

# Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay

Vol 6, Issue 2  
April 2026



*Meals on Wheels volunteers, November 1974*

*Back row: Jo Savage, Pauline Naylor, Margery Small, Carol Stitchbury, Joan Ryan  
Front row: Margaret Craig, Helen Pool, Sue Goodchild, Joan Beaufort, ?, Glennis  
Mulholland, Alison Davidson. Credit: Kapi Mana*

## Kia ora

Did you know that 2026 is the International Year of Volunteers? And did you know that it is also the centennial of the Pukerua Bay Residents' Association (PKBRA)? How apt, and what a joy it is to celebrate PKBRA in this issue of our newsletter (pp. 11–12)!

As the Residents' Association story reminds us, volunteering has a long history in Pukerua Bay. Our cover image features volunteers for Meals on Wheels, a service established here in 1974 to fill a gap that could not be met by the Wellington Hospital Board. They had their adventures. Two of the group's clients lived on the beachfront. The walk to their homes could be pleasant in fine weather, but quite hazardous when stormy. Group founder Helen Pool told *Kapi Mana*, "You have to dodge the waves!" <https://shorturl.at/65D78>

This issue pays tribute to other long-established organisations, like the Soccer Club, Scouts, and Playgroup (pp. 9, 13, and 17). These groups are highly dependent upon individuals who put in the effort to keep them going, even when they sometimes go into abeyance. They include quiet heroes like Rachel and Neil Parsons, Sue Gibson, Frank Pearce, and Iain MacLean. Jen Erceg asks "Who are 'They?'" and these people answer "Us!" (p. 15).

The story of the Surfer Seat and its installation and maintenance draws attention to Dave Pepperell, another quiet hero, and to the sponsors whose support is often critical to the work being done (p. 6). That is certainly true for *Kōrero*

Our Council also provides crucial support to help our community thrive (p. 17).

Volunteering can take long hours and sacrifice. There can be disagreement and disappointment. What drives people to make this commitment? Yvonne Mackie, Russell Jenkins, and Kelly McClean address this question, highlighting the very real rewards to be found in giving to others (pp. 4, 7, and 17). Nic Rowe celebrates the everyday service that might not even be noticed, and suggests that through such service we can have the satisfaction of helping make the world a better place (p. 5)

We have an opportunity to acknowledge some of our volunteers in the upcoming Civic Awards (p. 3). Do have a think about a likely candidate!

The Matariki issue approaches and, as ever, we'll be letting you know how this special time will be celebrated in Pukerua Bay. We'll be thinking about our environment and how the issues that matter to us here in our place connect with issues around Aotearoa New Zealand and the world. We'd love you to contribute to the *kōrero*!

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

Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

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

## Ngā mihi nui from *Kōrero*!

In our last issue, we put out a call for donors to help maintain publication of *Kōrero*. We're both moved and relieved to report that we immediately received sufficient donations to guarantee publication through to the end of year. This includes a significant contribution from Luke Harris of Harris Electrical

Services Limited. Luke made his offer before we'd even finished distribution! We're grateful and encouraged. Thank you all for your faith in us – we'll do our best to earn it.

Nā Kate, Gill, Jen, Jon, Anne, Moira, Kelly, Kay, Fiona, Nikky, and Winnie

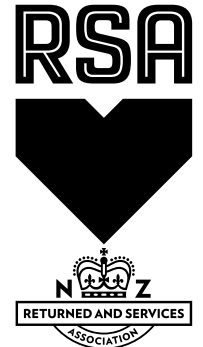
## Porirua Civic Awards 2026

Do you know someone who's made a significant difference to our lives in Pukerua Bay? It's time to give them the recognition they deserve!

Porirua City Council is calling for nominations for the Porirua Civic Awards, the city's highest honour for those who lead, inspire, or sacrifice for our community. Former local recipients include Tony Jackman (2011) and June Penhey (2018).

Nominations close on 8 May 2026. Go to: <https://shorturl.at/aB2Nb>

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## A quiet journey



*Yvonne: finding the joy in a life of service*

My volunteering journey began quietly, almost without me realising it, when my children were very young. Like many parents, I started where my family was supported—at the Toy Library and local Playgroup. Those early experiences of sharing time and connection opened the door to a lifelong commitment to community.

