

Plimmerton Village Plan 2016 and beyond ...



Moving right along

Our previous village plan was published in 2013 and looked ahead to projects planned for the coming two or three years. In this village plan update we review what has been achieved and introduce activities planned for 2016 and beyond.

The 2013 plan was an update of the original 2004 village plan. Both of these earlier plans can be found on our website www.plimmerton.org.nz.

Over this period many of your positive suggestions have become reality. Plimmerton Residents' Association (PRA) has worked with the Porirua City Council (PCC) village planning programme to achieve goals set by residents for this community.

PRA projects have been funded in various ways ... by a combination of donations and sponsorship by local families and businesses, village planning funding and by grants sought for specific projects. PCC has provided professional support and ongoing maintenance.

We thank every household, business and group that supports community initiatives in Plimmerton ... including extravaganzas like the Kindergarten midwinter swim, Plimmerton School and St Theresa's school fairs, Christmas in the Park and other events ... as well as PRA-initiated projects like the refurbishment of Karehana Park which has been mainly funded by donations for 475 pavers by local families and grants made by Mana Community Grants Foundation.





Karehana Park, the biggie ... 2013-2015



Planning for redevelopment of the park started in 2012 and refurbishment of Karehana Park was the major project for the PRA since that time.

This was tackled in several stages, all documented on our website www.plimmerton.org.nz and, more recently, on the Plimmerton Residents' Association Facebook page.



- A path from Cluny Road through the park to Airlie Road and to the playground was designed. The concrete path has sets of pavers inlaid. Donations for these pavers have funded the path construction in several phases over three years.
- Brent Touhy Construction sponsored the development of a pétanque court and picnic area.
- Many locals established gardens around the pétanque court and others sponsored seating and picnic tables.
- Planting at the entrances to the park has been completed with community and Porirua City Council working together with locals providing the grunt and morning tea, PCC the know-how and plants.
- The old concrete conduit through the park was removed and the original stream reinstated and opened up to the sea. The area was filled with stones and planting with expert advice. A recent census shows that natural flora and fauna are restocking the stream and an ecosystem is being established.
- The playground has been totally revamped. The final stage of the project was the development of a scooter and bike track around the playground.



Project managers Roger Johnston and Allan Dodson have put over three years of hard work into this project, leaving Plimmerton with



a fantastic community amenity. They thank all the individuals and businesses who helped with the physical work, donated pavers to fund the pathway development, Michael Pennington who designed the new playground, Brent Touhy for his generous support, Bill Inge and other PCC staff, Mana Community Grants Foundation, and all the professionals and agencies they worked with over the three-year project period.





Other achievements 2013-2015



Seating for sea and sunset enjoyment and foreshore picnic spots

A new set of seats was added to complement those installed around the sea front in 2010. This features a professional mosaic by artist Kerry Scott. The pattern reflects the sky and sea and was produced by a team of locals following Kerry's design.

Further seating and a picnic area are planned for the coastline around from Plimmerton Boating Club in this next period.

Beach signage

Working with the PRA, landscape architect Linda Kerkmeester and graphic designer Anne Johnston developed unique signage for the entrances to Plimmerton beaches. These signs are set in galvanised frames that reflect the reed and flax themed design used in the rail underpass and café corner fences.

