

# Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay

Vol 5, Issue 4  
August 2025



*Escarpment adventures. Photo credit: Chris Stevens*

## Kia ora

Our theme this issue was “getting about” and our experiences with our trails, walkways, roads, and paths. We’re delighted to bring two stories of locals getting about and exploring our place – one from the Kea Scouts, sharing their thoughts and feelings about a recent expedition along the Escarpment Track, and another from the Hub recounting the Amazing Race, held as part of last year’s Pop-up Parlour (pp. 4–5).

He Ara Pukerua is on an ongoing journey to research and share the history of Pukerua Bay, including the ways we move about. Given the current re-development of Muri Road, it’s apt that they have chosen to focus on the story of that road, and how it has been shaped over time. He Ara Pukerua has lots more information on its website and panels (p. 6).

For most of its history, Pukerua Bay was bisected by State Highway 1. You can learn about the problems this caused and solutions that were suggested in the 2008 Neighbourhood Accessibility Plan (p. 7). We also have information in this issue about the hidden reserves and walkways in our local area, the likely future of the Plunket rooms and Brendan Beach walkway, and whether we can get a shelter for the southbound bus stop (pp. 7–8).

Many of you will have enjoyed participating in our annual Matariki celebration and last year’s inaugural Pop-up Parlour, brought to us by Ahu Charitable Trust and Pukerua Bay Hub. We’re delighted to share the news that

Ahu was the Supreme Winner of this year’s Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards – and that the Parlour is coming back in September (pp. 10–11)! Look out for more information on how you can get involved.

The local body elections are coming up, and we’re pleased to announce that long-time resident Moira Lawler is standing for election. You’ve got a chance to hear Moira and other candidates speak at a Candidates’ Meeting in August (p. 3). More importantly, you have a chance to let the candidates know what you think is important!

The theme for the next issue is neighbourliness. There are the lovely informal ways we can look out for each other and have fun together, and there are the more formal ways groups in our community build a sense of neighbourliness – you can find plenty of evidence of that in these pages! We’d love to know about your thoughts and feelings, memories, and stories about neighbourliness, in all the ways it can be experienced. Copy is due by 6 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)

## The Pukerua Bay Residents’ Association invites you to meet the candidates for the 2025 local body elections

Who: Candidates for the:

- Porirua City Council
- Porirua City mayoralty
- Greater Wellington Regional Council



When: Wednesday 20 August at 7.00pm

Where: Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall, Rāwhiti Rd

# THE BIG QUIZ



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*An active soul is a healthy soul*

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## Exploring the Escarpment Track

*Our cover photo features our Kea Scouts on a recent expedition along the Escarpment Track.*

Edie: “I liked looking at the beautiful stuff made by Mother Nature.”

Oakley: “It was a long walk, and I liked that Finn brought the almond thingies [scroggin].”

Finn: “I liked leading the way to the swing bridge, even though we didn’t get that far.”

Freja: “We saw sheep!”

Otis: “I loved all of it, especially hanging out with the other Keas.”

Chester: “I loved going with my brother and Mum.”

Jesse: “I liked being one of the leaders; we got to tell people where to go.”

Sienna: “I loved the view.”

Megs (Kea leader): “We learned all about the sweet peas growing along the track.”

Kelly (Kea leader): “It was great making it to the top and taking in the beautiful view of the beach, hills, and ocean.”

Nā Pukerua Bay Keas



## Kea Cubs in Pukerua Bay

Kea Cubs caters for young people aged 5 to 8 years. Pukerua Bay Keas meet on Thursdays during school term time from 5–6pm at the Scout Den, Kotipu Place. [scouts.nz/group/pukerua-bay-scout-group](https://scouts.nz/group/pukerua-bay-scout-group)

## A whānau adventure: Pukerua Bay’s Amazing Race

Last year, the village came alive during the Amazing Race – an afternoon filled with laughter, teamwork, and discovery.