As my children grew, so did my roles. From the Kindergarten Committee I moved to the School Fundraising Trust, running the School Gala for several years, and then it was on to the Board of Trustees. Through these experiences, I learned about teamwork, planning, and the many hands it takes to support our tamariki as they move from early

childhood education and through school. Though life was busy, these roles were deeply rewarding. I found my voice in governance and discovered how meaningful it is to serve the people around you.

My path eventually broadened into disability sport. With New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby, I've served on the Board and am now the National Headbench Official. These experiences taught me the true meaning of resilience, independence, and inclusion. Volunteering as a carer even took me across the globe – from world badminton events in Dubai to a four-week campervan adventure through Europe and Ireland.

Today, I continue this work with the Pukerua Bay RSA Committee, a place grounded in service, remembrance, and community spirit. Whether supporting local events or contributing to the legacy of those who served before us, this work reminds me that community comes in many forms—and each one matters.

Looking back, volunteering has taken me from school halls to international stadiums. It has brought laughter, adventure, and the joy of being part of something bigger than myself. I always encourage others to get involved locally; once you take that first step and say “yes”, you never know where the path might lead.

Nā Yvonne Mackie



*Samuel (Nicholas's brother), Jeanette (Grandma), and Nicholas*

## Everyday volunteering

For me, the word ‘volunteering’ immediately conjures up soup kitchens, church tea rooms, and school working bees. It's difficult to separate the word from the idea of a big community project—people you might have seen once a week walking the dog are now helping you dig up the old tree stump at the local RSA.

I've always enjoyed these big projects (particularly the part where you knock off for beers), but it's important not to overlook the everyday volunteering that we all do for much smaller communities; sometimes only family. I'm speaking about what I imagine a lot of us (certainly my mother) would think of as no great endeavour—just helping out where you can, doing what anyone would do. But it's important to value these acts of support, even if they feel small.

PJ O'Rourke once said: “Everybody wants to save the Earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes.” Helping Grandma with the groceries or fix her

printer again (which, as someone who's worked in IT for the better part of a decade, is almost certainly the printer's fault), driving people to or from the airport or hospital, or even just being an ear for a voice that needs one, is all volunteer work that I'm sure a lot of us do without even thinking about it, but it has real value. It is by these inches and degrees that we make the world a better place every day.

It's normal to feel crushed under the weight of the world every time you check the news on your phone, but that's only because we were not meant to carry that weight alone. Volunteering to help someone, even with something small, makes the weight lighter for both of you – doubly so when someone else sees it and is inspired to do the same.

As trite as it may sound, I honestly believe that if we help enough mums with enough dishes, we might look up and see the world is halfway to being saved already.

Nā Nicholas Rowe

## The Surfer Seat is refurbished!



Pukerua Bay's memorial Surfer Seat has been refurbished by its creator, local veteran surfer Dave Pepperell, with essential support from Burnsco Kāpiti. After being in place for close to six years in a harsh environment, it was inevitable that maintenance would be

needed. Also, since the unveiling in February 2020, a few more local surfers have passed away, and their names have been added to the seat. Therefore, it was time for a spruce up with some marine varnish. A big thank you to Burnsco Kapiti for covering the cost of the Awlwood gloss marine varnish and to Dave for creating and nurturing this valuable community asset.

On most days, you'll find someone perched on the Surfer Seat, watching the waves and Kāpiti Island, spotting stingrays, or even catching a glimpse of an orca or humpback whale!

Nā Gill England



## Achieving my childhood dream

Growing up in the '50s in a family without a car, getting around the city was by tram. Trams went everywhere, and I used to tell my parents that I wanted to be a tram driver. My father's standard reply was, "Trams will be gone by the time you leave school," and he was right. The last tram route in Wellington closed in May 1964.

Well, I finally fulfilled my childhood dream around 40 years ago when I joined the Wellington Tramway Museum at Queen Elizabeth Park, where, along with other like-minded people, we keep an important part of Wellington's history alive.

The museum has now been running trams for 60 years, the same length of time that electric trams ran in Wellington.

As one of the senior tram drivers at the Tramway, I indulge in my hobby two or three times a month on either a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, when we offer

the public rides to and from Whareroa Beach.