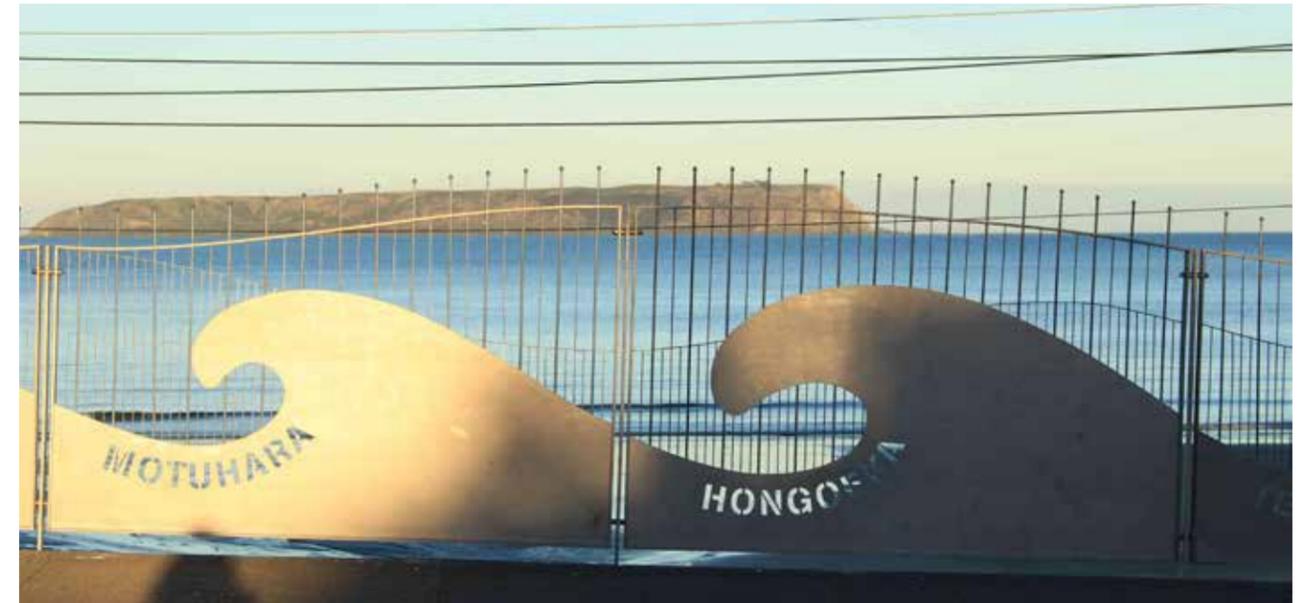
They cover all the bylaws required for beach usage in a friendly way and were installed in time for our splendid summer of 2013.

In the original 2004 plan there was a goal to create informative and consistent signage throughout the village and remove outmoded ad hoc signs.

Accessible Parking

More than 40 additional parks were established in Plimmerton domain for rail commuters. Parking in the village was improved with signage indicating times for different purposes.

Planned parking near the rail crossing for windsurfers to rig safely will be completed in the next two-year period.



Bridge balustrade

A stunning brushed steel bridge balustrade was created for the entrance to Plimmerton. The wave forms represent key sites on the coastline in our area. In collaboration with Ngati Toa artists from Hongoeka, our landscape architect and graphic designer worked with local experts to make the vision a reality.



WW100 ... commemoration of the Great War

Stories of the sacrifice and achievements of local people in the 1914 - 18 war were published on www.plimmerton.org.nz over 2014 - 2015.

The stories, and accompanying images, have been researched by Allan Dodson. They featured on the official WW100 website and in displays at Pataka during this period.

Ongoing commemorations and research will continue and a memorial and flagpole will be erected in Victory Park in 2017-18.



Emergency preparedness

We have worked with WREMO (Wellington Regional Emergency Management Organisation) to develop a plan for this region in the event of disaster. Training programmes for local people to become proficient in emergency management have been set up in the Porirua region.

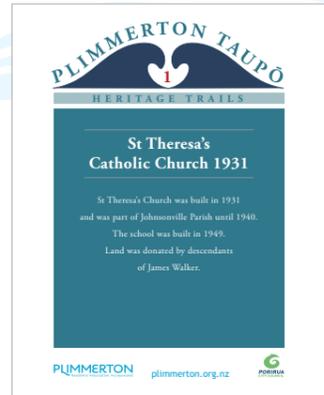


Distribution of planning guides for families and neighbourhoods, upgrading of local emergency equipment, and encouragement of locals into training remain major goals for the 2016 - 17 period.

Defibrillation installation and training

Local volunteer fire fighter and PRA committee member Dave Anderson worked to get a defibrillator installed outside The Big Salami then organised for St Johns staff to run training sessions.

Current and future projects



Heritage Trail

A team is researching locations with social and natural history interest and will be publishing their work on the website as it is completed.

