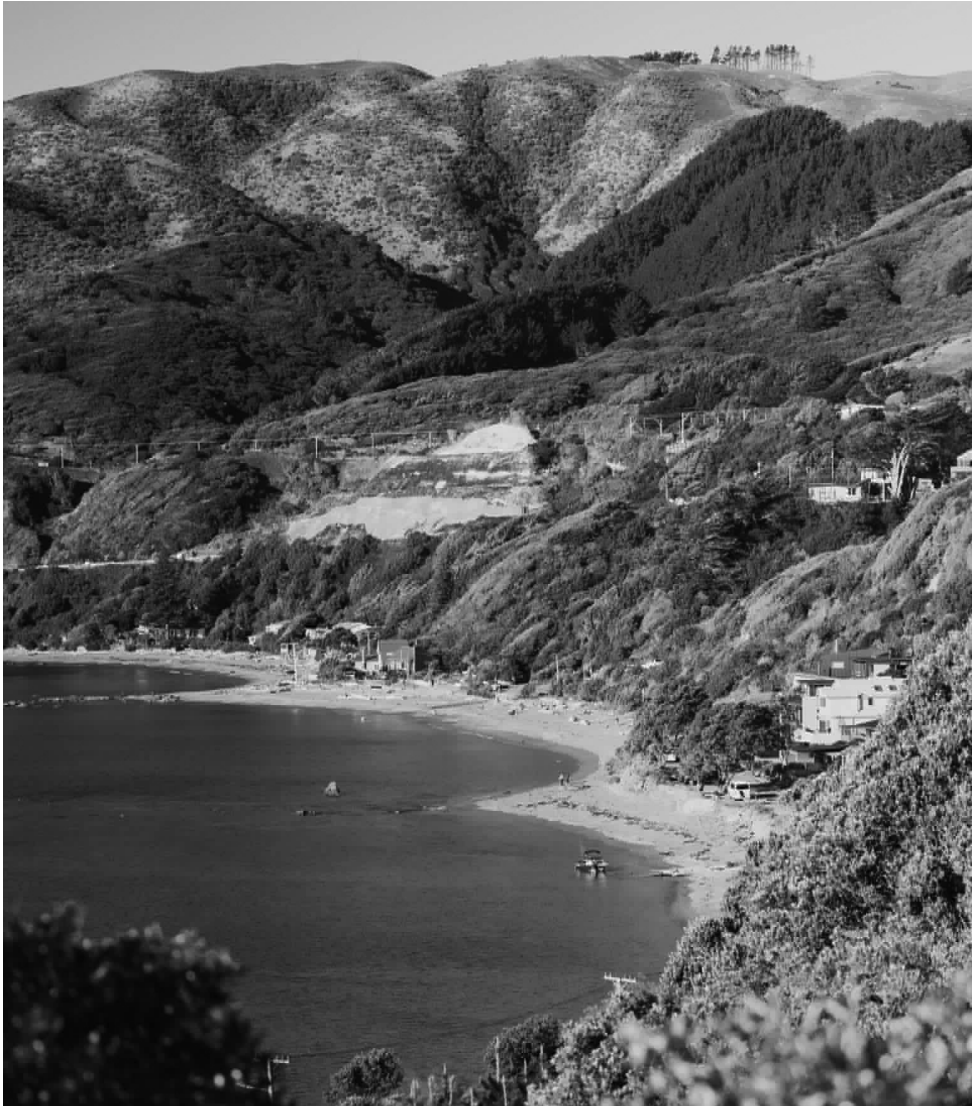


Kōrero

News and stories from Pukerua Bay



Vol 6, Issue 3
June 2026



Pukerua Bay: where water runs uphill. Photo credit: Angus Dreaver

Mānawatia a Matariki! Happy Māori New Year!

Once again, we prepare for our Matariki Celebration – a special time of remembrance, connection, and renewal. Ahu Charitable Trust is busy planning this year's activities, which will take place throughout June, working towards the main event on June 27. This year, the day will begin with a Whāngai i Te Hautapu ceremony, an opportunity to welcome Te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year (pp. 3–5).

