

Plimmerton Residents' Association Newsletter

What's new in Plimmerton?

More mid-winter news - July 2016

FREE mid-winter special event

From Porirua to Patagonia

Spinnaker Toastmaster's Club invites you to St Andrew's Church Hall, **Tuesday 19 July, 7.30pm**, to enjoy an illustrated talk by guest speaker Christine Jacobson.

Bellyful serves meal number 6000

Bellyful organiser Rebecca Morahan from Plimmerton says that it is rewarding work and "it's fantastic we are still going strong." Bellyful delivers meal packs to families struggling with illness and those with new babies. Most people contact them through their web site and Plunket and midwives also refer a few. Once a month the group meets for a big cook up in a local commercial kitchen and prepares 130 meal packs. The organisation depends on donations and generous support from local businesses including the Mad Butcher.

Responsible dog owners ... is your dog registered?

This year registration costs have risen in Porirua. There is a lot of lively discussion about why responsible owners, those who rescue dogs from pounds and shelters, and those who have dogs that work in the community, should subsidise those who are irresponsible, or worse.

There are no fenced dog exercise areas provided by the council here. We have recently experienced the amazing dog park at the Groynes in Christchurch which has large grassed paddocks, a sparkling tree-sheltered stream, a doggy playground and every facility for dogs and their owners to exercise and socialise. Surely as Transmission Gully develops land could be set aside for this purpose, giving people a fantastic place to spend with the canine members of their families.

Holiday art workshop filling up fast!

If you have not yet booked yourselves in for a two-hour session at the workshop to create two murals for our rail underpass you'd better do it today! Rachel Benefield is running the workshops every morning and afternoon (10-12, 1-3) at Plimmerton School in their art room. Contact Rachel to secure your place for kids and carers artfulkidsNZ@gmail.com Just \$10 per session and all materials and kit supplied.

Heritage trail takes shape

Taupo Plimmerton Heritage Trail

Andrew Deller, Deirdre Dale and Mary Beckett are working on Plimmerton's new heritage trail. Mary says, "Our area has a very long history and we want to give everyone the chance to appreciate and enjoy the stories."

The trail is being developed under the umbrella of the residents' association with village planning funding and support from PCC. Signs will be placed around Plimmerton identifying 36 key sites and giving a short introduction to each. A map of the trail, in the village centre (on the wall next to The Family Store), will provide



a guide to these sites. Plimmerton's community website will have lots more information and photos about each site. It is expected that the trail will be up and going by October. Mary and Deidre are keen for your input. They say, "We have already had lots of great information coming from the community and would appreciate more, especially for the website. So please put your thinking caps on and check out your old photos". Send to plimmertonra@gmail.com

Text for the first 13 signs

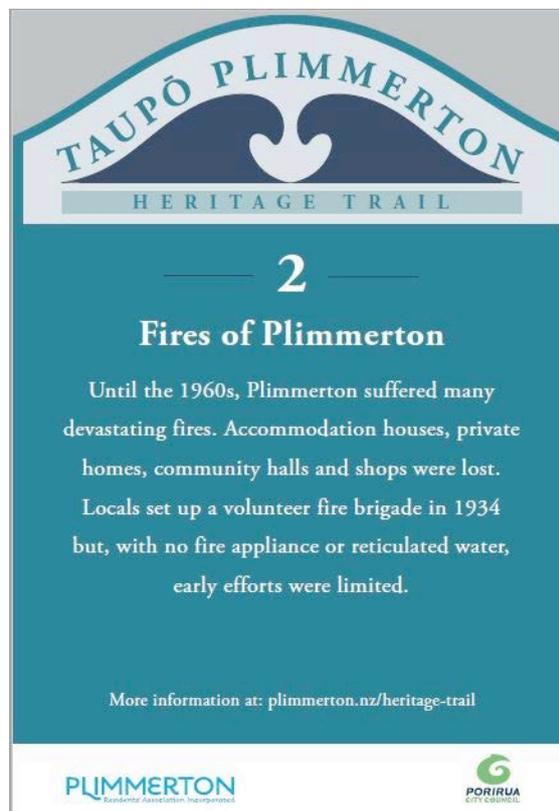
Here is the information for 13 of the site signs. If you would like to have a chat about what you know about these, or lend photos, please get in touch with Mary Beckett, at marybeckett@xtra.co.nz or phone 233 1655. We will be sending out more information about the other site signs over the next few weeks.

