



Te Uniana Whakanama Pirihimana

BLUENOTES

Issue 98

February 2024

In this issue we reflect on our five decades of dedicated service to Police and their families, and the journey that has shaped our organisation into what it is today. To understand the changes since the idea of the Police and Families Credit Union was first floated, we've delved into our archives to bring our history to life.

It was back in 1967 at the Police Association conference that Harry McCombe first promoted the idea of forming a Police Credit Union, with a vision of Police members 'being united in a single common bond of pooling their savings as loans to each other, not for charity, not for profit, but for service'.

In December 1973, Alan Monk held a meeting of eight people at his house in Hataitai, Wellington and the Police and Families Credit Union was founded with each member contributing \$10 each which they loaned back to themselves to establish the credit union.

UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIR



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to a very special edition of Bluenotes where we proudly commemorate our 50th anniversary!

In December 1973, Alan Monk held a meeting of eight people at his house in Wellington and the Police and Families Credit Union was founded

The Police and Families Credit Union was officially registered on 11 February 1974.

Since then, New Zealand, NZ Police and technology have been through many changes and challenges. The Police Credit Union has been there through it all, always dedicated to supporting the financial wellbeing of our members. We know you value our friendly service and knowing that we always do what's right for our members.

As we celebrate this milestone, we pay tribute to those who were part of our inception together with our whole Police Credit Union family – past,

present, and future. Your support and trust have been the cornerstone of our success. As we navigate the evolving financial landscape, we remain committed to adapting and evolving to serve our members and their families for the next 50 years.

Throughout the year we'll be adding to our 50 year history on our website at policecu.org.nz/about-us/50-years-of-PCU to share more stories and archives.

I invite you share your memories, stories, or experiences with the Police Credit Union. We'd love to hear from you. You can send us your stories via our '50 Years of PCU' webpage.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being part of our 50 years.

Ngā mihi nui,

Lane Todd
Chair of the Board



THROUGH THE DECADES



In the dynamic 1980s, amidst significant economic reforms and technological advancements, we ventured into computing with the acquisition of a 'one minicomputer to rule them all.' After reviewing numerous machines, with quotes ranging from \$37,000 to \$115,000 (\$740K – \$2.3M by today's standards), and even a journey to the USA, we were equipped to tackle the decade with newfound efficiency.

In 1987 rates in NZ peaked, with the home loan floating rate at 20.50% in June and the 6 month term deposit rate at 18% in July.

We survived Y2K thanks to thorough compliance and system testing, and launched our first 'Accesscard' as well as savings accounts just for kids.

Telephone banking was going well with over 15,000 calls each month!

We survived the global financial crisis in 2008 due to our balanced growth approach and focus on asset quality during a volatile economic environment.

Facing global challenges, including Covid-19, the cost of living and inflation, we continued to expand and innovate by launching two new home loan products in 2022: 'Retire Easy' to help members live the retirement they deserve, and 'First Home TOGETHER', a product unique to New Zealand to support members to get into their first home, faster.

In February 2023 Police Credit Union members approved the biggest change to our rules in our 50 years, allowing us to grow our membership.

First, we expanded our definition of family to also include parents, grandparents, siblings, nieces and nephews and more.

The second change allows organisations similar to Police to become PCU members, starting with the NZ Defence Force which officially launched on 1 February 2024.



Born around a humble kitchen table, our journey began with a small passionate group of police officers. Facing inflation and shifts in the labour market, there was a growing desire among our community for a financial institution that catered specifically to the needs of Police.

The 1977 PCU AGM was held in a car at the Waring Taylor Street police headquarters in downtown Wellington and in 1978 our first Board of Directors was established.



During economic turbulence in New Zealand, innovations like touch-tone banking showcased our commitment to keeping up with the times in the 1990s. One Board member hailed touch-tone banking as "The most exciting advancement for our organisation and members."

In 1992 we began offering second mortgages, and held a new record of \$10m in member funds. Come the late 90's we introduced the Bluenotes newsletter to keep our 15,000 members informed and engaged with activities.