During this first year most of the effort will be behind the scenes developing the website's accessibility and functionality to accommodate photos and stories. A logo and signage for the trail has been designed. The researchers will write copy for each location.

Locations for posts and wording will also be determined and these will be produced to a design created by a local graphic designer.

Karehana Park completion

People who donated pavers in Karehana Park, or the seats and picnic tables on the waterfront, will be invited to share their stories. Some stories may become part of the heritage history trail and others will be archived for future researchers.

Further refinements to the park are planned including a shade cloth over part of the play area.

Taupo Crescent community space

A group of residents is working with PCC to refresh an old playground area in Taupo Crescent as a more welcoming community space. Plans include upgraded equipment, landscaping and a mural. Residents and those visiting Taupo Crescent can now admire the fabulous view from a seat funded by the PRA.

Big Spring Clean

Our annual community spring clean is held in November to get Plimmerton ready for summer. Big Mac Slabs staff have traditionally hosted a generous sausage sizzle for volunteers and Plimmerton Volunteer fire fighters play a big role in delivering and collecting workers all around the area.

Picnic areas north of boating club

The scruffy area north of the club is earmarked for development into a family safe picnic area with table, seating and planting. Community muscle will be called on for working bees and to clean up and plant the area. This presents a great opportunity for people who have been wanting to sponsor a seat or picnic table in memory of a loved one.



Bring back the birds

Pest eradication programmes and planting projects are being investigated for some of our bush reserve areas. More news in 2016.

Taupo stream health monitoring and rehabilitation

We have a project manager working with Greater Wellington Regional Council and PCC on monitoring and uncovering pollution sources in the Taupo stream. A weed removal project is also underway.

Emergency Management ... preparing for disaster

PRA's project manager will work to get emergency preparedness information into every household and neighbourhood. More residents will be encouraged to take on the emergency management training so we have a pool of people who can lead the community in any disaster.

Safety and security ... Slow Zone

Road safety is always an important priority. We are investigating a slow zone for the central village area to let visitors know (and remind locals) that parents are picking up and dropping off kids in this area at the school and kindergarten. In the village centre there are also Plunket rooms, a medical centre, a toy library and play group, and outdoor cafes. Slower speeds make life more pleasant for everyone.

Safety and security ... Security cameras

Security cameras are being investigated for the two entrances to Plimmerton. These would monitor vehicle model and number plates only. Police would review tapes to help solve reported crime.

Murals for the rail underpass

Two more murals are needed for our rail underpass. Two local schools will be invited to come up with designs about life in Plimmerton and be given all the materials needed.

Windsurfer rigging area and carpark

PRA continues to work with PCC's village planning team to establish the planned rigging and park for windsurfers at the entrance to Plimmerton.

Website redevelopment

The website will undergo redevelopment this year.

Hongoeka support

We will support village planning projects at Hongoeka.



Stuff about your association

How does Plimmerton Residents Association work?

The Association's committee is a group of elected representatives who work to make things better for people living here and for visitors to our area. They are all volunteers who are also involved in many areas of community and professional life. The executive meets monthly at Plimmerton School staffroom (last Monday of each month at 7.30pm). Members are also on one or more of the teams running projects under way or planning those on the boil.

All residents are welcome to attend meetings. If you would like to put forward an idea, please email plimmertonra@gmail.com so you can be allocated time on the agenda. Meetings are constructive and positive so if there's an issue you want to raise come along with ideas and solutions. The association cannot champion every cause but will give advice and support where possible.

Meetings are regularly attended by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Porirua City Council (PCC) representatives and we appreciate their guidance and expertise.

Have your say

If you have suggestions for making life in Plimmerton even better please email us at plimmertonra@gmail.com

Please check out the 2004 and 2013 plans at www.plimmerton.org.nz to see if your idea is a new one!

Keeping you in the loop ...

Newsletter ... What's new in Plimmerton

Published monthly with everything you need to know about what is going on in the coming month. If not already on the community database, email plimmertonra@gmail.com to get your e-copy. Printed copies used to be delivered to every home and business and are still available from key locations.

