



AGM

The AGM of the Pinehaven Progressive Association will be held on Wednesday 26th October at 7.30pm in the PPA hall.

We would love to see some new faces on the committee—it is not a demanding role and is an opportunity to be involved in your community.

All residents are invited to the AGM.

Contributions Welcome

If you have something you would like to see included in the Pinehaven News then feel free to get in touch: ella@kahu.org. And don't forget to view our web site: www.ppa.org.nz



Christmas is Coming

Book your diaries now for the Pinehaven Christmas concert. This annual event gets bigger and more entertaining every year so don't miss out.

Saturday 3rd December, 7.30pm at the PPA hall.

Community Contacts

After School Care

Gill McIlhone 528 2691

Brownies

Glenys Peterson 528 4990

City Councillor—resident

Pat Christianson 528 2710

Cubs & Scouts

Ian McCulloch 528 5797

Girl Guides

Carol Etchel 527 7047

Indoor Bowls

George Moen 971 8115

Lighthouse Church & Drop In

Rita Bota 939 0442

Pinehaven Playcentre

Angela Browne 971 9804

Pinehaven Library

528 2208

Pinehaven School

John Masson 528 4365

Silverstream Petanque Club

Shirley 528 4639

Pinehaven Tennis Club

Barry Yandle 528 7045

Yoga

Maria Christensen 970 7630

Pinehaven News

Pinehaven Progressive Association

September 2005

President: Ella Kahu 976-5995

Secretary: Dominic Baron 970-9147

www.ppa.org.nz



Bonfire at Risk

We are sad to report that we may have seen the end of the Pinehaven Bonfire, one of our longest running community events. The Upper Hutt City Council, in their 'wisdom', will not give consent for the bonfire unless the PPA gets public liability insurance. Unfortunately our enquiries with insurance companies suggest that most will not even consider insuring a bonfire and those that might would charge us thousands of dollars, more than we could possibly afford.

This decision by the council is reprehensibly short sighted and shows a complete lack of understanding of the issues. The Pinehaven Bonfire has an impeccable safety history - I don't know how long it has been going but in the 35 years I have been here the fire has never been out of control, let alone caused damage. In addition, in recent years the PPA have followed stringent safety guidelines from both the council and rural fire department. The fire is restricted in size, fenced off from the public and is supervised at all times by at least five adults. The fire is not lit unless conditions are ideal, a decision made by the rural fire officer on the night, and is extinguished at midnight by the fire brigade. It is hard to imagine how it could be any safer!

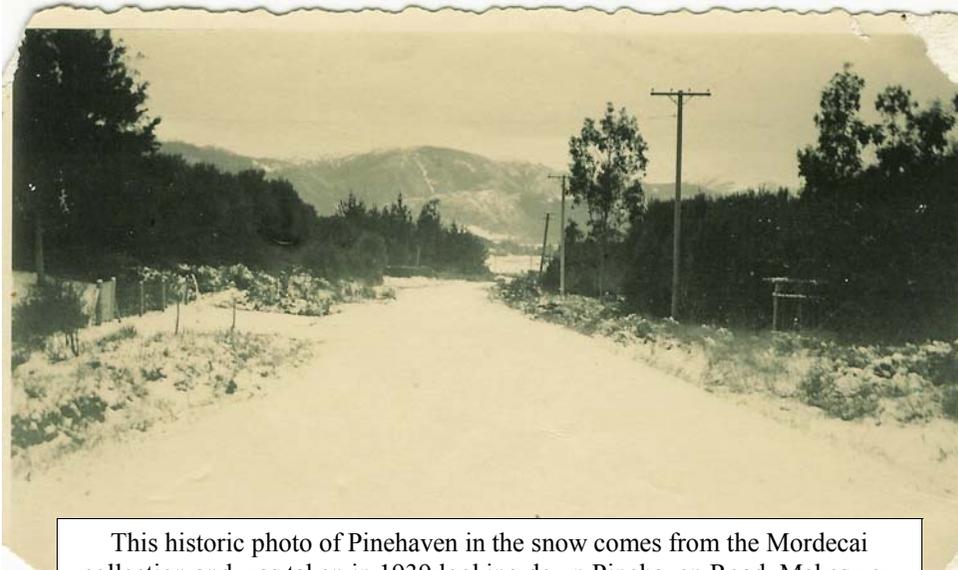
What is most concerning however is that

this decision by the council will create, rather than reduce, the risk to our community. People will still have fireworks, but will be more likely to set them off in their own backyards rather than on the wide open spaces of the reserve. The risk of accidental fire will be far greater than at present. In addition, those teenagers who do gather on the reserve, and it would be naïve to suggest they won't, will be completely unsupervised. In past years the PPA members supervising the bonfire have acted to prevent people lighting fireworks in our beautiful native bush and have also moved teenagers away from the school buildings. Again, the risk of problems will be hugely increased if the bonfire does not go ahead.