With a map in hand and ten iconic Pukerua Bay landmarks to visit on foot, more than a dozen teams of all ages set off to explore the area and smash some creative challenges together. From tricky riddles, to snapping group photos, throwing bean bags, or cracking codes, every stop offered something fun and unexpected. Along the course, everyone was on the lookout for the images of geckos, cleverly hidden in nooks, trees, and along fences.

As quiz master, I was tasked with making sure the challenges engaged with both young and old. We called it a ‘race’, but this was a slight stretch – participants could take their time, with the onus on completing all the activities to the best

of their ability instead of quickly. This meant teams were able to take in our beautiful local surroundings during the 2km loop.

A memorable stumper was located at the Pukerua Bay Community Gardens, where participants had to solve a near-impossible word search that confounded even the most experienced puzzler. I heard we had a few teams working together, trading their answers.

Well done to all the teams for taking part, and shout out to the Deluxe whānau, our winning team, with the highest score.

The Amazing Race will be back again in September this year when the Pukerua Bay Hub’s Pop-Up Parlour returns. Watch this space!

Nā Natalie Phillips



## A road in Pukerua Bay

The settlement of Pukerua Bay began with no roads at all. There were three ways to arrive here: waka, walking, and, later still, rail.

In the early 1920s, there were three main landowners, Charles Gray, “Rocky” Mulhern, and Reg Wall. Access to the railway was important for farmers to get their stock and wool out of the district. For Mulhern and Wall, access was along what is now Muri Road.

When it was formed, the road went from the area of the station car park near the skatepark along the track through the bush to the start of Sea Vista Drive, then along the access lane below the boardwalk. It then took a hairpin turn, coming out where the convex mirror is sited at the top of the rise in the road, before continuing along its present route. (See 1 on map.)

With the construction of the main highway in 1938–39, Muri Road was re-routed to go past the southern end of the railway carpark and up to the southern end of the railway overbridge. This intersection was later removed and the road linked up with Gray Street. This was most likely as a safety measure, with the increase of traffic on the main highway. (See 2 on map.)

Further changes came with the increased development in the early 1950s, with more houses at the northern end of Muri Road, as envisaged by Rocky Mulhern in 1921. The road was then reformed to go on its present path from Sea Vista Drive



to the top of the rise, removing the need to negotiate the hairpin, which is now covered in trees. (See 3 on map.)

The route of the road was not the only thing to change. Early plans for development along its route have it named as Public Road and North Road, but ‘Muri Road’ it became. Don’t mention the bypass!

Now it is undergoing redevelopment and getting a long overdue widening and footpath, so that it can provide access to the new housing development.

Go to He Ara Pukerua’s history and heritage website to learn more about Pukerua Bay’s roads and rail and view historic aerial photographs: [hearapukeruabay.nz](http://hearapukeruabay.nz)

The following He Ara panels also tell the story of road and rail in our area.

**Roads:** Layby on Centennial Highway  
Ara Harakeke at Whenua Tapu

**Rail:** Former Muri Station platform  
Pukerua Bay Station platform

Nā Paul FitzGerald, for He Ara Pukerua

## The Pukerua Bay Neighbourhood Accessibility Plan

Paul’s story references the bypass, an alternative to the Transmission Gully route that finally opened in 2022. Prior to that, Pukerua Bay had experienced years of frustration with the multitude of problems that arose from living in a community bisected by a state highway. For decades, the Residents’ Association and wider community negotiated with successive transport and local authorities to address these problems.

The Pukerua Bay Neighbourhood Accessibility Plan (2008) was an innovative attempt to find solutions through collaboration between the community and authorities. It’s a fascinating document for anyone interested in learning more about the issues of the past, proposed solutions, and the extent to which they have been addressed. You can find it on the community website at [pukeruabay.org.nz/resources](http://pukeruabay.org.nz/resources)

## Hidden reserves

Did you know there are two walkways off Rāwhiti Road into the gully behind the library? And two walkways off Muri Reserve – one to Sea Vista Drive and one to Muri Road?

