

# Plimmerton Residents' Association Newsletter

## *What's new in Plimmerton?*

### February 2018

*Happy new year and welcome back to the wonderful world of ongoing Summer.*

#### **Community shed team is all go**

Two dynamic locals, with PRA backing, are busy setting up a facility to be used as a community shed in Plimmerton Domain. They are creating a space where residents can join in a range of practical projects to benefit this whole community. Their working motto is *By the community, for the community*. They have great ideas for income-generating projects as well as enterprises that will help the wider community. Details in next month's newsletter. Contact us if you are keen to be part of things [plimmertonra@gmail.com](mailto:plimmertonra@gmail.com)

An open day is being planned for some time in March. Watch this space.

#### **Plimmerton's looking shabby**

Hundreds of visitors to our beaches and villages have put a bit of a strain on our environment and it's looking tatty. PCC assure us that weed control, garden tidy ups, gutter clearance, drain unblocking, rubbish removal and other maintenance will start this week. Our seats and tables need a sand and coating, our paved area needs a good clean and other areas are looking neglected.

**Thanks to residents** who are removing junk from beaches and walkways every day. If you follow Facebook you will read about the diverse range of disgusting things picked up from right next to a rubbish bin on Camborne walkway last week. Mind boggling. A special well done to the Dog Lovers of Plimmerton who meet regularly to exercise and socialise their dogs. They have agreed to each remove five pieces of plastic from the places they visit every day.

And, removed from Plimmerton beach this week, 19 cigarette packets, 43 plastic bottles, 17 glass bottles, unspeakably hideous 'disposable' nappies, cigarette butts, and junk food wrappings galore. Please feel free to remind people to take their rubbish with them!

#### **Water quality issues**

Some beaches around this area are variable in water quality. Stories about children and dogs getting sick from water in Taupō Stream and Camborne have been doing the rounds. We are asked to remind you NOT to swim for 2-3 days after heavy rain as gunk is washed into the sea from overloaded storm water systems and other outlets and the bacteria count can be high and lead to sickness. Greater Wellington Regional Council (who have responsibility for the water quality on beaches) advise that you check their site for up-to-the-minute water safety information.

<http://mapping.gw.govt.nz/GW/RecWaterQualityMap/RecWaterQualityMap.htm>



## **Criminal activity should be reported**

Thefts from beaches, shellfish plundering, dangerous driving and other criminal behaviour should be reported to police. There are security cameras recording vehicular traffic which police can access to investigate reported crime. Posting on Facebook is not reporting crime or giving police the tools they need to stop criminal activity.

Last Sunday a bunch of hoons in a car with a broken windscreen drove down the boat ramp on Beach Road onto the crowded beach at 5pm. This could have resulted in injury or death as families were rounding up kids and preparing to leave the beach. This incident was reported and police have been able to access the security footage to identify the vehicle and deal with the offenders.

## **Security cameras**

For many months there have been CCTV cameras operating at the two entrances to Plimmerton. These record vehicle data of vehicles coming and going (number and make). If a crime is reported Police can access this footage. Nobody from this community is authorised to access the system or footage. The system was installed in response to community concern two and half years ago to widespread and large thefts of building materials and tools from sites in Plimmerton. These were organised crimes carried out by groups of offenders from outside this area.

At the time this process was explained and community consultation has continued over the lengthy process of specifying and installation of the system. The process was detailed at PRA's AGMs and monthly meetings over a long period. Security professionals designed and installed the system ... and everything in the process which was followed, and the systems in place, conforms absolutely with Privacy Act requirements and other legal guidelines. Porirua City Council and the Police were also involved at every step of the process.

**In summary:** There is no live surveillance of any individuals or areas, the sole focus is on the registration plates and make of vehicles arriving and departing. Information is accessible only by authorised Police investigating reported crimes. Police must physically access the footage which is kept only short term. The footage is evidence quality so can be used in court which assists in convicting offenders. The memorandum of understanding with police is on the Plimmerton website (see below).

We thank the numerous local professionals ... legal, financial, security, IT and other ... who helped in the design of the system and in the process of specifying and installation. We also thank those many residents who supported the project throughout.

## **Just bowl in ... you'll be welcome**

Our local bowling club reminds us that this is the time to join them if you are interested in social or competitive bowls. People of all ages are invited to come along to this friendly club. Contact them to find out more [bowsplimmerton@gmail.com](mailto:bowsplimmerton@gmail.com) or check out their Facebook and website Plimmerton Bowling Club.



## 2018 World Association Croquet Championships

Plimmerton Croquet Club is one of five in the Wellington region hosting these world champs from 3-11 February. Eighty of the world's best bowlers will be competing including world number one Robert Fletcher of Australia, number two Reg Bamford of South Africa and England's Stephen Mulliner who is the current defending world champ.

You are invited to see these elite players in action at Plimmerton Croquet Club. Come along between 9.30 and 5pm for a chance to see the game being played at the highest level.

Check out the action <http://www.sporty.conz/2018acworldchampionships>

## Puppy socialisation and dog obedience classes start at Titahi Bay Dog Obedience Club

Jaqui's puppy socialisation classes on Sunday mornings 11-12 have resumed. Your pup will learn nice manners and the basics of obedience then can go on to formal lessons. Jaqui is a whizz with dog behaviour and your gold coin donation is a great investment in your pup's future. A full obedience and **Canine Good Citizen** programme is also under way so if you and your dog are keen call the club today.