Plimmerton Residents' Association Facebook page

Civil defence, police, community and urgent news can be sent quickly around this latest communication channel. We also use the Plimmerton Camborne Facebook page which reaches a large number of people and is great for solving problems that need to be dealt with quickly. www.facebook.com/groups/220794954783419/

On-going activities

We continue to work with local authorities on:

- removing unsightly tagging (vandalism)
- improving the rail corridor visual appearance
- police presence and representation
- road and footpath maintenance
- keeping our beaches and streets safe.

Plimmerton Residents' Association membership

It is still just \$15 a year for each household or business to help to complete the programme of activities outlined in this plan.

If you and yours are not currently financial members take 5 minutes now to: direct credit your \$15 into bank account 03 1533-0019155-00 or drop a cheque into the letterbox at 22A Steyne Ave, or mail to PO Box 57027 Mana, Porirua 5247. And donations are greatly appreciated.

Plimmerton Residents Association Executive 2015

Colin Bleasdale	chair
Roger Beckett	treasurer
Robin Jones	minute secretary, special projects
Sandra Werner	web master
Carolyn Williams	newsletter, planning and special projects
Pip Piper	SH1, PCC info
Judi Thomson	road safety developments, special projects
David Verrinder	Taupo Stream upgrade, Big Spring Clean, AGM, security
Alan Reader	emergency preparedness (with WREMO involvement and support)

Ex officio project managers

Allan Dodson	WW100-related projects, Project Snapshot, Karehana Park
Roger Johnston	Karehana Park
Andrew Deller	heritage trail
Warwick Procter	website development
Brendan (Compy) Gardner	police liaison

Contact the above through plimmertonra@gmail.com We welcome new people on the team. If you have an hour or three to spare each month, and if any of these projects has your name on it, contact us!

Project managers ... we need your help!

If you have a few hours a month free or have a particular area of interest in this community then please talk to us. We are looking for people to run some of the programmes planned and if you have experience and enthusiasm we'd love to talk to you.

Contact us plimmertonra@gmail.com

Since 2004 ...

Some of you may be new to Plimmerton and not be fully aware of just how much has been accomplished since village planning started here in 2004. From street group meetings a plan was developed. Just some of the highlights include:

Pedestrian friendly waterfront walkway

Traffic safety and pedestrian access were your major concerns. Before 2004 heavily laden quarry trucks and boy racers roaring through the village were a fact of life and a health hazard. Walking along Beach Road meant dodging between cars on a crumbly road edge.

You wanted a pedestrian-safe and vibrant walkway from South Beach around the coastline. And you wanted roads and footpaths safe for everyone. Traffic calming measures were introduced - lane narrowing, planting and traffic slowing devices. These have seen a reduction in speed but there is still concern about traffic speed around the kindergarten and school areas and resolving this remains a priority.

Closure of the quarry created the opportunity to create outdoor areas. The macrocarpa promenade around Beach Road was developed and café corner was paved and widened to create an attractive village hub.

Seating for sea and sunset enjoyment

You wanted more seats along the coastline so locals and visitors could relax and enjoy the coastline and sea views. You wanted these seats to be unique to Plimmerton.

After two years of design and community consultation by Massey University industrial design students and production by local craftsmen and manufacturers, seats were installed around the length of the coast from the rail crossing around to the boating club in 2010.

These seats have been designed and produced to reflect elements in the local environment (for example the seats at Plimmerton's entrance use railway lines in their construction). The seats sit unobtrusively softened with sensitive location and landscaping. These seats which allow so many locals and visitors to enjoy our unique setting were funded by local families and each features a plaque. Some of the stories behind these families will be included in the heritage trail under development.

Picnic areas along the foreshore

You wanted more places to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family and friends. Peaceful green areas have been created from the railway crossing along past the boating club, complemented with picnic tables and seating. The refurbishment of Karehana Park has created more such havens for relaxing with a picnic on a good day. Further development is planned for the area just north of the boating club in 2016 - 17.



Railway station revamp

This was a HUGE project. More than 2000 hours of work by local tradesmen and volunteers, supervised by project managers Dave Anderson and Allan Dodson, made this dream come to reality.

