

Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay



Vol 4, Issue 5
November 2024

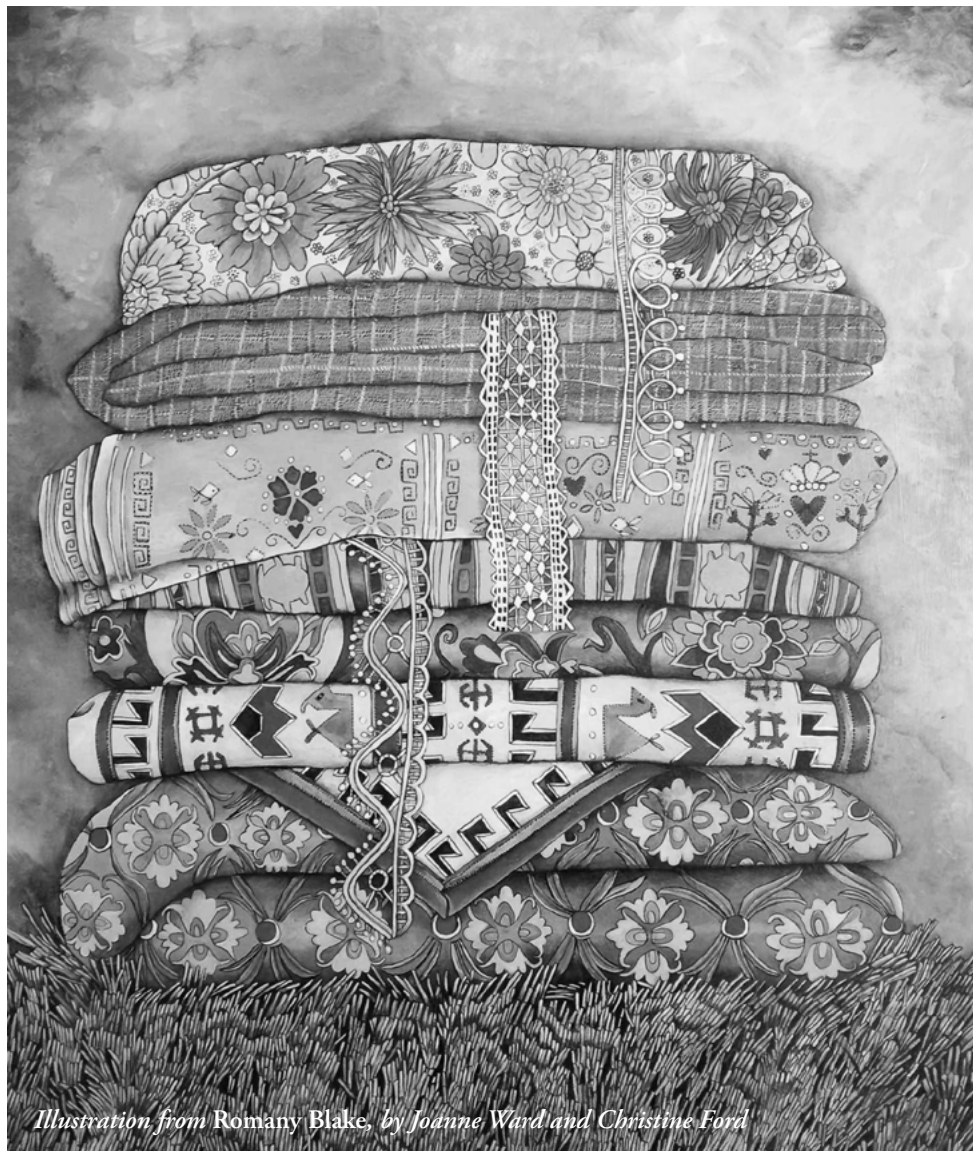


Illustration from Romany Blake, by Joanne Ward and Christine Ford

Ngā mihi o te wā (Season's greetings)

We're approaching the end of another year, a year that has been tough for many of us. How lucky we are that whatever happens in the wider world, we in Pukerua Bay continue to enjoy the beauty of our hills and sea and the comfort and security of good friends and neighbours.

