo of one on the Pukerua Bay Trading Facebook page, and that prompted me to research other community libraries and Lilliput libraries on the web [lilliputlibraries.wordpress.com](http://lilliputlibraries.wordpress.com).



As someone who enjoys reading but doesn't need to hold onto books after I've read them, I thought the library idea would make a great whānau project. Pukerua Bay Trading delivered again, with locals gifting me wooden pallets and a small window. My handy partner built the wood and window into a shed from my visuals, and my son Stan and I painted it up over the school holidays. Stan also created the obligatory Whitaker's skink on the side. Once fixed to the front fence of 34 Rāwhiti Road, the Pukerua Bay Book Shed was open for business.

That was eight years ago now, and the book shed mostly looks after itself. Although weather tightness issues and a broken door mean it has needed new glass, a new door, and new sides, base, hinges, and handles over that time!

I appreciate everyone who has used their practical skills and supplies to help me fix it up, along with everyone that uses it. As it's out the front of my property, I don't often see people using the book shed but many people tell me they do. It can be an eclectic mix, and we've had everything from bodice rippers to Salman Rushdie, along with DVDs and magazines. Please keep taking the books, as it's usually a bit full and hard to browse!

The accompanying bench seat lasted several years before it was stolen but, despite that, I still believe that "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Certainly, I was delighted when someone once thanked me for creating a community space. That was my intention, and I'm pleased that people seem to enjoy it.

Nā Jane Comben



## Are you a bibliophile?

My son is not a great lover of reading. As much as I've tried to encourage and motivate him to read by buying different types of books that may pique his interest, it's just not his thing.

My daughter, on the other hand, must be told daily to stop reading. No matter what time of day, if you are looking for her, she has her nose in a book, much like I was at her age. She gets so emotionally involved in her books, I will often find her sobbing about a plot or character, and she loves to share her latest favourite with me, detailing each part that she loved or hated.



How do you develop young readers? That's what I want to know. What makes a child like or dislike reading?

Both my children were read to as babies and toddlers. They both had ample access to books. I modelled a love of reading from early on, and yet you couldn't pay my son to sit down with a

book. It makes me wonder whether it is ingrained in their physiological makeup or if it can be nurtured and trained. Some studies tend to indicate that a certain amount of it is hereditary. All I know is that I encouraged reading with both my children; one grasped the love, and the other, not quite.

This past week, while in a book shop, my son picked up a Star Wars book. Ecstatic, I bought it for him, and he proceeded to read it to his 16-month-old cousin in the car on the way home, using different voices for the many characters. My nephew was enthralled and sat spellbound, listening to the story unfold.

Hopefully, this will be the start of a lifelong love of reading ... for my nephew, at least! As far as my son is concerned, he has read his quota of books for the year.

My longtime love of reading started when I was in primary school, where I won an award for reading 20,000 pages in one year. Most of the books were from the Sweet Valley series. Even today, I will read and reread books that I enjoy, a trait my daughter has also happily picked up. I find it the best way to relax and switch off.

What about you? Are you an avid reader? Which book sparked your love affair with reading?

This is an excerpt from Claire's blog. You may have read and enjoyed an excerpt in the last issue of Kōrero. If you'd like to read more, you can access her blog at [linkedin.com/in/claire-conradie-aa1b57195/recent-activity/all](https://www.linkedin.com/in/claire-conradie-aa1b57195/recent-activity/all)



## Our book club

Once a month, a group of keen readers meet up to discuss their latest read. Each month's book will have been chosen by the host for that month, who will have thought of salient discussion points and topics and themes from the book.

Our books get chosen through various methods – themes anonymously dropped into a hat at our annual pizza night and allocated by month, books that we felt had a big effect on us growing up, historical novels, travel, biography, New Zealand writers, female authors – the options are endless. The best thing about it is that the books may not be what we would normally choose, and this pushes our reading horizons and opens our eyes to many new adventures. I love the challenge of thinking that I may not really want to read a genre, and then the surprise of discovering my preconceptions about what I enjoy are no longer correct. This is fantastic, and I have grown. I would have been unlikely to do this alone.