Our tamariki have already begun reflecting on Matariki and what it means to them. Students Kauri and Sophie explain the significance of Ururangi, the star associated with the wind and weather and the theme of this year's Matariki. Meantime, Hayley has cleverly written a story featuring all eight of Matariki's tamariki (pp. 5–6)!

Matariki reinforces our connection to te taiao (the environment) and responsibility for its care. For this reason, we have items on the history of Tiaki Wai and the future for the 'three waters' and on the upcoming opportunity for residents to engage with Porirua City Council on strategies for Climate Change Adaptation (pp. 8–9). There's also information about Electrify Porirua, a new community action group, and an opportunity to meet some of its members at the June Crop Swap (p.11).

This year's centenary of the Residents' Association is to be followed by next year's centenary of the school! Principal Marcus Hopkinson invites us to take part and provides an update on what is happening with the hall (pp. 12–13).

In our last issue, we celebrated Pukerua Bay's history of volunteering and acknowledged the important role of sponsorship. In this, we report on changes in the Ahu Charitable Trust Timā and share the Tennis Club's thanks to the businesses that kindly supported their annual Easter tournament. A lot of mahi goes into making good things happen!

The next issue focuses on 'the silver screen'. Whether you like making moving images or like looking at them, we're keen to hear from you!

Finally, in light of recent weather events we want to remind you that:

- Our Community Response Plan is located here <https://tinyurl.com/2ra9m7hc> (see the May 2026 post) and here <https://tinyurl.com/4ymrj7ev> (click the link for 'Pukerua Bay Response Plan').
- The School and Community Hall is our emergency hub. An Emergency Hub Guide offers guidance on how we can get organised and support each other.
- General information about emergency preparedness is available here <https://poriruacity.govt.nz/services/civil-defence/emergency-management>

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.

2. For Ngāti Toa news, see ngatittoa.iwi.nz

Nau mai ki te hui ahurei o Matariki 2026 Welcome to the 2026 Matariki Celebration

Pukerua Bay Hub is busy organising creative happenings for this Matariki season. Community 'art star' workshops and drop-ins will take place throughout June, leading up to Pukerua Bay's annual Matariki celebration on Saturday, 27 June.

Instead of the starry night walk, we will welcome Matariki at dawn with a traditional Whāngai i te Hautapu. This will take place from 7am around the Pou Tangaroa at Pukerua Beach (see p. 4.)

The main celebration will take place in the Pukerua Bay School grounds from 4–7pm. It will be a special time of reflection, celebration, and community connection designed to appeal to all your senses:

- **View:** Stunning illuminated art installations by local artists, plus a special edition of balance roller boarding.
- **Listen:** Stirring renditions of kapa haka and waiata performed by our tamariki.
- **Taste:** Delicious kai, featuring the famous hāngī prepared by the Pukerua Bay School whānau group.

Nau mai, haere mai – everyone is welcome!

For details, please visit: pkbhub.org.nz/whatson/matariki-celebration-2026

Cover note

A Dutch visitor to Pukerua Bay told local Phil Gibson it was "the only place in the world he has seen water run uphill." Phil explained that fierce northwest winds and equinoctial gales blast up the cliffs, forcing sea spray upward and twisting trees into strange, wind-swept shapes.



Whāngai i Te Hautapu A welcome offering to our stars

He tio, he huka, he hauhūnga.

A touch of frost, a coating of ice, a breath of mist.

The world is still dark and the air is biting. Inside, there is a scramble for warm socks and heavy coats as the kids are bundled up and ushered out the door. There is a specific kind of stillness in the early winter air ... a quiet anticipation. We squint toward the horizon, searching for the first shimmer of the Matariki cluster. These nine stars rise just before the sun, signaling the arrival of Te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year. While most are just waking, others have been up for hours, tending the fires for the hautapu.