Pukerua Bay is an old community and, over time, public land gets grown over, becomes inaccessible, or is just forgotten. In the past, arrangements have been made with private owners over neighbouring reserve land. It can be interesting to see what’s there, however, and the maps are available to the public.

The council’s website has reserve maps that identify all the green space in Pukerua Bay. It could be a fun orienteering exercise to see what it looks like on the ground.

To have a look, go to the council’s website and search for ‘Reserve Maps’. You might be surprised at what you find! <https://maps.porirua.govt.nz/localmapviewer/?map=2aa9aea5f1d9432bb394c81c186b3db6>

## Community Garden and Food Forest whānau

The 2026 fundraising calendar will be on sale from August. \$25 each



Look out for  
**The Garden Trail**  
coming 9 November

## Rail replacement bus stop shelter

The absence of a shelter for the rail replacement bus stop on SH59 at the north end of Takutai Rd is not likely to be remedied very soon. In November last year, the Residents' Association wrote to the Transport Committee of the Regional Council to draw the councillors' attention to the situation faced by commuters when buses replace trains. We raised concerns about the siting of the stops and the lack of a shelter for southbound commuters. These are matters the Residents' Association has raised with the Regional Council before. The Transport Committee referred the letter to Metlink for comment.

It took a while for the response to come through. Metlink stated that it had engaged in an initial discussion with NZTA about their proposal to build a pedestrian crossing near Pukerua Bay Store and whether space for bus stops could be integrated into the design. At the time of writing, Metlink had not received any further update from NZTA on the potential design, and the Metlink team would follow this up. The Residents' Association then wrote to Metlink asking for a meeting to discuss the matter. So far, we have not had a reply to the request.

It was welcome news that NZTA was proposing to install a pedestrian crossing by the shops. However, we think it likely that there won't be any progress on getting a shelter at the current southbound stop until a decision is made

Nā Paul FitzGerald  
Pukerua Bay Residents' Association

## Brendan Beach walkway

*Kōrero* talked to the Council's Parks Department about the status of the track from the lookout on the highway down to Brendan Beach. The track slipped in a significant rainfall event and has been closed now for many months, although residents do still use it.

The Council is monitoring the ground in the top third of the pathway site to check for continued instability. NZTA has also pegged the roadside to monitor for slippage. The ground remains unstable, and the Council has no immediate plans to replace the walkway. It's possible any future track would be gravel rather than cement. However, there is no decision at this stage on whether to replace the pathway.

In the meantime, it appears residents are walking through the Ngāti Toa urupa to access the track. Ngāti Toa Rangatira have requested that people not use the urupa as a thoroughfare to get to the beach.



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Facebook: **Pukerua Bay RSA and Community Club**



## Ahu Charitable Trust (Pukerua Bay Hub) crowned Supreme!

*"We danced, sang, shared kai and books, made kai – lots of burgers; we fermented, played board games, competed, drew and painted, crafted, beaded, we remembered; meditated, repaired, recycled, watched movies together, traded, talked, slow ran, planted, laughed, and even co-worked."*

On 22 July, Pukerua Bay Hub and the team behind it, Ahu Charitable Trust ki Pukerua Bay, were honoured to be awarded Porirua Arts and Culture winner and Supreme winner at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards. We won it for last year's incredible Pop-up Parlour at St Marks, a five-week experiment in community connection. [wellingtonairport.co.nz/news/airport-updates/ahu-charitable-trust-pukerua-bay-hub-wins-porirua-supreme-community-award](https://wellingtonairport.co.nz/news/airport-updates/ahu-charitable-trust-pukerua-bay-hub-wins-porirua-supreme-community-award)

Thank you so much Wellington Airport, Porirua City Council, Anita Baker (Mayor of Porirua City), Kylie Wihapi (Deputy Mayor), and our community for getting behind all that we do! Massive congratulations to all the Porirua finalists – we were so inspired by the mahi everyone is doing.