Hosting duties include the provision of drinks and nibbles at your home, and there is cake, tea, and coffee towards the end of the night. If a book is very much based in another country, we often theme a cocktail, which can be fun. If people have not read the book or aren't quite finished, they are, of course still welcome, but must just beware of spoilers! The book discussions are sometimes



Claire (centre right) and her crew at a recent gathering.

fleeting but can be political, personal, funny, or even quite hilarious, depending on what we have been reading.

As a group, we have become so much more than a book club. We are a crew, a friendship circle, a support network, an idea hive, a safe place to vent and share the ups and downs of our lives. Once a month is not always enough, so we now go for weekly walks, occasional weekend excursions, and other outings, as they appeal.

I value my book club extremely highly. Like a warm embrace, whilst in the midst of them, I feel warm and fuzzy.

Unfortunately, our group is already at capacity but, if you like the sound of it, why not start your own? Porirua Library has resources for book clubs, and all you need is a few willing friends ...

Nā Claire James

### Keen to establish a book club? Check out:

The Book Discussion Scheme: [bds.org.nz](https://bds.org.nz)

Book Club in a Bag: [porirualibrary.org.nz/collections/book-club-bag/](https://porirualibrary.org.nz/collections/book-club-bag/)

## Reading as autobiography

There is a T-shirt around that says, "Books – helping introverts avoid conversation since 1454." I am an extrovert and am honest in saying that rather than helping me avoid other people, books have brought me into many rich conversations over most of my lifetime. Those chats have been with others about books, and with the characters who have become like friends to me.

One of my earliest memories is of a book called *Rosa Too Little*, about a child in New York who was in the terrible situation of being too young to join the library, because she couldn't yet write her name to go on the library card. After a whole summer of practising, she was no longer too little, and I rejoiced with her.

As a child, books were part of borrowing (from libraries and friends), gifting (both giving and receiving), and secret reading under the blankets at night. In my last year at high school, I was asked to write an essay in French about something that was important to me, so I wrote about books, not realising that the teacher wanted an 'issue', perhaps racism or poverty. Sadly, the teacher didn't realise that my ideas and experiences of such issues were largely gleaned from my very wide reading of books.

When I had my own children, my mother's first book gift to them was the now controversial *Little Black Sambo*, fortunately quickly followed by lots of Beatrix Potter. When he was a tall, frustrated four-year-old, my son Ben



Jenny, with her current reading material

and I wrote a story called *Big, Great, and Tall Ben* (named after what he called the famous clock tower in London). This gave him some comfort when people expected too much of him. My daughter was sustained in her teen years by Judy Blume.

Currently, I am reading *King*, an excellent biography of Martin Luther King by Jonathan Eig, and *Our Last Awakening: Poems for Living in the Face of Death* by Janet Morley.

I wonder about joining a book group again. I wonder how we can protect public libraries, which are an essential part of democratic society. I wonder what will go in the banana box of books we will take away on summer holiday ... but books have always made me wonder.

Do you have a reading autobiography like mine? It would be fun and enlightening to talk about each other's book journeys.

Nā Jenny Dawson

# PRINTS FOR SALE

## GREAT FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT

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taken on 2 December 1929 by R.P. Moore



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### Waikokako (Brendan Beach)

2018 painting by Pauline Morse



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All proceeds go towards He Ara Pukerua projects.



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# Pukerua Bay Emergency Response Practice



**25 November 2023**  
**11am- 1pm at**  
**Pukerua Bay School**  
**& Community Hall**



**A Community Emergency Hub is a place for the community to gather and coordinate efforts to help each other during and after a disaster.**

Come along and find out more about the PUKERUA BAY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUB and the types of help that may be needed after an emergency.

Have fun meeting together and practising various volunteer roles with an interactive earthquake scenario.

