

# Port Underwood Association

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## February 2018 Newsletter

### Message from the president

A welcome to the members to the first newsletter of 2018. The minutes of the AGM held in January are included and I urge you to read through them as they contain information on many projects that occurred last year and projects moving forward this year as well as details of the new committee. Please advise me if you notice any additions that should be made to the minutes. Here's hoping that you continue to enjoy a summer of somewhat mixed weather conditions.

Regards, Ken.

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### Committee Details

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## **Community Project Grants**

As detailed in the AGM minutes, grants are available to communities for local projects. Three projects have been proposed to date. Your comments on these and new suggestions are requested.

1. Creation and installation of signage at the northern and southern entrance to Port Underwood highlighting the attractions of the areas and detailing any restrictions particularly around camping.
2. Refurbishment and signage of heritage and historic sites such as cob cottage in Robinhood Bay, whaling station sites, Horahora Kakahu Island, Maori sites, etc.
3. Drinking water outlets for travellers, especially for cyclists.

## **Wasp control**

A request is made for information about coastal areas that are in need of a proposed wasp control by DOC, the Restoration Trust, and the aquaculture industry. Thank you to those who have already replied to the email request for information. This information has been passed on but more information is welcomed.

## **Recycling Bin**

The request for a recycling bin to be placed in Port Underwood for the summer season was put forward at the AGM. Contact has been made to the Marlborough District Council and we await further comment from them.

## **Neighbourhood Support – Sara Roush**

It seems to have been pretty quiet this new year. A few cars were seen where they shouldn't have been and were reported. Remember, when you see suspicious activity involving a vehicle, if it is possible, try to make note of registration numbers, type and colour of car, and a description of the people in the car. This really helps for future sightings.

## **Membership Subs – Sara Roush**

We thank all of those that have already paid the PUA subs for 2018. If you haven't yet paid there will be a subs notice included with this newsletter. We thank all of you for your continued support.

## Roads - Wayne Boustridge

It has been a difficult year for Marlborough Roads and HEB, the contractors, given the adverse weather and also the demands of re-opening the Kaikoura Rd. They have made significant efforts to keep the roads open. Issues that have arisen, however are as follows.

Members were concerned with the lack of maintenance on the section of Tumbledown Bay Rd from the Fighting Bay turnoff. This has been raised with Marlborough Roads who have advised that while Tumbledown Bay Rd to the Fighting Bay turnoff is a Council maintained public road, the road from Fighting Bay turnoff to the gate at house no. 1760 is classified as a Local B Road. This designation means the road only receives minimal maintenance. This has been defined as *'one grade a year and a bit of metalling when required and not guaranteed to be usable 24/7'*. The road beyond house no. 1760 is a private road.

Members noted a section of road at Ocean Bay (opposite the woolshed) is suffering from coastal erosion. This has been passed onto Marlborough Roads who have noted it for inspection.

The three-year road maintenance contract is currently subject to review and renewal. Marlborough Roads have recently advised that due to earthquake recovery efforts, this renewal is delayed with the current contract being extended until 30 June 2019. Notwithstanding this delay, Council will be releasing its Long Term Plan in early April for consultation. This will provide the PUA the opportunity to make submission regarding the levels of service council delivers.

I have approached Marlborough Roads reference the lack of vegetation control/mowing on the majority of our roads. While promised that this would be completed before Christmas, I have been advised that this will be undertaken before too long!

Five cars have either fallen off the road and down the embankment or have overturned on the road between Whites Bay and Ocean Bay in the period Jan 2017 to Feb 2018. All but one have been reported to the police and all five have been reported to Marlborough Roads so that they are aware of the conditions on the road and the way people drive on the road.

The sealed road just south of Whites Bay has a narrow section with no median strip. Marlborough Roads has been requested to look at this to see if this requires priority signs to prevent two cars entering the narrow part of the road at the same time. This is currently under review.

