

# **Pauatahanui Residents Association**

## **Reports to 2023 Annual General Meeting**



### **Chairperson Report**

Over the past year we have had a full complement of 9 Committee numbers.

We are sorry at this time to have Karyn Herbert and Ian Kearney stepping down from the Committee. We thank them for their efforts over the past few years.

We will now be looking forward to recruiting 2 new members.

We have been pleased to have had regular representation from Council at our meetings and acknowledge the attendance of Crs Josh Trlin & Nathan Waddle. We were also pleased to have Chris Kirk-Burnnand attend a meeting to discuss matters associated with the Regional Council.

It has been a busy year with ongoing advocacy on behalf of the community. Some areas of advocacy are easy while others require PRA to represent differing views from within the community.

#### **Village Planning**

Council has been reviewing the Village Planning programme and PRA has been involved with this. Meantime, in the Village we have been pleased to see

- Public toilet maintenance completed
- A 10-minute parking restriction outside the toilets
- Reinstatement of the the history board and seat at the northern end of the Village. Thanks to Plimmerton Rotary for funding the replacement seat.

We also had a meeting with Waka Kotahi & PCC over reinstating the legal access to the Public Burial Ground

PRA has

- submitted on the PCC Annual Plan
- submitted on the review of speed limits in the Village, supporting the reduction to 30kph
- engaged with Waka Kotahi, Ventia and Downers on Transmission Gully, Lanes Flat and the SH58 Safety Upgrade
- attended the Willowbank Quarry Resource Consent hearing and now has representation on the quarry Community Liaison Group
- engaged with Greater Wellington Regional Council over the future plans for Belmont Regional Park

PRA continues to work with the PCC Transport Team to share communications regarding roading. We have also had more engagement with Wellington Electricity as they and PCC work to improve the security of our electricity and roading networks through a programme of tree maintenance.

We continue to use email and our website to communicate but have also had an increased presence on Facebook.

The next big task for the Committee and the community will be addressing how rates are calculated across the rural sector, noting changes in valuations and changes made through the new District Plan (for example, the establishment of different rural zones and defining of Significant Natural Areas) which have affected rates. The time for addressing these will be through the Long Term Plan process which begins at the end of this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of PRA.

Ken McAdam  
**Chairperson**

18 July 2023

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## **Pāuatahanui History Group**

Over the last year the Pāuatahanui History Group donated \$5000 to author Alistair Grant towards the publication of his latest book which is a photographic record of the building of Transmission Gully. The book has been completed and is expected to be available in bookshops in the next 2 or 3 months.

The History Group bank account has a balance of \$21,544 as at 31 March 2023. This money has been made solely from sales of the book 'Pāuatahanui: a local history' by Helen Reilly.

It is envisaged that some of this money will be used towards a signage project around the inlet and wider harbour informing people on the rich history, culture, and flora and fauna of the area. This project will make use of those areas regularly visited by the public - in particular the pathway around the inlet - Te Ara Piko - and its adjoining areas. This project is still in its infancy and will be in cooperation with Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet, Ngati Toa, Porirua City Council and others.

The Pāuatahanui History Group encourages everyone to purchase a copy of the local Pāuatahanui history book with all of the funds raised are used for local history projects. The book is available through TradeMe, Porirua Paper Plus and Pataka.

Christine Stanley  
**Pāuatahanui History Group**

## **Another year in the Pāuatahanui Burial Ground: July 2023**

We have spent this year in a steady programme of work at the Pāuatahanui Burial Ground. Over 8 working bees we have put in 144 volunteer hours removing weeds, keeping plot edges tidy, and of course, maintaining the heritage roses.

We have been really pleased to see the Holly Hedge is now growing away pretty well from the base after veering towards becoming a topiary shape in recent years. As the Hedge was grown from sponsored plants purchased by locals in the 1860s it is a venerable part of the PBG landscape, and older than almost all the burial plots and monuments. There cannot be too many places in NZ with a 156-year-old hedge!

The change in weather patterns has affected the roses to some extent. I am almost brave enough to say it's been less windy this year at the PBG and certainly there has been less wind damage to the roses. We have lost a couple of plants to age and wear as the plantings are over 30 years old but the majority are doing well, and some are really flourishing, with no signs at all that their great age is a factor. The PBG is a great test bed for rose longevity in that respect.