*Open to all ages and abilities,  
no experience needed -  
free lunch included!*



Help keep our tātahi safe for enjoyment and play!

## CLIMATE ACTION GROUP COMMUNITY **BRENDAN BEACH CLEANUP**

**10 DECEMBER 2023 AT 2PM**

Bring your own travel mug for tea.  
Your time and koha appreciated.  
Tamariki participation encouraged.

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Looking forward to summer on the coast!



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[www.45services.nz](http://www.45services.nz)





## Porirua Citizens' Assembly

Previous newsletters have reported on the work The People Speak and Ngāti Toa Rangatira are doing to organise a citizens' assembly on climate change in Porirua.

The Pukerua Bay Residents' Association is one of the organisations participating in the discussions on this new form of community-led democracy. We are part of the Porirua Community Leaders Group, a standing forum of community leaders hosted by Ngāti Toa to guide the process.

The aim is to trial an equitable, inclusive, and fun democratic process in Porirua.

The citizens' assembly will be a place for free and frank discussion and for collaborating to drive positive change for people in Porirua City.

We are working towards the first citizens' assembly in mid-2024, with a rangatahi assembly happening first, pegged for February.

There is some great background information, including short videos, at [thepeoplespeak.nz](http://thepeoplespeak.nz)

Nā Moira Lawler

## Climate action update

You'll recall that in August, Pukerua Bay's Climate Action Rōpu facilitated a series of workshops on how to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We're extremely grateful to those who led the workshops: Megan Melidonis, Kelly McLean, Nikky Winchester, Melissa Wharakura, and Nickola Loodin. We're just as grateful to those who attended, be it for just one or two sessions or all four. And we couldn't have done it without Claire James, who entertained the children with such kindness and imagination, and Yvonne and Andrew Mackie, who opened up the RSA and the bar. Thanks everyone, for the learning and the fun.

You can find out about what happened and some of the ideas we shared by

going to the community website: [pukeruabay.org.nz](http://pukeruabay.org.nz).

This issue of *Kōrero* promotes two of the workshops' outcomes (pages 10–11):

- The WREMO workshop is a chance to update our community's emergency management plan and get practice by working through a scenario.
- The beach cleanup is a chance to do something tangible to care for our local environment.

We hope to see you at one of these events and look forward to more action in the future.

Nā Pukerua Bay Climate Action Rōpu  
[facebook.com/groups/pukeruabayclimateaction](https://facebook.com/groups/pukeruabayclimateaction)

## 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.



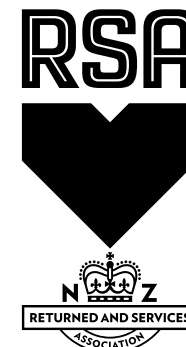
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## COME ALONG AND JOIN THE PUKERUA BAY RSA & COMMUNITY CLUB

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**



## Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project, Pukerua Bay update



*Initially, the site was pretty bleak.*

If you have walked the Escarpment Track – the leg of the Te Araroa pathway running between Pukerua Bay and Paekākāriki – you will have seen the tree planting and restoration work carried out at the Pukerua Bay end.

### A story of determination and survival!

In 2016, Ngā Uruora – Kāpiti Project volunteers met to begin planning and, in 2017, we did our first planting on a bare patch next to the track. We soon realised why it was a bare patch, as it was very exposed, and we were planting on rubble instead of dirt.

Undeterred, and committed to re-establishing the coastal forest sufficiently to bring Kāpiti Island's dawn chorus back to the coast, we continued to plant. Since 2017, volunteers have planted hundreds of native plants that have been grown at the Pukerua Bay School nursery.

The wind has been one of our biggest challenges, along with loose sheep on the track. We now have six fenced, sheep-

proof areas. If you take a look, you can see how lush the plants in these areas are, compared to the plants still being nibbled.



