



Dotterel Point PUKEHINA

Dotterel Point is the western end of the long sandspit that forms Pukehina Beach. The sandspit forms the northern edge of Waihi Harbour, one of four large estuarine harbours in the Bay of Plenty.

Birds
 Waihi Harbour is one of the very best birding sites in New Zealand and is part of the Māketu Important Bird Area (IBA), designated by Birdlife International. Dotterel Point is home to a colony of the threatened tūmuhutu (New Zealand dotterel) and toea (variable oystercatchers) also nest here. In winter you will often see hooded dotterel, bar-tailed godwit and wrybill, the only bird in the world with a bill that bends to the side. If you look up the harbour you will likely see royal spoonbills, some are here all year.

A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

Plants
 Spinifex (a grass) and pingao (a sedge) are the two most important native plants that help to bind sand and create dunes. We are working to encourage these plants to grow to help rebuild the dune on Dotterel Point.

Reptiles
 Native shore skink are found here and we are working to get rid of the pests such as rats and stoats that prey on them.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
 Dotterel Point is looked after by the Māketu Ongatiro Wetland Society (MOWS) and Pukehina Beach residents. We run a Biodiversity Management Plan whose aim is to restore the natural ecology of the point and to remove invasive ice plants, purpura and mamam grass.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
 To ensure that the project succeeds, we need the support of everyone, residents and visitors. It is a wonderful place to be, to fish, to swim, to stroll, or to just sit and watch the waves on the shore. We run two working bees each year and all help is appreciated. Why not become a member of MOWS - contact us:
 Email: info@maketuwetlands.org.nz
 Web: maketuwetlands.org.nz
 Facebook: MāketuOngatiroWetlandsSociety

KAITIAKITANGA
 Please pick up all your rubbish, especially fishing line.
 Every year we have to rescue birds, and many die after being caught in your line.
 Remember your responsibilities as kaitiaki.

Take only photos (and a few fish) ... and leave only footprints.

Supported by: Baylink, TECT

Pukehina Beach Ratepayers Association Inc.

pukehina.bra@gmail.com or
 www.pukehinabeach.co.nz PO
 Box 113, Te Puke 3153

2016 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE PBRA CHAIRMAN John Cook

Welcome, Pukehina Beach Ratepayers. During this past year, your Ratepayers Association has achieved a number of milestones on behalf of all ratepayers in the district.

During the year we absorbed the operation of the Community Patrol Car and the Neighbourhood Support programme.

A safe vehicle slipway for traffic entering Pukehina Beach Road coming from Whakatāne has been completed.

We have achieved a major milestone in gaining Resource Consent from BOP Regional Council to allow Dune Refurbishment in the event of major washouts where properties are at risk. My thanks go to Jim Dahm, our consultant, and to Ian Rodger, our former Chairman for the tireless work they put in to bringing this to a successful conclusion.

The Estuary Walkway project has continued to be held up, but we now have the resolve of the District Council and your Association to get the project underway. Once completed, this will be a huge recreational asset to our community.

The Association is well served by its Committee members and they give their time willingly. A \$20 membership fee is a

small fee to pay for all the voluntary work undertaken on your behalf, so please consider becoming a member.

The Committee wish you a safe festive season and look forward to welcoming you to the Annual General Meeting on 7th January 2017

WAIHI ESTUARY WALKWAY John Cook & Dallas Bates

Your Committee is finally embarking on the first stages of construction of the Walkway, in association with Western Bay of Plenty District Council. The Council has agreed in principle to manage in association with Pukehina Beach Ratepayers Association the construction, ongoing maintenance and development of the walkway including the required Health and Safety Plan, in much the same way they have assumed responsibility over other similar projects under their jurisdiction. Changes made to the Health and Safety Act earlier in the year means that for projects, such as the walkway, the Council is best placed to manage the requirements of Health and Safety and remove that responsibility from volunteer organisations. The District Council plans to get underway before the end of the year, subject to availability of resources. The first phase will be to mark the route with white pegs then clear the vegetation. Council will advise

PUKEHINA BEACH PARADISE, CREATED BY NATURE, CARED FOR BY THE COMMUNITY

PBRA of the timing of the works once known. Neighbours who have plantings on Department of Conservation Esplanade that may impede track clearance will be contacted directly by a member of the PBRA Committee.