Taupō Plimmerton History

Māori history in this area dates from Kupe's visit over 850 years ago. Ngāti Ira later held the territory, known as Taupō, until taken over by Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the 1820s. After the railway arrived in 1885 the area was named Plimmerton, after Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company Director John Plimmer, and was advertised as "the great marine suburb of Wellington." By 1896, about 50 sections had been sold and hundreds of day-trippers flocked here during the summer months. Over time, cottages, boarding houses and shops were built, forming Plimmerton village.

Fires of Plimmerton

Until the 1960s, Plimmerton suffered many devastating fires. Accommodation houses, private homes, community halls and shops were lost. Locals set up a volunteer fire brigade in 1934 but, with no fire appliance or reticulated water, early efforts were limited.



Machine gun emplacement

This surviving machine gun emplacement (pillbox) was built in 1942-43 as part of New Zealand's coastal defences. The NZ Army and Home Guard kept watch from this and other nearby pillboxes for enemy forces arriving at Porirua Harbour [*at end of South Beach*].

Plimmerton's first state school

Plimmerton's first state school was established in 1904 when farmer, James Walker, donated a shed near the stream east of the Railway Station opened with Miss EM Algie as teacher, and 17 pupils coming from as far as Pukerua Bay and Paremata.

Plimmerton's second state school

By 1912, the school roll had outgrown the shed near the Railway Station. The Education Board bought part of the Māori reserve and built the first classroom (right end of this building). It became a social centre for Plimmerton and is now the kindergarten.

Fire brigade/station

Local residents formed the Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1934 following several disastrous fires. This station, fully funded and built by the community, was opened in 1955, as a base for volunteers and storage of the fire engine and equipment.

Casey's butcher shop

In 1929 James Casey opened a little shop in Steyne Avenue. He offered a delivery service to nearby villages, firstly on horseback and later by van. The shop, lost to fire in the 1954 and rebuilt here, was run by three generations of Caseys for over 60 years [*now the Plimmerton Taj restaurant*].

George Troup

In 1905 George Troup, later Mayor of Wellington, bought 365 acres here with brother-in-law Charles Moore. They bred Friesian cattle. Troup designed and built Turville House in Motuhara Road as his holiday home but sold it a few years later, while keeping the farm. [*sign at Karehana Park*].

Karehana Bay

From 1908 George Troup subdivided his land near the beach and initially developed Airlie, Cluny and Motuhara Roads. He later donated land for Karehana Park and St Paul's Church, now a private residence. The area developed quickly after WWI.

Plimmerton Boating Club

Locals formed the Boating Club here in 1925. The first clubhouse was completed in 1929 and the land was bought in 1942. During WWII the army occupied the building for coastal defence. The Club remains an integral part of the community.

Taua Tapu Track

This track, an old Māori trail, ran from Taupō over the hill and north to Waimapihi at Pukerua Bay. No longer used after roads were built in the area, it is now a signposted walking track roughly following the first half of the route.

Plimmerton Pavilion

In 1925, the Hutt County Council built an open pavilion, for visitors, on this reserve land. After WWII, returned servicemen, with the support of the community, enclosed and upgraded the building for use by local groups for social activities.



Motuhara tramway and tunnel

From 1898 to 1900, a small tram line ran along the coast and through a tunnel here under Motuhara Road. It carried boulders from Hongoeka and Karehana Bay possibly to reinforce the main rail line around Camborne Hill. Boulders were also used for Wellington streets.

... and there will be photos and stories in depth on our web site

Sneak preview: Corner Steyne and Beach Roads c1926 and Plimmerton House late 1890s



Our website: <http://www.plimmerton.org.nz/>

and our email: plimmertonra@gmail.com

Support your community - it's the best!