*This photo was taken this year. Against the odds, many of the plants have survived and are going strong.*

### Come and join us!

We hold regular working bees on the second Tuesday of each month, meeting at 9am at the track entrance near the old Muri Station. We plant, maintain the fences, and release plants from the weeds. When necessary, we can water plants using the water tanks we have installed. We would love to keep planting; however, we need more volunteers to help us make this planting sustainable.

Hopefully, over summer, you will walk the Escarpment Track and enjoy the views, fresh air, and the developing coastal forest. We also hope you will be inspired to come and join our working bees – it's a fantastic place to be on any day. To find out more, go to [kapitibush.org.nz](http://kapitibush.org.nz) or email [kapitibush@gmail.com](mailto:kapitibush@gmail.com)

Nā Vicky Griffin



*Practising kaitiakitanga at the Food Forest.*

## The Community Garden and Food Forest

It was disappointing that the weather meant that our Spring Festival couldn't go ahead, but the work goes on! If you're looking for something to do over summer – something fun, creative, and in the great outdoors – do come and join us at one of our working bees, usually held on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 10.00am–12.00pm. Or just call in and pull up a weed, mulch a plant, or pick a berry. The garden is in Muri Reserve, off the old Muri Station platform.

To find out more, check out: [facebook.com/PukeruaBayCommunityGarden](https://facebook.com/PukeruaBayCommunityGarden)

### Lauren Sweeney Coaching

#### About me:

Online Health & Fitness Coach, studying to be a Nutritionist.  
My main goal is to empower women and help find what brings them peace and joy.

I wish to create a comfortable and encouraging environment to explore and expand on what you're truly capable of! I've been on my own fitness and wellbeing journey for the past 4 years and have learnt a great deal about the opportunities that arise for personal development when you allow them in. I have also learnt the importance of getting to know your body, how it works, how it reacts and what fuels it!

My ideal client is someone who is **motivated**, ready to make **positive change** to their life, eager to embrace **new challenges**, learn a bit more about themselves and create **long lasting growth**!



"I am always learning and growing, experience has shown me that fitness, both mental and physical, is not something you achieve, but something you are always striving for; so lets strive together!"

Lauren Sweeney  
027 770 1545  
[laurensweeney323@gmail.com](mailto:laurensweeney323@gmail.com)  
[@laurensweeneycoaching](https://www.instagram.com/laurensweeneycoaching)

#### Community Offer:

- Online coaching \$40p/week
- Exercise Plan
- Habit Tracking
- Exclusive App
- Nutrition Advice | Food Journal
- Mindset Coaching
- Weekly Check-ins via LOOM
- Mon-Fri WhatsApp Access
- 1:1 Check-in Aalls via WhatsApp



# beauty in the bay

1/8 teihana road  
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## Your Summer Fling

### CHRISTMAS CRACKER EMAIL DEALS

Email us to jump on our email list **NOW** to be the first to know celebrations, events, specials and much more

## New Year's Resolution Facial Rev-up

\*\*purchase the skincare, get the treatment of same value free.  
\*\*conditions apply.  
(valid between Jan-feb'24)

## Christmas Gift Ideas

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# Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

## Next issue

The theme for the next issue is “The beach – where we live and play.” 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 **15 January**. Our email address is [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)



98 Rawhiti Road, Pukerua Bay

Hours 8am-1pm  
(Tuesday - Saturday)

Coffee, Homemade Baking  
& Pies

## Our team

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

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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Michael Beaumont	Mowing and gardening	021 0239 4689 <a href="mailto:michaelfbeaumont@hotmail.com">michaelfbeaumont@hotmail.com</a>

### Events calendar

14 November	Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
23 November	Twilight Christmas Fair, 5.00–8.00pm, Pukerua Bay Kindergarten, Wairaka Rd (see page 9)
24 November	WREMO workshop, 11.00am–1.00pm, Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall, Rāwhiti Road (see page 10)
10 December	Beach cleanup, 2.00–3.30pm, Brendan Beach (see page 11)
12 December	Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
25 December	Meri Kirihimete!
5 February	Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd

To list an event in the February issue, please email by **15 January**: [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)

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