Most Wednesdays, you will find me, along with about 15 other volunteers, at the Tramway Museum working on the restoration or maintenance of one of the old Wellington trams, some of which are over 100 years old.

If not working on a tram, volunteers like me undertake other work around the Tramway, such as lawn mowing or cleaning. There is always something to do. It is a very sociable atmosphere over a 'cuppa' before we start the day and at lunchtime, where all the problems of the world are discussed before any work starts.

Volunteering alongside others with similar interests, regardless of age (yes, we do have younger volunteers), keeps one active in mind and body, and I fully recommend it.

Nā Russell Jenkins

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## Pukerua Bay Soccer Club: carrying the legacy forward



*Sue's brother-in-law, John Pearce, supported the establishment of the Pukerua Bay Soccer Club and continues to share his skills today*

Pukerua Bay Soccer Club carries a special meaning for our community, especially when we look back at how it all began. The club was started by Sue Gibson, who simply wanted her son to be able to play football with kids he knew right here in the Bay. What began as a small idea quickly grew into a place where local children could learn, play, and belong.

When Sue's son grew up and she moved on, the club was carried forward by Iain Maclean, who sadly passed away last year. Iain became a huge contributor over many seasons, volunteering his time, energy, and heart to keep football alive in our community. His dedication helped shape the club we know today, and his legacy continues to guide the work we're doing now.

After a period of uncertainty, a group of local volunteers stepped up with a shared determination to continue to grow our

football club for our community. What started as a few sideline conversations quickly turned into a coordinated effort over the recent summer months. The goal was simple: offer our tamariki a safe, fun and welcoming space to play, learn, and thrive.

Our new committee is made up entirely of volunteers, each taking on roles that keep the club running smoothly. From registrations and communications to gear organisation, team coordination, and keeping families informed, every task is handled by someone giving their time for the good of our community.

Pukerua Bay Soccer Club continues to bring a sense of pride and connection to our Bay. As we move forward into the 2026 season, we carry both Sue's beginnings, Iain's legacy and huge gratitude for those many voluntary hours gifted by those before us – coaches, managers and committee members.

Join us to play, volunteer, or cheer this season! Visit us at:

[pukeruabaysoccer.org.nz](http://pukeruabaysoccer.org.nz)

Nā Diana Valentine



*Every year, the club celebrates all of its people.*



1929

## Pukerua Bay Residents' Association: 100 years of community service

*As Pukerua Bay grew from a community of farmers, railway employees, and weekenders, the Association evolved:*

**1926:** Ratepayers Association formed "to place the requirements of the district before the (Hutt) County Council and deal with any matter pertaining to the betterment of the district."

**1932:** Progressive Association formed because of the obstructive attitude of the Ratepayers Association, "who fought like Kilkenny Cats."

**1943:** The two associations merged to form the Ratepayers and Householders Association.

**1948:** Name change to Pukerua Bay Progressive Association.

**1982:** Residents' Association name adopted and all residents considered to be members: "with a vision to be a friendly, caring and vibrant community in a beautiful natural setting supported by good local infrastructure and facilities."

### Aims versus reality

#### Aims in 1926

- **Infrastructure:** Build a new track to the beach; complete the road to Plimmerton
- **Power and light:** Electrically lit streetlamps; electricity for every home
- **School:** A local school with road access
- **Rates:** Ensure rates are spent locally

#### Today's reality

- **Infrastructure:** Beach Road remains problematic; the road to Plimmerton is a major highway
- **Power and light:** Transition to LED streetlighting and residential solar energy
- **School:** Preparing for the 2027 centenary
- **Rates:** Rates remain a necessary evil

[Hearapukeruaabay.nz](http://Hearapukeruaabay.nz) features stories on how these goals were met, alongside insights into the significance of Pukerua to Ngāti Toa and the area's development over the years.



2019

## PKB's Residents' Association today

A snapshot of what we are currently working on:

- Resurrection of the Pukerua Bay sign
- Council matters, including the Spicer Landfill closure and Climate Adaptation pilot
- Pukerua Bay – Plimmerton housing developments
- Central Government elections: meet the candidates
- Protecting local fauna and flora (for example, through dog signage to protect penguins)
- Increasing electronic RA communications with the community

We also: handle the books for He Ara Pukerua (Heritage Group), Community Garden and Food Forest, Kōrero, Surfer Seat, and Climate Action Rōpū (including Crop Swap and Recycling); support our friends at PKB HUB and the RSA & Community Club; and maintain the community website.

