

# Port Underwood Association



Welcome to the Summer 2017 issue of the Port Underwood Association newsletter.

The Association's AGM was held on the first of January. The minutes for the AGM are enclosed. Rather than repeat topics, the newsletter will consist mainly of the minutes as this gives a full update regarding activities.

## Chairman's Address

Hello Port Underwood Association members. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday break. After 15 years of being on the Association committee I now find myself as Chairman and with the help of the newly elected committee, which is a good mix of returning members and several new members, and the help of the membership in general I look forward to 2017. Through the years the Association members have asked that the Association keep them informed of events that have an effect on the Port Underwood area and consequently represent, where necessary, the viewpoint of the membership. We expect to continue doing this. I see our role as overseeing the betterment of the Port Underwood community and protecting, promoting and enhancing those things that endear the area to us while understanding that we are a diverse collection of people with different views and aspirations.

As an interactive society we establish agreed upon provisions that guide us in the use and protection of both our physical and emotional environment and sets methods in which we can interact in a fair and just manner. In many cases these provisions are contained in the Marlborough Environment Plan and various central government policies which can be used as guidance for our actions in regard to the natural environment and, the at times somewhat harder to describe, amenity values that are the reasons why we treasure the Port Underwood area so much.

The Association functions better as the feedback from its membership increases. I therefore encourage each and every member to advise me or any of the committee members of your opinion on any topic you wish to have discussed or any topic that the Association brings to the attention of the membership. These can be made at any time to our e-mail address [port.underwood.association@gmail.com](mailto:port.underwood.association@gmail.com) or direct to committee members.

Thank you, Ken Roush

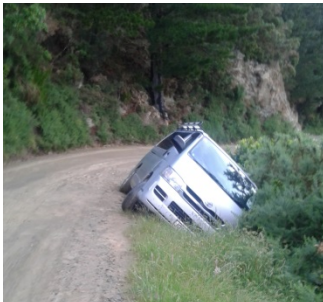
## Port Underwood Association contact details:

[port.underwood.association@gmail.com](mailto:port.underwood.association@gmail.com) or  
PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240  
[www.portunderwoodassoc.org](http://www.portunderwoodassoc.org)

The newly elected committee is:

Ken Roush (Chairman)	<a href="mailto:sarakenroush@gmail.com">sarakenroush@gmail.com</a>	03 579 9474
Sara Roush (Secty/ Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:sarakenroush@gmail.com">sarakenroush@gmail.com</a>	03 579 9474
John Davison	<a href="mailto:jad793@gmail.com">jad793@gmail.com</a>	03 579 9940
David Whyte	<a href="mailto:clintondale@xtra.co.nz">clintondale@xtra.co.nz</a>	03 572 8193
David McBryde	<a href="mailto:mcbrydes@xtra.co.nz">mcbrydes@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 844 3624
Bruce Hearn	<a href="mailto:apexhearn@xtra.co.nz">apexhearn@xtra.co.nz</a>	027 4402049
Wayne Boustridge	<a href="mailto:wayne.boustridge@hotmail.com">wayne.boustridge@hotmail.com</a>	03 579 5489
Wendy Simonsen	<a href="mailto:wendzsimo@gmail.com">wendzsimo@gmail.com</a>	027 9288218

## Roads



The enclosed photos show the dangers and problems of the roads. The first occurred in December on Tumbledown Bay Rd, the second in January on the Port Underwood Rd. These have been reported to the council and the police. So, take care to avoid the careless or speeding drivers.



At the AGM it was agreed to establish a point of contact between the PUA and the Marlborough Roads Office. While the AGM acknowledged that there has been extensive work undertaken by individuals in the past, there was a general feeling that establishing a committed point of contact with the Marlborough Roads Office should enable the PUA to gain a better understanding of roading matters (both for the PUA and NZTA) and ultimately better shape priority of effort and resource allocation.

