

Plimmerton Residents' Association Newsletter

What's new in Plimmerton?

February 2016

In case you are new here, your Christmas was so merry you've forgotten or the grey cells need a jog ...

What's new in Plimmerton is published in the last week of each month to let you know about upcoming events and opportunities.

You can send material to plimmertonra@gmail.com at any time. Deadline for each issue is the third week of the month ...short items for the newsletter please but you can send photos and more info for the web site. No charge if you are a PRA member (for the vast outlay of \$15 per household per year!)

If you are organising an event, informing people about cultural or sporting activities, sharing news about clubs or groups, giving school, early childhood or church news, providing a service for people here or want to communicate with residents in this community, then let us know.

We will share your news through our emailed and printed newsletters, our website www.plimmerton.org.nz and Facebook pages.

This month we have, in no particular order, fun events for all the family, community services and your chance to comment on traffic safety issues.

Porirua's premiere event ... Waitangi Day: Festival of the Elements

6 February from 11am - 5.30pm at Te Rauparaha Park, Arena and Aquatic Centre and Pataka Art+Museum.

So much entertainment in one day ... Eb & Sparrow, jugglers Zane and Degge, Virtuoso Strings Orchestra, Elena the acclaimed violinist, Wellington supergroup The Eggs, The Ukes of Wellington, Nikau Flute and Strings, Sam Manzana and Afrobeat. Plus a gamelan workshop and exhibition, a sculpture competition, jugglers ... and old favourites for young people ... talent quest, skate jam and Art Action. There are story-telling sessions with authors Olivia Giles and Apirana Taylor and Gary McCormick will show his *Bay Boys* documentary. In alliance with Ngāti Toa Rangatira there will be a panel discussion '*Let's talk treaty*'- an informative yet accessible look at the significance of the treaty in our lives.

Check www.elementsfestival.org.nz for full programme details and times.

Entry is FREE. Festival organiser Margaret Armour and her team have been working for months to get this exciting programme in place with something for everyone to enjoy ... art, dance, music, poetry, korero, circus, food and lots more! She says, "We are still looking for volunteers to help on Waitangi Day for all or just part of the day!" If you'd like to help call Marg on **027 224 5670** or email manager@elementsfestival.org.nz



Clearway hours are set to be increased on Mana Esplanade

These changes are effective from early 2016:

- Southbound: Monday to Friday (other than public holidays) from 6.30am to 9.30am; and Sunday and Public Holidays, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.
- Northbound: Monday to Friday (other than public holidays), from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

Doggy day care and dog grooming ... in Plimmerton

The Dog Park in Ulric Street offers day-care and full grooming services. A pick-up and drop-off service is available too or you can deliver your furbaby there on your way to work. Doggy day care is a great way to keep your dog fit, happy and socialised - with other dogs and people. For more info visit

www.facebook.com/thedogparkNZ/ or www.thedogpark.co.nz

Book your dog at: info@petsolutions.co.nz or call 233 1993.

Parish walk with Bishop Justin on Sunday 7 February

You are invited to join the Anglican Parish of Pauatahanui and Bishop Justin to walk from Hongoeka Bay to St Andrew's Church in Steyne Ave. The walk will be followed by a service with the bishop at St Andrew's. Meet at Hongoeka Bay at 9.30am.

Enquiries to parish office 233 9781 or Dorothy Mitchell 233 1346.

Croquet have-a-go day ... Saturday 30 January

Carol from the club invites us all along to have a go at this popular sport at Plimmerton Croquet Club on Plimmerton Drive (off Ulric Street). She says, "Thanks to Mana Community Grants Foundation, the club is extending its playing area to five lawns and we welcome new members to our friendly club. Croquet is a challenging, fun game which can be played by people of all ages. It is great exercise for mind and body! Our lawns are open all year round and our players range in skill level from social to highly competitive. Just turn up on Saturday wearing comfortable clothing and flat-soled shoes. All other equipment will be provided. If you cannot make it that day please phone Jo Bray to arrange another time for you to experience the game 233 9601."

Back Porch Blues Band ... Plimmerton Boating Club Saturday 27 February

Laura Collins is ready to rock the joint with her talented band: stonking boogie blues piano player Wayne Mason, guitar legend John O'Connor ... plus George Barris on upright bass and Peter Cogwell on drums.

