Welcome to the Summer 2014 issue of the Port Underwood Association newsletter.

**Port Underwood Association**

Summer is finally arriving. Of course, one of the highlights of the summer in Port Underwood is the AGM of the association. This is to be held at Lawry Hinton’s house on the waterfront at Hakahaka Bay on 3rd January at 3:00 pm. There will be the opportunity to socialise after the meeting. If you have any topics for the agenda or motions for the members to consider, please send these to: port.underwood.association@gmail.com

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January 3rd, 3PM 11–13 Hakahaka Bay

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How Port Underwood has grown and developed

Website

A new source of information

This newsletter contains information on the resource consent application for development at Oyster Bay and a report on the Silver Fern Rally that passed through Port Underwood on 8 November. Also, there is another potted history of a Port Underwood family.

Silver Fern Rally

Fishing regulations

The updated Neighbourhood Support lists are enclosed with this newsletter. In addition, there has been an expansion on the website to include rural police newsletters in the neighbourhood watch section.

Best wishes John

**Committee members**

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**Website** [**www.portunderwoodassoc.org**](http://www.portunderwoodassoc.org)

The website contains sections on:

Contact details

Council information

Fire safety

Fishing and aquaculture

Forestry

History

Neighbourhood support and policing

Past research and cases

Port Underwood meeting minutes

Past newsletters

Roads

The Sounds Advisory Group

Sub-divisions and planning

I have not got around, yet, to adding the facility for all members to be notified when a new item is added to the website. I do not believe that the website will be really useful until this facility is added, but unfortunately I have been very busy at work for the past few months. Term finishes in a couple of weeks, so I hope to get this facility added very shortly.

**Oyster Bay Development Proposal**

The committee has submitted a response to the proposal for development in Oyster Bay based on feedback from PUA members. This development proposal was mentioned in the previous newsletter.

The proposal is to subdivide a lot into ten allotments ranging in size from 0.5 to 38 hectares, to realign an ephemeral drainage swale and undertake earthworks to construct a right of way and install services within a flood hazard area.

The Association opposed the application as:

* It is a non-complying application within the MSRMP;
* There would be an increase in road use;
* There would be an increased risk of sewage and waste water run off;
* The impact upon the rural character of the area;
* The reduction in productive rural land; and
* The adverse precedent it would create.

**Summer Boating**

Its summer time again and a few notes are appropriate as the holiday season begins. It is advisable to have checked your boat and gear before heading out after the winter. Refresh your petrol if it is old. Have lifejackets on board for everyone and use them. Port Underwood is a great place to get out and enjoy some time on the water and a few preventative steps will help keep your trips enjoyable.

The fishing regulations for Port Underwood are the same as previous years. In summary, each person is allowed 3 blue cod, minimum size of 30 cm per day. A maximum of 6 craypots allowed per boat with a maximum of 3 pots per person. Minimum size for crayfish is 60mm for females and 54mm for males. Send a text to 9889 with the name of a species for detailed information.

Set netting is allowed from 1st January to 30th April. You must stay with your net. Minimum net mesh size for Butterfish is 100mm and for Moki is 114mm.

Commercial trawling is allowed within Port Underwood, however the Top of the South trawlers observe a voluntary restriction from Christmas Eve until Easter Friday. There may be some new skippers that are not aware of this. If you see commercial trawling during this time period double check that they actually have a net in the water, note the date and the boat number and ring Eric Jorgensen on 03 579 9288 or 027 222 6733. He can then contact the finfish governing body as they really want to know of any offending instances. It is not illegal for commercial fishers to clean their catch inshore in which case carcasses may wash ashore however it is frowned upon by the governing body so again contact Eric with any details of an occurrence.