**Port Underwood Association Inc.  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Hakahaka Bay 2 January 2018, 3:00pm**

A welcome was extended to all attendees and thanks extended to Lawry, Jenny and family for the use of their home for the meeting.

**Attendance and introductions**

Ken Roush, Sara Roush, Martin Loach, Susan Rutherford, Rosemary Rutherford, Lyn White, Jill & Bruce Hearn, Irene Ross, Jill Schwass, Marianne Fenwick, Warren Tocker, Karen Mcleay, Angela Hockenhull, Wayne Boustridge, Jane Miers, Diane Cranfield, Carole McArthur, John Cranfield, Bryon Gleeson, Clinton Whyte, David Whyte, Jeremy Ward, Annie Ward, George Platts, Lawry Hinton, Greg & Annabelle Phillipson, Penney Martin, Paul Blaschke and Nadine Taylor (MDC)

**Apologies**

Alan & Karen Roulston, Dianne & David McBryde, Gill & John Saunders, Dan & Bec Fleming, John Davison, Domenic & Deborah Romano, Mark & Phyllis Heard, Raewyn & Graeme Gane, Rodger Fenwick, Michael Blaschke, Jenny Kennedy, Terry Schwass, Mike Rutherford, Peter Platts, Helen & Carl Robertson, Laurie & Pam Saunders.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

These were distributed with the February newsletter. No amendments have been suggested therefore it was moved and passed that the minutes be accepted.

**President's Report**

As it is the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting a tribute is appropriate to all the past officers and committee members that have put in their time and efforts towards the betterment of Port Underwood. A big thank you goes to the community who have supported the Association through their membership and their input of information and ideas. Making a very unofficial assessment of other community associations I feel we have one of the highest participation rates of community members.

A number of issues have carried over this year from previous years. They include:

**Freedom camping bylaw** – All of Port Underwood Road is prohibited for freedom camping. We advocated for Port Underwood Road and Tumbledown Bay Road to be prohibited because there is very little space on the roadside to safely camp which leads to private land being camped on. As well, camping is provided for by a number of DOC sites around Port Underwood. Currently Tumbledown Bay Road is not a prohibited freedom camping road however the community should make note of any problems that occur as this bylaw will be reviewed in the future. Requirements for camping in non-restricted areas include spending no more than two consecutive nights at the site, in any four week period; using a self-contained vehicle; no fires; does not restrict public access to the area; and appropriate disposal of all waste.

**Salmon farm relocation** – The PUA was not involved in Salmon farm relocation submissions as the sites are not in Port Underwood, however there may be future effects on Port Underwood because of the method that was used to apply for these site changes, namely that of a government minister over-ruling the local council development plans.

**Applications for Customary Marine Title and Protected Customary Rights** have been made in the Port Underwood area, namely the coastal area south of Ocean Bay and the Cook Strait coastal area. However it is unclear if the inside area of Port Underwood is included in these claims.

**Scallop closure** now includes Port Underwood. The PUA supported this as otherwise fishing effort would be transferred from other areas to Port Underwood putting an already slim fishery at risk.

**National Environment Standard for Marine Farming** – a central government led issue to set environmental standards and methods for renewing mussel farm licenses. There are a number of parts to this document that are considered by the committee to be good and some that are considered to be faulty. It is uncertain at the moment what is happening with this under the new central government.

## **Agenda items**

### **Neighbourhood Support - Sara Roush**

As far as I know there was one burglary and a few suspicious vehicles reported this year. I do appreciate it when I am notified of any event or sighting so we can start the Neighbourhood Support networking right away. It is amazing what people can remember in recent days when asked. It is always helpful if you can get the licence number, colour and make of the vehicle when reporting.

### **Treasury Report - Sara Roush**

The full financial Statement is enclosed at the end of this newsletter.

There are 112 paid up members in our association plus one honorary member. We need your help in keeping the numbers up by encouraging people to join, especially when properties change hands.