Kōrero finished last year with an issue focused on reading. This year, we're looking at writing. Our first writer is Robert McClean (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa Rangatira) is deeply connected to Pukerua. At this year's Matariki event, he shared poetry that speaks to that connection. For many readers, the poem we've re-printed will spark precious memories of a childhood in Pukerua Bay – one of freedom, wrapped around with nurture (p. 4).

Gay Hay and Gillian Candler are renowned writers of children's books that inspire a love of nature in everyone who reads them (pp. 6–7). Kate Dreaver is also a writer, but her focus is on technical writing (p. 9). From their different perspectives, they each share tips for how you can turn a love of writing into words on a page that others want to read.

Every issue of *Kōrero* is made beautiful by our designer, Anne Johnston, and by the artists and photographers whose images adorn the cover and illustrate the stories. Together, they transform the written word, making it appealing, engaging, and accessible. The artist featured on this month's cover is Christine Ford, who

shares with us the rich cultural heritage that is her inspiration (cover and p. 3).

The Pop-up Parlour and Climate Action Spring Series brought us together to have fun, learn from each other, and take action on climate change (pp. 13–14). More community events are on the way, with the Twilight Christmas Fair, Christmas on the Field, and the opening of the new pavilion at the Community Garden and Food Forest (pp. 10, 20). All these varied events help create the sense of hope that Jenny Dawson wishes for us all (p. 11).

Has this issue inspired you to have a go at writing or illustration? The pages of *Kōrero* are open to you! The theme for the next issue is “a sense of adventure.” Do you have stories to tell of adventures you have undertaken? Or that you dream of? Could you use poetry to convey a moment when the adrenaline was sparking as you tried something new? What is an adventure, anyway?

From all the *Kōrero* team, sincerest thanks for all your support. As we enter the festive season, we wish you good cheer, lots of hope, and a touch of adventure!

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

Christine Ford, artist and illustrator

My name is Christine Ford, and I am an artist of Romany descent. Most of my paintings are about my family's history and origins. My family are Romany people who migrated from India centuries ago and, by the 1500s, were living at the Scottish borders, referred to as ‘border gypsies’ by the Gadjo (non-Romany people).

The cover shows an image from my latest artistic project, illustrating a children's book called *Romany Blake*, with a local writer, Joanne Welch. My job has been capturing the narrative in an illustration that illuminates the text and gives the child visual clues to the meaning. Like most nomadic people, storytelling is at the heart of Romany culture and *Romany Blake* is about an ‘Atchin Tan’, which is the word for the traditional stopping places of traveling families.

Living in Pukerua Bay has been a wonderful Atchin Tan for our family. Our daughter Zeta is the local librarian, and my partner and I are both lucky



An illustration from Christine's forthcoming book.

enough to work locally. I have a small studio next to our house and a large pōhutukawa tree. Tūi often visit, as does the occasional human who is interested in my work!

My last exhibition was online and hosted by Art without Boundaries. The exhibition was called “Patrins to my children” and features paintings with stories of snippets of Roma history.

The painting on this page is of the deity, Bibi, who is celebrated by the Eastern orthodox Roma. Her story is that she wanders with two lambs and two female children making requests. If the requests are granted, she protects the person's children from disease.

Nā Christine Ford

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Writing with freedom

I've always enjoyed writing, but most of my works have tended to be historical research reports, briefings, advice, submissions, policy papers, my doctoral work, and other not-so-exciting stuff. Writing poetry provides time to write with freedom, without worrying about references or footnotes.

I often write about my childhood memories or the landscape, finding inspirational metaphors for tackling life's daily trials and tribulations. My poems also seek to return to an indigenous landscape, before colonisation and the removal of forests and pollution of waterways. But most of my writing is for gifts, weddings, birthdays, and other special events. And often, the words are matched with pencil sketches. (I am currently working on my 2024 Christmas card.)

Pukerua Bay was always a place of memory, good friends, family, and the gateway to the region. But as a local,



Robert sharing his poems at Matariki 2024

originally from Plimmerton, there was always a friendly rivalry between the two villages as a kid. And it was a tale of two towns, with a northern two-stop train line, windswept habitation hidden in bush and clawed onto the escarpment, and pretty much vacant streets. We roamed on our bikes, climbed Mt. Welcome and rambled over to the sea without bubble-wrapping from parents who, I guess, sometimes wondered where we were. A part of me remains here at Pukerua.

