

Port Underwood Association

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February 2019 Newsletter

Message from the president

Welcome to a fairly hot and dry summer. It is a good time to keep in mind what you can do to minimize fire dangers. The Port Underwood Association AGM went very well this year with a good attendance of both familiar and new faces. Excellent ideas were brought forward by the members and the after meeting social was excellent with many people staying on to make new friends and catch up with old ones. The minutes of the meeting are at the end of this newsletter and some follow-up information is contained within the newsletter. Please phone or email me if you have any questions or further comments.

Regards, Ken Roush.

AGM

The 26th Port Underwood Association AGM was held on 30 December 2018. The minutes are attached at the end of this newsletter.

Committee Details

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Neighbourhood support – Sara Roush

There had been several thefts reported in the last several weeks when suspicious activity was spotted and the police were notified. When a couple tried to flee they hit a police car and a logging truck along the way and then fled on foot. They were tracked with dogs and arrested for burglary. Net working does work! Well done. Hopefully that will be the end of our spate of thefts in the area.

This is a reminder to make sure that your properties are secure and to keep an eye out for any suspicious activities.

Several reports of theft had been posted on the Port Underwood community Facebook page which is good, but unfortunately, I don't participate in social media so I would appreciate it if you would still give me a quick phone call to let me know so I might follow up on these thefts.

Secretary/Treasurer – Sara Roush

You will find the 2018 treasurer's report contained within the AGM minutes at the end of this newsletter.

The 2019 subs of \$20.00 are due. If you have not yet paid you will have received a subs notice with this newsletter. You can either post a cheque to the PUA P.O. Box 59 Blenheim 7240 or you can direct deposit into Westpac Blenheim 030599 0216931 00. Please quote surname and Bay as references. We do appreciate your continued support.

PUA Response to Disaster or Unusual Events

The issue was raised at the AGM as to how the Association can better respond and help people in need following disaster events such as fire, flooding, earthquake damage, etc. Several suggestions were made at the AGM but in discussing this, the committee came to the conclusion that no one on the committee has very much experience in this sort of work. Therefore we would like to invite anyone from the general membership who may be knowledgeable in this sort of relief activity to share your knowledge with us with the view of improving the help that the Association can offer to people in need at those very trying times. Please contact Ken or any of the Committee members.

Sounds Advisory Group public meeting in Port Underwood

The Sounds Advisory Group will hold a public meeting in Port Underwood on Monday **18 March at 1:00pm at 2417 Port Underwood Road** (Sara and Ken's house 2km South of Ocean Bay). The meeting will be attended by the members of SAG which includes representatives of the various Sounds communities, representatives of several industries, our MDC Sounds councillors, and various MDC staff. This is a great time to personally meet our Marlborough District Council representatives and bring forward any topics that you would like to discuss with them. It's also a good way of finding out how other Sounds communities approach various issues. The past meetings here have been well attended and very informative. We encourage all of you to attend if possible.

Marlborough Restoration Trust workshop on wilding pines

The Marlborough Restoration Trust are able to provide an in the field workshop on poisoning wilding pines. It will be held in Port Underwood most likely around Labour Weekend as this would be a good time for people to be in the Port and it is a good

time of year for fast uptake of the poison by the trees. It will be free to attend for anyone that is interested in learning how to do it properly and safely.

Roads Update

There were a number of points and issues raised at the AGM with regards to road network maintenance. In general, there was a theme, from those members present, of a general decline in preventative maintenance and timely response to repair damage with a tendency to 'road cone' problems for periods exceeding 6 months. Following this AGM, Marlborough Roads were engaged and have provided the following feedback to a number of questions raised.

- a. **Maintenance Contract Explained.** The current contract is a lump sum contract where Marlborough Roads have agreed a rate with the contractor (HEB) to keep our road network to a certain standard. This is paid as a lump sum each month for them to deliver that standard. Marlborough Roads have an independent auditor check that they are delivering the standard and if they are not, a deduction payment from their lump sum can be undertaken. The current contract expires on 30 June this year. Marlborough Roads are currently preparing a new contract with much clearer deliverables especially as some of the time frames in the current contract are too long with up to 12 months to complete permanent repairs. Marlborough Roads have advised that over the next 6 months they are going to be pushing the contractor hard to deliver what is expected of them and then hopefully from July they will have a new contract in place and deliver a better standard of maintenance
- b. **Oyster Bay to Rarangi Road.** There was one issue raised with a blocked culvert/drain at Tom Caines Bay and the coastal erosion at the southern end of Ocean Bay (raised to Marlborough Roads in February 18). Marlborough Roads have advised that the culvert at Tom Canesis on the repair list and that the coastal erosion would be subject to a specific follow-up. This will be advised once undertaken.
- c. **Tumbledown Bay Road.** Drainage was raised as a persistent issue and again, the (non) maintenance of the road past the Fighting Bay turnoff. From feedback received from Marlborough Roads, it would appear that these issues, together with the general decline in maintenance and repairs across the Port Underwood road network are systemic of a contract that lacks clear evidence based deliverables. It remains to be seen if a new contract will be delivered and if this result in an improved service delivery.