### Connect with us

Do you want to progress a community project, or have a community concern? We are here to help.

You can get in touch via our email [pukeruabayresidents@gmail.com](mailto:pukeruabayresidents@gmail.com) and you are welcome to attend our meetings at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the RSA on Wairaka Road. You can also visit our website [pukeruabay.org.nz/residents-association](http://pukeruabay.org.nz/residents-association) for further background.

It takes a team:

**Chair**  
Paul FitzGerald

**Deputy Chair**  
Pauline Morse

**Secretary**  
Kay Shapland

**Treasurer/He Ara Pukerua**  
Margaret Blair

**Committee Members**  
Jane Comben (PKB Hub, Climate Action, Community Garden and Food Forest), Jonathan Harker (web master), Judith Frost-Evans, Dorothy Ibrahim (He Ara Pukerua), Duncan Ridd, and Lisa Cowley

**Porirua City Councillor**  
Moira Lawler

**Greater Wellington Council**  
TBA



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*Fun in the sun at Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre*

## Scouting in Pukerua Bay

On any given weeknight in Pukerua Bay, a growing group of people don light grey shirts, colourful scarves and woggles and head for Greenmeadows Park to the 'Den' they call home. Anticipating another busy night, the gathering begins: "Pack, Pack, Pack!"

Did you know that a new generation of Scouting emerged in Pukerua Bay in 2017? This is all thanks to local couple, Rachel and Neil Parsons. Already leaders at Ngāti Toa Sea Scouts, they couldn't bear to see Pukerua Bay without its own pack. However, before re-starting Cubs, the historic Scout Den was in desperate need of some TLC. Together, Rachel and Neil spent the next three months renovating it inside and out. Since then, groups of volunteers have taken part in working bees to keep the den maintained, benefiting all members of the community who use it.

From the small beginnings of a cub pack, the group has grown to currently accommodate 47 children across Keas, Cubs, and Scouts, with over 100 participating over the last nine years. This is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers, including long-term

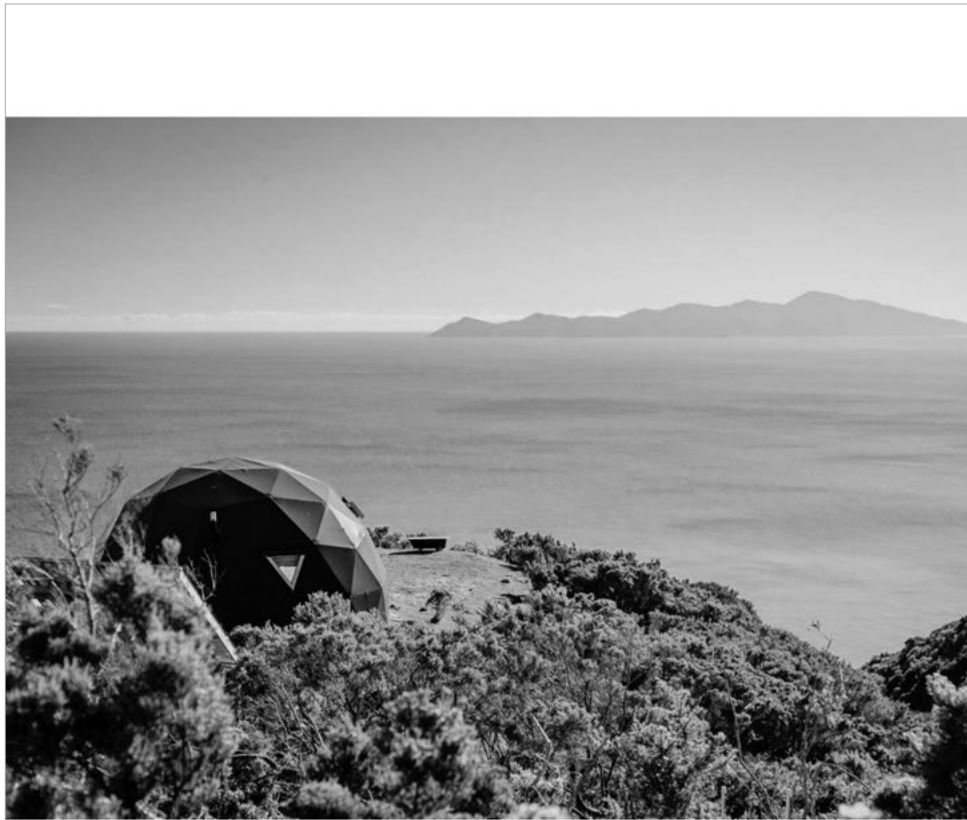
leaders like Karen Knapp. Karen's advice to others thinking about volunteering is: "You get out of life what you put in, so get in there and get involved. It's a team effort and can be very rewarding."