Thanks to everyone who was involved with bringing the Pop-up Parlour to life: Jane Comben, Kelly McClean, Lani Evans, Natalie Phillips, Megan Melidonis, Beccy Davis, Aimee Porteners, Jenn Giller, He Ara Pukerua, Predator Free Pukerua Bay, Pukerua Bay RSA and Community Club, Pukerua

Bay Residents' Association, Escarpment Domes, Angela Bensemann, Ella Garnham, Gay Hay, Rachie Raskal, Mary Campbell, Anna Liz Guenther, Hugh Evans, Ewan McClean, Gill England, Helen Smith, Angela Brown, Pukerua Bay Climate Action, and many, many more helpers, artists, and facilitators who shared their time and skills with the Pukerua Bay community. We are small but mighty!

We are so grateful to our supporters Nikau Foundation for grant funding, Pauatahanui Anglican Parish for providing the venue, One New Zealand for the wi-fi, and the wonderful teams at The Woolstore Management Ltd Kai Tahi, Aspiring Wallcoverings We Love Wallpaper, and Corporate Office Relocations for working together to help us with furniture.

And finally, we wish to dedicate these awards to the late Iain MacLean, a Pukerua Bay treasure who passed away earlier in the year.

Nā Ahu Charitable Trust ki Pukerua Bay



Members of Ahu Charitable Trust with Mayor Anita Baker.

## The Pop-up Parlour is coming back!

The 2025 edition will be back this September! Keep an eye out for the signage going up at the dairy or go to [pkbhub.org.nz](https://pkbhub.org.nz) for the full schedule of events, workshops, and skills-sharing sessions.



Precious moments from last year's Pop-up Parlour.



## Moira Lawler for Council



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## Plunket room update

Porirua City Council (PCC) has been consulting on the future of the Plunket Rooms on Wairaka Reserve.

Plunket built the rooms 29 years ago, but they have been empty since 2021. The building is deteriorating and subject to vandalism. In 2022, Plunket asked PCC to take over the building. In March 2025, PCC sought public feedback on three options: i) demolition and reinstating the land as park; ii) demolition and leasing the site to a community group; or iii) leasing the building to a community group.

Two submitters appeared at PCC's hearings on June 12 – Moira Lawler in a private capacity and Kelly McClean and Jenn Giller representing Ahu Charitable

Trust ki Pukerua Bay.

Moira favoured demolishing the building and considering new features to link the playground to the park behind. She was keen to see outdoor space for the library to expand the space available to children.

Ahu was interested in taking on the lease of the site to enable potential community-led development that is responsive to the surrounding area. Ahu also advocated for new public toilets and a zebra crossing across Wairaka Road.

On 24 July, Council elected to demolish the building and seek proposals from community groups wishing to lease the land in the future.

## 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?

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



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## Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

### Next issue

The theme for the next issue is “**good neighbours**” – stories about our paths, trails, roads, and rail. 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 **6 October**.

Our email address is:  
[newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)

You can download a PDF of *Kōrero* from the website at: [pkb.nz/korero](http://pkb.nz/korero)

### 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.

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)



## 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.

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### Events calendar

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 20 August    | Meet the candidates, 7pm, Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall, Rāwhiti Rd (p. 3) |
| 27 August    | Plimmerton Climate Café, 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Steyne Ave, Plimmerton         |
| 1–30 Sept    | Pop-up Parlour, St Mark's Church, Rāwhiti Rd (p. 11)                               |
| 9 September  | Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd                          |
| 20 September | Crop swap and recycling hub, 3–4.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd                             |
| 24 September | Plimmerton Climate Café, 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Steyne Ave, Plimmerton         |
| 14 October   | Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd                          |
| 17 October   | The Biq Quiz, 7.00pm, Pukerua Bay School and Community Hall, Rāwhiti Rd (see p. 3) |
| 18 October   | Crop swap and recycling hub, 3–4.00pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd                             |
| 22 October   | Plimmerton Climate Café, 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Steyne Ave, Plimmerton         |
| 9 November   | Pukerua Bay Garden and Food Forest Garden Trail                                    |
- To list an event in the November issue, email by **8 October** [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)

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