Wayne Boustridge is now the Association's roading representative and liaison with the Council. He is happy to receive association members concerns, observations, comments on our roads and what they would see as priority of effort. As a start he is planning to discuss both preventative and response actions to fallen trees (mainly wilding pines) on all our roads as these pose an immediate threat to people and to business disruption through delays in travel to and from the Port.

Anything relating to road issues can be sent to the Association's main e-mail address and this will be forwarded on to Wayne or contact him directly.

## Freedom Camping

The Council has passed a by-law that makes the whole of the Port Underwood Rd an area prohibited for Freedom Camping. Unfortunately, the Council omitted to include Tumbledown Bay Rd as a prohibited area. This will be taken up with the Council to see if Tumbledown Bay Rd can be included. In addition, DOC will be contacted to ask how they will deal with campers on their areas of foreshore.

## Consents

The only consent outstanding at the moment is the Pipi Bay barge site and causeway. We are waiting for the public notification before we formulate our response.

## Aquaculture Working Group

The Association intends to be involved with the new working group when it is considering the Port Underwood Area. This may make significant changes to the way aquaculture is managed in the future.

## Set Netting

Fisheries Officers have been patrolling the Port Underwood area this summer and have confiscated a number of unaccompanied set nets. Remember, the Recreational Fishing Rules state that '*Fishers must stay with their nets at all times and set no more than 200m from shore*'.

## Relocation of Salmon Farms

A proposal has been put forward by the Ministry for Primary Industries to relocate up to six salmon farms from low water flow sites to higher water flow sites thus providing a better habitat for raising the salmon and reducing the adverse environmental impacts. The current and proposed new sites are not in the Port Underwood area thus there is no direct environmental effect on us. However, concern has been raised about the process for enabling the change, whereby central government makes changes to the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan to allow applications, which will not be publically notified, for farming the new sites. This type of process could be used in the future for other activities in Port Underwood.

The consultation document and supporting information can be found at:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/marlborough-salmon-relocation](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/marlborough-salmon-relocation)

The Association currently has a neutral stance on this proposal and seeks members input into (a) the need (or not) for PUA to submit and (b) the aspects of concern. We also encourage private submissions where members have particularly strong beliefs which may not necessarily be emphasised by a PUA consensus submission.

## Small Townships Programme – Community Projects Fund

Marlborough District Council has a Community Projects Fund for **small, low cost projects on outdoor public spaces**. These can be undertaken by the council, by the community or a combination of both. Council has allocated approximately \$50,000 each year for these projects, and any organisation or group that represents a small township or community in Marlborough can apply. The Association would be interested in hearing about any projects the community would like to put forward.

## **AGM 2017 minutes**

### **Minutes**

#### **Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting**

#### **Port Underwood Association Inc**

Held at Hakahaka Bay, Port Underwood  
1 January 2017 3pm

#### **Attendance**

Ken Roush, Sara Roush, John Davison, David Whyte, Clinton Whyte, Nadine Taylor, Kersha Veix, Lily Harper-Hinton, Bruce Hearn, Jill Hearn, Martin Loach, Ruth Simonsen, Wendy Simonsen, Penny Adlington, Simon Adlington, Claire Soper, Lawry Hinton, Eric Jorgensen, Peter Gregory-Hunt, Lisa Mornin, Anne Gregory-Hunt, Bryon Gleeson, Angela Hockenhull, Wayne Boustridge.

Nadine Taylor was attending both as a member and in her role as Sounds Councillor.

#### **Apologies**

Lyn White, Ken Prain, Carole McArthur, Jeremy Ward, Annie Ward, Michael Blaschke, Paul Blaschke, Kirsty Vercoe, Alison Grey, Lex Hayward, Sylvia Hayward, Doug Levien, Rhonda Levien, Dan Fleming, Rebecca Fleming, David McBryde, Diane McBryde, The Gane Family, Mike Hitchens, Hilary Hitchens, Susan Rutherford, Trevor Parr, Helen Parr.

The meeting opened at 3-05pm

**Thanks** were expressed to Lawry Hinton & Jenny Kennedy for the use of their home for the AGM.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting**

These were distributed with the February newsletter. No amendments were suggested by the meeting. It was moved that the minutes be accepted by Ken Roush and seconded by Angela Hockenhull.