For Neil, the motivation is simple: "I get a lot out of seeing the kids develop and mature, especially those who sometimes struggle. To see them challenge themselves and the kick they get out of succeeding is fantastic."

Beyond enjoying adventures and learning outdoor skills, our scouts are pillars of the community, supporting ANZAC Day, Matariki, beach clean-ups, and food bank collections. This cycle of service instils the value of helping others, empowering our young people to be ready for life.

Without our volunteer leaders, past and present, these opportunities wouldn't exist. So, as another night draws to a close with a chorus of "We will do our best!", we give our volunteers a huge B ... R ... A ... V ... O!

Scouting in Pukerua Bay dates back to 1941. To explore our full history, visit [www.hearapukerubay.nz](http://www.hearapukerubay.nz)



[www.escarpmentdomes.co.nz](http://www.escarpmentdomes.co.nz)

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## Who is *They*?

When someone says

“*They* should ...”,

Who is *They*?

Is *They* *Someone*?

Is he or she

many or one,

Or are *They*

simply *We*?

If I say,

“I wish *They*

would

... Fix that

... Grow that

... Make that...”,

Could it be

that *They*

is really *Me*?

Nā Jen Erceg

## Making things happen in Pukerua Bay



*Abu Charitable Trust hard at work*

If you’ve ever wondered how Pukerua Bay Hub is able to do what we do, it’s because of our volunteers. Trustees, event helpers, workshop

facilitators, fundraisers, artists, and more come together and offer their skills so our community can gather and be creative right here in the Bay.

Over the years, one of my roles has been leading volunteer teams to deliver local events such as Matariki, Christmas on the Field, and the Pop-up Parlour. These involve hundreds of hours of donated time and effort. For instance, last year’s Pop-up was supported by over 500 volunteer hours! Our recent community award win was an incredible acknowledgement of Pukerua Bay volunteers. We do some cool things here.

I’m the person who can see all the moving parts involved in an activation, which can sometimes feel like a big, messy spider web of contributions. I love creating opportunities for people to get involved through something they’re passionate about, or something they know they can do. Sometimes our volunteers just want a job for the day and don’t need to know all the other details. I love collaborating with other community groups, school and kindy.

There’s a balance. Volunteering means time away from whānau or adding things on top of work commitments. As a leader, you have to watch out for burnout. This means adapting to energy levels and changing it up when needed.

The best part of it all is that moment during an event or workshop when it is humming. Smiles between the crew are exchanged and a “we did it” shared. Magic.

*Kelly McClean is Chair of Abu Charitable Trust ki Pukerua Bay, the team behind Pukerua Bay Hub mahi. She has been volunteering for the Hub since 2017.*

# Moira Lawler

Pukerua Bay resident and  
Porirua City Councillor.

## Kia ora!

In October 2025 I was elected to Porirua City Council. Thank you for your support. Get in touch if you need help to navigate a Council issue or have questions about Council matters.

Download the Antenna App to get Council notifications and to place service requests.

Hear my updates at the Residents Association meetings – second Tuesday of every month, 7.30pm at the RSA.

CONTACT ME ON:

✉ [Moira.lawler@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:Moira.lawler@porirua.govt.nz)

☎ 0211955330

and for my blog on what's happening at Council and in our City, follow me on Facebook

📘 [MoiraLawler4Council](#)



# 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.



📧 [JoshTrlinPorirua@labour.org.nz](mailto:JoshTrlinPorirua@labour.org.nz)  
☎ 027 374 0114

## Pukerua Bay Playgroup: A community tradition

For generations, Playgroup has been a beloved part of early childhood in Pukerua Bay. Running since the 1980s, Playgroup has supported countless parents, caregivers, and tamariki through those formative early years.

