Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of the Port Underwood Association newsletter.

**Port Underwood Association**

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Welcome back to those that have arrived or are coming to stay for the summer.

Marlborough Marine Futures

Update

AGM – This to be held on:

Sunday 3rd January 2016, 3:00pm

Hinton Residence, 13 Hakahaka Bay

If you have any items you want to include, please let us know (using the contact details below). An agenda is enclosed but this can be amended at any time up until the start of the meeting. We hope to see as many as possible at the AGM. Drinks and nibbles will follow directly after the meeting to facilitate members getting to know each other better.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were enclosed with the first newsletter of 2015.

We are always looking for new committee members – so if you want to help out, please let us know (contact details given below). It is not too demanding on your time, but sharing the load and getting a wide range of views on topics is helpful.

One role that needs to be filled is somebody to help with the website. It will just consist of putting items on the website and keeping it up to date. I have done this to date, but I do need a little help now. It would be useful if the person was familiar with Wordpress (the host of the website).

Contributions are welcome from all members at any time. These can be made at any time to our e-mail address port.underwood.association@gmail.com or direct to committee members.

Best wishes John

**Port Underwood Association contact details:**

port.underwood.association@gmail.com  or

PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240

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**Marlborough Marine Futures**

A number of forums have been held over the past year. Progress is slow (which is to be expected) as the trust is trying to be inclusive and gain acceptance from all stakeholders. The last couple of forums have looked at the ‘science’ of the sounds. It recognises that damage is being done to the Sounds and that there are significant gaps in our knowledge; also the information available is scattered and hard to access. John and Ken have tried to attend each forum to date, but it is open to everyone.

Marlborough Marine Futures has its own website and this has information about all the meetings and what it is trying to achieve: <http://www.marlmarinefutures.co.nz/>

**Subdivisions**

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter the Whataroa Forest is being subdivided into 30 hectare blocks. This is a permitted activity and, as a personal view, is probably preferable to forestry. The owner of the site, Gerard Malcolm, is a member of the PUA and is attending the AGM. If you wish to ask him any questions, please forward these to the Association before the AGM. Gerard has offered to answer any questions we have concerning the development at the AGM. To give him the best chance of providing a sensible answer, please forward questions to the Association so we can inform him of what will be asked.

An application has also been submitted in respect of Ophi Bay. The application has been returned as incomplete to the developers so is not before the council. It is being applied for as the old consent was expiring. This would not normally be publicly notified as the land is zoned as rural residential. The council will take the points raised (to respect the gravesite, issues with effluent and road issues) when considering if it needs to be publicly notified.

One of the main problems with subdivision is the increased use of the roads. Having spoken to the Council they say that the Road Transport Authority does not perceive the roads to be an issue nor a bar to development. The council is only aware of accidents that are reported to the police. Consequently, it is incumbent on us to ensure they hear of all accidents and near accidents. To this end a form has been produced to be returned to the association to record these (this is on the website). Alternatively, just e-mail the Association to report it with as many details included as possible. This is to highlight to the council the danger of the roads. The problems with the roads being closed due to bridges being washed out and land slips was also mentioned as a bar to future development. The Council just referred me to make submissions to the Council Development Plan.

**Fisheries**

MPI are embarking on a review of aspects of fisheries management in New Zealand. Here is some information and links about what is proposed.

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/fisheries-management-system-review/>

MPI says there are 5 themes to the review of the fisheries management system. These are about how to future-proof the system to ensure:

·       Sustainability

·       Benefits for all New Zealanders

·       Decision-making processes

·       Monitoring and enforcement

·       Responding effectively to future challenges.”

MPI are calling for input at an early stage to help them develop proposals for a formal consultation process in mid-2016. Any changes to the system are likely to be made in 2017.

What’s not in the review are “core elements of the system:

·       Sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources as set out in Section 8 of the Fisheries Act

·       The QMS tools (quota and annual catch entitlements)

·       The rights of commercial quota ownership

·       The Crown's obligations under Treaty settlements

·       The rights and interests of tangata whenua, and customary management.

·       The right to fish for recreation.”

(Thanks to Eric Jorgensen for this contribution)

**New Blue Cod fishing Regulations for Port Underwood and Cook Straits coastline**

Effective from December 20, 2015 there will be changes to the rules for blue cod fishing in the Challenger East area which includes Port Underwood and the Cook Strait coastline.

Minimum size is 33 cm (up from 30cm).

Maximum of 2 blue cod per day per fisherman (down from 3 per day)

Fishers must not possess more than 2 daily bag limits – if legally caught over more than one day. There are other changes that apply to the inner Marlborough Sounds.

**Draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan**

The draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan will hopefully be made public in early 2016 and open for public submissions for three months. This is a very important document as it sets the objectives and rules for Marlborough. In other words, it states what we want Marlborough to be and how we accomplish that. It is a large document and can be daunting for an individual to review and some people may wish to only concentrate on several chapters that are most important to them.

Through the development stages of this Plan the Port Underwood Association has made submissions on behalf of the community based on feedback from its members and will make a further submission on the publically notified draft. We strongly encourage the members to review the document, discuss it, advise the PUA committee of your thoughts and make an individual submission to the Marlborough District Council. Please note that it is just as important to submit your agreement to statements in the Plan as it is to submit your objections and recommendations.

The document will be available from the Marlborough District Council website.

If the membership wishes, special PUA meetings can be held to discuss this document.

**Tsunami Inundation maps**

Maps detailing the inundation path of tsunamis of various strengths have been created through the Marlborough District Council with the purpose of informing coastal communities and developing response plans. More information and the maps will be available through the newspaper and on the MDC website in the future.