#### **Chairman's report**

John Davison stated that he would be standing down as he had been ill over the past year.

#### *Roads*

A letter had been sent to the Council regarding some near misses on the road to Picton from Oyster Bay. The Council was asked what improvements could be made to the roads, but no reply was received.

The Council was also asked about the spending on the roads and how much had been received in rates and contributions towards this.

The reply was not significantly useful as it only addressed works undertaken between Picton and Oyster Bay and did not cover the Port Underwood Rd from Oyster Bay to Whites Bay nor the Tumbledown Bay Rd. Also, the Council said it could not provide information regarding what contributions or rates were collected from Port Underwood.

There is a proposal to replace a bridge in Robin Hood Bay.

According to the council there are supposed to be inspections of the road every six weeks.

The main issues with the roads are the lack of safety barriers, speed in the bays and blocked culverts causing flooding.

Nadine Taylor suggested that the Association should appoint a roading representative to liaise with the Council.

### *Cassels Forest*

The applicant agreed to not use the public roads to remove logs (the main point of the Association's submission) but the roads will still be used by contractors and by empty trucks going back and forth at the start and end of the week. David Whyte and Ken Roush attended the hearing on behalf of the Association.

### *Pipi Bay Barge Site*

An application has been made for a new log marshalling and barge site and causeway in Pipi Bay. This was initially a limited notification so few people could submit (although PUA was one). After representations this has been made a full public notification; no date has been given for the due date for submissions. Objections to the causeway include it being the only Eastern Bay without a mussel farm, there is an underwater spring, a mooring point for recreational boats, there is a sea horse colony in the bay, there are sites of marine interest north and south of the proposed causeway, the bay is used for water skiing and effectively privatises the area. It will be a large rock causeway which is unsuitable for use by small recreational boats so will serve no real purpose after logging ends.

Internal forestry roads go along the peninsula to Tory Channel so facilities are available for the removal of logs.

### *Robin Hood Bay Vineyard*

An application was made to take water from Stace's Creek in Robin Hood Bay. John Davison and Ken Roush met with the applicants and then a pre-hearing meeting was held attended John Davison and David Whyte. David included a list of conditions that we would like to see (such as restricting the taking of water when flow levels were low and putting time limits on the uptake of water to ensure the extraction was within

the prescribed limits). The Applicants agreed and amended their application accordingly. It should be noted that the Council hydrologists were happy for the water extraction to take place and the Department of Conservation had no objections.

### *Kaikoura Bay Mussel Farm*

A hearing had been scheduled for the mussel farm that was proposed in Kaikoura Bay. The Association opposed this application due to the proximity of a site of special interest (tubeworms) and the incremental impact of the mussel farms. The week prior to the hearing the Council's scientific officer issued a report stating that the proposed site was too close to the tubeworms and would be detrimental. The hearing was postponed so that the applicants could consider their position; there has been no subsequent application or hearing.

### *Kingfish Bay Mussel Farm*

No objection was made to this as despite the farm extending past 200 metres as it was just an infill to existing farms.

### *Freedom Camping*

The Association submitted for there to be no freedom camping on the Port Underwood and Tumbledown Bay Rds. John Davison attended the public hearing and stated that there were sufficient camping facilities at Whatamango Bay, Robin Hood Bay and Whites Bay.

Nadine Taylor provided an update. The by-law has gone through and prohibits freedom camping between Waikawa to Rarangi. This means no camping on the Port Underwood Road but does not seem to include Tumbledown Bay Rd. Signage will be introduced to notify the public.

Camping on any foreshore is not permitted. As this is DOC land they can take action.

If campers are seen it is necessary to call it in to council on their main line to get rangers to take action. Nadine Taylor stated that the Council has extra funds this year to take action and to ensure that the message about camping gets across frequent reports are required about violations .

### *Marlborough Marine Futures*

Marlborough Marine Futures is getting ready for new directions in 2017 and there has been a changing landscape for it to deal with.

