

Key projects and work undertaken in the 2023-24 year

Street groups for emergencies

A network of strong street groups has been set up and will be further developed. Experience shows that such neighbourhood groups create resilience in emergency events and can definitely save lives and property.

The PRA goal is to have a street group for about every ten houses where members keep contact details and relevant information confidential. PRA keeps a record of coordinators to be contacted in emergencies by first responders. We thank Pip Hay for her work in maintaining this record for us.

You can check on our website to see if where you live is covered by a street group ... and you can volunteer to coordinate a group at plimmertonra@gmail.com or talk to a committee member.

Emergency Management

Being prepared for emergencies has continued to be a focus of regular communication to our community by PRA. A public meeting on emergency preparedness held in February was very well attended and key emergency management personnel explained their roles.

A review of two official reports on the emergency response to Cyclone Gabrielle has been done and we will be following up the findings with the agencies we work with to integrate our community efforts into overall professional emergency planning.

Science in the Swamp and Plimmerton School

Drone day in October 2023 was the first day of a six-week school-wide science study of the flora and fauna and the ecology of Taupo Swamp. *Science in the Swamp* is a joint project between the school, Cratos, Friends of Taupō Swamp & Catchment and Plimmerton Residents' Association. The project has been so successful that ongoing observation of the swamp and monitoring for invasive plant and animal species has been integrated into the FOTSC management plan. Students now work directly with Cratos drones mapping activity in the swamp and catchment.

In March this year we officially opened the station underpass murals created by students from Plimmerton School with artist Marg Tolland. These murals celebrate the ecological diversity of our precious wetland.

Karehana Park enhancement

A successful sponsorship campaign has seen a new paved area installed near the playground in Karehana Park.

This area includes a seat and picnic table and is in memory of Roger Johnston who project managed the redevelopment of the park over many years. He had a vision for the park which included mobility access, a revitalised play area, a scooter and bike road, landscaping, signage and improved facilities like a pétanque court, seating and stream rehabilitation.

Our thanks to Allan Dodson and Sue Ineson for co-ordinating the paver sponsorship campaign.



The Big Plimmerton Spring Clean

This event is held annually in spring to prepare Plimmerton for a busy summer ahead. This year the clean-up was on Sunday 12 November, with around 60 attending. Our thanks to St Andrews Church for hosting this event and providing refreshments, and to Mana Lions and Paremata New World for the sausage sizzle. Thanks too to the Plimmerton Fire Brigade who drove volunteers to their specific cleaning sites.

We will need another great turn out this year as council spending cuts have impacted business as usual cleaning. There are weeds and rubbish ready and waiting to be removed! PCC supplies gloves and bags and other equipment and collects the filled rubbish bags from around Plimmerton after the clean-up and sausage sizzle.

Kiwi Rail track upgrade and Harakeke fence

The third track and platform are now open at Plimmerton Railway station. PRA has kept the community informed throughout this multi-year PACE project.

As part of the project, KiwiRail erected a large wooden fence along the Steyne Avenue boundary. It was disappointing to see it tagged after a very short time.

PRA worked closely with KiwiRail and PCC to find a solution. Our designers came up with a beautiful Harakeke (flax) cut-out design to go on the freshly painted and anti-graffiti-coated fence. Plimmerton Community Menzshed crew helped with painting and installation of the flaxes.

Our successful sponsorship campaign will enable us to complete the fence with additional harakeke cut-outs. This stage is due for completion by the end of September 2024. A large board will be installed on the fence at the northern end of the fence to acknowledge all our generous sponsors.

The significance of Harakeke to this area is explained on this board and there's a link to our website where a more detailed explanation and historic images are available.

We thank Deirdre Dale of our heritage team and her network of expert contacts for this work. We thank also Bill Inge of PCC Village Planning for his continued support, and Plimmerton School for hosting the shed crew painting the flaxes.

Liaison with key organisations and agencies:

Waka Kotahi/NZTA liaison

Steyne Avenue lights - PRA facilitated communications between Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail and this community to keep this community informed on the reasons and process for this change.

SH59/Grays Rd: We have been the liaison re safety issues, traffic lights, signage and intersection changes at Grays Rd/SH59 intersection. WK/NZTA media communications were circulated via newsletter and Facebook. These changes are now operational and have resulted in a safer process for pedestrians and motorists.

Porirua City Council

PRA has ongoing liaison with PCC regarding Moana Rd/Sunset Parade driver behaviour improvements and safer conditions for motorists and families using this busy area.