What saddens me most however is the potential loss of yet another of the elements that makes Pinehaven so special. Sadly, we are moving towards a world where safety is everything and where communities don't count.

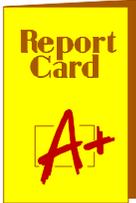
While we are continuing to explore options with the insurance industry it does not look hopeful. If there is anyone in the community who has connections with insurance or any other organisation that might be able to help resolve this issue then please get in touch with either myself or Dominic as per the above phone numbers.

Ella Kahu



This historic photo of Pinehaven in the snow comes from the Mordecai collection and was taken in 1939 looking down Pinehaven Road. Makes you appreciate what wonderful weather we have had this year!

School Report



It is wonderful to see Pinehaven School continue to grow with the 200th pupil starting on Monday 22nd August. Congratulations to the teachers and staff of the school—we all knew that it was worth fighting for and we all knew that once the review was over the school would recover, but it is great to have our faith rewarded so soundly.

The kids have had a busy winter with events such as a school disco, visits by various performers and of course their Meningococcal B immunisations.

The Art and Craft exhibition, now in its 35th year, was a wonderful success making over \$10,000 for the school. Congratulations to the committee and in particular to Annie Doornesbusch for her hard work as convenor. If you missed the celebration that is opening night, make sure you plan early for next year. Photos of the exhibition will be available on the PPA web site soon.

Pinehaven School



“A Great Place to Learn”

To visit please phone the principal John Masson on 528 4365

Hall Progress



As you may have noticed some progress has been made with the land surrounding the PPA hall. Using a grant from Upper Hutt City Council and of course community donations, we were able to have the entrance to the hall concreted and ramped to allow disabled access. Special thanks to local contractor Malcolm McRae for donating his time and skills for the concreting work. We have also completed the filling of the swimming pool and turned part of the area into car parking for the hall users. This is only a temporary measure as it is hoped in the future to landscape the entire section with areas for both parking and other activities. When we get to that stage we will be seeking the input of residents as to what facilities and layout would be preferred. Watch this space.

M McRae Contracting

Concrete & Fencing
Kerbs, paths, drive-ways, garage floors and landscaping

Phone 528 2585



Library Review



The public meeting held in Silverstream last month as part of the review of library services in Upper Hutt was well attended by Pinehaven residents. In fact the vast majority were from Pinehaven and apparently the public meeting in Upper Hutt had only two people attend. Once again we demonstrated the importance of the library to the people of Pinehaven. The review is now complete although the report is yet to be released to the public. Rumour has it that while it does not recommend closure of Pinehaven library neither is it wholly supportive. We await the full report with interest. Meanwhile make the most of what we have: in particular library users have particularly appreciated the services of the newest librarian, Shirley, who seems to really understand the needs of a community library.



Holidays in Motion
Holiday activities at Pinehaven library

A sailboat that really floats

Wednesday 28th September
1.30pm-3.00pm
Bring a margarine container LID

Hot Air Balloons
Wednesday 5th October
1.30pm-3.00pm
Bring a yoghurt container (empty!)



Community Gatherings

Hello once more from the Lighthouse Church - we have bravely survived the winter mornings in the hall - just kidding! It hasn't been too bad a winter has it? We have a great time of fellowship and worship, do come along and join us at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings - that even gives you enough time for a lie-in!

I must say we really do appreciate the new ramp, we have a wheelchair member, and it is so much easier to whizz up, not to mention no longer having to wade through the mud!! Thanks PPA!



Drop-in Centre - Wednesdays from 10.30 a.m. to around 2.30 p.m. depending on what we are doing. You can come at any time and go whenever you like. Those of you at home in the day would thoroughly enjoy the friendship and fun. The noise level rivals the Playcentre sometimes! Don't forget we have a coffee pot on the go all the time; morning tea, and we provide a simple lunch. Can't do better than that, so give it a go, we won't bite! Any queries, ring Rita on 9390442.

Rita Bota

