

Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay



Vol 5, Issue 2
April 2025



Manawa's award-winning image of a tui captures the life and vitality of this beautiful bird, seen in te ao Māori as representing the connection between sea and forest.

Kia ora

For this issue, we asked members of our community to share stories about their careers. You responded with a fascinating range of stories that follow a common theme – that our careers twist and turn with changes within us and the world around us. We need to be ready for these changes and have the courage to grasp new opportunities as they arise.

Rachel Prebble traces her journey from voluntary work with disabled children in Russia's orphanages to a lead role with Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand (p. 3). Manawa transitioned from carving to tā moko, with his life's work connected by his deep commitment to his roots and the strength and beauty of te ao Māori (pp. 4–5). Joey Rockell could have chosen science, but is instead following his passion for food, inspired in part by his experiences with food on a whānau holiday in Italy (pp. 5–6). John Jamieson's career as a translator highlights how changes in technology have changed the way many of us work – but not the need for human understanding and expertise (pp. 8–9). Pip Spite's career has followed many twists and turns, leading to her current position as kaitiaki (caretaker) of our beloved school (pp. 14–15). After many years teaching in South Africa, Claire Conradie is exploring a new career in administration (p. 15).

Several of our contributors described the indecision they felt at the start of their working lives, when wondering where to begin. Careers consultant Gill England offers reassurance and practical advice to rangatahi and their whānau standing on

the precipice and asking, “What next?”

Our next issue will focus on Matariki and its values of honouring the past, enjoying the present, and looking forward to the future. What connections can you make to these values?

A big thank you from the School Fundraising Trust!

What an incredible day! We were thrilled to see so many of you at this year's gala. Your support helped us raise \$23,000 to fund fantastic learning initiatives for our school.

Organising the gala is no small task, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our dedicated school families and community. Thank you for your hard work and generosity. We also thank the many local sponsors – who helped make this gala an epic fundraiser!

You can stay up to date on our fundraising activity on our new site: fundpkbschool.raiselysite.com. Winners of the raffle (drawn 7 April) will also be announced on our website.

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

Saying ‘yes’

I love the fact that the word ‘career’ means both ‘a job or series of jobs that you do during your working life’, and ‘to move swiftly in an uncontrolled way’.

I had a plan. I was privileged to be able to go to university, study hard, and graduate as a clinical psychologist.

Then I suddenly found myself living in Moscow, Russia in the 1990s (the consequence of my partner's interesting career). A friend invited me to meet a volunteer group that had started working with disabled children in orphanages and I quickly became involved supporting them to formalise a group. Over the next two years, I developed a passion for helping people find their sense of purpose – whether through therapy or volunteer work. The charity we seeded, “Action for Russia's Children”, has been active now for 30 years.

When I returned to New Zealand, I started my ‘proper career’, working in mental health. It wasn't until nearly 10 years later that the experience I had in Moscow resurfaced. In another swift and slightly uncontrolled move – I went to a meeting and came out with a new job! My colleagues asked me to help them develop their ways of working to meet increased demand. An unexpected step that grew that passion further.

COVID was huge for all of us, and for me created another pivot point in my career when I was asked to support the national vaccination programme. This led to all sorts of random experiences – I even ended up making a video for

social media to encourage respectful conversations with friends and whānau about vaccination.

This led to my current role supporting the National Public Health Service to come together from 16 distinct entities. Health is a challenging context to work in currently; having clarity of purpose has never been more important for me.

At numerous points during my working life, I have been lucky enough to be able to make a choice about what I want to do with my time. Sometimes it has followed a set career progression – but I often reflect on the impact of saying ‘yes’ to my friend's invitation all those years ago and how that changed the course of my career.

Nā Rachel Prebble



A new challenge – making a public health promotion video.

E rere te huata, kapohia!

Seize every opportunity that comes your way!

Manawa Moko

Manawa owns Manawa Moko, a tā moko and carving studio based in Pukerua Bay.