This whakataukī acknowledges the fact that each of us is born with innate strengths and talents. It might be writing, illustration, design, or something quite different. We can grow these strengths, and those of the people around us, when we give them our time, care, and attention.

Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai.

Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

Rā roa

*It was always after soccer, after church, or after school
Windy, sunny and walking up the long driveway
At the top was a little Norris family world
I used to go there on the weekends to stay and play
The hill (with sheep and grass) came right down
A shadow, which hid the sun in the evening
But we would walk up the reserve and over
To meet the glorious sea and sky leaving
We would then slide down on cardboard skis
To play endless games out the back on the lawn
Pool in the rumpus on wet, windy days
Mucking around on bikes until the sun was long gone
They tried to teach me the rules of cricket
The importance of rugby union and the Ranfurly Shield
Always arguing about Liverpool and Newcastle teams
It was learning to be a Kiwi down at the PKB school field
Later we graduated to youth groups and town
Learning old Bob Dylan hits on the guitars
Tramping Mt Welcome and around the hills
Eventually landing up in cars or drinking at local
Colonial bars
The twins were cool and didn't last long working in a bank
Deborah was older and lived beyond me
Adrienne was younger and was cute as a kōwhai
Greg was in Coastal Rhythm and lived seemingly carefree
Antony is my mate from ol' school days
He was always smart, cheeky, and knew lots of knowledge*

*Going off to Taratahi, kayaking, and Youth Min' jobs
He lives the dream with his endeavours since leaving college
Mrs Norris with Rusty was always at the heart
Of this private kingdom she ruled people like me
Not just us, but Dolans, Kellys, Greenings, and all
We were her extended family like a tall cabbage tree
I think Mrs Norris thought that I needed
A broader education beyond Plimmerton's beach
Like all schoolteachers, I thought she was tough
But that's because she cared, was concerned, and didn't preach
I know that she loved me and us McCleans
And despite Mum always saying I couldn't stay for tea
Mrs Norris gave us food, drink, biscuits, and all
When I remember back to Pukerua Bay, I was free
Now farewell and blessings, Mrs Norris
Rā-roa is the journey of the everlasting sun
Where memories only remember neverending days
It was a life well lived, loved, and given on the run.*

*Kei te karanga o te Rā
Kei te tatari a Rangi ki a koe
Nau mai ki te kura o te Ranginui
Haere ra
Haere
Haere
Haere*

Nā Robert McClean, Pukerua Bay,
18 September 2020

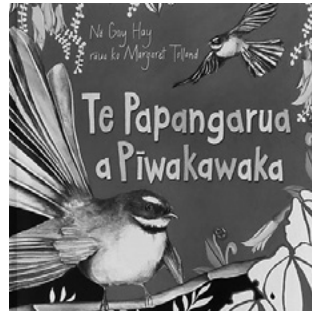
Writing for children

Gay Hay worked for many years as a primary school teacher, with a specialty in literacy and libraries, before becoming an author. She has written a series of popular children's books, all with a strong environmental message.

There are so many wonderful and exciting things happening right in front of us. Let's learn about them.

When I write, I am trying to get young readers to stop and really look at what's under that leaf? Behind that rock? Caught in that web? What is making those holes? Why is that creature so strange?

I know my illustrator, Margaret Tolland, is brilliant at capturing our living world for my books.



I don't need a lot of words; I know to keep it simple. Each word must be carefully chosen and often, that's the hardest bit!

Hopefully, if we read about our world and go out and look, then we will also take more care of it.

Nā Gay Hay

Putting pen to paper (or fingers to the keyboard)

You love to write and have lots of great story ideas but somehow, putting pen to paper just doesn't happen. Gillian Candler is an award-winning author of 12 books for children about New Zealand nature. Here, she shares some of her tips for aspiring writers.

Getting started

Writing about nature, a subject I'm passionate about, makes it easier to get started. I carry a notebook for jotting down words, ideas, phrases. Using 'Notes' on my phone is a last resort. A daily habit of writing in a journal, even for a few minutes, helps keep ideas alive.

I read a lot. When I find writing I like, I think about what makes it good.

Keeping on writing

I write for a few hours most days. It's easier to pick up from where I left off if the work is fresh in my mind. Writing a little, often, is more productive than attempting a marathon writing session irregularly.