Possum Trapping on the Road Reserve

There was a recent incident where a group from Nelson were observed trapping possums on the road reserve on the Tumbledown Bay Rd. This extended from the start of the gravel through to Whangakoko Bay. This activity is illegal without permission from Marlborough Roads and from public safety perspective, leg hold possum traps set on the side of the road pose a risk to young people, pets etc that walk the roads on a regular basis. In this particular case, Marlborough District Council (Pest Control) coordinated action with the Picton Police to 'advise' the Nelson group of the rules regarding trapping on road reserves. Needless to say this issue is not expected to be repeated by this group.

The couple of takeaways from this event are that in the first instance, Marlborough Roads are the agency to contact over use of the road reserve. They will then coordinate through Council to effect the best response. The second point is that the

noting of registration plates and the description of vehicles helped significantly in the ability for the relevant authorities to identify the group and take the necessary action as they were leaving the area.

Marine mammal observing etiquette

We have had some visiting Orcas this summer which many people have enjoyed watching. We would like to remind everyone that coming too close to them or circling them in your boat can be disturbing and frightening to the Orcas. So please keep your distance and watch them in their natural state.

“Port Underwood Community” Facebook page

A new Facebook page “**Port Underwood Community**” has been opened by a resident of Port Underwood.

The Port Underwood Community Page is for the benefit of all residents, bach owners, business owners and other people who have an interest in Port Underwood. The purpose is to spread information about the area for the benefit of residents, to alert residents to suspicious behaviour and anything relevant that others would find interesting, including potential visiting tradesmen, i.e. septic tank truck, electricians, builders, etc., and road problems and power outages etc. It is also a platform to advertise goods or services for sale (or wanted) so feel free to advertise items for sale within the Port Underwood area. While this new page is not a part of the Port Underwood Association, we feel that it will be helpful to the community. The Association will use the page to inform residents of happenings from the Association. We also realize that some people do not belong to Facebook so notices to members will still be distributed through emails and newsletters.

It would be great if people contribute posts promoting the history of the area through anecdotal and factual research. Photos accompanying these posts would be good too. The more posts there are, the more interaction there will be with the page and we feel that many people will benefit from the establishment of this page.

Use this link to access - www.facebook.com/groups/2232962470251226/ - or search **Port Underwood Community**. Click on the “Join now” tab and approval will come through soon after.

Port Underwood Noticeboard and Buy and Sell Notices

Gutter Cleaning Required We are requiring our gutters to be cleaned out on our property towards the end of Tumbledown Bay Road. Our house is on poles and the gutters sit (in places) up to 8 metres off the ground, so therefore not safe for simple ladder access. Can anyone recommend a company that is able to safely access gutters and clean them at this height? Is there anyone who also needs gutters at height cleared out so we can share travel costs?

Please contact Zara on 0274888256.

Outboard motor Honda 4 stroke 2HP outboard, air cooled, immaculate, virtually unused. Phone 027 229 5190

Port Underwood Association 26th Annual General Meeting Sunday 30 December 2018, 3:00pm Minutes

1. Welcome

Ken Roush opened the meeting 15:08

2. Attendees:

Sara Roush	Ocean Bay Ridge	Ken Roush	Ocean Bay Ridge
Scottie Scott	Oyster Bay	Lynda Scott	Oyster Bay
Paul Blaschke	Ocean Bay	Susan Rutherford	Ocean Bay
Carol McArthur	Haka Haka Bay	Bryon Gleeson	Tom Canes Bay
Peter Gregory-Hunt	Whangataura Bay	Anne Gregory-Hunt	Whangataura Bay
Tim Johnston	Whangataura Bay	Sally Johnston	Whangataura Bay
Jill Hearn	Kanae Bay	Bruce Hearn	Kanae Bay
Martin Loach	Tom Canes Bay	John Davison	Ocean Bay Ridge
Clinton Whyte	Oyster & Hakana Bay	David Whyte	Oyster & Hakana Bay
Wade Thompson	Coles Bay	Anne Thompson	Coles Bay
Lawry Hinton	Haka Haka Bay	Helen Parr	Haka Haka Bay
Kevin Maitland	Tom Canes Bay	Vicky Maitland	Tom Canes Bay
Ange Hockenhuil	Whangataura Bay	Gerard Malcolm	Pipi Bay
Wayne Boustridge	Whangataura Bay	Claire Soper	Haka Haka Bay
Berni Veale	Flagg Bay	Trevor Veale	Flagg Bay

