

Chair report

Plimmerton Residents' Association Inc

August 2022

2021 and 2022 have been busy years for PRA with:

Plimmerton Community Menzshed

The ongoing success of the Plimmerton Community Menzshed which supports environmental groups like *Friends of Mana Island* building nesting boxes for bird relocation and pest traps for local *Pest Free* groups. The Shed team also do building work for other local charities and volunteer groups.

The Shed team are making a profit and have become an incorporated society. Currently the building is being relocated 20 metres to allow for safe access to the new third platform and the rail underpass. When the move is complete in late August the shed team will start up again with a renewed vigour. Porirua City Council's parks team have been hugely positive in facilitating this move ensuring continuity for the Shed team and all the environmental and community groups it assists.

PRA has supported the Shed through the first five years and we are delighted to see it transition to a separate entity in its own right, The Shed will take a healthy surplus into the new venture and we wish the team all the best for the future.

Porirua City Council

PRA has spent a lot of time this year consulting and developing relationships with different people within PCC to provide some oversight of the many projects and issues facing our area. We have presented submissions on district and long-term plans and on other topics relevant to Plimmerton. We were consulted in depth about the future of PCC's village planning programme which we strongly endorse. We pointed to projects like the refurbishment of our historic railway station and the design and construction of waterfront boardwalks and seating which were facilitated through this valuable programme.

KiwiRail

PRA has been involved in regular liaison with KiwiRail on their PACE project to create a third track and platform at Plimmerton. The KiwiRail Downer team keep us up to date on progress and the possible impacts of construction at each stage on residents. PRA has taken an active role in communicating this information to residents.

Flood mitigation

PRA played a key role in the clean up after flooding events in this area, liaising with PCC and emergency services and keeping the community informed about the assistance available and how to access it. Flood protection and mitigation is a major issue for Plimmerton. PRA has representatives on the working group along with the Plimmerton Flood Action Group. PCC is managing the process with experts and affected residents and is making good headway with short and long term measures. PCC and Wellington Water regularly update residents on progress and several public meetings have been held in this period.

Waka Kotahi

We've continued liaison with Waka Kotahi, PCC and other residents' associations on the impacts of Transmission Gully on local roads and on the community. This is an ongoing situation and PRA is one of the agencies legally required to be consulted with on the future of local roading.

Communication

PRA produces regular newsletters, posts on both Plimmerton Camborne and PRA Facebook pages, keeps its website current, produces flier and poster campaigns when required and runs information sessions to keep residents informed.

Emergency preparedness and street groups

Communication with the community was also a major responsibility for PRA during Covid lockdowns and periods of uncertainty. Health, emergency, Police and other agencies required PRA assistance to get messages out to the community.

For several months PRA spearheaded a campaign to get all residents involved in setting up street groups. These have proven to be the foundation stone of community resilience in emergency events. This has involved a large team of emergency professionals working with residents. For emergency professionals having these groups operational is key to swift effective response and targeted assistance. We continue to stress how vital these are for community resilience in every sort of emergency.

Karehana Park recognition

We are working with the parks team and PCC to establish a new seating area. This will have a new large shade tree, plus replacement fully accessible seating and picnic table area. Landscaping will complete this sheltered oasis where parents can be right next to the playground. A plaque will acknowledge the project management skills of Roger Johnston who worked for several years to create safe access to the park with paving and to develop the new play area and scooter park. With good weather in spring, it is hoped this area will be open for action this summer.

Residents will be able to buy pavers for \$150 to make their family mark on the park. The pavers will be included in the new picnic corner and availability of pavers will be promoted when plans (and the ground) are firmer!

Big Spring Clean

PRA held another very successful Big Spring Clean and sausage sizzle in November to get Plimmerton spruced up for summer with support from New World Paremata and PCC. We're planning a similar event this spring. The event will be promoted in the community and all residents are invited to join in the one hour clean up and the sausage sizzle to follow.

