

# Port Underwood Association

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## June 2018 Newsletter

### Message from the president

Welcome to the winter edition of the Port Underwood association newsletter. It includes summaries on a number of issues that have arisen since the last newsletter, both following on from the AGM and new items. A couple of those new items have resulted from inquiries from individual members. I encourage any of you to contact me or any of the committee with questions or suggestions for the Association.

I would also like to thank those members that have responded to the various emails by which a number of the issues are brought to the attention of the membership. Your input is valuable. Many issues have a short response period and thus it is not feasible from a time perspective or a financial perspective to always post information to the membership. To those that don't have email access I apologise that we are not able to present advanced information on all issues but over the years and with a very experienced committee I feel we are aware of the position the membership would like the Association to take on most items.

A thank you also goes to John Davison for his ongoing work on the PUA website and newsletters.

Regards, Ken.

### Committee Details

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## **Neighbourhood support – Sara Roush**

We have had a few instances, one in February and one in March, where suspicious activity was observed and action was taken. In both instances the suspects were apprehended by police. Well done!

And, more good news. Recently we sent out 2 emails, one about a missing dinghy and the other about a sail that went overboard from a yacht. I am happy to say that both were found and returned to their respective owners – see Noticeboard below.

## **Membership subs – Sara Roush**

Thank you to all of you who have paid the PUA 2018 subs. There are only a few of you who have not so you would have received a subs notice with this newsletter. We do appreciate your continued support.

## **Arising from the 2018 AGM**

It was brought to our attention that at the AGM in January we neglected to mention that Rex Wyatt (now deceased) also helped in forming the original PUA Constitution along with Dave Gerard (deceased) and Dick Vanstone (deceased). We would also like to pay tribute to other past PUA members who have passed away in the last several years. This is only from my memory, so I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

Libby Prain Flagg Bay  
Liz Mitchell Hakana  
Jim Mark Oyster Bay  
Ali & Peter Kircher Ocean Bay  
Rowdy Wadsworth Flagg Bay  
Bill and Patsy Platts Hakahaka  
Murray Stewart Tom Canes  
Charles Lamby Flagg Bay  
Ray and Marie Saul Oyster Bay  
Jean and Ernie Rich Ocean Bay

Doreen Yorke Hakana  
Bryon Palmer Robinhood Bay  
Biddy Gerard Ocean Bay  
Jeff Holdaway Trevalli Bay  
Mike Madsen Hakana Bay  
Kath and Roly Taylor HakaHaka  
Murray Eagle Fighting Bay  
Brian Perry Whangataura Bay  
Ethel and Bob Flood Kanae Bay

## **Recycle skip**

The subject of placing recycle bins in the Oyster Bay area over the summer period was raised at the AGM. Contact was made with the Marlborough District Council and further information was sent to them on request. There is to be a discussion in Council during July and August regarding the expansion of the recycling system. Our request will be a part of that discussion.

## **Submissions on proposed Marlborough Environment Plan**

### **Natural Character**

This topic was covered in the AGM minutes in the last newsletter but briefly, the Association requested a closer study of various areas of Port Underwood as it had not received a detailed analysis in the past in terms of natural character. Some areas subsequently have received an in-depth study and the Association has recommended several other areas within the Port for additional review.

### **Transport and Signage**

The Association supports maintaining amenity values in rural and urban areas by encouraging the use of national and arterial routes by high volumes of through traffic and heavy vehicles and discouraging high volumes of through traffic and heavy vehicle use of collector routes and local routes. Viable alternative routes and methods of transportation should be used whenever possible.

The Association provided a list of criteria by which the appropriateness of using certain local roads by heavy vehicles could be determined at the Resource Consent stage of an operation.

We also advocated the establishment of a user-friendly method of reporting traffic accidents and near misses that would not normally trigger a police report. This will create more realistic data on road incidences and lead to safer roads for all users.

### **Oyster Bay fuel jetty**

It was reported that Port Marlborough was reviewing the repair or removal of the fuelling jetty at Oyster Bay, possibly moving the fuelling gear onto the main wharf. There are concerns about how this would affect the local operators. Port Marlborough has been made aware that local concerns should be a part of the decision-making process.