I grew up in Tolaga Bay on the East Coast. My genealogy is arts based – my people are carvers, boat builders, a community of creatives. One of our ancestors designed the first dovetail joint for waka in the 1500s. This joint strengthens the middle of a waka so it can withstand the pressure of the rising tide. I have always loved the arts, and I produced my first carving at four years old. In my work now, I get to live my culture every day.

I am traditionally trained – from the age of 14, I lived with an uncle who was a master carver. I started helping him with little jobs and learned as I went. My uncle carved the meeting house at Kāpiti College, where I helped with the kōwhaiwhai, and later, we worked on the Victoria University meeting house.

In 1996, my uncle started doing tā moko and I learned from him in an apprentice/teacher model. Carving and tā moko are linked by the designs used and the stories they tell.

Tā moko is part of the Māori renaissance. The practice has been embraced as an important way to uphold Māori culture. Great artists like Derek Lardelli, Mark Kopua, and Rangi Kipa worked on a strategy to reclaim the understanding of tā moko, as a beneficial practice, and part of being present as Māori. When we were young, we never saw tā moko – now our children see it as part of their daily experience. So, a lot of the misunderstandings of the past are

corrected by this now living experience, for the youth.



I set up my studio in Pukerua Bay because of COVID 19. Prior to that, I travelled locally and internationally to work. I immediately received great support from locals and those further afield.

I don't use a catalogue of images. I work with the recipient's genealogy or personal experience to create an image. Some of my favourite pieces are cover ups where the recipient is moving away from something they want to leave behind towards a new direction; the happiness of the cover up is easy to see once the piece is finished. A recent favourite includes the ruru – part of the origin story for tā moko.

I would encourage any young person who wants to take up this career. I have just taken on an apprentice. We recently visited Te Papa so he could see the work of his iwi – the pieces his ancestors carved 600 years ago. Researching what inspired our ancestors and what they could create with stone implements is an important part of our understanding. My daughter is also a tā moko artist, currently practicing out of Tauranga.

To learn more about Manawa and his work go to:

Te Aka Kumara: [kumaravine.com/o-matou-purakau-our-stories/exploring-the-artistry-and-passion-of-manawa-moko-a-journey-into-t-moko-and-beyond](https://www.kumaravine.com/o-matou-purakau-our-stories/exploring-the-artistry-and-passion-of-manawa-moko-a-journey-into-t-moko-and-beyond)
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Nā Manawa, interviewed by Moira Lawler

Joey Rockell – a passion for food

Joey finished Kāpiti College in 2023 with a swathe of academic awards, including Principal's Commendation for Academic Excellence. When he left school, he was considering becoming a chemical engineer, as maths and chemistry were among his strongest subjects. Instead, he decided to follow his passion for food.

“My favourite subject was always hospitality and catering. I like working with my hands more than spending hours on a computer. I always liked food, but that's not enough to justify the intensity of the career. I like the way kitchens work – it's quite social. You don't get paid much but you get good feedback, and you can take pride in the work you do. I like to be constantly progressing, to keep pushing to make something better.”

Joey was working for Pizza Hut when he travelled with his family to Europe. The food experiences he had there reminded him that food was his real passion.

“We had lots of great food experiences but the food in Italy was really exciting. I had always wanted to try real Neapolitan-style pizza. When I ate pizza in Naples, I realised how low our standards can be for good food here.”



Joey makes pasta with his brother, Paddy, while on holiday in Pietraraja.



An authentic Neapolitan pizza.

Neapolitan pizza has a soft and crunchy crust with minimalist toppings where you can really enjoy the characteristic flavours of each ingredient. The dough is fermented for 72 hours to enhance the flavour. You don't need to go to a fancy place to get pizza like that – it's all through Naples. And the pizza is different in different regions. I found the regional variations really interesting. It's hard to replicate good Italian food here, as their local ingredients are of different quality and flavour to ours.

