

Pāuatahanui Residents Association

AUGUST 2019



www.pāuatahanui.org.nz

Your PRA Representatives

Your committee all share a passion for our village and surrounding community.

Ken McAdam (Chairman), Flightys Rd, is a passionate advocate for roading & road safety.

Diane Strugnell (Secretary), Moonshine Rd, has a real interest in Council planning & policy, our website.

Jo Cross (Treasurer), Paekakariki Hill Rd, manages all things financial & is our very dedicated Predator Free advocate and organiser.

Anna Dellow is a Village resident and is very proactive in initiatives that keep our village safe & looking good

Stephen Knox also lives in the Village and is interested in Village issues and Council processes.

Micky Reilly, Mulhern Rd, has a particular interest in community development, local planning & policy, and supports a range of related activities.

Karyn Herbert, Flightys Rd, is our newest representative and is keen to assist with communication and other project activities.

SH 58 Safety Improvements Update

Ken, our chairman, has been busy representing the PRA at a range of meetings, over recent months, regarding delays to the SH58 upgrade and the safety concerns this raises. Meetings have been attended by the AA, NZTA, PCC, GWRC. Most recently Ken attended a meeting with Kris Faafoi (MP) Mike Conroy (BRANZ), Sandi Johnston (Murphys Rd) and Sharon Gullery (Moonshine Rd). A range of interim suggestions to improve safety were put forward at this meeting.

NZTA responded last week advising they have listened to the feedback from the local community, road users and other stakeholders about the safety concerns on the road and the frustrations with the planned safety improvements taking more time than intended to get underway. They advised the Stage 1 works from Haywards interchange to Mt Cecil Road will begin within the next few months once a construction contract is awarded – around early September. The Stage 2 works will begin as funding becomes available but will follow the completion of Transmission Gully.

In the meantime, NZTA advise they are putting together a plan for delivering interim safety improvements for the Stage 2 area, including at the main intersections on SH58. They have considered suggestions from the community and road users and input from technical experts. Information about the interim improvements including descriptions of what these involve and likely timing of construction, will be posted to the NZTA webpage by **Friday 23 August**.

The safety of residents exiting and entering roads off SH58 remains a high priority for the PRA so will continue to liaise with NZTA and monitor progress.

2019-20 Village Planning

Our various projects have been considered by Council's City Delivery Committee and will be presented to the Council meeting on 21 August for formal approval. **To see the projects currently proposed please check out our website www.pāuatahanui.org.nz**

Rural Broadband Update

Slow internet speeds and the need for higher speed rural broadband were raised at both the Pāuatahanui Future Focus consultation and our AGM in May. Ron Stevens, a local resident who is involved with the rollout of rural broadband nationally, recently provided the PRA committee with an update on the situation in our area.

In short (and rather sadly), there are no immediate or significant plans to increase the coverage of wireless rural broadband in our area (except for the limited proviso noted below). The PRA will however continue to advocate for improvements.

There are currently a range of internet services available across different parts of our area which explains the variation in service levels people are receiving. In broad terms there are three types of internet services currently available:

Rural broadband is wireless and relies on a network of local towers. This wireless broadband relies on “line of sight” so if there is a communication tower visible rural broadband should be capable of being received (although something as simple as a tree in the “wrong place” can disrupt the signal). There will be at least two new towers installed within the Pāuatahanui area to provide coverage along the Transmission Gully highway and this may benefit some local properties. We will keep you updated on the location and timing of these, which should precede the opening of TG.

Fibre is generally not available in our area. There may be a fibre cable going past your property however this cannot be “tapped into” at an individual level. In rural areas the fibre cable goes to a roadside distribution cabinet (eg, at the Grays-Paekakariki Hill Road intersection, near Barry’s Place on Paekakariki Hill Road). From here the signal is sent via an “old school” copper phone line which limits the internet speed possible.

ADSL (or in some cases the slightly faster VDSL) internet service is via the copper wire from the exchange or distribution cabinet to your house. [This is the service most of us experience today.](#)

For residents living in an area where they are not able to receive any of these services, then satellite may be the only option for receiving internet services.

All the network providers have some limitations – like a pie, there is a limited number of slices available from any distribution point. Because of this, some service providers are currently not taking on new customers.

To find out what services – Fibre, Wireless, ADSL or VDSL - are available at your place, you can access a National Broadband map where you simply type in your address at <https://broadbandmap.nz/>

You can also do an OOKLA test – to check internet speeds at your place <https://www.speedtest.net/>

Did you know?

The Rural Trading Post has new owners.

We welcome Ruth and Nigel to the village and to the PRA and thank them for sponsoring this Newsletter.

Nigel and Ruth are stocking up large and are keen to provide the rural community with quality products at a fair price. They are offering a rewards programme, monthly specials, educational events, and much more. There’s a colouring competition running until December with prizes up for grabs. They are happy to discuss any requirements you may have and are keen for your feedback so pop in and introduce yourselves or contact Nigel on 0225468928 or Ruth on 027 3337941.

The Trading Post is again open 7 days: Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm and Sat/Sun 9am-4pm

Antenno is here

Antenno is an Australia/New Zealand Local Government App that you can download to receive updates on relevant local events and activities. It is especially useful for providing timely reminders of our rubbish and recycling collection days.

You can sponsor the PRA Newsletter by emailing the committee at pauatahanuiresidents@gmail.com