\$20 subs have been sufficient to cover expenses and to add to funds for possible court cases in the future. It was asked if there were any other suggestions regarding the amount for subs. None were mentioned. Both the \$20 subs and the treasury report were approved.

### **Roading-Wayne Boustridge**

Over the past 12 months, the PUA newsletter has included a segment on roading with a view to informing members of current conditions, planned future works and high use periods and routes associated activities such as logging. The general feeling was that this information was appreciated.

It was explained that the PUA has established a good working relationship with the Journey Manager Marlborough Roads but it was perhaps initially underestimated

that the extent of both national and regional effort, associated with earthquake recovery, would have on contractor ability to maintain regional roads. The civil contract labour pool was and remains over stretched and forecast to continue until mid 2018. This will continue to have impact on maintenance with a focus to maintain roads in a 'safe state' but not necessarily an 'improved state' until mid 2018.

It was noted that the three year road maintenance contract is due for renewal on 1 Jul 18. It is the PUA intent to engage with Marlborough Roads early in the new year to provide inputs into the 2018-2021 maintenance contract.

Members provided feedback on some specific areas such as Tumbledown Bay Road (the Woolshed to the Homestead) in relation to a lack of maintenance, Ocean Bay in relation to coastal impacts with the low lying road and a general observation of a lack of culvert maintenance leading to road deterioration. These were noted for follow-up with Marlborough Roads.

Based on requests from the membership, the PUA applied for a holiday speed limit scheme in the more populous areas of the Port. Indications are that we would struggle to meet the requirements of greater than 50 vehicles/hour at the proposed speed restriction locations. The alternative is to ensure that community supplied 'caution pedestrian signs' are adequately displayed and maintained.

## **Resource Consent Applications**

The membership is advised of Resource Consent Applications and then the committee decides what action to take based on the feedback from the members, past membership surveys on issues, general conversations with members and discussions among the committee. Members of the committee then attend hearings or meeting to represent the Association's view if required.

**Pipi Bay** – An application was made to create a log barging site with a 60 metre permanent causeway. It was firstly set up as a non-publically notified application which meant people could not make submissions to the application. This process was opposed by the Association and others and it was publically notified. The applicants withdrew the application after a strong show of opposition from the community and others. It was stated in the meeting that it was considered very helpful that the PUA pushed for public notification which resulted in a large opposition to the application.

**Kingfish Bay** There was an application for a new mussel farm which was later withdrawn and an application for an extension which was reduced in size for environmental reasons.

**Opihi Bay** – There was an application for a large extension to an existing farm which the Association opposed on marine environment and amenity values. The application was granted.

**Other mussel farms** have lodged renewal applications to maintain the status quo or slight re-alignments to adjust actual line locations. The PUA took no action on these.

**Change of consent conditions Whangatoetoe Bay** – An application was made to change the consent conditions mainly revolving around on-going environmental impact surveys. The Association participated in a number of meetings to insure that the surveys continued in an appropriate manner.

## **Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan**

The Association submitted in agreement with most of the notified plan. Changes were requested on some wording to clarify the intent of the statements. We also recommended a review of certain natural character features in Port Underwood. This has resulted in a Council report recommending that the western coastline of Port Underwood be assessed as a high marine natural character area and the area south of Ocean Bay to White's Bay as very high natural character. We are continuing to press for a high rating for the Horahora Kakahu/Pipi Bay area and representation for the PUA will be made at the upcoming hearings.

**An Aquaculture working group** has been set up to establish Aquaculture provisions and rules for the Marlborough Environment Plan. Unfortunately, most of this work is conducted behind closed doors so there has been limited opportunity for input to that process. The results will be open to submissions at a later date.

## **Sounds Advisory Group**

Notes from all the meetings are on the Port Underwood Association website.