“I applied for a job as a kitchen hand at a Wellington catering company. Once there, they saw I had some skills, such as knife skills. They asked if I was interested in an apprenticeship. The Head Chef is qualified to implement the training standards in the kitchen, so I can learn on the job. There will be some paperwork to do, but mainly I will learn in the kitchen.

“The best thing about it is how fast I am learning. It's great to work closely with an experienced chef – they can pick up on my mistakes. It's hard to replicate that at home. I can see the progress I am making.

“The hours can be long, and I never work a standard week. My day can be very long if we are working at a function like a wedding. However, the Head Chef tries to make sure we have an outside life as well.

“The dish I am currently most proud of is my roast potatoes. I have mastered them to get the perfect crisp finish. Everyone who tries them says they are the best. They might even get me a free Guinness on St Patrick's Day!”

Nā Joey Rockell, interviewed by Moira Lawler

Storytelling Circles

held monthly in Pukerua Bay



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Jumping through the hoops



My name is John Jamieson. I'm a long-time resident of Pukerua Bay, and Kate Dreaver has asked me to write a few words about my work as a translator. So here goes...

In 1975, I found myself as a postgraduate student in Nice on the Cote d'Azur, supposedly writing a PhD thesis. But suddenly, on hearing all sorts of languages being spoken in the streets around me, I realised that this was more than some sort of intellectual game or exercise, and decided to learn them all, starting the process by going down to the nearest newsagent and purchasing a Dutch newspaper.

The prospects for a language nut with a half-finished PhD in the late 1970s were not very bright, but I found a job in the Translation Service at the Department of Internal Affairs. Later, I worked for 35 years or so with the New Zealand Translation Centre (NZTC), a company started by three colleagues at the Translation Service (and good friends of mine).

These days, I translate people's personal documents of one sort or another, but at various times during my career I had to specialise in financial texts, particularly for one of the major German automakers, agricultural machinery brochures, again for one of the big German manufacturers, and electricity legislation across a wide variety of languages, when energy markets were being privatised all over Europe.

Over the years, I have also had to jump through many technology hoops – from typing and twinkling to electric golf ball typewriters, and then the miracle of word processing. In my experience, word processing made translation a much more spontaneous sort of activity. It was followed by translation memories (TM), machine translation (MT), and AI. I essentially checked out at the TM stage, relying on the wonderful project managers I worked with to sort out the technology I was working with. The deal was, I would keep on learning new languages if they handled the techno stuff.

Communication technology also kept changing. At NZTC, we pioneered the concept of overnight translations for European clients, based on fax and telex machines – we even won an Exporter of the Year award for these efforts. Then came email, of course, and now the translation industry is completely globalised.

So, there you have it – next time you see that guy sitting on the train reading a Finnish almanac, you will know who he is, and why he bothers!

Nā John Jamieson



In his private life, John translates marks on a page into beautiful music.

Squiggly careers

Careers consultant Gill England has useful advice for rangatahi and whānau.



We career advisers use a term in the business: the 'squiggly career'. What does this mean? Surely a career is a straight line? You decide to be something, learn how to do that, either on the job or through some kind of post-school study, then you do that thing until you get really good at it, get promoted, and become a Senior Doer of the Thing. Then you retire. Surely changing career direction means you are indecisive?

With the massive social, technological, and cultural changes of the last few years, the job market has changed monumentally. If you were to get in a time machine and go back to the workplaces of even 10 years ago, we probably wouldn't recognise them! The skills that are required as change

accelerates are less about specific technical skills (though of course they still matter), but much more about emotional intelligence, flexibility, adaptability, and resilience. Many technical skills can be learned through vocational training or on the job. You learn important human skills through life.

What can you expect?

What does this mean for you, rangatahi, setting out on your career? Let's go back to the notion of 'squiggly', which might help give you and your whānau some guiding points for decision-making.