3. Apologies

Suzanne & James Lambie, Annie & Jeremy Ward, Bridget & John Forrest, Tim & Victoria Freer, Helen Strang, Domenic Romano, Stephen & Jane Sheat, David & Diane McBryde, Lynette White, Rosemary Rutherford, Mike Rutherford, Nadine Taylor, Kirsty Vercoe

4. Minutes from last meeting (Circulated with Feb. 2018 newsletter)

Ken proposed the minutes as circulated be accepted. Seconded by Carol McArthur. Agreed by the meeting.

5. President's Report

In reviewing past President's reports I think I am supposed to give a summary of the past year's activities. However that will be covered later in this meeting. I would instead like to address communication and participation between the Association and its membership because the Association is its membership. This year I have tried to achieve a balance between providing information to the membership on issues without bogging everyone down with minute details. And it is a challenge at times to decide where that point is. Accounting for time

constraints and financial constraints, emailing information seems to be the best way to do this but I am conscious that the last thing anyone wants is an email from the Association every day.

Communication is essential for an organisation like this to be effective and communication is a two-way street. Participation and feedback from the members is the way that the Association can represent the desires of the community. But it has to be remembered that we are a diverse group and not all individual opinions can be represented when we present a majority viewpoint.

Examples of how participation by the members can be effective are the survey on rodent control and more recently the recycling bin. The location for the bin at the top of the hill was not what was advocated by the community. In fact it was a very inappropriate spot. Some of you contacted Council directly about it and some of you contacted the Association about it. By you contacting the Association we were able to go back to Council with a number of reasons, provided by a number of different people, as to why there was a better location for the bin. And they moved it.

We have a great membership with great ideas so I strongly encourage all of you to express those ideas to myself and the Committee so that the Association can help you make Port Underwood a better place.

6. Financial Report

Sara Roush distributed the accounts to the meeting. There are 110 members and 1 honorary member. The accounts are attached. There were no questions on the accounts. Peter Gregory Hunt moved they be accepted Claire Soper seconded this.

7. Neighbourhood Support – Sara Roush

Fortunately, we have had a fairly quiet year. Thank you to all of you who did contact me regarding suspicious activity. It would be very helpful if you would note the rego number and make of car if suspicious activity is spotted. Sara had some Neighbourhood support signs for distribution.

Sadly, Terry Crispen of Tumbledown Bay passed away this winter. The association passed on its condolences.

8. PUA response to disasters – How can the PUA be more helpful?

The meeting suggested the creation of a financial float to assist those in need immediately following a disaster (flood, fire or other); a small amount to get them over immediate issues. In addition, the Association could provide a volunteer labour force to assist. A list of equipment members had that could be provided in emergency could be created. Committee is to determine the level of assistance to be provided and would depend on the type and severity of the event.

It was also suggested that the Association could coordinate the housing of individuals in emergency amongst the members as well as food and clothing.

Question raised regarding climate change and rising sea levels and if this could affect road usage and maintenance. It is not known what MDC's current policy is on this although climate change is an issue it considers.

9. Roothing – Update

Marlborough Roads (MR) is to put out a note regarding the state of roads in the Sounds. It has been another challenging year for MR in 2018 as it was in 2016. Weather events caused \$5.4m of damage to MR. Major culvert on the PU Rd has been repaired. Took several months of lobbying to get this work done. Several more culverts and drop outs need repair, plus more side rails to be installed and repaired.

The meeting suggested that more preventative maintenance is required. The Association has submitted in the past that there is a need for a standard for unsealed roads, but none exists.

Questioned whether a lead vehicle is needed for the road grader as a safety issue.

The Kaikoura effort has reduced the availability of roads and machinery available, but the problems may actually have been in place before that .