With big summer crowds using the narrow footpaths our objective is to have safer access for families with pushchairs, small children and dogs, kids on scooters and bikes and people getting in and out of cars.

Thank you for the feedback on this from around 140 residents impacted by speeding and thoughtless drivers. PCC are looking into a plan to address this issue.

The PRA committee also made a substantial submission on the PCC Long Term Plan in April.

Kainga Ora SDP

PRA committee made a submission on Kainga Ora's proposed Specified Development Project for the Northern Growth Area. Kainga Ora is still considering whether to proceed with this SDP.

Plimmerton Farm Development

PRA was invited to comment on an application to the Environmental Protection Authority for fast track consent for Stage One of Plimmerton Farm development. Our committee prepared a response. The EPA is still considering its decision.

PRA Constitution

A major revision of the PRA Constitution has been necessitated by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Significant progress has been made on this over the year. We expect to be able to share a draft with members later in 2024, with a view to adopting the new constitution in 2025, well ahead of the requirement for our association to reregister by April 2026.

Arts on Track

We provided assistance to help the Arts on Track collective to establish themselves in our restored heritage railway station. We facilitated discussions with the property managers and assisted with the application for a set up funding grant. We see one of the key PRA roles as facilitating cooperation between community groups and liaison on their behalf with key contacts in the various agencies we deal with regularly.

Communication through thick and thin

Outstanding work by our comms team keeping the community informed. Regular newsletters, emails and Facebook posts, informing the community with timely, accurate information about developments impacting our community. They also step up when emergency, police, health, civic and community matters arise.

Thanks to Allan Dodson, Violet Rowe and, up until a few months ago, Sam Duff who use their skills to keep you all up with the play. If you have communication expertise and can spare some time to assist, please talk to Carolyn Williams on our exec committee.

Plimmerton Community Menzshed Inc [PCMI]

While PCMI is now fully operational as a standalone entity, we continue to work very closely with them on various projects. We're pleased to report the Shed is going great guns with various works in and around Plimmerton/Camborne. They have contracts to complete work in diverse environmental and community projects. They continue to make and sell pest traps, bird feeders, weta hotels and other goods for sale at the Shed on Wednesdays and Sundays and by appointment.



Plimmerton Boating Club meeting venue

During the year we changed our venue for monthly meetings from Plimmerton School to Plimmerton Boating Club. We thank both the school and PBC for their support of PRA. Meetings are now held on the first Monday of the month at 5pm at PBC. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings, but please let us know beforehand as meeting arrangements are subject to change.

Stihl Shop relationship

PRA is working with Alastair, owner of the Stihl Shop in Porirua's mega centre. Stihl have once again kindly sponsored a fantastic prize for this year's subscription draw winner.

Tommy's Real Estate relationship

We acknowledge the support of Euon Murrell and the team at Tommy's Real Estate who generously assist PRA with our printed materials and signage for many events. Their support has been invaluable over more than a decade.

PCC Village Planning

We are disappointed that PCC has cancelled the Village Planning programme. This programme has been invaluable to Porirua's many diverse 'villages', enabling communities to be directly involved in projects that enhance their amenities and environments, and facilitating liaison with council over "business as usual" matters.

Over the past 15 years developments here like the paving around café corner, the Beach Road pedestrian promenade, our Massey University industrial design school waterfront seating, restoration of our heritage railway station and other momentous enhancements were made by this community working with the PCC village planning team. Communication with all departments of PCC opened up and improved vastly over this time which enabled more to be achieved.

A very special thank you goes to Village Projects Coordinator Bill Inge for his amazing support of PRA initiatives over many years.

Other Matters

Roger Watkin resigned from the executive committee during the year as he has relocated. We thank Roger for his service to PRA and wish him and Sheryl well for the future.

Pip Piper, a long-time resident and local personality, served on our PRA committee for many years. Pip died earlier this year, and we will miss his humour and sharp wit.

Thanks

I'd like to thank all executive committee members (Dave Anderson, Carolyn Williams, Robin Jones, Robynne McIntyre, John Meeuwen, Jenny Brash and Don Gray) for their contributions during the year.

Furthermore, I would like to thank our Pāuatahanui ward councillors, especially Ross Leggett and Josh Triln who regularly attend our meetings and assist us with council liaison.

David Verrinder

Chair

Plimmerton Residents' Association Inc

August 2024