You will change careers at least twice, if not more, across the span of your career. You will change jobs even more often than that. Jobs are often short-term and casual, and there has been a rise in what has been called the 'precariat', especially in the creative sector. Many people work as 'digital nomads', rather than turning up to the same office or worksite each day. This can make it really tough for

young people to make ends meet and plan long-term, but it can also mean a lot of variety in work and locations, including remote work.

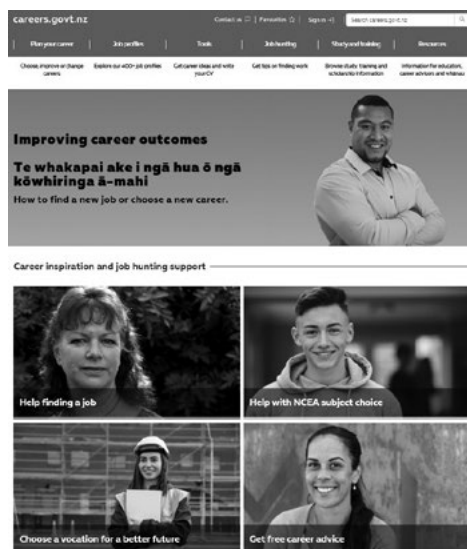
The job market is increasingly unstable as technological and social changes accelerate. Technology, including the increased use of AI, has both positive and negative impacts on the world of work. It makes many jobs unnecessary but creates new ones. It can do repetitive tasks that we may find boring and free us up to do creative, human-centered things.

How do you get ready?

So, rangatahi and whānau – how do you prepare for the big wide world of work?

- Focus on what you can control and stay hopeful. Get help from teachers, whānau, and helpful adults to help you identify and understand your skills.
- Identify people who have your back to help you sound out ideas, make decisions, and get prepared.
- Identify what you love and be driven by your passions but be prepared to compromise. Check out where there is growth in demand for skills – these may not be in very cool or high-status professions, but they could offer you a platform of experience and a financial base to do the thing your heart desires a little later.
- Have more than one plan and goals in different areas, so you can adapt to change and instability.

- It's OK to change your mind and take a break. Also, failing a course or a new job is not the end of the world. However, if you have invested heavily in tertiary study, make changes early so you get a refund or don't miss important course content. Otherwise, stick with the course till the end, learn from it, then change!
- With a job that's not going well, get advice from someone independent, such as a union or employee assistance rep before resigning. It's easier to find a job if you are in a job, but it depends on your personal circumstances.



There's also a plethora of online resources out there to help you. Check out:

Squiggly Careers: amazingif.com

The Tahatū Career Navigator website (in development): tahatu.govt.nz

Nā Gill England, careers consultant, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

Pukerua Bay ANZAC commemorations, 2025

You are warmly invited to take part in this year's ANZAC commemorations.

8.00am	'Stand to' at the RSA Clubrooms, 5–7 Wairaka Road, followed by light refreshments.
11.00am	Community Remembrance Service, Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall, Rāwhiti Road.
11.30am	The RSA Clubrooms will be open for companionship and refreshments.
Noon	Wreath laying ceremony at the Wall of Remembrance, Whenua Tapu Cemetery, Airlie Road.

We will remember them

*E kore rātou e kaumātuaia
Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei.
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore
Ahakoa pehea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata.
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them.*

“For the Fallen” by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869–1943), published in *The Times* on 21 September 1914

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Twists and turns *Kia ora e te whānau*



I feel very privileged to call myself the kaitiaki (caretaker) of Pukerua Bay School. I also run the after-school care programme, Pipsqueaks, so the kura and its tamariki are at the centre of my working life. I couldn't be happier.

My career path has had many twists and turns. I started my working life with three jobs at once, helping in my mother's interior decorating business, selling Chanel in a perfumery on Willis Street, and waitressing at the Boulcott Street Bistro. All this while doing a design course, where I made some lifelong friends.

