



Photo: Graham Craig

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[WWW.PAUATAHANUI.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.PAUATAHANUI.ORG.NZ)

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# Pauatahanui Residents Association Newsletter

## June/July 2015

### PRA Member Profile

#### - Maria McDonald



Maria McDonald is a new member of the PRA committee. Maria lives in Judgeford with her husband Dean Owens and their 7 year old daughter and 5 year old son.

Maria is a cross cultural psychologist and criminologist. She has been a probation officer, led the introduction of GPS monitoring of offenders in NZ, worked in the Corrections Minister's office and has held various senior management and governance roles.

Maria is particularly interested in safety in the community - from roading to child safety to crime prevention - ensuring the community is a great one for everyone.

### PRA Committee meetings - June & July 2015

Topics covered in the June and July meetings of the PRA Committee included

- The dedicated history book website is to be closed with the book, *Pauatahanui – A Local History*, now going to be sold through TradeMe. It will also continue to be available at Pataka and PaperPlus stores in Porirua and Lower Hutt
- Work is continuing to progress on the History Trail in the village. The history signboard is soon to be erected near the entrance to the Wildlife Reserve and 10 plinths have been ordered which will display photos and text relating to sites within the Village
- The safety barrier on the intersection of SH58 and Joseph Banks Drive has now been completed, making this corner much safer for pedestrians going between Whitby and the Village.
- Work, carried out by PCC and Rotary, has commenced at the start of Te Ara Piko pathway on the corner of Grays Road, tidying up and providing a safer area for parking.
- Anna Dellow has prepared a traffic safety report for the Village. This has been circulated to key stakeholders and a meeting will be set up shortly to consider the issues raised. A copy of the report is on the PRA website

- PCC has approved \$40,000 under the Village Programme Budget for 2015-16 for Pauatahanui for "entry signage and landscaping". Jo Cross is commencing work on a proposal for a "welcome to Pauatahanui sign". If you have any thoughts on this PRA would love to hear from you.
- In May, PRA submitted on PCC's Long Term Plan. Key points that were included in PRA's submission were
  - support for the Village Planning programme,
  - the importance of funding a programme for maintaining and upgrading the rural roads,
  - clarification of PCC's policy on rural rates postponement for farm land,
  - support for the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan 2015 and
  - registering an ongoing interest in working with PCC over the future of the Lanes Flat area

For a full copy of the June and July minutes please refer to the PRA website [www.pauatahanui.org.nz](http://www.pauatahanui.org.nz).

The next meeting of the PRA Committee is scheduled for 20 August 2015.

## State Highway 58 Update

The NZ Transport Agency is advising motorists that sealing works on State Highway 58 have been 'paused' for the winter, with cold and wet weather making it impractical to continue with sealing and lane marking work.

Colder temperatures and more rain over the winter months would prevent the final seal on the \$2.5m realignment of the curve between Harris and Mt Cecil Roads from binding properly, and the works will be concluded in spring.

Temporary speed limits have been lifted from 30 to 50km/hr through the site, and will remain in place over the winter.

Regional Performance Manager Mark Owen says the project remains on track and like all Wellingtonians, the Transport Agency and its contractors are looking forward to the weather improving.

"There's no point trying to carry on with sealing work in this weather – it's too cold and wet for the seal to work properly and we'll end up having to do it again. We want to do it once and do it well, so we'll wait until things warm up and dry out a bit, and we'll be back into it as soon as the weather improves, hopefully from about September."

The first stage of the project has involved cutting eight metres into the southern side of the hill to straighten the curve and the removal of the passing lanes. It will be completed with the installation of a 700m wire rope safety barrier, and improvements to the drainage systems to maintain the road's integrity. Mr Owen says the road is also being made safer for cyclists, with a full 1.5m shoulder being provided.

"State Highway 58 is a challenging piece of road, with multiple hazards including sharp curves, roadside drop-offs and gradient changes. This project will make the road safer and more forgiving, so simple mistakes don't result in serious injuries or fatalities."

The following link to the NZTA web page provides an update on progress with the first stage of improvements.

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh58-improvements/>

The realignment is the first stage in a wider \$30m package of improvements scheduled for SH58 between SH2 and Transmission Gully, which includes further curve realignment, a reduction in the speed limit (from 100 to 80km/hr), the installation of a wire rope barrier and a roundabout at Moonshine Road.

Further engagement on the broader improvements plan will take place at a time yet to be confirmed.

Construction of a grade-separated interchange at the intersection of SH58 and SH2 is expected to start in 2015.

## Onsite wastewater update from Porirua City Council

Following discussions with the Pauatahanui Residents Association, PCC officers have reviewed the process for renewing onsite wastewater licences.

Properties with licences that are due to expire at the end of March in the up-coming year will be sent renewal applications in December, just over three months before the licence expires. This is so property owners can organise an authorised person to complete the assessment before the licence expiry date. A payment fee is required with each application. However, invoices will not be sent out until late February/ early March, so, as the property owner, you can either wait and send the application and payment together on receiving the invoice or make payment prior to this and it will be matched-up in our system on receipt of the application.

Porirua City Council has recently carried out a review of how long they are licensing

systems for. A licence is granted for a certain period depending on the age, type, treatment stages and maintenance of the specific wastewater system. During the initial stages of licensing, PCC predominantly used the Australia/New Zealand Standard for Onsite wastewater management (AS/NZS 1547:2012) recommendation of three years. However, as more information is gained on how individual wastewater systems are functioning, the relicensing time frames will reflect this. A licence will usually be granted for a period of 3 years to 5 years, depending on the authorised person's recommendation. In a few cases a system may be licensed for less than the period recommended by the authorised person. In these cases PCC will give you a written explanation for why they have done this.

In particular PCC would like to clarify the difference between an inspection requirement and de-sludging as it has been brought to their attention that some property owners are under the misconception that tanks must be de-sludged on the date shown on the licence. On the licence it states: "Authorised Person Maintenance Requirements De-sludging recommendation

*date* unless there is evidence to show this has been completed and/or not required until a later date." This means that, if on inspecting the tank, the authorised person does not believe that it needs to be emptied they can note on the renewal application the date on which they believe it should be done and this date will be included on the new licence.

Finally, PCC have made changes to the website, including updating the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Also, you can now search for the information on 'onsite wastewater systems' with the commonly used term 'septic tank' which will direct you to Council's onsite wastewater page.

For further information on onsite wastewater systems licensing please refer to PCC's website at: <http://www.pcc.govt.nz/A-Z-Services/Onsite-Wastewater-Systems>

Jim Sutton  
**Manager Environmental Standards**  
 30 April 2015