INFRASTRUCTURE Alan Sutherland

The District Council was approached for more kerb and channeling on Costello Crescent and their plans for completion of the kerbing along the sea side on Pukehina Beach Parade. Council staff inspected the area and recognised the need.

However we found that this work is not on any Council plan, not even their Ten Year Plan or Annual Plan. The only avenue open to us now is to put Annual Plan submissions in to Council to get this work included in their future planning. We will have a go next year (-March) when the opportunity arises.

Any problems with the infrastructure e.g. water leaks or potholes, playgrounds etc. should be reported to Council via the Service request system phone number 571 8008. Council staff usually act on the request within a few days or at least get back to you. We public are their eyes and ears.



PARKS AND RESERVES

**Ray Foster, John McMillan,
Alan Sutherland**

This year we're seeing an increase of young families arriving at our piece of paradise and it's fortunate that we have some well-equipped parks and great reserves to keep the littlies entertained.

Queen's Birthday weekend saw the opening of the new pirate ship at Midway Park that is proving very popular. We held a Father's Day event there with Pongakawa Play Centre and the children were duly entertained by the new equipment.

Leading on from the increase in littlies moving to the beach, we are currently working on a list to send in to Council for consultation with regard to some improvements which include: adding drinking water fountains to the parks that don't currently have drinking water facilities; ideas to reduce sunburn when using the park equipment and reduce the heat on the equipment District Council; and the addition of an electric barbecue at the Sea breeze park so that there would be barbecues at each end and one in the middle of the beach.

Down at the boat ramp, we are currently working on tidying the concrete blocks to make it easier and safer for children to navigate when getting to the estuary and the building of steps down to the estuary from Orora Park.

We have also been asked to look at some maintenance issues with regard to the boat ramp and see if it could be made wider.

From the parks and reserves subcommittee, we would like to thank you for your support and wish you all another great year ahead at the beach.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEWS

Joy Walker

It's been a memorable winter at Pukehina this year with temperate weather and a lot of new residents moving onto the beach. Noticeably more new buyers have decided to move here permanently and this trend seems to be continuing.

We are a strong community where everyone looks out for everyone else.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Neighbourhood Support team leaders who do a great job of keeping us safe.

However due to some leaders moving off the beach, I would welcome some more volunteers who would like to look after a sector for the group. It is not a demanding role and does not take up much time.

I would also encourage property owners to supply me with their contact details i.e. Pukehina address, phone and email. These details will only be used in case of emergency, for example, if someone finds one of your windows broken or a water leak. Just email me at joy.walker@raywhite.com and I will put your contacts on file. Wishing you all an enjoyable festive season.

CIVIL DEFENCE / EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Carole Forrester

We now have a new local Emergency Management Advisor, Rupana Keno from Western Bay of Plenty District Council who we are working closely with and are getting nearer to our targets being met.

The PBRA Emergency response plan has been revised and is now in PDF format on the western Bay of Plenty District Council website <http://www.westernbay.govt.nz/our-services/civil-defence-emergency/community-response-plans>

We are working hard to bring this project to a successful completion and I wish to thank those involved for their support.

If you are interested in joining this team, please contact subcommittee Team leader Carole Forrester through the PBRA email address pukehina.bra@gmail.com.

DOGS ON THE BEACH

Everyone enjoys responsible dog owners who do the right thing and exercise their dogs on our beach within the rules - that is, control their dogs effectively, dispose of their droppings properly, keep them on leads when required, and keep them away from restricted areas. For ecological reasons (protection of nesting habitat) the bird sanctuary west of the surf club is off-limits.

Dog control problems phone: 5718008

BEACH ACCESS WAYS

Judy Treloar

Getting down to the beach is important. There are officially recognised and sign-posted beach access ways marked with a blue post. All beach goers are encouraged to use the official access ways to reduce erosion and plant destruction.



Beach access way #22 is currently listed in Reserve Management Plan for disposal. We are happy to advise that, after discussions with the District Council and support from Councilors, the access way will be retained and maintained. This is very pleasing as a lot of residents use this access and had been carrying out some maintenance themselves.

A reminder - please don't dump green waste or rubbish in the access ways as this creates a hazard for users and is unsightly. If you notice anyone dumping in these areas, please phone the District Council and report.