**Ecologically Significant Marine Sites in Port Underwood**

Three significant marine sites have been identified in Port Underwood. Two of those, near The Knobby’s and near Whataroa Bay, contain significant tubeworm mounds and have been identified as being highly susceptible to damage from anchoring, dredging, and trawling. Further evaluation of these sites will take place in the near future and in the meantime it is recommended that any activity which may disturb the seabed in these areas should be avoided. See PUA website for location map of these sites.

**Neighbourhood support update**

The Police have issued a further rural newsletter and some notes on crime prevention. These are on the PUA website.

At last Craig Jones has been caught and arrested. He pleaded guilty to 27 charges relating to the thefts in Port Underwood and the other Sounds spanning from Dec 2014 through September2015. He appears in court again on the 7th of December for sentencing. Thank you everyone who passed on information that led to the identity of this offender. We have a very good networking system in place in Port Underwood.

Just a reminder. Don’t leave keys in the ignition of your car and always lock your doors and windows of dwellings and sheds when not at home. Keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviour or activities in the area by noting down descriptions of persons and vehicle registration numbers.

I have enclosed an updated neighbourhood support list for your bay and emergency numbers along with this newsletter. Please let me know if any of your information is incorrect.

**Subscriptions for 2016**

The 2016 Port Underwood Association subs of $20 will be due soon. There are still a few of you who haven’t paid the 2015 membership. We would appreciate it if you would attend to this soon as the end of the financial year is approaching. The $20 subs can be paid by direct deposit to Westpac Blenheim 030599 0216931 00 Please quote Bay and Surname as a reference. Alternatively you can post a cheque to the Secretary, Port Underwood Association, P.O. Box 59, Blenheim 7240. Also, subs will be collected at the AGM.

We do thank you for your continued support.

**Snippets from the Past**

**A TRIP TO HAKANA BAY**

BY Joan Wyatt

It was a sunny afternoon in August of 1974 when with two little boys and an elderly neighbour Rex and I set off to look at a section in Hakana Bay, Port Underwood. All we had to go by was a very faded photograph from a land agents window along with directions of a sort.

At Waikawa Bay store we ran out of sealed road and headed out this winding gravel road. From Karaka Point the road became narrower and there were no houses between there and Whatamango. We began the large climb up the winding road which was more like a farm track of today than a road. On reaching the top of the hill we pulled over and stopped to look at the wonderful view that was before us.

Taking another look at our directions we set off down the other side of the hill to Hakahaka where we should find a turn off to Hakana Bay. We passed by the settlement of Hakahaka, one or two batches, and an old farm house in the middle of the paddock. From here the road was not much more than a track and there was grass growing down the middle of it in many places. We drove and drove for what seemed like forever and the little boys becoming restless with the twisting and turning of the Ford Falcon wagon. Every now and then we came across strips of seal and for a few short moments the road was easier. These few strips of seal still remain today.

Passing land marks we had been told of Portunderwood farm and then the top of the Tongue, we thought we must be close now. Across the Bay we could see with a clear view what we thought was a half built building or the remains of an old one on a distant point. A few more corners was the old cow bale to our left and a square of large old macracarpa trees where once a house may have been. Then we spotted a little graveyard on the side of the road and across a bit further was the cairn. This was to be the place we would meet the folk attending the church services held there from time to time and get to know the locals further down the port.

At last we found what must be the section at the bottom of a hill. We ventured out of the wagon and began to look around at the area with an existing batch on the left and an empty section to the right. On reaching the beach, the small boys played in the gravely sand while we had a well-earned cup of tea from the thermos.

We purchased the section a few days later. Now, our true Hakana Bay story was about to begin, camping in two old caravans that first Christmas and beginning to build the house the following October.

Things were a bit different then as all the hills behind us had been recently burnt off and young pine trees planted. The Bay itself had three existing dwellings, Henry Bothwell who lived there permanently with his wife, next to him was an A frame batch being built by Graeme Chant and family from Culverton, and to our left Don and Lynne Gardener had a three bedroom batch. At the top of the hill were the concrete walls which belonged to Doug Bothwell, son of Henry. The rest of the ridge was covered with old man pine trees and scrub apart from a shack out on the end of the ridge where today the Mills family batch stands. Across the Bay was Carlton, owned by Cappy and Denice Harris and at the head of the Bay was the old homestead at the farm of George and Doreen Yorke one of the early homes in the area and Carlton being the other. Between Yorkes and Carlton there was a wharf and also the remains of another one in front of Carlton. The old red woolshed still stands on the corner along with the stock yards as one turns towards the locked gates to Fighting Bay.

Our house did get completed and over time the road improved but we never gave up on having an axe, saw and shovel in the back as they were needed on many occasions early on. The Bay has also grown as there are now 10 dwellings and one empty section. Hakana Bay is a very friendly Bay with just about everyone visiting, caring and sharing with one another. Families have grown up and new generations are coming now, so long may it last as you all build your own stories of the Port.

**Agenda**

**Twenty Third Annual General Meeting**

**3 January 2016**

**Port Underwood Association Inc**

PO Box 59 Blenheim

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Minutes of the twenty-second annual general meeting

Chairman’s report – John Davison

Treasurer’s report – Sara Roush

Neighbourhood support – Sara Roush

Sounds Advisory Group – Ken Roush

Draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan – Ken Roush

Significant Marine Areas in Port Underwood – Ken Roush

Subdivisions – General discussion

Roads – General discussion

Freedom Camping – General Discussion

Fisheries – General Discussion

Tsunami – General Discussion

Election of the committee

Any other business