Bookings essential for dinner and show. Call PBC manager Richard 233 1592 or email manager@plimmertonboatingclub.org.nz

For more details www.plimmertonboatingclub.org.nz

Mana Art's summer exhibition ... two weekends in February

The exhibition runs over two weekends, 13-14 and 20-21 February from 10am till 4pm in their clubrooms in Plimmerton Domain. Your chance to appreciate and support local artists.



Shrove Tuesday 9 February- pancake races ... calling all tossers

Get your team of three together and get along to St Andrew's Church in Steyne Ave for the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake race. Or just come and cheer. Register at 9.45am. Talk to them! 233 9781.

Windmill Music ... starting the kids off young with music

Classes for pre-school children starting in Term 1 in Tawa. Led by multi-instrumentalists, 30 minute classes at 10.15am on Fridays. Check out their Facebook post <https://www.facebook.com/Windmill-Music-Show-402949206459937/>

Or contact Jannah 022 122 4912.

Musings on magical musical moments (diary Sunday 26 January)

On this day mellow musicians were entertaining outside Topor at midday and mellifluous melodies were filling the air from the lone bagpiper serenading me, and the dogs, on Plimmerton Domain.

Turn over a new leaf ... Book Club opportunities

Two members shifting away have opened up spots in one of Plimmerton's book clubs which meets on Thursday evening in the last week of each month. It's an informal group whose members enjoy sharing their latest reads. Call Mary 233 1655.

Litter picker-uppers thank you!

Don't we just love people who leave their fast food wrappings, alcopop tins, bottles, cigarette packets and butts all over our beaches?

We say a big thankyou to locals who have walked on the beaches early every morning, with their dogs, removing bags of trash (especially the young man who cleared the main beach with his wee Hairy Maclary look-alike pooch).

When you spot rubbish bins overflowing or debris on beaches, please report this to the council's 24 hour hot-line 237 5089.

As with other local authorities around the country, PCC is encouraging the practice of people taking all their rubbish home with them from recreation areas. This requires education and behaviour change. In the meantime we should all be encouraging beach users to put their rubbish in the bins provided at beach exits.

PS. Gross fact: cigarette butts take more than 20 years to break down.

Let's go racing ... Tauherenikau Races 8 February

Matt invites you to join the annual bus trip to the races. He says, "The bus will be leaving Plimmerton Boating Club at 8.30am and arriving back there at 6pm. A BBQ lunch, beverages and an entrance ticket to the races are included in the \$80 price. A deposit of \$50 per person is essential to grab-a-seat on this PBC adventure."

See the club noticeboard or call Matt 027 446 5299 or 2331173.

The bank account is 06-0545-0307918-00



Darwin Awards ... local youths qualify

Youths in cars racing each other along Moana Road could have killed themselves and innocent people. Instead they came to a crashing halt and destroyed a solid macrocarpa seat for which a local family had paid \$1500, in memory of a loved one). It has not deterred others who are still racing around Plimmerton from Airlie Road and along Sunset Parade. Police ask that we report speeding drivers as soon as we hear/see them on *555 or call 111.

Accommodation news ... Studio to rent

Large furnished studio with own entrance under owner's home. Fully furnished and would suit quiet non-smoker who would welcome friendly visits from a small dog. Power and internet neg. Rent \$245 per week. Private sunny position with amazing ocean and bush views. You'll need a bike or vehicle if you commute.

Please contact owner kaye.l@kinect.co.nz

Long-term house sit or rental needed

Young couple with 15 month old, seeking long term rental from \$350 a week. Contact us and we'll pass it on asap if you have something suitable.

plimmertonra@gmail.com

Home needed! February-March

Family have just sold their home here and need somewhere to live from 4-11 February and from 13 February to 5 March. Email Kim.m.lawton@iCloud.com

Family store looking for quality stock ... cupboard clear out time?

Homewares, clothing in good condition, ornaments and bric-a-brac are all gratefully received at the Family Store in Steyne Ave. Manager Elvyn reminds people (yet again) to please drop donated items off during normal work hours as objects left on the footpath attract human scavengers. She also says that if you would like larger items collected, or have electrical and electronic items to donate, please contact The Family Store in Porirua who are geared up for appliance testing and have room to display larger items. Elvyn can always use keen volunteers to help in the shop, pop in and say hello.