Throughout the 2010s, amid New Zealand's economic recovery post the 2008 global financial crisis, we prioritised innovation and sustainability. Responding to shifting behaviour, we adapted our offerings to meet our member needs.

In 2014 we launched our scholarship programme and in 2016 we began providing free financial capability courses to all NZ Police employees. These initiatives aimed to support our members and their financial wellbeing.

2018 saw a significant rebrand which included changing our trading name from the 'Police and Families Credit Union' to the 'Police Credit Union'. The rebrand was driven by reflecting a modern representation of family and was simplified with the koru symbolising inclusion, perpetual movement and renewal.

POLICE CREDIT UNION GROWTH			
	Membership	Total Deposits	Net Assets
1973	8		
1978	711	\$48k	\$68,832
1985	6,349	\$2.8m	\$2.9m
1995	12,500	\$15.4m	\$17.4m
2005	18,000	\$47.9m	\$54.8m
2015	18,487	\$89.1m	\$108.9m
2023	19,791	\$128m	\$156.6m

HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR WHĀNAU FROM BIRTH TO RETIREMENT



Whatever your age and stage, the Police Credit Union are here to support you and your whānau through your life journey, just like we've done for thousands of members throughout our 50 years. With our extended definition of family, nearly anyone in your family can take advantage of being a member of the Police Credit Union. Everything we offer below is available for your parents, grandparents, siblings, kids, grandkids or even cousins!



BENEFITS FOR BABIES

Open a kids account before they blow out their first candle, and we'll pop in \$100 to start them off!



FREE ACCOUNT AND CARD

With no account or card fees, our Debit Mastercard can be used with our spending account for shopping online and anywhere that accepts MasterCard. Kids can have their first card when they turn 13!



EASY SAVINGS

Perfect for "out of sight, out of mind" savers. Our savings accounts help members squirrel money away outside of their main bank.



GROWING NEEDS

First car, dream trip, life milestone celebrations or consolidating pesky debt, our personal loans have great rates and can be used for just about anything.

FIRST HOME

First Home TOGETHER, our shared ownership package, helps bump a house deposit from 10% to 20%... and it's interest free!



INVESTING

With a low minimum starting amount of \$500, members can lock in their savings and get more for their money with our term deposits.



RETIRING EASY

Our reverse mortgage helps members 70+ live the retirement they deserve with the best rate and lowest fees in NZ as at 20 February 2024. Plus, unlike other providers, we only charge interest once a year.

See policecu.org.nz to find out more

Could 1Loan transform your debt?

Simplify your pesky debt by
bundling them up into our 1Loan,
with rates starting from 10.50% p.a.

Find out more and apply online:
Policecu.org.nz/loans/personal-loans



INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

As at 20 February 2024

Term Deposits

3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
4.10% p.a.	4.20% p.a.	4.65% p.a.	5.95% p.a.	6.00% p.a.	6.00% p.a.	6.00% p.a.	6.00% p.a.	5.80% p.a.	5.60% p.a.

Interest can be paid out monthly, quarterly or six monthly.

Interest on Term Deposits 12 months or longer can be compounded quarterly, six monthly or annually

On maturity, Term Deposits can be reinvested, paid into your Credit Union account or paid out to an external bank account

Savings

Balance	Bonus Saver	Future Saver	Achiever Saver	Christmas Club
\$1+	4.00% p.a.* Includes bonus interest of 3.25% p.a.	4.00% p.a.* Includes bonus interest of 3.25% p.a.	2.40% p.a.	2.30% p.a.

Interest is calculated daily and paid monthly.

* By depositing at least \$20 per calendar month, with no withdrawals in the calendar month, you will earn bonus interest on your total daily balance.

All interest rates are subject to change without notice.



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POLICE HELPING POLICE

Copies of our current Terms and Conditions and Product Disclosure Statement are available from the Police and Families Credit Union. These can be viewed at policecu.org.nz, or by calling **0800 429 000**.

Police Credit Union is not a registered bank