### **Mussel farm extension**

A resource consent application has been lodged to extend a mussel farm near Deep Bight on the western side of the Tongue. The Association has submitted against the application on the basis that it is a non-complying activity which extends significantly into the western arm of Port Underwood and the application does not sufficiently address the cumulative effects on the marine habitat, visual aspects, recreational use, other commercial users, and navigation.

### **Rodent control**

An email was circulated to the members inquiring about problems with rodents and methods of control. Below is a summary of the responses.

#### **Reduce the rat attracting environment**

Don't leave anything around that a rodent would be attracted to as a food source. Use sealed containers for items such as pet food, grass seed, etc. They even like bags of blood & bone. Clear away from your buildings those warm, dry little places that would make good nesting sites.

#### **Reduce the rodent access into your buildings**

Keep your doors closed. Trim back overhanging tree branches that could be used as access routes to your roof.

Check your buildings for access points such as the holes where pipes and cables enter the building. If the hole is larger than the pipe fill in the excess space with course steel wool. The rodents do not like to chew through that.

To prevent rodents entering the roofing cavity, check your roofing over hang and block off the gaps between the roofing and the bargeboard that the roofing sits on. An effective but

somewhat tedious method is to cut some wire mesh to the profile of the roofing and attach it to the bargeboard fitting tightly up into the roofing ridges. This still allows air ventilation to circulate in the roof area. Also make sure that the edges of the ridge cap and side flashings are down tight. If rodents are chewing through the wood a strip of galvanized bracing strap can be nailed to the wood.

### **Eliminating rodents from the area**

The natural way – get a cat. Electronic devices to drive rodents away. There seems to be mixed results with these. Some people have had good success and others have found them of little use. It seems that you want to use at least 4 of them to cover the whole house area.

Otherwise trapping and poisoning. There is always the standard mouse and rat trap but good placement is required to be on the rodent's pathway and prevent harming other animals. Other traps can be purchased from the Picton Dawn Chorus group. [www.pictondawnchorus.nz](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz) phone 021 247 3712. They supply wooden box traps from \$10 up to Goodnature self-resetting traps for \$160. A range of traps can also be purchased from Goodnature [www.goodnature.co.nz](http://www.goodnature.co.nz) .

Poison bait blocks can be purchased at a number of outlets. Bait stations to prevent access from other animals and birds can also be purchased. It is simple to make your own bait station. Use a 500mm length of pipe around 60mm to 80mm diameter. Use 2 pieces of bendable tie wire. Form a loop in one end of each wire. Thread the bait blocks onto one wire. Pointing the wires in opposite directions, pass the straight end of each wire through the loop of the other wire and pull tight capturing the bait block between the loops of the wires. Insert the wires and bait into the pipe until the bait is centred in the pipe. Bend the excess wire over the end of the pipe and this will hold the bait in the centre of the pipe. Most people seem to use at least 5 or 6 bait stations or more around their buildings.

The general consensus is that rodent control is an on-going job and will cost you for bait or traps. The variety of pest will change from time to time. Recently mice seem to be more of a problem than rats.

### **Marlborough Long Term Plan 2018 – 2028**

The Port Underwood Association made a submission on the Long Term plan. We highlighted that very few of the listed activities were going to have direct benefit to the Port Underwood area.

In regards to infrastructure investment and particularly roading, we pointed out that levels of service and performance measures were listed for paved roads but not for unpaved roads. While acknowledging the planned forecast of expenditure for unsealed roads, the Port Underwood Association is concerned that without prescribed levels of service and performance measures, effectiveness cannot be measured and the ability to maintain an expected level of quality on our roads will be hampered. Therefore, we submit that levels of service and performance measures for unsealed roads must be included in the Marlborough Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

The Association supports increased environmental studies and actions based on those studies but to date there has been very little environmental study by MDC in the Port Underwood area and none of the proposed environmental projects in this plan include the Port Underwood area. We encourage the inclusion of Port Underwood in future studies.