Hongoeka Summer Festival

Saturday 27 February 9.30am - 4pm

The annual Hongoeka Marae Summer Festival featuring all sorts of stalls, entertainment and food. Hongoeka Bay see details on their facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1487202541598813/>

Maintenance around Plimmerton ... keeping it ship-shape

- PCC staff have finished refurbishing our seafront seats and picnic tables. They are looking splendid. Thanks guys.
- Downers are working here this month doing pavement repairs. Call PCC if you see any holes, cracks and such-like **237 5089**.
- Drains get blocked at this time of year with leaves and sand which will create issues when we get heavy rain. Again please call PCC's 24 hour hot line if you see blocked drains.



- Thanks to the volunteer watering team who have toiled to keep the new kowhais along Steyne Ave healthy.
- Our team of tagging removers do a great job. They are out early to keep ahead of incoming vandalism and tagging. Thanks! You are saving ratepayers thousands of dollars every year.
- We are still waiting for our café corner to be cleaned, road markings to be repainted and a few other key clean-ups.

Pet de-sexing ... PCC initiative with SPCA ... brilliant

To cut down on the number of unwanted kittens and puppies, the de-sexing caravan will be in Porirua from 18 January till mid-February. Cats and dogs over 8 weeks can be spayed or neutered by a team of vets. Bookings are essential ... text your name and pet details to 021 810 151 or email desexyourpet@wellingtonspca.org.nz and you will be contacted. This service is available to Porirua residents and community card holders.

Consultation on safety and security issues

‘Slow Zone’ around school and kindergarten areas

Thank you to those people who have communicated with us already about this issue which was detailed in the last three issues of the newsletter in 2015.

Your views have been noted and are appreciated.

If you have not yet contacted us with your thoughts on this issue and would like to, then please do so before Tuesday 16 February - plimmertonra@gmail.com

For those who are new to the situation here is a brief summary of what is proposed and why.

What is proposed?

‘Slow Zone’ signs to be installed on the corner of Bath Street on Steyne Ave, on the corner of the cutting on Sunset Parade and on Motuhara Road just past the school pathway used by children getting to Plimmerton School. These three signs will enclose a small area at the centre of the village where parents are loading and unloading children and pushchairs, crossing to the Plunket and kindergarten and where children are going to and from school on scooters and bikes, elderly or unwell people are accessing the medical centre, visitors and locals are crossing to café corner etc. The idea is to make this small central area safer and more pleasant for everyone.

Background:

Major concerns have been expressed by parents collecting and dropping off children at peak times and by other residents with issues relating to traffic safety. We have had input from interested and concerned parents, teachers and residents at our monthly meetings.

PRA members have worked with the roading team at Porirua City Council and Nick Leggett, our mayor, to find solutions. They have also consulted widely with police, road design and contracting consultants and residents.

They have discussed ideas with parents of kindergarten and school students as well as those involved in the school walking bus. There is widespread support for the recommended safety measures and further investigations for a Beach Road crossing.



The proposed 'Slow Zone' signs are reminders for locals and an alert for visitors. Reminding everyone that at times this is a busy area with a primary school, kindergarten, playgroups, plunket rooms, a church, a crèche and toy library, outdoor cafes and a medical centre. Plus, on holidays and fine days there are children darting over the roads to the beach.

The key points are:

- The Slow Zone is indicated by signage ONLY.
- It does not specify a speed but acts as a reminder that this area is very busy at key times, and requests drivers to be alert.
- There will be painting on the road in these areas to reinforce the message.
- There are **NO** speed bumps proposed.
- After a period the 'Slow Zone' outcomes will be reviewed.
- Policing and monitoring of the Plimmerton zone will be implemented concurrently with signage installation.
- The long-discussed idea of a pedestrian crossing on Beach Road, in the Fish and Chip shop area, is being re-examined.

Note: Porirua City is investigating a system of school safety zones which would have a 30kph limit around all schools in the region at key times. This is one of their long-term objectives. Should this be implemented city-wide, the village centre area in Plimmerton would be included in such a zone. This is standard now in many areas such as Lower Hutt. We have no word on the timing for this decision.

Feedback:

Traffic safety has been the number one concern in community consultation here since the initial street group meetings in 2004. It continues to be important to you. We have had supportive and positive feedback about proposals to improve the situation. This is the formal opportunity for you to comment before we proceed with the next step.

Please send your feedback to plimmertonra@gmail.com

Facebook and other social media comments will not be tracked.

Thanks for your help, Colin Bleasdale, PRA Chair

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

and our email: plimmertonra@gmail.com

Support your community - it's the best!