Over the last 6 months MMF has:

- Submitted regarding the Marlborough Environment Plan;
- Become part of a collaborative multi-sector working group to develop provisions for aquaculture;

- Developed a salmon farming working group;

Eric Jorgensen was appointed to advise the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge on priorities. Larnce Wichman is involved in earthquake recovery as Chair of Te Korowai, the Kaikoura Marine Guardians, and Executive Officer for Craymac 5. Roy Grose has been appointed Department of Conservation Director for the Northern South Island. John Hellstrom has completed his role as lead reviewer for the Government's new Biosecurity Direction Statement and now leading the organisation of 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations in commemoration of Captain Cook's voyages to Ship Cove/Meretoto. Raymond Smith continues to lead MMF's engagement with iwi, and has been busy with the recreational fishing park proposal (Iwi Advisors Group), MDC Environment committee (MEP), Te Tau Ihu Fisheries Forum, and the Te Waipounamu Fisheries Forum.

### **Treasurer's report**

There are 117 paid members and one honorary member

The accounts are shown at the end of the minutes. Costs for printing and the website have increased over last year due to the three-year fee for the website and increased length of the newsletter.

The fee is to remain at \$20 per member.

### **Neighbourhood Support**

The Neighbourhood Support Emergency List has been updated. There has been a change to the civil defence number and Brian FM has been added as this gives emergency updates. The Picton police number and extension is given. This is available from Monday to Friday 9 to 5 if the extension is dialled; otherwise the call goes to the central NZ police switchboard as it does out of hours. Chris Payne is our local area constable.

A defibrillator is available in Hakana Bay.

Liz and Don Mitchell at 1365 Hakana Bay have bought a defibrillator and have been kind enough to offer the use of it for those in need of one in Port Underwood. As previously advised by email, to locate the defibrillator, go down the drive and it will be on the East side wall by the ranch slider. Break the plastic window in the front to get the key to open the box with the defibrillator. There is a switch for children 1-8yrs or for 8yrs and older. It is easy to use as it talks you through step by step. Please add this to your emergency list. Phone numbers are Liz Mitchell 027 6622916 or Don Mitchell 021 318622.

There have been a few thefts and a burglary over the last twelve months, so it is essential that registrations of unknown suspicious vehicles are taken and reported.

As Ruth Simonsen is moving the coordinator for HakaHaka Bay needs to be changed. This is now Rose Patchett (577 9794). The meeting thanked Ruth for her work as Bay coordinator.

The networking system worked well during the recent earthquakes and tsunami alert. Fortunately power was in place so phones worked. In Picton and Rarangi power was

lost and the warning sirens could not be used. This emphasises the need for those in low-lying areas to move to high ground if there are long or violent earthquakes. Also, Brian FM carries alerts so it may be useful to tune into their frequency. It was noted, and appreciated, that the roads were graded and cleared just after the earthquake; the rural fire brigade came around to check that people were safe and Nadine Taylor called the Chairman to ask if anything was needed in the area.

### **Sounds Advisory Group**

Ken Roush advised that there were few additional issues to raise regarding the SAG. The last meeting had to be cancelled due to the earthquake. The minutes from the SAG meetings are on the website.

### **General discussion**

#### *Marlborough Environment Plan*

Our submission on this was created by Ken Roush with input from the Committee. This stated that we were in general agreement with the plan. A few suggestions were made, such as:

- To increase the degree of consultation with communities;
- That long-term consents should be subject to careful consideration;
- Care needs to be taken with light pollution;
- Consideration needs to be given to community amenity values when considering traffic flows and keep traffic incident reports; and
- Comments were made on the marine character of the area and designations.

The first meeting for the aquaculture working group is in February 2017. The working group is to be supported by a technical group. The terms of reference have not yet been established. The conduit for making suggestions would be through the Sounds Advisory Group. The working group is to working on a bay by bay basis, so when Port Underwood is being considered it is expected that the Association will be contacted.