What makes the playgroup special is that it is entirely parent-run. Volunteers give their time to set up sessions, organise activities, manage finances, and welcome new families. Together, they create a safe, warm space where children can play, explore and socialise, while adults connect with others navigating similar stages of parenting. Children and caregivers build confidence, skills and friendships along the way.

More than 'just' a play space, Playgroup supports community life. It helps new

families put down roots, creates informal support networks, and strengthens the sense of belonging that villages like ours rely on. Conversations over coffee and home baking can lead to lasting friendships, hand-me-down clothes, shared babysitting, or simply reassurance on a hard day.

Playgroup runs from 9:30–11am on Wednesdays at the Tennis Club. It's free for all babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers, with tea and coffee for the adults, and the famous cheese puffs for the kids. Please feel free to pop in and check it out and, if you can, bring a piece of fruit for shared morning tea.

Nā Ziggy Mountier

## Thriving communities

How does Porirua City Council support our communities and volunteers?

'Thriving Communities' is a strategic priority in the Council's Long-Term Plan. While everything Council does is meant to play a part, it's mostly seen through our parks, pools, libraries, and Pātaka and through city events and emergency management. Local examples include library sessions and the play trailer at Wairaka Park.

Council teams support community groups in lots of small ways, often through relationships formed over time, and it provides grants specifically to support community-led activities.

These include:

- Waste Minimisation Grants: Monthly small grants for local waste minimisation projects.
- Creative Communities Grants: Supporting city arts projects (next round closes October 7).
- Young People's Fund: Small grants for youth projects (open August 18 to September 19).

Stay updated via our 'What's Happening' newsletter (see [porirua.govt.nz](http://porirua.govt.nz)) or the Antenna app (turn on notifications for key dates).

Nā Moira Lawler, Porirua City Councillor

# Aroha mai, aroha atu – caring for one another

## Next issue

The theme for the next issue is **Matariki**. We welcome your contributions of stories, photos, poems, articles, or community notices. The copy deadline for the next issue is **6 May**.

Email: [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)



## Our team

*Kōrero* is brought to you by Kate Dreaver, Gill England, Jen Erceg, Carla Guy, Jonathan Harker, Anne Johnston, Moira Lawler, Kelly McClean, Fiona Sutton, 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. To help with printing costs, we ask that you pay at least half the regular advertising rate.



*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.*

## News on the go

The Pukerua Bay community website [pukeruabay.org.nz](http://pukeruabay.org.nz) holds lots of useful information, including a local directory and updates on what is going on in Pukerua Bay. You can download a PDF of this and past issues of *Kōrero* from the website at [pkb.nz/korero](http://pkb.nz/korero).



## What's on

[pkbhub.org.nz/whatson](http://pkbhub.org.nz/whatson) is a new space for you to learn about and promote local events. You can register events through this QR code.

## Please support our supporters!

Mark Minenkoff	Registered electrician	027 449 4651
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Denise Uschmann	Ti Kouka Yoga	022 392 0877 <a href="mailto:tikoukayoga@uschmann.ch">tikoukayoga@uschmann.ch</a>
Michael Beaumont	Mowing and gardening	021 0239 4689 <a href="mailto:michaelfbeaumont@hotmail.com">michaelfbeaumont@hotmail.com</a>

## Events calendar

Every second Tuesday	Residents' Association meeting, 7.30–9pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
Every third Saturday	Crop swap and recycling hub, 3–4pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
Every fourth Wednesday	Plimmerton Climate Café, 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Steyne Ave, Plimmerton

### 25 April: ANZAC service and celebrations

8.00am:	'Stand to' at the RSA, followed by light refreshments
11.00am:	Community Remembrance Service, St Mark's Church, Rāwhiti Rd
11.30am:	RSA open for companionship and refreshments
Noon:	Wreath laying ceremony at the Wall of Remembrance, Whenua Tapu Cemetery, Airlie Rd

To list an event in the April issue, email by **6 May** [newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz)



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