As the community gathers around the glow of the embers, we wait for the first song of the manu. As the birds wake the day, the karanga rings out. Karakia follow, acknowledging each star's unique connection to our environment and our lives. When we reach Pōhutukawa, we remember those we have lost – the loved ones who became stars in the year just passed. Then, the hautapu begins. This sacred offering of kai, cooked in the umu, is opened, releasing steam into the cold sky to feed the stars.

The Whāngai i te Hautapu ceremony is a time to gather as whānau, to grieve together, and to look toward the promise of the year ahead. We celebrate in these early hours because it is the only time

the cluster reveals itself before the sun takes the sky.

This year, our focus turns to Ururangi. Associated with the atua Tāwhirimātea, Ururangi governs the winds, the air we breathe, and the atmosphere above us. As a star that represents the winds of the sky, Ururangi is used to predict the nature of the gales and breezes for the coming year.

To honour this season, Pukerua Bay Hub are organising a gathering at the Pou Tangaroa on the beach on the morning of Saturday 27 June for the Whāngai i te Hautapu. This will be followed by our local community celebration in the evening. Check out pkbhub.org.nz for updates.

Te Mātahi o te Tau. E ara Matariki e!

Nā Aimée Porteners

Matariki writing from the kura

Ururangi and Matariki

Each Matariki star has its own specific roles in this beautiful world we call home. There are nine of them in total. In this writing, we will talk about Ururangi.

Ururangi is one of the nine Matariki stars but more specifically the wind and weather star. Whenever you go fishing, gardening, travelling by boat or hunting, you should thank Ururangi for that.

The star constellation Ururangi belongs to is called Matariki; it passes over Wellington in June. Ururangi and Matariki are a big part of our community. Ururangi is part of a

sophisticated Māori knowledge system called Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). Ururangi is the smallest star out of the nine.

When Māori ancestors used waka hourua, they used the Matariki stars for navigation and the wind, which was given by Ururangi. Matariki reflects the strong Māori connection between people and nature (kaitiakitanga). Ururangi was one of the main reasons people could eat, drink, and sail.

Matariki and Ururangi reminds us of a whakatauki we have learned: “Ngā kai a Matariki nāna i ao ake nei.” This translates to “Food that is scooped up by Matariki” and reminds us of this connection.

Nā Kauri and Sophie, Raroa

Apologies and love all round

Once upon a time, eight sisters lived in the sky. These sisters were the children of Matariki. The youngest sister was Hiwa-i-te-Rangi and she was an author and a singer. She was the best at singing in all the lands, so that eventually stirred up trouble among the sisters in singing lessons.

One day, the twins Waitī and Waitā found a young puppy in the gutters and took him home to the sky. All the sisters wanted him for herself, and they each had a different argument to say about it. “Waita and I found him so he's ours!” yelled Waitī. “I'm interested in animals that can't fly!” crowed Tipuānuku from the living room. “I can teach him to



dance!” put in Pōhutakawa gleefully. “He can play in the garden!” screamed Ururangi. “I will need a companion when I am asleep!” hollered Tipuārangi. “He will love the rain like me!” shouted Waipunarangi. “Please can I have him because I'm Mum's favourite!” Hiwa-i-te-Rangi softly called from the doorway. “He's ours!” all the sisters yelled in sync as Matariki entered the room.

“Dinner time, girls!” said Matariki as she ushered them into the kitchen. “What are all those tomatoes and onions doing on the counter, Mum?” asked Waitā as she walked past the counter. “They are rotten so we can't eat them,” Matariki called from the table. Waitā grabbed them from the counter as ammunition.

At dinner, Waitī and Waitā started throwing the rotten food at everyone and an epic food fight started. “Stop everyone!” Matariki cried in horror. It all calmed down and they spoke quietly to each other and apologised for being so selfish and not seeing what matters most. One day later it was back to normal, for a little while ...