**Silver Fern Rally - Report**

The Silver Fern Rally took place on 8 November 2014 with the first stage of the race from Oyster Bay to Ocean Bay and the second stage from Ocean Bay to White’s Bay. The race continued on in other sections of Marlborough and the rest of the South Island. The race is for historic 2 wheel drive rally cars with a number of entrants in Ford Escorts and some Audi’s. BMW’s, Mazda’s and others making up the field. A number of entrants were from overseas and a Marlborough Car Club rally closely followed the Silver Fern event. Despite a large amount of dust many spectators along the route enjoyed the unusual spectacle.

**Neighbourhood watch update**

Keep an eye on the website as this contains the Police’s Rural Newsletter. The latest newsletter concerns the cannabis growing season, what to do if you find explosives (that is, don’t move them) and the change in drink driving laws.

**History: snippets from the past**

This is the second contribution received regarding past life in Port Underwood. I am sure it will be of interest to everybody. Thank you John Guard for the following contribution.

 **The Guard Family of Kakapo Bay**

184years ago my great grandfather John (Jacky) Guard 1792-1857 came to Port Underwood and in 1830 he set up the first shore whaling station at Kakapo Bay. Other whalers followed to Ocean Bay, Tom Canes Bay, Coles Bay and Cutters Bay.

In 1815 John Guard, aged 22yrs, was transported from England to Sydney NSW as a Convict on a 7 year sentence for stealing a 5/- (50 cents) bed cover…he did his time. In 1820 he joined a whaling/sealing venture on the sailing ship the *Lynx* to the southern seas for 2 years and wintered over on the Falkland Islands. On a return trip from another sealing adventure, while passing through Cook Strait in a storm, they were blown into Tory Channel. They were amazed to find both sheltered bays and so many whales.

About 1827 he gathered up his friends in Sydney and started the first shore whaling station in the South Island at Te Awaiti, Tory Channel. His wife Betty joined him in 1830 and their son John was born in 1831.-.the first European boy to be born in the South Island..Then in 1833 Louisa was born - the first European girl in the South Island. About 1833 they permanently moved to Kakapo Bay, Port Underwood. In 1834 on a trip back from Sydney on the barque *Harriet* they were wrecked on the coast of Taranaki and several crew were killed and captured by the Ngati Ruanui Maori. Five months later the HMS *Alligator* and Government schooner *Isabella* were called to rescue 8 seamen, Betty and her 2 children. This was successful. In 1836 The Guards returned full time to Kakapo Bay and experienced the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on.June 17, 1840.at Horahora Kakahu Island. The whaling continued until 1848 and then they fished, farmed cattle, goats, pigs and grew fruit, to sell in Wellington and Nelson. Jacky died in 1857 aged 65yrs..Betty died 1870 aged 56yrs..4 of their children pre-deceased her. Seventeen of the Guard Family are buried in the Family cemetery at the back of the bay.

 The land first went to their son John, then to my Grandfather Edward Guard 1850-1922 who married Emma Baldick 1864-1935 she was the granddaughter of Mary-Anne Baldick-Daken-Register-Flood (last Newsletter story) The land then went to my Father Albert Guard 1902-1995 and his brother Walter Guard 1908-1972. In 1995 my brother Edward and I inherited the land. We were Commercial Fisherman, and hobby farmers. Edward on sold his share in 1996.

Until 1974 for 135yrs the Guards owned from Ocean Bay north ridge to Oyster Bay north ridge. The land was cleared by hand and farmed with sheep and cattle. As family changed and moved on, the land was sold and now we own 10hectares- half of Kakapo Bay and all of Waipuna Bay. I am the 4th generation Guard to live at Kakapo Bay, and wouldn’t live anywhere else.

John Guard

Contributions from members of historical items of interest to Port Underwood are most welcome.

**Port Underwood Association -- AGM**

**Saturday 3rd January 2015 3:00pm**

**11 Hakahaka Bay Road (beachfront – left side)**

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. If you can donate a small amount of time to the improvement of Port Underwood please consider putting your name forward as a committee member. Drinks and nibbles will be provided after the meeting to enable members to get to know each other better.