Being involved in the writing community helps. Even beginner writers can join the NZ Society of Authors authors.org.nz. Members get access to information, events, and learning opportunities.

I'm not currently in a writing group, but these can be worthwhile. Most require you to write something to share once a month. Writing courses also provide deadlines, as well as the opportunity for discussion and critique.



Finishing your work

I keep my eye out for competitions or calls for submissions. I've used the deadlines for the quarterly magazine, *a fine line*, to spur me on to complete half-finished poems poetrysociety.org.nz. Essay competition deadlines have also ensured the final polishing that a piece of work needs.

Family events have encouraged me to finish pieces of my memoir. I've been sharing some of it with an elderly friend ahead of getting it published. I want her to enjoy reading about our shared past now.

Recommended reading

The Writer Laid Bare by Lee Kofman

Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg

4000 Weeks: time management for mortals by Oliver Burkeman

Nā Gillian Candler
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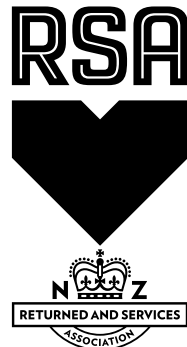
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Making a career out of writing

I've always admired the creative people who do 'real' writing, the writers of fiction. That's not me. But I have made a career out of writing. I do this by editing and writing educational publications. It's a role that is sometimes called 'technical writing'. In my case, it involves understanding research and policy about effective teaching and school leadership and translating it into resources that educators can use to inform their practice.

If you're interested in taking up technical writing, here are some pointers that may help:

- **Follow your passion:** I loved teaching, and will always miss it, but my role still lets me be an educator. What are the opportunities within your field of expertise? Where might they take you?
- **Know your audience:** I draw on my teaching experience to visualise how suggested approaches might work in the classroom. But 30 years on, that's not enough. Observations, interviews, and informal conversations all keep me in touch.
- **Listen:** You need to listen very carefully to understand what the client is asking for and to the knowledge and insights of experts. Ask questions that push people to clarify their thoughts. Remember that if something isn't clear to you, it won't be to your readers. It's your job to fill the gaps, so they don't have to.

- **Be an active learner:** Read, watch webinars, go to conferences. The process of writing is itself a thinking and learning process. It's smart to build on those gains, thinking about how learning from one project can help inform your work on another.
- **Stay attuned to policy:** It's important that the messages you communicate align with the policies governing your client's activities. When policies change, you need to explain to practitioners what is changing, why, and how it will affect them.
- **Be courageous:** It can be hard to let go of what you have written and let other people read and critique your words. But you are being paid to create a resource for a particular audience and purpose. You need to accept feedback humbly and use it to do better.

While job opportunities are currently in decline, they will return. There's always going to be a need for well-written learning resources that help people become more efficient and effective in their daily work. Being part of crafting such resources is a privilege and a joy.

Nā Kate Dreaver





Community Garden and Food Forest – pavilion celebration

The Pukerua Bay Community Garden and Food Forest will be celebrating the completion of the restoration work on the pavilion before Christmas. We'd love you to come! Watch our Facebook page for details: facebook.com/PukeruaBayCommunityGarden



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Greeting the season with hope

A Christmas message from Jenny Dawson. In December, Jenny and Jim will begin a gradual move to Ōtautahi. Jenny says she will always carry Pukerua in her heart. We will hold her in ours.

"I hope the dog will be okay at the kennels while we are camping." "I hope that Grandad doesn't get drunk on Christmas Day." "I hope that Santa brings me Squishmallows." "I hope nobody comes near me in December – I just want to be alone." "I hope the kids can get to the end of the year without being exhausted." "I hope she doesn't max out the credit card again." "I hope Auntie doesn't kiss me this year." "I hope next year's better." "I hope we get the hay cut before it rains." "I hope my schoolfriends don't forget about me during the holidays."

This season of the year is often called 'Christmastime', but these weeks of December are just as important for any number of other celebrations. In Aotearoa, it is the end of the academic year and for most people, a time for a break from work. Here the season is midsummer, with sunshine, camping, and swimming. For many, it is also about endings and beginnings, a turning point, and a time to breathe.

I am fascinated by how often I hear the word "hope" as we hustle and bustle through December. Even if we don't agree on what is being celebrated, we almost all acknowledge a change in rhythm. For many farmers, this is one of the busiest times of the year. For many

families, there is a special effort made to get together. For the great majority of us whose families aren't picture-perfect, there may be a tug – or worse – of loneliness, isolation, or guilt.