*Thanks to this club and its great team of volunteers who do so much good work in our community helping us to raise happy, well behaved dogs. And congratulations on being recognised as New Zealand's top dog training club (details next newsletter).*

## Keep your pooches safe in the heat

Dogs cannot cool down quickly, they don't regulate their body heat like humans and easily get overheated. Here are some ideas from our local canine experts to keep Plimmerton pooches cool this summer:

- Don't ever leave them in cars as your 5 minute mission can easily turn into 20 and it doesn't take long for a dog in a rapidly heating car to die of heat stress.
- Dip your dog in a kid's paddling pool during the day ... wet their legs and tums and splash water all over heads and backs.
- Give them iceblocks made with kibble ... helps them to cool from the inside out. Get an old ice tray, half fill with kibble, top with water, freeze. You don't have to be Jamie Oliver.
- *Walk them very early or after sunset. Footpaths are too hot in the middle of the day. Local vets are reporting dogs with nasty injuries burned paws.*
- Take the family and your dog swimming at Ngati Toa beach or South beach or around the coast (check the water quality first!).

## Full steam ahead to the Tui Brewery

Mainline Steam presents the Tui Express, a steam locomotive trip to the Tui Brewery at Mangatainoka, including BBQ lunch and brewery tour on Sunday 25 February. Fares from Plimmerton \$125 adult, \$85 child.

Tickets from <http://mainlinesteam.co.nz/excursions.html> or call 233 8131.



## Mana Little Theatre news ...

### Panto kicks off the year!

2018 season opens with Roger Hall's hilarious pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. Enough for adults! Tickets from [mlttickets@gmail.com](mailto:mlttickets@gmail.com) or **021 273 1127**.

Season runs from Thursday 15 March - Saturday 24 March 7.30pm plus matinees Saturday 17, Sunday 18 and Saturday 24 at 2pm (note earlier than usual times). Be in quick!

### Auditions coming up

Saturday 10 March, 7pm at Mana Little Theatre for *Radium Girls* by DW Gregory

Performance dates Wednesday 23 May - Saturday 2 June

Set in 1920s America when radium was a miracle cure and luminous watches were the latest rage, until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious illness. Inspired by the true story of Grace Fryer who fought the system for justice.

Written with warmth and humour *Radium Girls* is a fast-moving piece for 10 actors who play more than 30 parts. Ages from late teens up.

Contact Sue Mortimer, director, **021 025 77648**.

### Plimmerton focus in photograph exhibition

Local photographer Elise Bal is exhibiting her work in a group exhibition titled *Oculus* at Thistle Hall in the city. Her collection is 'Sea Plimmerton' and features 'the intersection between the ocean and the surrounding community'.

Thistle Hall, 293 Cuba St, 27 Feb - 4 March, Tues to Sat 10-7pm, Sun 10-4pm. Free!

### If it aint broke ...

PRA volunteers have spent many months in recent years consulting with this community, PCC's dog control team, vets, dog obedience and other canine organisations, beachfront residents and through this newsletter, at meetings and through other communication channels. We arrived at a consensus that dogs could be exercised on Plimmerton Beach before 10am and after 7pm during summer. This gave people the opportunity to deliver the kids to school or kindy, exercise and socialise Fido then get off to work.

We worked with professional designers and a landscape architect to create signs for all the beach entrances to convey this information, and everyone was happy. The PCC dog control team management (who are no longer with the council) were practical and helpful.

Most of the dogs and dog owners here know each other and are recognised by PCC as responsible dog owners. In the ten years that PRA has been involved here there have been very few dog/human or dog/ dog incidents reported on the beach. The opposite is true in fact and being able to share the beach with all family members, which includes canines, is one of the reasons several families have bought properties along and around the waterfront. Generally local, and most (not all) visiting, owners have been responsible about picking up and removing any signs of dog visitation! (unlike the hordes of people this summer who have left



takeaway rubbish, plastic junk, cigarette butts and broken glass, and worse ... much worse ... everywhere).

In the recent Porirua city Council review of dog regulations most people did not think to respond and say *don't change this, it's working well*. Only a determined anti-dog faction presented a case for change. This is a timely reminder that positive people with positive opinions should have their say! We are always asked to respond to these things in a short time frame and it may not be clear just what is up for change. While many people were focussed on fenced dog exercise areas in the region a change to summer dog hours on the beach slipped through and now there is a total ban.

The beach hours worked well, it wasn't broke, why fiddle with it? Editor

### **Plimmerton Residents' Association ... what's our role?**

We are the current elected representatives who work with local authorities and other agencies for this community. We support brilliant initiatives by amazing residents ...such as Pest Free Plimmerton ... and the Community Shed that's getting under way. We also initiate and project manage projects that improve and enhance life here for residents and visitors. For those of you new to Plimmerton, check out the website to find out more about past initiatives like the restoration of our derelict railway station, waterfront seating, parks and picnic areas and our promenade. The annual plan is on there too so you can see what is under way. If you have ideas about things that can be improved talk to us! Our experience and contacts could help you to get things done.

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

our email: [plimmertonra@gmail.com](mailto:plimmertonra@gmail.com)

and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/plimmertonresidents](http://www.facebook.com/plimmertonresidents)

***Support your community - it's the best!***

