Welcome to the December 2016 issue of the Port Underwood Association newsletter.

**Port Underwood Association**

I hope you all survived the earthquakes without too many difficulties (in fact, I am being shaken by a 5.7 just South East of Seddon as I write), whether in Port Underwood or elsewhere (see report below).

Summer is coming, although we still seem to be having a wet time and there has been damage from the storms as well as the quakes in this area. Sara Roush has provided valuable content regarding the earthquake and Tsunami risk. I am sure all the people that had calls regarding the potential Tsunami were grateful for the efforts of Sara and her team and this demonstrates the value of the neighbourhood watch scheme. The Rural Fire Service also made a courtesy call though the Port on the Wednesday following the earthquake to ensure that everybody was OK, which was appreciated.

It is, perhaps, a reminder to us all to get emergency kits and to stock up in case there is a problem with supply. I have stocked up with more animal feed due to the supply holds ups that have occurred.

The Association has had a busy time since the last newsletter and I see no diminishing of activity in the near future.

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.

The AGM is being held XXXXX at XXXXX. I hope to see you all there.

Best wishes John

**Port Underwood Association contact details:**

port.underwood.association@gmail.com  or

PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240

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**Roads**

The council was written to regarding the roads, how much was spent and what was proposed to improve the roads. The response regarding the spending on the roads did not actually cover the unsealed part of the road and this will be followed up. No response was received in respect of the proposed improvements. This also will be followed up.

It should be noted that the Council did come through about three days after the storm and earthquake to clear the road and re-laid the surface a few days later (in preparation for the summer influx of tourists).

The Council is proposing to replace one of the bridges in Robin Hood Bay due to corrosion of the supports.

**Cassels Forest**

The applicant withdrew their request to use the public roads to transport logs; which was the major object of our submission. The roads will still be used by contractors and by empty trucks going back and forth at the start and end of the week. The applicant (or their lawyer) had made suggestions for moderating the use of the empty trucks, but this was withdrawn at the hearing by the lawyers. When the ‘suggestion’ was raised, this did not appear to be a suggestion to the Association, but an offer. Fortunately, both Dave Whyte and Ken Roush attended the hearing to put the Association’s view over. If they had not attended, who knows what would have become a suggestion rather than a commitment.

**Pipi Bay – Barge Site**

An application for a resource consent for the causeway was submitted. The Council initially decided that this would only be subject to a limited notification (and the Association was notified), but this would have restricted the people that could have made a submission. Representations were made by several people (including the Association) that this was wrong and there should be public notification. The Council reviewed its decision and has now made this subject to a general notification. The Association will be making a submission on this application and your comments on this topic would be appreciated.

**New vineyard in Robin Hood Bay**

A consent application has been submitted to extract water from Stace Creek for a new vineyard in Robin Hood Bay. A meeting has been held with the applicants (hosted by Ken Roush, with John Davison in attendance) to discuss their requirements. They suggested that they did not want to extract much water from the Stace Creek, and were building reservoirs for most of their water needs. There will be a pre-hearing, which the Association is attending (5 December). The Association aims to ensure that the creek flows is interrupted as little as possible to maintain the Creek’s environmental values.

**Councillors**

The councillors for the Sounds were all contacted after the election to offer our congratulations. The Sounds councillors are David Oddie, Trevor Hook and Nadine Taylor. Nadine is a new councillor (David and Trevor were re-elected) and is a member of the Port Underwood Association. She is a resident of Picton and runs a commercial fishing business from Oyster Bay. I have found all the councillors approachable, and Nadine organised a meeting with both Ken Roush and I to ascertain the concerns of the members. Nadine also telephoned to find out about road conditions after the earthquake and storm – many thanks Nadine.

**Earthquake - Sara Roush**

It looks as though most of us made it through the earthquake with little more than a few broken pieces of crockery, and two of us, as far as I know, lost part of our driveways. We are grateful that no one was hurt here in Port Underwood. Our thoughts go out to all in Wellington and further South, including Dan & Rebecca Flemming (Coles Bay) who incurred a lot of damage to their property in Kaikoura.

**Tsunami – Sara Roush**

We were notified by Civil Defence and the Picton Fire Brigade that there was a code red Tsunami alert early Monday morning and that anyone in a low lying household should get to higher ground. The Neighbourhood Support networking worked well. I notified all the Bay coordinators and in no time all occupied low-lying residences were notified. Most of you did evacuate, with quite a few of you going to the top of Whatamonga Hill. (I hear you all had a party up there). This was a good place to evacuate to as a helicopter would be able to land up there for any emergency. So that is something to think about for future (hopefully not) tsunami alerts. Go to higher ground where a helicopter can land, possibly a skid site, or arrange with a friend on higher ground in Port Underwood to join them at their property. Some of you would have had several phone calls early on the 14th November as I had given Civil Defence our entire Neighbourhood Support list earlier this year. I think that they put it to good use.