It seems to be a time of high expectations across the community. I believe that what almost all people have at this time of the year is a deep sense of hope. It may be, as for those who welcomed Jesus 2000 years ago, a dream that the world could become a better place. At this time, surely our communities need real hope. I believe we all want those amongst us who can to speak genuinely of ways of trusting, of looking forward, and of finding meaning. At least, I know that has happened to me often when I have been encouraged to look up.

Someone said recently that hope stands for "Hold On with Patient Expectation." In these weeks of great light in Aotearoa, many of us can easily speak of goodness, growth, and generosity, even using a new greeting as we look ahead: Ngā mihi o te wā (Season's greetings); Kia pai ngā hararei (Happy holidays or Make those holidays good); Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū Ia (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year).

Nā Jenny Dawson

Your local councillor

Josh Trlin, councillor for the Pāuatahanui General Ward



Kia ora! My name is Josh Trlin. I'm one of your local Pāuatahanui General 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?

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Pop-up Parlour: the place to be this spring

What becomes possible when we open up a space for community, where locals can connect, collaborate, share, and meet?

The Pop-up Parlour was a month-long experiment in community connection. With funding support from the Nikau Foundation and donated space from the Anglican Diocese, we turned St Mark's into a community hub for five weeks this spring. We supported locals to run events and activities that would provide people with opportunities to meet, connect, share, learn, and provide mutual aid. In all, we ran 48 events, from art workshops and dances to meditation classes and a local history session. The events were attended by over 1,000 people and involved a range of local groups.

Seeing our community come together with such enthusiasm was incredibly rewarding. Jane Comben, our community coordinator and activator, was integral to the project's success.

There are areas for improvement, especially around accessing grant funding. But that said, we had a wonderful time, and we're definitely planning to do it again. See you next year!

Pukerua Bay Hub and Ahu Charitable Trust
ki Pukerua Bay team

Read the report: pkbhub.org.nz/popup-parlour
Check out the photos: [instagram.com/pkbhub/](https://www.instagram.com/pkbhub/)



The Climate Action Spring Series

The Climate Action Spring Series was a great success. Over several weeks, we:

- learned from Mike Jebson about smart ways local areas can become carbon-neutral while restoring their natural environment and creating community amenities
- learned from Hugh Evans about the Escarpment Domes and Floruit's vision of enabling people to make their own contribution to environmental restoration while enjoying a holiday in a beautiful place
- ran a temporary pātaka kai (community food pantry)
- rebooted the community recycling collections, holding the first at the same time as Pest Free Pukerua Bay ran a trap-making workshop
- initiated community crop swaps where we took items from home that we didn't need and swapped them for those we did.

As you can see, it was fun! We're so grateful to the Hub and RSA for hosting our events. You made us very welcome.

What next? We plan to run the recycling collection and crop swap on a regular basis and we're interested in making the pātaka kai a permanent feature. Look out for further information online and on the Residents Association noticeboard. We're also very interested in your ideas for future action. Please get in touch through one of these channels:



newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz
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Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

Next issue

The theme for the next issue is “a sense of adventure.” 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

Want a future for New Zealand built on peace and justice?
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Our team

Kōrero is brought to you by Kate Dreaver, Gill England, Carla Guy, Jonathan Harker, Anne Johnston, Moira Lawler, Iain MacLean, Kelly McClean, 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 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

- 17 November** Raumati South Repair Café, 10am–1pm, Raumati South Memorial Hall, 16 Tennis Court Rd, Raumati South
- 21 November** Twilight Christmas Fair, 5.00–8.00pm, Pukerua Bay Kindergarten Wairaka Rd
- Late November** Pavilion celebration, Community Garden and Food Forest (date and time to be confirmed)
- 7 December** Christmas on the Field, 3.00–7.00pm, Pukerua Bay School field
- 10 December** Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 21 December** Crop Swap and Recycling, 3.00–4.30pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 25 December** **Meri Kirihimete!**
- 1 January** **Ngā mihi o te tau hou!**
- 11 February** Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 11 March** Residents’ Association meeting, 7.30–9.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd

To list an event in the Feb issue, please email by **15 Jan:** newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz



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