Nā Hayley, Year 7

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Ahu Charitable Trust: a time of change

As Ahu Charitable Trust aka Pukerua Bay Hub gears up for another starry Matariki celebration event, we welcome three new trustees to our Tima! Marian Dreaver is our new Treasurer, Lucy Duncan our new Communications Lead, and Manawa our new Arts Lead.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing treasurer Natalie Phillips and founding trustee Aimee Porteners for their service. Aimee has been on the Board since its inception in 2016 and we appreciate her extended service to our community. Both Natalie and Aimee will support as Friends of the Hub – nga mihi ki a korua!



Marian Dreaver, Ahu Charitable Trust, Trustee – Treasurer

Kia ora. I have been a PKB local since birth and am currently a postgraduate student in Library and Information Services with the Open Polytechnic. My parents, Kate Dreaver and Iain MacLean, have been passionate and involved members of the Pukerua Bay community, and I am proud to walk in their footsteps as the new Treasurer of the Hub.



Lucy Duncan, Ahu Charitable Trust, Trustee – Communications

Kia ora! I am an experienced leader in early childhood education with a

strong focus on community engagement, communications, and strengthening online presence. I grew up in Pukerua Bay and recently moved back with my husband to purchase our first home, which has deepened my connection and commitment to the community. I am passionate about creating meaningful connections through clear communication, storytelling, and engaging digital platforms that reflect the heart of our people. I bring a collaborative, people-centred approach and am excited to contribute to initiatives that strengthen visibility, connection, and impact within our wider community.



Manawa, Ahu Charitable Trust, Trustee – Arts

Tēnā tātou, he uri a Manawa nō Ngāti Ira, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti me Ngāti Rāhiri. I tipu ake ai i Tokomaru Bay, Ūawa-nui-a-Ruamataua. He ringa toi mai rāno. Noho ai i Pukerua i ngā tau 17 kua taha ake nei. Tokorua ōku tamariki.

I am a descendant of Ngāti Ira, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, and Ngāti Rāhiri. I grew up in Tokomaru Bay, Ūawa-nui-a-Ruamataua. I am a skilled craftsman and have lived in Pukerua Bay for the past 17 years. I have two children.

Tiaki kitenga: Charting our climate future

In last year's Matariki issue, Councillor Josh Trlin wrote about Porirua City Council's (PCC's) Climate Change Strategy, Rautaki o Te Ao Hurihuri. At that point, PCC had mapped the impact of climate change on Council assets and inquired into the impact on our city of the Inquiry into Climate Adaptation and the Climate Adaptation Bill. It was getting ready for Phase 3 of its Climate Change Adaptation Programme, focusing on engagement with communities.

PCC's Principal Climate Advisor is James King, who grew up in Pukerua Bay. James has paid two visits 'back home' over the last few months, meeting with the Residents' Association (PKBRA) and Climate Action Rōpū. His proposal is that our community, along with Takapūwāhia, should be the pilots for community engagement. It's something we've agreed to, with the Climate Action Rōpū taking the lead on PKBRA's behalf.

James and his team are currently working on the approach to be taken. However, there are a few things we know:

- The approach needs to be intergenerational, looking out to where we will be in another 100 years. At the same time, we need to be practical about the issues we're

already facing, such as increased severe rainfall, localised slips, and storm surges along the coast.

- Neither central nor local government can protect individuals and communities from all the impacts of climate change, but we can be smart about how we plan and adjust for these impacts.
- The focus for community engagement will be how we manage council assets and services, such as roads, parks, buildings, and three waters.
- There's a good model in the Lyttleton Harbour Action Plan, which takes a 'preferred pathway' approach to help the local community and council make decisions about levels of service at the right time. (Read more here: [ln.run/iWf61](#))

This pilot is a unique opportunity for Pukerua Bay to help shape how our city faces the future. By stepping up as a pilot community, we are laying the groundwork to protect what we love about Pukerua Bay for generations to come. We look forward to working alongside James and the PCC team to chart a resilient path forward.

Nā Pukerua Bay
Climate Action Rōpū
for PKBRA

Tiaki Wai: A new beginning for the 'three waters'

Joint water services for the Wellington region were first established in 2014 under the regional entity, Wellington Water. Under this model, individual councils did their own asset planning and budgeting, while contracting Wellington Water to deliver the services. Critics would say the councils failed to adequately fund important renewal work, and that Wellington Water cut corners in its service delivery.