Tony Flood is compiling helicopter landing sites in Port Underwood, so please notify him with GPS coordinates if one can land on your property. Floodey@xtra.co.nz or phone 578 8348 or 579 9432.

Civil defence was just starting to trial broadcasting on Brian FM 100.9 Blenheim, 104.3 Seddon and 105.9 Picton and they were wondering if anyone was listening to it. We get 100.9 at our house near Ocean Bay

**Neighbourhood Support - Sara Roush**

We have had several burglaries in the Port this year. Remember to report them to the Police, but also if you would notify me, we could start the networking going right away before people forget what they have seen in the past day or two. It is amazing what people actually see and remember and how many actually write down rego numbers. We have caught burglars and suspicious characters wanted by police in the past, so let’s keep up the good work.

Enclosed with this newsletter, are the updated neighbourhood support and emergency number lists, which I hope you will keep close at hand in case of an emergency. If any information on the list is incorrect would you please let me know so I can correct it?

**Secretary/Treasurer Report - Sara Roush**

It is that time of year again when 2017 subs of $20 are due. Enclosed is a sub notice form with what information we have for you i.e. fire numbers, phone numbers, address etc. Please let me know if anything is incorrect or needs updating. Subs can be paid at the AGM, mailed to P.O. Box 59 Blenheim 7240 or can be direct deposited into Westpac Blenheim 030599 0216931. Please quote surname and Bay as references. We do appreciate your continued support.

**Meeting with Picton and Havelock Police Nov 29 - Sara Roush**

**Cannabis** season is happening now so report any suspicious activity to police. If you find a plot do not go near it as it is often booby trapped.

**Firearms and poaching** it is an offence to carry a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle on any road. It is also illegal to discharge a firearm in or near a dwelling or public place so as to endanger property or to endanger, annoy, or frighten any person.

Most importantly, it is illegal to shoot or spotlight from a boat into any public space or private property without permission. I know this happens in Port Underwood. The police can confiscate any gear used in illegal hunting activities, impose fines, prosecute offenders and take away a firearms license.

**DOC**-permits are required for hunting on all public reserves and can be obtained from all DOC offices or online at <https://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz:444/apply> or phone Picton DOC office 520 3002

There is a closed hunting season in all the Marlborough Sounds Public Reserves between December 22nd and February 9th.

**Burglaries** They said that burglaries are down but we have had several in Port Underwood. Locking doors and shutting windows when you are away (even for an hour) will deter the honest burglar but a determined burglar will get in if he wants to. It was mentioned that pulling curtains when the house is vacant is telling a burglar that no one is home. Try to make the property look occupied in some way. Let neighbours know when you are coming and going for any length of time so they can keep an eye on your place.

**When to phone 111**

Someone is badly injured or in danger

There is a serious risk to life or property

A crime is being committed and the offenders are still there or have just left

You’ve come across a major public inconvenience, such as trees blocking a highway

Any of these things are happening now or have just happened

**When to phone the Picton police**

To report an historic crime

To update a case or find out about your case

To pass on information about a case

To enquire or get advice on any police matter

Police need to know the pattern of crime in an area. You can help by reporting all instances of suspicious behaviour or crime. It helps police know who is in the community or if there is a pattern of crime developing in an area that needs further investigation.

**PHONE PICTON POLICE**

between 8:30- and 4:30 WEEKDAYS 520 3120 EXT 38120

Duty officer on call 520 3120 ext 38128 l

Kris Payne is Our Port Underwood area constable phone 021 190 8382 or email him at kpi305@police.govt.nz

**Snippets from the past from Doris Holdaway**

It goes back a long way. My mother was Daphne Daken, one of Jim & Maggie Daken's daughters.

We as children spent a lot of time in Port Underwood holidaying in one of the grandparents houses at Opihi Bay or a house at Whangakoko Bay, which was a one room school room with an open fire in one end, or in my father’s fishing launch around the Bays.

Later years after granddad purchased the Ngakuta property, we stayed in the house there. That is when my parents Eugenio and Daphne Perano purchased a section in Trevalli Bay for 60 pounds. I was about 7 years old. They dully built a 3 roomed bach.

About 15 years later my then husband Geoff Holdaway and I purchased a part of mums property in Trevally Bay. Ten years later, Geoff & I built a bach on the South end of the Bay.

So, Port Underwood and I and now my children and grandchildren spend some very happy days there.

When we holidayed in the fishing launch, Mum and Dad slept in the cabin and I in the wheel house, the boys in the hatch down the stern. One night Mum heard a noise wee-or, wee-or, wee-or. She investigated and it was the boys in bed fishing over the side. I think fishing must be in our blood.

Thank you Doris

Please, if we are to continue having snippets from the past, we need your contributions. Please send us any interesting stories you might have.