The meeting suggested that the working group needs to look at areas that are not suitable for aquaculture and highlight these. Marine farms should remain discretionary activities and moved a further 50 metres to 100 m offshore. Existing areas that are prohibited should remain prohibited, as well as mid bay areas and an area south of Ocean Bay.

#### *Recreational Fishing Reserve*

The Association supported this and wished to extend it to Port Underwood. It was recognised that others such as commercial fishermen and iwi would be against this for a variety of reasons, such as losing valuable commercial fishing rights. The proposal has been taken back by the Government but not yet withdrawn; perhaps to disappear for ever, or perhaps to have more detail given concerning compensation and dealing with existing rights.

#### *Internet Access*

Vodafone rural seems to be working well can get a trial modem if you are the edge of the coverage area from Vodafone to see if it works. Spark is available in some



areas and the council is launching a rural project for areas not able to get broadband.

#### *Unauthorised house boat*

There has been little progress with the houseboat that seems to have been in the area for several years. The Council has been notified and has taken some actions, but is now discussing this with Harbours after the owner ignored the Abetment Order.

Nadine Taylor also spoke on various matters including:

Freedom camping (as mentioned above);

There is now a total fire ban in the area;

Roads – a central contact point for the Council to deal with gets more action; Civil defence worked well in Port Underwood but it was suggested that we may want to have a specific Civil Defence plan with a community meeting. If it is necessary to evacuate a note should be left so any rescuers are aware the property has been vacated. Also, let Civil Defence know if you are not mobile, also rely on electric for medical purposes (the electricity company should also be told of this last point).

#### **Appointment of Committee and Chairman 2017**

The following members were appointed as officers and committee members:

Ken Roush (Chairman)	<a href="mailto:sarakenroush@gmail.com">sarakenroush@gmail.com</a>	03 5799474
Sara Roush (Secty/ Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:sarakenroush@gmail.com">sarakenroush@gmail.com</a>	03 5799474
John Davison	<a href="mailto:jad793@gmail.com">jad793@gmail.com</a>	03 5799940
David Whyte	<a href="mailto:clintondale@xtra.co.nz">clintondale@xtra.co.nz</a>	03 5728193
David McBryde	<a href="mailto:mcbrydes@xtra.co.nz">mcbrydes@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 8443624
Bruce Hearn	<a href="mailto:apexhearn@xtra.co.nz">apexhearn@xtra.co.nz</a>	027 4402049
Wayne Boustridge	<a href="mailto:wayne.boustridge@hotmail.com">wayne.boustridge@hotmail.com</a>	03 5795489
Wendy Simonsen	<a href="mailto:wendzsimo@gmail.com">wendzsimo@gmail.com</a>	027 9288218

Wayne Boustridge also volunteered to be the roads liaison with the council.

No other matters were raised and the meeting was closed at 4-45.

**Financial Accounts for  
Port Underwood Association Inc  
PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240**

**Income Statement for the period ending 30 November 2016**

		2016		2015
Income		\$		\$
	Subscriptions	\$2,340.00		\$2,245.00
	Interest	\$61.03	\$2,401.03	\$170.18
	Total		\$2,401.03	\$2,415.18
Expenses				
	AGM expenses	\$174.75		\$199.50
	Bank fees	\$-		\$-
	Donation - Fire Brigades	\$-		\$-
	Flowers (past secretary)			\$92.00
	Stationery, post, printing, website	\$1,089.55		\$718.68
	Submission expenses	\$11.40	\$1,275.70	\$1,010.18
Surplus			\$1,125.33	\$1,405.00

**Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2015**

<b>Assets</b>				
	Petty Cash	\$17.90		\$48.30
	Cheque Account	\$678.43		\$1,583.73
	Simple Saver	\$11,406.89	\$12,103.22	\$9,345.86
				\$10,977.89
<b>Liabilities</b>				
	Capital Account		\$12,103.22	\$10,977.89

**Statement of capital**

	Brought Forward	\$10,977.89	\$9,572.89
	Surplus	\$1,125.33	\$1,405.00
	Carried forward	\$12,103.22	\$10,977.89