In 2022–23 the Labour government introduced "Three Waters" reform, to transfer water infrastructure from 67 councils into 10 regional public entities to improve water services. The legislation included shared council–iwi governance, water charges for commercial users, and the potential for capital injections from central government for significant infrastructure projects.

The National-led coalition repealed "Three Waters" in favour of "Local Water Done Well". This legislation returns responsibility to councils, while requiring them to present the Minister with a long-term water strategy, and encouraging them to form regional organisations to manage water assets.

In Wellington, Wellington Water is being disestablished to make way for a newly created entity named Tiaki Wai, which takes over operational control on 1 July 2026.

The main structural difference is that councils have transferred their water

assets over to Tiaki Wai, enabling Tiaki Wai to raise loans. Councils and iwi will form a Partners Committee to appoint directors and have input into strategic documents.

Tiaki Wai will bill ratepayers separately from Council rates. Because so much of Wellington's infrastructure requires renewal, water services charges will increase over time. You can see an estimate of your bill at [tiakiwai.co.nz](#). Your upcoming first instalment Council rates assessment will outline what you currently pay local council for water; this portion will be progressively deducted from future general property rates bills as direct billing migrates to the new entity.

The National government model assumes ratepayers can continue to bear the cost of all water infrastructure renewals. (The refusal to assist Wellington City Council to fix Moa Point Sewage Plant is a recent example.) Personally, I don't think it's realistic to expect ratepayers to meet escalating costs over time. The Review into the Future of Local Government (2023) ([tinyurl.com/2s4eakdp](#)) called for more sustainable and equitable funding models for local government. Hopefully, future governments will see the need to make capital available for the water infrastructure that is so essential for the public health of our communities.

Nā Moira Lawler

no room for Moira's ad



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Electrify Porirua

We have passed the financial tipping point for solar. It's now the cheapest way to power our homes and cars. It's also the most sustainable, whether that means the health of the planet, or resilience to power outages and fuel crises.

For those thinking of converting, or who don't have the financial means, a new community action group is here to help. 'Electrify Porirua' is a grass-roots group run by volunteers. Their mission is to help local households convert to solar, and to advocate for government support for electric solutions.

The group's very first community event will be at Pukerua Bay's June Crop Swap on June 20, where Electrify Porirua will give a brief talk and be on hand for questions.

"We know people need real-life examples and stories that help them think it through for their own situation," explained group member Kate Scott. "And we're inspired to do more as we grow. Electrify the Hutt recently ran 'Watts Inside', a tour of solar homes similar to a garden tour. We know there's a lot of expertise to tap into in our local community, too."

The group wants solar power to be a choice that all households can afford. They're encouraged that Porirua Council has supported in principle the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (lgnz.co.nz/policy-advocacy/ratepayer-assistance-scheme), which proposes a system of low-interest, long-term loans for homeowners.

Electrify Porirua welcomes new members and can be contacted on electifyporirua@gmail.com

Learn how to achieve lower energy bills, lower emissions, and greater resilience by going electric



Crop Swap meets Electrify Porirua
Saturday 20 June: 3-4pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd

Pukerua Bay School update

Kia ora tātou

Centenary

Next year, we will have been open and educating tamariki for 100 years. Please save the date for our school's 100-year celebrations. We will be celebrating this on the weekend of 4–6 June 2027.

If you have skills in event planning and project management, or a connected history to this kura and want to be part of the organising committee, please contact myself or Christine: principal@pukeruabay.school.nz or christine@pukeruabay.school.nz

Our hall

The hall continues to be renovated. We have managed to add additional cladding and windows to the initial scope of the project with the Ministry of Education. Internally, we will have added some new and usable toilets, plumbing, electrics, and flooring and we will now all be better insulated! The renovations will continue all this term. I am excited about our new space.