A message from Peter Watson, Reserves and Facilities Manager - "now that daylight saving is here I encourage you to get out and make use of the recreational facilities available at Pukehina and happy fishing - tight lines!"

MAKETU VOLUNTEER COASTGUARD
<http://www.maketusearecue.com/>

Coastguard Maketu covers the marine area from East of Papamoa Beach, directly off Motiti Rd, Papamoa in a straight line heading Northeast of Motiti Island, East to Plate Island then South towards Pukehina and directly off Rogers Beach Road.

VHF Channel 83 24 hours a day



Before
February
2016



After
February
2016

BEACH ACCESS WAYS

WBOPDC and Coast Care continue to do a fantastic job maintaining the access ways. Over recent months' access #13a was reopened with a new sand ladder installed when the dune rebuilt after the significant erosion and temporary closure. This has improved and given better access to the nearby residents and users.



COMMUNITY HALL Rex Cameron

The Hall has been in constant use

during the year, the Bowling Club hold weekly bowls on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm and this is open for everyone on the beach to come along and join in. The Hall has been very popular this year for Weddings and Funerals. People that come to the venue from out of Pukehina are amazed at the decor and the low hire rental.

COMMUNITY PATROL Rex Cameron

There are six team members on patrol who are rostered on for a week of duty, each month. The Police are very supportive of the Community Patrol and are very pleased with the difference it is making in the Pukehina area.

A big Thankyou to our sponsors WBOPDC; Pukehina Ratepayers Association Inc.; Tyre Works Mt Maunganui; BP Pongakawa; Peak Paint & Panel; Complete Plumbing and Gas; and the General Public.

STATS: January to August 2016 1348 Kilometers; 135 man hours.

BEACH BIKES Rex Cameron

It is good to see residents numbering their fishing bikes and abiding by the regulations.

Some visitors still ride un-numbered bikes along the beach and in the dunes which is very disappointing. There is a need to manage the safety and environmental issues linked to quad bike access to and from the beach.

Numbers are available free from Rex Cameron at 20 Pukehina Parade



PBRA has agreed to be proactive and adhere to the set of obligations and guidelines, so we can continue to enjoy having bike access on the beach. Bikes are numbered for reasons of identification, safety and protection of the beach and dunes as agreed to by the District Council.

- It is illegal for unregistered bikes to drive on the road; if it's necessary to gain beach access, drive on the roadside or footpath at a minimum speed.
- It is illegal for non MOT registered bikes to be on the road at any time and it is illegal to have passengers on quad bikes, so it is very important not to raise police attention.
- Use only designated beach access ways.
- Drive bikes on the beach in a considerate manner and speed that does not endanger other beach users, at 15kmh or less.

- Watch for people, children, dogs and fishing activities.
- Avoid driving more than one meter above high tide mark, to protect sand dunes and plantings.
- All bikes could be refused by access law if the bike users do not respect these rules.
- Report misbehavior to 533 4345.
- All vehicles are prohibited on the spit west of the Surf Club.

KONTIKI FISHING <http://www.fishing.net.nz/>

Be mindful of other beach users, especially surfcasters and other kontiki fishermen. Approach them for advice on where to set and find out which way the current's going (if not using a GPS-equipped kontiki). Beach etiquette – practice it, because some people aren't as tolerant as others, and it can spoil a great day out.

VOLUNTEER DOC SEAL WARDENS

Bev Nairn 5334247 (Northern end of beach) and Katrina Dunn 027555067 (Southern end of beach) are now our official DOC volunteers who are trained to manage and respond when required.

Western Bay of Plenty District Councillors Maketu – Te Puke Ward

Kevin and John have enjoyed meeting with and working with the Pukehina Beach Ratepayers Association during this year. As a result of the recent election we have the opportunity to continue this into the future! The Association has been active on Ratepayers behalf on numerous issues and it has been our privilege to support them and at times take their concerns to council. We believe your community is well served by their efforts. We welcome contact either directly or through the Ratepayers Association. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents and visitors a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kevin Marsh
John Scrimgeour
Maketu/Te Puke Ward Councillors WBOPDC

Tennis Court Keys available from Beach Rentals (Pukehina Parade) at a cost of \$20



PUKEHINA BEACH RATEPAYERS AGM

7 January 2017

Voting Procedures:

1. Only paid up members can vote
2. Only ratepayers/ owners of property at Pukehina Beach may become Members
3. Membership may be in either one or joint names. Where there is joint membership - that is only one subscription has been paid per property, only one vote will be allowed.
4. Members who own more than one property may, if the required additional subscription(s) have been paid, have more than one vote allowed to them.