We support a review to establish a fairer rating system however a new system must have credible analysis of the weightings for various sectors. In this instance we do not support the decrease of the weighting of the commercial/industrial sector for Economic Development funding as this decreases rates charges on the direct beneficiaries of the developments and increases the charges on others who may incur a negative effect from some developments.

## **Roads**

It has continued being difficult for Marlborough Roads and HEB, the contractors, to keep the roads clear given the adverse weather. They have continued to make significant efforts to keep the roads open. In particular, the culvert near the Whites Bay turnoff has been replaced and several slips have been cleared. One large slip at Ocean Bay caused the closure of the road for a week. The road edge has also failed in some areas and one (at least) has been repaired. The work undertaken to keep the road open, or to re-open it, has been appreciated.

The roads are, however, still dangerous at times. In the past 18 months nine cars have fallen/slipped off the edge of the road, including one of the contractor's utes (and recovered by their excavator). Also, one of the wooden 'crash' barriers above Robin Hood Bay has been smashed, presumably by a car running into it. As most residents know, the clay is very slippery when wet, the gravel does not aid braking and the edge of the road is often hidden by vegetation. Given the large drops at the side of the road, there is a concern that there will be a serious accident rather than just bent metal and damaged pride.

It is also apparent that the proposed work to replace the small bridge in Robin Hood Bay is now in progress as a small diversion to the side of the bridge has been constructed.

## **Port Underwood Noticeboard and Buy and Sell Notices**

We have decided to trial a notice board section in this newsletter. The notices will be for buying and selling goods and services which pertain to the Port Underwood area and PUA members. Notices will also be placed on the website on the noticeboard page. If you have something to list please send a notice as you wish it to appear in the newsletter to: [port.underwood.association@gmail.com](mailto:port.underwood.association@gmail.com) or to [jad793@gmail.com](mailto:jad793@gmail.com) for inclusion on the website. Among the various tabs on the website you will see the new tab for the noticeboard.

Notices should describe the goods or services that you wish to sell, buy, donate etc. It should give details of whom to contact and also state how long the notice is to be on the website (week, month or three months). Notices will be removed from the website after three months unless specifically requested otherwise.

**Current notices** (these will be added to the website as well)

Looking for a window for our Bach... It needs to be 800 wide and at least 900 long but can be longer as the length is irrelevant. Width must include the frame. Please phone Lisa Grey on 0273385841.

If anyone has a spare copy or two of the book:  
"Place Names of Port Underwood" by Jim Eyles  
We would be really keen to purchase.  
Contact Tim and Sally Johnston on Timsaljohnston@gmail.com

FREE FIREWOOD - Off skid site near Oyster Bay. Is straight lengths and has been debarked and branches removed. So just needs you to cut to the length you want to put on trailer to take away. Ph Wade on 027 456 0181.

**Website maintained by John Davison**

The website has been going for three or four years now. A few questions were asked at the AGM, such as how many people look at the site. Last month I added a counter to the site and this showed that the site had 170 views last month. No idea who or what they were looking for. We do not get many comments added, but we have had several hundred spam attacks and malicious attacks that the virus software has taken care of. I will give updates in future newsletters.

I have also added a facility so you can get a notification every time a change is made to the website. Thus, if there is a road closure I am aware of, or I add rural police news, or an item is added to the noticeboard you will get a notification by e-mail and you can then choose to visit the site (or not). If you go to the website (<http://www.portunderwoodassoc.org>) there is a section headed Register. This is on the left midway down on the home page. If you click the register button you can then register for the updates.

**Defibrillator**

A defibrillator is owned by John and Mara Davison and is at 2454 Port Underwood Rd. John was a first aider in the past (but certifications expired many years ago). In emergency this defibrillator is available for use. To get it you need to call us on 0221 306 508 or 03 579 9940. It is portable so it can be brought to you or you can come to our house. The defibrillator gives instructions on how to use it so no skill is (apparently) required. We are usually in, but if we are out you will not be able to access the defibrillator, it is in the house and we do have several large guard dogs. As a reminder, a defibrillator is also available from Don Mitchell in Hakana Bay. Phone 021 318 622.

We thank John and Mara and Don for making these available to the public.  
There is another defibrillator at Rarangi fire station.