10. Resource Consent Applications – Update

There have been a couple applications for forestry harvesting. We have reviewed them and provided some suggestions to the MDC Planning Officer but have not made submissions on them. We have also not submitted on applications to renew mussel farming permits. We have submitted against an application to extend an existing mussel farm near Deep Bight in the Western Arm. We have attended a meeting with the applicants but were not able to resolve the differences of opinion on the application. Therefore, we will attend and make a submission at the public hearing in February. The main reasons for opposing are:

Continuous expansion of mussel farming – a complete ring of farms around the Tongue is being formed with some, such as this one, extending up to 600m from shore. This is far beyond what is considered as complying with the current marine provisions in the Sounds Plan. Concern with increased effects of mussel farms on the natural coastal environment, particularly inshore of mussel farms which is a very important area and the lack of evidence to determine what the effects are from this farm or the accumulation of all the farms combined.

A continuous increase in the heavy vehicle traffic on narrow winding roads.

The attendees confirmed that the continuous creep of mussel farms, particularly out into the Sound, extending further and further from shore, is a major concern.

11. Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan – Update

The submissions and hearings are still taking place for the proposed plan. We have attended and made submissions on several topics including Natural Landscape, Use of the Coastal Environment, and Transportation. I have also made personal submissions regarding proper lighting methods to reduce unwanted light intrusion.

The provisions for aquaculture have still not been drafted.

In line with making submissions to the proposed plan, the Association has also submitted on the Marlborough Long Term Plan Review.

12. Sounds Advisory Group – Update

The minutes from the meetings are on the PUA website so I won't go into details at this time. However, one project that the Group is working on is to research and establish methods to reduce sedimentation into the coastal waters from forestry harvesting, mainly through creating a setback space from the coastline when harvesting.

There is a SAG community meeting at Sara and Ken Roush's house to which Councillors attend. It is a useful opportunity to meet the Sounds councillors and MDC staff. This is scheduled for Monday, 18 March, 2019.

13. Recycling Bin – Monitoring

Council will empty the bin when it is advised it is full. Needs members to notify them. Ann Thompson agreed to monitor and notify the council when required.

14. Marlborough Restoration Trust workshop on wilding pines

Port Underwood is not on their agenda to poison wilding pines. Too many forestry plots in the area. They will put on a workshop showing how to poison them. The meeting expressed an interest in doing this.

15. Newsletter – Additional articles requested

The newsletter used to contain a Snippets from the Past section, but we have run out of past snippets. A request was made for snippets, historical or current from the members.

16. Buy and Sell notices – Are they working?

The notice for the septic tank clearance was useful in coordinating the use. A couple of people got firewood from the notice. Found that it was worth continuing.

It was suggested that a Facebook page should be created so there could be instant notification of information to members.

17. General Business

Oyster Bay Wharf Redevelopment. It is proposed that the fuel jetty will be redeveloped, but this has not yet been approved by Ports Marlborough. More information is required and the committee will investigate.

Contact will not charge a Bach supply charge if you have your main residence electricity with them.

Freedom camping, if on DOC land they need a permit. If campers seen DOC can be contacted. No camping is permitted if camping on the road and the council needs to be contacted.

It was suggested that a new survey of the membership be taken to gauge opinions on various issues. The past survey could form the basis for this.

18. Election of Officers

President: Ken Roush

Treasurer and Secretary: Sara Roush

Committee Members: David Whyte, Wayne Boustridge, Bruce Hearn, Martin Loach, John Davison, Anne Thompson

19. Social get together with drinks and nibbles

Meeting closed 16:30

Accounts

Port Underwood Association Inc PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240

Income Statement

		30-Nov-18	30-Nov-17
Income			
Subscriptions		<u>3,015.00</u>	<u>2,290.00</u>
Interest		<u>11.43</u>	<u>3,026.43</u>
			<u>11.90</u>
			<u>2,301.90</u>
Total		3,026.43	2,301.90
Expenses			
Stationery, post, printing, website		890.41	594.56
Bank fees		-0	-
AGM Expenses		184.10	215.83
Donation - Fire Brigades		<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>
Submission expenses		<u>0</u>	<u>21.33</u>
		<u>1,074.51</u>	<u>831.72</u>
Net Surplus		1,951.92	1,470.18

Balance Sheet

Assets	Cheque Account	4,091.90	2,053.81	
	Simples Saver	<u>11,430.22</u>	<u>11,418.79</u>	
	Petty Cash	<u>3.20</u>	<u>100.80</u>	13,573.40
Liabilities		-	-	
Capital Account		15,525.32	13,573.40	

Statement of capital

Brought forward	<u>13,573.40</u>	<u>12,103.22</u>
Surplus	<u>1,951.92</u>	<u>1,470.18</u>
Carried forward	15,525.32	13,573.40