## **Community Projects Grants**

Marlborough district Council has a budget for grants up to \$10,000 for communities to improve outdoor public spaces. One suggestion put forward at the meeting involved creating and erecting signs at each end of the Port Underwood Road which would show the highlights of the Port Underwood area as well as camping information and restrictions. Signs for traffic safety and cautious speed for the more populous areas in the Port could also be applied for. Another suggestion was for water supply points along the road in view of the needs of cyclists. The need for on-going maintenance was highlighted as a possible problem with this.

## **Marlborough Marine Futures**

It is proposed that a new Act of Parliament would establish a multiple use management area. Zoning would protect special areas and separate conflicting uses. A stand-alone management agency, appointed by the Minister for the Environment, would make recommendations for establishment purposes and oversee the management once established.

## **General Business**

Inquiry was made about the MDC providing a web based facility for reporting road accidents and problems. The PUA submitted to the MDC Annual Plan that funding be allocated to provide for such a facility. The IT department of MDC/Marlborough Roads are investigating how it can be set up for efficient data collection and ensure that it creates an appropriate response to the reported incidences.

**Communications** – 3 to 4 issues per year of the Association newsletter seemed about right. Email notices are welcomed and the members appreciated the notification of issues as they arose.

It was noted that a tribute to Dave Gerard and Dick Vanstone was appropriate in recognising their contribution to the establishment of the Port Underwood Association. We remember them with gratitude.

Local rubbish collection was inquired about for the holiday season. It was suggested this could be a skip located at the Oyster Bay port area. It was discussed that a recycle bin like at other areas might be less likely to be abused but still be useful.

## **Presentation from Nadine Taylor MDC Marlborough Sounds Councillor**

**Roadman for the Sounds:** Sounds Councillors are promoting the establishment of a dedicated Sounds roadman/woman position to focus on preventative maintenance of Sounds roads (ditch & culvert inspections and clearance etc). If Sounds communities feel this would be a valuable addition they are welcome to submit in support through the MDC Long Term Plan public consultation process.

FYI MDC has: 1535km of formed road, 899km of sealed road, 635km of unsealed road, 1345km – rural, 184km – urban, 367 bridges, 18 wharves, 6000+ of culverts. The 2016 Replacement Value of Roading assets was \$662m

**Roading General:** Every 3 years Road Control Authorities must review their Activity Management Plan (AMP) –to confirm: Why we do the activity, define the current state of the activity, review and identify the problems & benefits, Identify the links to the 'One Network Road Classification'. The new One Network Road Classification will deliver consistent levels of service for each road classification across the country. Expectations are that due to National shortages in contractors, that there will be increased costs for capital projects above what is budgeted.

Roading issues already identified are: Deterioration in some bridges and culverts. A number of older bridges may need replacement. Levels of Service of unsealed roads may need to be increased. Resilience – increased high intensity storm events and earthquakes are causing more unplanned road closures. Conflicting road network use – aging population, increased tourism and growth in viticulture and forestry are resulting in the road network being used for different purposes.

**MEP hearings:** Will be underway throughout 2018. Submitters should be mindful of confirming their speaking submission times through the MDC website ASAP after being advised of their hearing dates.

**Sedimentation in the sounds:** Science has been undertaken on the origins of sedimentation in the Pelorus Sounds; also, to put some economic indicators around proposed mitigation options of forestry setbacks. There may be opportunities for communities to make submissions on this.

**Picton Sewerage:** The new \$12 million Picton sewerage upgrade should stop the sewerage overflows into the harbour.

**Climate Change work:** MDC is commencing investigations of likely impact of climate change and sea level rise on the existing flood protection and drainage infrastructure in Marlborough, in order to better understand the issues and will then consider resilient mitigation/adaption measures that would be acceptable. Interim responses include additional drainage pumping capacity and increasing stop bank heights. The vulnerability of low lying roads in the Sounds was raised.



**Coastal Pacific Cycle Trail:** MDC has granted \$60,000 for a coordinator to undertake initial design and planning work matched by \$60k from Rata and \$30k from Lotteries. A new trust has been formed led by John Forrest (CPTWG Chair).