Plimmerton Dog Park

Since winning a national award the park has become a well-used popular community facility. The original working group included PRA representatives and PCC. PRA has added a seating area featuring heritage Winstone bricks and heritage trail plaques which share stories of the diverse history of the domain area.

Community Safety

PRA continues to maintain two security cameras which are used by police for crime detection. We liaise with police regularly through our Community Constable and with PCC on roading and traffic safety matters in the village.

Meetings and executive committee

Covid 19 continued to create significant disruption for may during the last year. Several executive committee meetings were held by Zoom.

We also had a few personnel changes during the year. Roger Watkin and Doug Widdowson resigned and the committee elected John Meeuwesen and David Verrinder. We thank outgoing committee members for their service.

Service recognised

Huge congratulations to Carolyn Williams on receiving a 2022 Porirua City Civic Award in recognition of her consistent and long-running service to our community for the past 14 years (especially in the area of day-to-day communications for the PRA and liaison with PCC to implement a decade of village planning projects). Well done our Carolyn!

Looking forward to the 2022-23 year...

Significant developments are underway in our area and there are challenges ahead. PRA tries to keep people here advised of the issues that may arise from these developments and the impacts on peoples' lives. And we have urged residents to get involved while they can still have some input into decisions.

Planned developments include KiwiRail's third track and platform at Plimmerton Station, delivering more peak hour services but impacting on station access, track crossings, entry and exit for vehicles at peak time and parking. This project is due for completion in mid-2023 and the final stage will be laying of the new third rail track to the new platform.

With Transmission Gully now open, we are seeing significant changes to traffic volumes in our area. PRA will continue to engage with Waka Kotahi and PCC on the impact on local roads and how SH 59 will be developed and managed going forward. PRA is one of the agencies legally required to be consulted by Waka Kotahi after Transmission Gully has been open for six months.

Other significant changes will come from the development of 2000 homes at Plimmerton Farms, and the proposed future intensification of housing. We urge residents to look out for opportunities to have their say in the formal process on intensification.

PRA will also continue to work closely with PCC advocating for this community, making submissions and presentations on council proposals.

We urge residents to support this association in our liaison with all the organisations involved where we are working on behalf of our community.

Now is the time for people to get behind us and step up to help.

We express our thanks to some special people:

- Our communications team: Allan Dodson who runs PRA gmail, Violet Rowe who produces our newsletters and keeps the website up to date, Anne Johnston who designs everything from fences and signposts to business cards for us, and special thanks to Sam Duff who runs our social media.
- Our heritage trail team of Mary Beckett and Deirdre Dale who have done sterling research for many projects and to our resident historian Allan Dodson for sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with this community. Currently Allan is working with senior students at Plimmerton School who are creating heritage murals to celebrate the history of rail here.
- Plimmerton School for their ongoing partnership with PRA and the use of school facilities for meetings.
- Plimmerton Boating Club for its venue, service and partnership with PRA.,
- The environmental groups our Shed team works with, and those doing great work here through different service and environmental groups.
- The many people in Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington Water and other organisations who work alongside us on regular maintenance and specific projects.
- Bill Inge from PCC with whom we have worked for ten years to create and maintain community assets through the Village Planning programme. Bill has also facilitated communication with PCC departments and ensured that issues arising are dealt with efficiently.
- Our hard working PCC and GWRC councillors, in particular Jenny Brash and Euan Murrell who are stepping down after years of service.
- Euan Murrell and the team at Tommy's Real Estate for their support with all our printing and for being our major sponsors over many years.
- Our hard-working executive committee members who work on a variety of initiatives to keep our village running smoothly, looking good, prepared for emergencies and maintaining sound relationships with PCC which enables us to keep our residents informed about current and future projects.
- And of course, all the residents of our wonderful Plimmerton/Camborne community who continue to support us with subscriptions, donations, and their time.

Thank you everyone.

David Verrinder Chair, Plimmerton Residents' Association

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