I then lived in London for seven years, supporting myself as a nanny, commercial photographer's agent, and as office manager of a London design group. I enjoyed being at what felt like the centre of the universe, with the art and music scene and European travel right on my doorstep. But after seeing an old lady getting pushed out of the way as she boarded the tube, I decided I had had enough and returned to Aotearoa.

A friend and I started a lunch run, selling our wares at businesses around Wellington. This was during the making

of the *Lord of the Rings* and *King Kong* movies. We would hit the production studios and film sets, so I know Peter Jackson's favourite sandwich. Our lunch run became a successful catering business and eventually, we saved enough to start up our own cafe in Island Bay, called Zuleika. It was a fun time being at the heart of that community.

I then met Ben and we moved to Auckland for his work. Walter was born there. When he was young, I did some nannying and worked as a freelance magazine stylist. Then along came Frida and, after getting kicked out of our rental for the second time, due to everyone selling at the peak of Auckland's hot property market, we decided to move home to Wellington and put a bid on a house in Pukerua Bay.

We moved here in February 2017. Walter started at Pukerua Bay School, and I would help out in the gardens wherever I could. When Chris Lees retired after 35 years as caretaker, the role was offered to me. It's the best job I've ever had. I love making the school a beautiful place for our tamariki and community. I love creating new spaces for the kids to enjoy and for them to feel proud of their kura. It is such a special place at the heart of the community. I am always so grateful that whenever I ask, there is always someone here who is happy to help, whether it be helping in the shade house, fixing a boat, chopping up a pesky pine, helping to fix the guttering, or lending a trailer.

People here are good, kind, and caring. That is why Pukerua Bay is so special. There's no better place than Pukerua Beach on a balmy summer's evening, with all our community enjoying this magic spot. Let's look after each other and keep the magic.

Nā Pip Spite



Changing direction

"If you do not change direction you might end up where you are heading" (Lao Tzu).

In my final year at school, I wasn't sure what to do next. I considered cheffing and looked into various cooking schools, but other than that, nothing had really piqued my interest.

By November it was crunch time, and I applied to study for a degree in teaching. Did I want to be a teacher? No, not particularly, but my best friend was heading off to Johannesburg College of Education, and so I decided to join her there.

Some 19 years on, I think I made a good call. I did enjoy many of the years in the classroom and, not to blow my own horn, I was pretty good at it.

Now, however, having moved to a new home in a different country, I have chosen not to follow that career path. Does this mean I'm wasting my four years of education and all the years of experience? I don't feel that I am. Why can't I start on a new path, and try something different? Something totally unrelated to teaching, where I learn new things every day and expand on my knowledge with new skills.

I have gone into an administrative position and, for the last five months, have learnt how to work with invoices and receipts, stock control, and pricing integrity. It is completely different to teaching, and yet I enjoy every day. When I figure out how to fix a scanning issue, sort out a credit, or get the stocktake right, I feel a little sense of accomplishment and pride. It goes to show you're never too old to learn something new or change direction.

One thing I have discovered is that when I leave work at the end of the day, my work stays there, and I can go home and focus on my family. No worry about marking, parent-teacher meetings, or preparing lessons. It's quite a freeing feeling that I am thoroughly enjoying.

Is this to say I will never go back into the classroom? Who knows? For now, I am focusing on this other path, learning new skills and pushing my mental capacity into a different direction.

Nā Claire Conradi

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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Bringing back the colour

Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

Next issue

The theme for the next issue is **Matariki and the importance of honouring the past, enjoying the present, and looking forward to the future.** 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 8 May.

Our email address is:
newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz



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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Ian Leigh	Coastal Floor Sanding	027 7772639 ian@coastalfloorsanding.co.nz

Events calendar

- 25 April** ANZAC Day commemorations (see page 11)
- 12 May** Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 18 May** Crop swap and recycling hub, 3.00–4.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 9 June** Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
- 15 June** Crop swap and recycling hub, 3.00–4.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd

To list an event in the June issue, please email by **8 May**: newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz



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