



Photo: Graham Craig

Pauatahanui Residents Association Newsletter

August 2015

CHECK OUT THE PRA WEBSITE
WWW.PAUATAHANUI.ORG.NZ

EMAIL US YOUR THOUGHTS TO PAUATAHANUIRESIDENTS@GMAIL.COM

PRA Member Profile

- Lynne Hayes



"Hi, I am the other new member to the PRA committee. I am a Speech-Language Therapist and have been working for health and education in the Porirua area for over 20 years. In 2006 I moved from Pukerua Bay to be with my partner who was already living in Pauatahanui and, as I have now lived here for coming up 10 years, I felt it was about time to become more involved and learn more about my community. One of the committee members gave me a bit of a push and so here I am! So far I have been to two meetings and have been impressed with the energy, knowledge and commitment the PRA committee members bring to help make Pauatahanui an even better place to live in. I know that this will be a steep learning curve for me but it will be fun working with such dedicated people and I am looking forward to supporting the many projects that are on the go!"

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

PRA is providing an opportunity for the Pauatahanui community to find out more about the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Thursday 10 September 7.30pm - 9.00 pm
at Pauatahanui School Learning Centre

See over the page for more information on the Plan.

PRA Committee Meeting – August 2015

Topics covered in the August meeting of the PRA Committee included

- A number of rubbish bins have been installed in the Village but the positioning for optimal use still needs some refinement so these may be moved to better positions. It has been suggested that one could be placed by the table by the pedestrian crossing.
- The information for the panels for the Village History Trail is nearly completed. Each panel will have a photograph and text relevant to its placement in the village.
- The design for the noticeboard is being finalised. It is to be placed to the left side of the entrance to the Wildlife Reserve. Bollards will be placed to ensure the area is not used for parking.
- A recent meeting between school, PRA and Council officers considered a range of options to address the safety issues for children and pedestrians in the village.

Possible solutions included signs to restrict parking in the bus bay, the use of traffic islands to direct traffic through the bus bay and the siting of a bus shelter. Council officers will consider the options and report back to the Committee.

- PRA has been provided with a breakdown of the spending on the Village Planning from the last financial year. An outline of this spending will be included in the next newsletter to provide a summary of the 2014-15 year's achievements.
- It has been brought to the Committee's notice that, under current Council Policies and Rules, operating a home-based office in the Rural Zone is a Discretionary Activity and therefore requires a Resource Consent. The Committee agreed that this issue will be added to the PRA Action Plan as requiring further discussion

For a full copy of the August minutes please refer to the PRA website www.pauatahanui.org.nz

The next meeting of the PRA Committee is scheduled for 17 September 2015.

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

On 31 July the Wellington Regional Council released the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for public submissions.

The proposed Plan contains the objectives, policies, rules and methods that Wellington Regional Council uses under the Resource Management Act to sustainably manage the physical and natural resources in the region.

It is intended that the proposed Plan, by integrating the five existing regional plans that cover management of the coast, soil, discharges to land, fresh water and air into one document, will be easier to use and with fewer inconsistencies.

The proposed Plan places a greater emphasis on "place-based" protection by identifying sites that are significant for natural, cultural, social or physical values. The document therefore contains extensive schedules and maps with provisions in the proposed Plan to manage these places so that they are protected (and enhanced).

The proposed Plan contains a range of policies and rules which are applicable in the rural environment and include:-

Air quality

- Ground-based and aerial application of agrichemicals

Discharges to Land

- Onsite wastewater systems
- Cleanfill materials
- Ground-based and aerial application of fertiliser
- Discharge of animal effluent
- Farm refuse dumps
- Manufacture and storage of silage
- Offal pits

Land Use

- Cultivation of land
- Break-feeding
- Livestock access to surface water bodies
- Earthworks
- Vegetation clearance
- Plantation forestry

Wetlands & rivers

- Culverts
- Dams
- Drains
- Flood debris

Water Allocation

- Take and use of water

Anyone can make a written submission on the proposed Plan and submissions will be accepted up until 5pm on 25 September. Hearings and final decisions on the proposed Plan are anticipated to take place in early 2016.

To help you decide if any of the policies and rules within the proposed Plan are likely to affect you and the activities you carry out on your land, the PRA is inviting you to attend a meeting on Thursday 10 September at Pauatahanui School. A representative from Greater Wellington Regional Council will present information on the proposed Plan, tell you how you can make a submission and answer any questions you may have.

The proposed Plan and additional information is on the Regional Council's website <http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>.

The Regional Council Fact Sheets also provide more specific information such as:-

"The proposed Plan contains new rules for installing and maintaining farm infrastructure. Existing drains may be maintained but specific methods must be used to minimise adverse effects on waterways. Small bridges, fords and culverts may be put in place to allow vehicles and livestock to cross without disturbing riverbeds, but the conditions or criteria in the proposed rules should be checked first. If structures don't increase flooding on neighbours' lands, increase erosion or restrict fish passage, they may be permitted."



"There are provisions in the proposed Plan that address rubbish disposal sites on properties, as well as discharges of odour, smoke and dust. Agrichemical sprays should be used according to label instructions to avoid adverse effects on peoples' health and safety and to avoid drift beyond property boundaries. Fertiliser application must avoid runoff to, and direct entry into, waterways."



"The Resource Management Act allows farmers to take fresh water for the reasonable needs of their animals' drinking water. The proposed Plan also allows the take of water for most uses as long as the take does not exceed specified volumes or rates. Above these amounts, landowners will need to apply for consent."



"Livestock farmers should pay particular attention to provisions restricting access of livestock to waterways, set-backs from surface water bodies for break-feeding, use of nutrients and the storage of conserved feeds such as silage."

"Sheep and beef farmers should be aware of provisions addressing land development, tracking and weed control. Earthworks (of less than 0.3ha - half a rugby field) are permitted as long as specified conditions are met, including that there is no increased risk of erosion and no increase in sediment loss into nearby waterways."