The AGM registration is as follows: At the meeting, provide your Name and Pukehina address, or if different, the address the rate demand is sent to. This will allow the Treasurer/Secretary to confirm that you are a ratepayer and a financial member of the association. On confirmation of being a financial member the Treasurer/Secretary will provide you with a batten to display to register a vote, or to move or second a motion. Non-members are allowed to speak with the chairman's permission.

Membership - Annual subscription is \$20.00 and will be invoiced each year

To join, please complete the membership application form on line or print off <http://www.pukehinabeach.co.nz>

Subscription payment options: By Post – complete a subscription form and post a cheque to the address listed, On-Line Banking – Go to the Webpage and complete the membership form. An invoice will be issued. Or **you may pay on the day**, come to AGM with enclosed form filled out and cheque or cash

We urge you to please support our efforts to ensure Pukehina Beach continues to have the best representation to achieve ratepayers' objectives. When making payment please use the registered name of the property and provide an email contact.

Our bank details:

Account name: Pukehina Ratepayers' Association. Westpac, Te Puke bank account number: 03 0474 0429781 00.

PUKEHINA SURF RESCUE

Join the team for the 2016-17 Season

The Junior Surf Programme started Labour weekend on Sunday 23rd October. Activities start at 10.30am and end around midday each Sunday.

The program caters for 5 -13 year olds. Parents are encouraged to participate in the activities and help ensure that we have a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children for their water activities. For those 14 years and older we have a Surf Lifeguard programme. You can train to become a qualified Surf Lifeguard, learning all aspects of safety on our beaches and become a valued member of a great team down here at Pukehina Surf Rescue.

In addition to the Sunday programme, members have the opportunity to attend swimming training twice a week at Pongakawa School and board training takes place at Pukehina Beach after school on Monday and Thursday (criteria apply).

Our fee for all of the above is \$50 per person or \$130 a family for the season. You can still register online.

Volunteer Weekend Patrol starts December 10th and continues through to February 26th. Regional paid guards will also be on patrol during the week.

Pukehina Beach Door Knock happens on January 1st from 10am onwards. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

Harris Cup Invitation weekend is on January 8th competing against; Maketu, Whakatāne, Opotiki.

Zespri is now contributing over \$400,000 over three years to Surf Life Saving New Zealand in the Bay of Plenty, Coromandel and Gisborne, offering free lifesaving training for local lifeguards. Thank you Zespri!

For more details please visit our website at www.pukehinasurfrescue.co.nz

NEW PUKEHINA SIGN

The PBRA committee negotiated the relocation of the entry way sign to Pukehina Beach into a more visually favourable location. We are currently working on replacing the actual sign with a newer version to welcome visitors to our beach.



PUKEHINA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Station 78. Bay of Plenty Coast Area, Region 2 Pukehina Parade, Pukehina

Pukehina Volunteer Fire Brigade is a non-profit organisation that is based at Pukehina Beach Parade.

DOTTEREL POINT PUKEHINA BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan can be found on the PBRA website or from Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society (MOWS). Julian Fitter Chair www.maketuwetlands.org.nz

Overall a very successful year with good breeding success for our two bird species, and evidence of an apparently healthy population of shore skink. This is the second year of operation of the Dotterel Point BMP and we have made good progress in most areas. The main feature is the spectacular dune development at the distal end.

We have widened the fence so that it now encloses a larger area both on the ocean and harbour sides which does not impinge on recreational purposes.

Our most successful season for New Zealand Dotterel monitoring, with at least 8 birds fledging during the season. The point was visited 12 times, indicating 8 or 9 pairs, and an increase from the average of 15 observed in 2014/15.

NB: Register with Civil Defence subscribe to text alert emergency updates? <http://bopcivildefence.govt.nz/emergency-status/subscribe>

The PBRA committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa.