Ngā mihi nui

Marcus Hopkinson, Principal,
Pukerua Bay School

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Save the date

Pukerua Bay School
Centenary
*— * Celebration * —*

4-6th June, 2027

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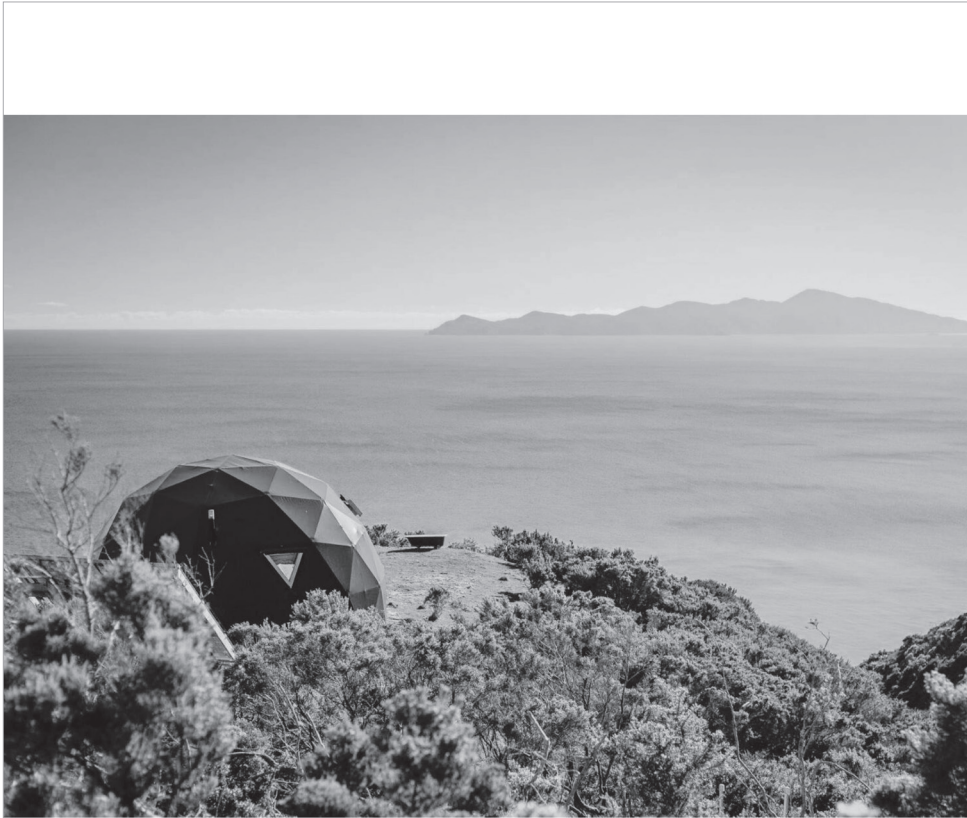
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Your local councillor

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 “The ‘silver screen’.” We welcome your contributions of stories, photos, poems, articles, or community notices. The copy deadline is 5 July.

Email: 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 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.



What’s on

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
McClean Electrical Services Ltd	Registered electricians	027 306 7119
Gabriele	Piano and marimba lessons	021 073 4386 uriele@urielepianomusic.com
Denise Uschmann	Ti Kouka Yoga	022 392 0877 tikoukayoga@uschmann.ch
Michael Beaumont	Mowing and gardening	021 0239 4689 michaelfbeaumont@hotmail.com

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

Special Events

20 June	Electrify Porirua, 3–4pm, RSA, Wairaka Rd
21 June	Raumati Repair Cafe, 10am–1pm, Raumati South Memorial Hall
27 June	Pukerua Bay Matariki Celebration, 4–7pm, Pukerua Bay School
10 July	Matariki Holiday

To list an event in the April issue, email by 5 July newsletter@pukeruabay.org.nz

**NAU MAI, HAERE MAI
KI PUKERUA BAY**



Matariki 2026

**SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2026, 4–7PM
PUKERUA BAY SCHOOL GROUNDS**

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