The old railway station had stood boarded up for decades making a gloomy, ugly entrance to Plimmerton. After many months of negotiation, a mammoth effort in 2010 saw the station saved from demolition. Now restored to more than its former glory it has a long-term tenant doing the business (Mac's Tracks) and provides a sheltered waiting room for commuters and visitors. The refurbished station was opened with great fanfare and a steam train full of guests on October 10, 2010.

Plimmerton domain link to village and upgrade

It was identified early in the process that the domain should be linked to the village by a rail underpass. This allowed easy access and encouraged development of facilities for recreational and sporting pursuits. The area has now blossomed since it was connected to the village and provides extensive commuter parking, sports fields, facilities for recreational groups from archery to art, a short cut to the industrial estate, access to the Ara Harakeke Walkway for cyclists and walkers and a safe space for families exercising children and dogs. Lighting was installed by PCC to extend field usage time and rail authorities have built a safety fence and added a new parking area.

Anti tagging initiatives

You were very vocal about tagging being a blot on the landscape.

Research shows that swift removal of tags is key to controlling this vandalism which costs ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars to remediate every year. We have a swift response team who eradicate tags as soon as they are alerted to them on Council or private property.

Murals and other wall treatments have been effective in stopping taggers and the underbridge murals (at the entrance to Plimmerton) and the rail underpass murals by Plimmerton school children have worked well.

Fencing needed a serious facelift

The drab railway fence along Steyne Ave was a downer. In 2008 more than 200 people turned up with paint brushes to transform the fence. Their work was enhanced by lavender planting along the fence in borders. In 2011 the outer rail underpass wall was lowered and a reed themed galvanised fence was added as a feature, in keeping with the galvanised fence around café corner and similarly flax and reed themed. This allows light into the underpass which gives safety as well as aesthetic benefits.

And lots more that you can read about in the 2013 plan on our website.



Plimmerton village plan

PRA and PCC projects FUNDING: 2016/17 and 2017/18

Funding Responsibility	PRA (March years)			PCC (June years)		Community and PCC Input: Who and What?
	Community Donations & Sponsorship	External Grants	Member Subs & Donations	Village Programme	Operations	
Heritage trail	✓		✓	✓	✓	<i>Community volunteers:</i> research and writing <i>Designer:</i> signage and map design <i>PCC:</i> installation
Karehana Park: completion	✓ [b/fwd]				✓	<i>Contractor:</i> shade cloth design and installation <i>Community volunteers:</i> paver stories
Picnic area: north of boating club	✓			✓	✓	<i>Architect:</i> landscape plan <i>PCC and contractors:</i> landscaping and roading <i>Community volunteers and PCC:</i> planting
Slow zone: signage and road painting artwork	✓		✓	✓	✓	<i>Designer:</i> concept, design and implementation <i>PCC:</i> installation
Security cameras	✓	✓				<i>PRA with PCC and Police:</i> planning and implementation <i>Security professionals/contractor:</i> installation
Taupo Crescent: community space	✓		✓	✓	✓	<i>Community volunteers with PCC:</i> planning and implementation <i>Contractor:</i> installation
'Bring back the birds': assessment			✓		✓	<i>Ecologist:</i> survey and recommendations
Emergency management: radios		✓	✓			<i>PRA and community volunteers:</i> liaison with WREMO re training
Murals in rail underpass				✓		<i>Plimmerton School students/teachers:</i> design and production <i>Community volunteers:</i> materials delivery and collection <i>PCC and KiwiRail:</i> installation
WW100: Victory Park flagpole and commemorative area - stage 1				✓	✓	<i>Architect:</i> landscape design and implementation <i>PCC and contractors:</i> installation
Windsurfer carpark					✓	<i>Architect:</i> design and implementation <i>Community volunteers with PCC:</i> installation
Taupo Stream: ecological health			✓		✓	<i>GWRC ecologists:</i> plan and monitoring <i>Community volunteers:</i> weed removal and other remediation
Big spring clean					✓	<i>Community volunteers:</i> organisation <i>PCC:</i> logistics
Community website/ cloud storage: development and heritage trail			✓	✓		<i>IT professionals with community volunteers:</i> design and implementation