The Council has done several weeding sessions and put down mulch on the rose beds and the St Albans working bees have cleared out weed plants from the part of the PBG which adjoins the church. The PBG volunteers will be adding fertiliser and tidying up plot edges over the next few months. Overall the roses are in good condition. There are a few out of season blooms to be seen and we are looking forward to a good flowering season this year over October- December.

We continue to get a steady stream of visitors, both family members and local walkers, and there are frequent compliments on the general condition of the place which are always nice to hear. Visitors can sometimes also contribute information on local families which is a welcome addition to what we already know about the PBG.

Micky Reilly

**Friends of Pāuatahanui Burial Ground**

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## **Pest Free Pāuatahanui**

Started in 2017, out of PRA, by Treasurer Jo Cross, Pest Free Pāuatahanui (pfp) focuses on individual traps on private properties. Our area covers about 10,000ha and 462 houses.

It includes work done separately by Judgeford Golf Club, Morgan's Golf Retreat and Willowbank Farm. It bounds and supports public spaces at Belmont Regional Park, Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Traps currently available are

- Doc200 weka style for stoats, rats and hedgehogs at \$25 per year with 43 currently in use

- Long rat tunnels for rats and mice \$15 per year with 32 in use.
- Possum traps with 2 in full time use in the Village and 1 for hire at \$10 per week \$50 deposit
- A live cat trap \$10 per week with a \$100 deposit, with 2 cat families removed desexed and rehomed so far.

We encourage hunters to list their contact details on our Facebook (b) page for landowners to contact for rabbit, hare, pig, goat and possum shooting.

We request all trap holders to log their catches. The link is highlighted at the top of our Facebook Page

Under REPORT YOUR CATCH <https://bit.ly/Report-Your->

This allows PFP to collate the data on our app Trap.nz. Our current totals are: 211 traps in use with catches recorded to date: 193 rats, 55 stoats, 45 possums, 16 hedgehogs, 469 other (mainly mice)

In 2023 a committee was formed to progress Pest Free Pāuatahanui and meets bi-monthly. Everyone is very welcome to come along- please check out the Facebook page for meeting details or contact Jo on messenger. [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

Current projects include building traps, creating a drop zone at Rural Living, holding an event at Lamb and Calf Day, working with the Freshwater Catchment Community on a joint event and recontacting all trap holders to register their catches, join the fb page or return their trap.

It's been a lot of hard work to get where we are with the highlight being getting Trap.nz up and running.

Joanne Cross

**Coordinator Pest Free Pāuatahanui**

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## **Pāuatahanui Freshwater Catchment Community**

The Pāuatahanui Freshwater Catchment Community was set up in 2022 under the PRA to provide information and support to residents of Pāuatahanui wanting to improve the freshwater quality and biodiversity in the streams and waterways that form the catchment of the Pāuatahanui Inlet.

In September last year we held an information evening on riparian planting with presentations from Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council.

We have been successful in our applications for two projects to be funded.

The first was our Dung Beetle project. The dung beetles tunnel and bury dung balls into the soil, as a food source for their grubs. This process aerates the soil and mixes nutrients into it. In turn this improves soil health and water quality alongside many other benefits. They are specific to the dung of large mammals, that is, cattle, horses, alpacas and sheep. With full funding from Greater

Wellington Regional Council, we are receiving a total of 8 colonies of dung beetles suitable for lifestyle blocks in our catchment area and in March this year we released the first 5 colonies. It can take a considerable time for them to build up their numbers to be effective but it is great to have made a start.

The second project is our eDNA project. This project is funded through Wilderlab, NZ Environmental Protection Authority and NZ Landcare Trust and will get underway later this year. It will involve taking eDNA samples at four key sites on the Pāuatahanui Stream to gather baseline data in order that future sampling can be carried out to measure the effects of environmental remedial work carried out by members of the catchment group and wider community.

We are currently working with Pest Free Pāuatahanui to run workshops on managing weeds and pest animals in areas that have been set aside for riparian or land retirement purposes or are Significant Natural Areas (SNA's).

We can be followed on our Facebook page.

Diane Strugnell

**Coordinator Pāuatahanui Freshwater Catchment Community**