**Ferry Traffic:** As Kent Street is to become SH 1 the decision has been made to direct all ferry traffic along Kent Street from Wairau Road. Improvements will be made to the Dublin Street intersection with Auckland Street to facilitate traffic flows.

**Regional Pest management Strategy:** The current strategy has been reviewed and significantly updated. New programmes include Wallabies (Exclusion), Mediterranean fanworm (Exclusion), tall wheat grass (Sustained Control), rough horsetail (Sustained Control) and willow-leaved hakea (Sustained Control). Movement to more active and structured management by the Council of woolly nightshade (Sustained Control), purple loosestrife (Sustained Control) and cotton thistle (Sustained Control). A more detailed breakdown of the full cost of implementation, including estimated costs of occupiers meeting rule obligations, contributions by partnering agencies and the Council's own costs and how those funds are to be collected via rates. The Plan will be notified in early 2018.

**Havelock North water enquiry:** Our largest populations in Blenheim and Picton have water treated to fully meet the NZ drinking water standard. Other MDC supplies are chlorinated but may require further treatment upgrades. Full treatment is budgeted for Renwick, Havelock and Awatere, and community consultation has been undertaken and is on-going on the funding. Treatment of Wairau Valley is being investigated. It is uncertain at this time what standards Central Govt will apply to local community owned and individually owned water schemes. Councillors will be attending a nationwide briefing on this early Feb. More information will be forthcoming through 2018.

**MDC Communities Projects funding:** MDC has allocated 10% of the Small Townships Programme budget (approximately \$50,000) per annum year to fund small, low cost infrastructure projects on outdoor public spaces. PUA is encouraged to consider local projects that might benefit from financial support and contact Adi James from MDC. Information sheet attached.

A "Thank You" was extended to the Committee by the attendees.

## Election of Officers

The following committee was nominated and elected:

Ken Roush (President)	Ocean Bay	579 9474	sarakenroush@gmail.com
Sara Roush (Sec/Treasurer)	Ocean Bay	579 9474	sarakenroush@gmail.com
Wayne Boustridge	Whangataura	579 5489	wayne.boustridge@hotmail.com
John Davison	Ocean Bay	579 9940	jad793@gmail.com
Bruce Hearn	Kanae Bay	027 440 2049	apexhearn@xtra.co.nz
Martin Loach	Tom Canes Bay	021 667 673	martin.loach@mckendrymotors.co.nz
David McBryde	Tom Canes Bay	06 844 3624	mcbrydes@xtra.co.nz
Greg Phillipson	Ocean Bay/Hakahaka		embryo.greg@gmail.com
David Whyte	Ocean Bay/Hakahaka	572 8193	clintondale@xtra.co.nz

Many attendees remained after the meeting and enjoyed the social get together.

**Port Underwood Association Financial Statement for 2017****Port Underwood Association Inc.  
PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240****Income Statement**

		30-Nov-17	30-Nov16
Income			
Subscriptions	2,290.00		2,340.00
Interest	11.90	2,301.90	61.03
			2,401.03
Total		2,301.90	2,401.03
Expenses			
Stationery, post, printing, website	594.56		1,089.55
Bank fees	-		-
AGM Expenses	215.83		174.75
Donation - Fire Brigades			-
Submission expenses	21.33	831.72	11.40
			1,275.70
Net Surplus		1,470.18	1,125.33

**Balance Sheet**

Assets	Cheque Account	2,053.81		678.43	
	Simples Saver	11,418.79		11,406.89	
	Petty Cash	100.80	13573.40	17.90	12,103.22
Liabilities			-		-
Capital Account			13573.40		12,103.22

**Statement of capital**

Brought forward	12,103.22	10,977.89
Surplus	1,470.18	1,125.33
Carried forward	13573.40	12,103.22