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

**Port Underwood Association**

Its been very wet here over the last few months – it may be time to check gutters and drains to ensure none have blocked over the past months. Also, the Council has asked for culverts to be checked to ensure they are free draining.

There have been several submissions made by the Association and these are covered in this newsletter.

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.

Best wishes John

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**Draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan**

The draft Marlborough Resource Management Plan has been made public and submissions are required by 1 September 2016. The proposed plan seems to do a good job in capturing the communities desires but to date concerns noted by PUA members have been around the use of rural roads by industrial activities and natural character, landscape and features classifications. We welcome further input from any member.

It is important for each person to review this document and voice their agreement or disagreement on the various sections via a submission to the Marlborough District Council by 1st September. This is a large Plan and can seem confusing and overwhelming so we have listed sections of special interest from a Port Underwood perspective.

**Volume 1 - Issues and Objectives**

Chapter 1, 2, 3 – General information and Iwi; Chapter 4 – Use of natural and physical resources; Chapter 5, Issue 5J – use of coastal marine area; Chapter 6 – Natural character; Chapter 8 – Landscape; Chapter 9 – Public access and open space; Chapter 13 – Use of coastal environment.

**Volume 2 – Rules**

Chapter 4 – Coastal environment; Chapter 7 – Coastal living zone; Chapter 14 – Port landing area; Chapter 16 – Coastal marine zone; Chapter 24 – subdivision.

**Volume 3 – Appendices**

**Appendix 1, Areas with outstanding natural features and landscapes** – Page: app1-16 – Exposed eastern coast; Page: app1-18,19 – Mt. Robertson; Page: app1-30 – Map 2**. Areas with high amenity landscape values** – Page: app1-27,28 – Marlborough Sounds coastal landscape; Page: app1-32 – Map 4

**Appendix 2, Areas of high, very high, and outstanding coastal natural character** – Page: app2-5 – Port Underwood; Page: app2-6 – Eastern Cook Strait; Page: app2-27 – Map; **Terrestrial areas** – Page: app2-10 - Cook Strait; Page: app2-13 – Robertson; Page: app2-28 – Map

**Volume 4 – Maps**

Page 90: Map 99 – Zoning; Page 155,156: Maps 139,140 – Zoning; Page 304: Map16 – Flood hazard areas; Page 331: Map 4 – Coastal natural character; Page 343: Map5 – Landscapes; Page 363: Map 14 – Ecologically significant marine sites; Page373: Map 4 – Threatened environments indigenous vegetation sites; Page 401: Map 4 – Steep erosion prone land; Page 409: Map 2 – Soil sensitive areas.

**Freedom Camping**

The public hearing on Freedom Camping was attended. An oral submission was made to support the Association’s written submission. The main thrust of the submission was that there were no significant problems with the DOC campsites in the area and as these provide several hundred spaces for campers, there was no reason why Tumbledown Bay Road and Port Underwood Rd should not be added to Appendix 1 and freedom camping banned on the whole length of these roads. The shortcomings and incidents that have been recorded along these roads were mentioned to the council committee.

**Pipi Bay – Barge Site**

It has been proposed that a new barge site to move logs should be established at Pipi Bay at the south end of the Port. It is proposed that a permanent causeway would be established that will extend 50 meters. The proposal is being considered as the current barge site at Opua Bay Tory Channel has recently changed hands; although it is not understood why this should be a concern as the reasons have not been mentioned to the Association. No resource consent application has been made yet; the loggers are just ‘testing the water’ at the moment.

This is the only bay on the East side of the port that does not have any structures in it and consequently is mentioned on several charts. Also, it would seem that this would have a detrimental amenity effect and impact the proposed residential sites in the area. The Association would welcome any input from members on this in case an application is made.

**Kaikoura Bay Mussel Farm and Tubeworms**

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.

**Kingfish Bay Mussel Farm**

This is a proposal for a small mussel farm infill in a gap between other farms. Although this does extend out more than 200 meters the application has not been opposed.

**Eire Bay Logging Application**

An application has been made for the transportation of logs along Tumbledown Bay Road, Port Underwood Road and Waikawa Road into Picton. The Association has opposed the application on the basis of the adverse effects of increased traffic from log transport and auxiliary vehicles on narrow and winding roads and maintain that the existing barge site at Opua Bay should be used. If logs are to be transported on public roads, in the interest of safety, these should be by truck without trailer and a pilot vehicle should be used.

**Vodafone Rural Internet**

Many parts of the Port seem to be able to access the Vodafone tower and receive the rural broadband network through Vodafone. This is much cheaper than the Farmside satellite service (although Farmside have now launched a service that utilises the tower and this may be worth investigating). It is also much quicker than dial up.

Maps are available that will indicate if your house or bach receives the signal. If you are borderline Farmside will not connect you. Vodafone will, however, lend potential subscribers a modem and router to see if the service works. I found my house was not ‘mapped’ as being in a zone that would receive the signal, but by using the borrowed router/modem I found I had a strong signal that was faster and more stable than satellite. Other members may consider this if they have expensive or slow Internet.

**Neighbourhood support update**

I will be sending out the updated neighbourhood support lists with the December newsletter. If you have any changes to rapid numbers or phone numbers please let me know now so it will be correct for printing.

In case of an emergency civil defence has a joint arrangement with Brian Fm to broadcast to the community. They are currently broadcasting test messages and want feedback as to how much of remote Marlborough they have covered. Phone 520 7400 or email MDC@marlborough.govt.nz If you have heard it out in the Port.

Blenheim 100.9

Havelock 100.1

Seddon 104.3

Picton 105.9

In June and July we were blessed with the many visits of both common and dusky dolphins, sometimes up to a hundred at a time. But the greatest sighting of all was what was believed to be three Southern Right whales coming into the Port on July 27th. Wouldn’t it be nice to have them become a common sight in Port Underwood again.

Most of you have paid your subs for the 2016 year. Thank you very much. For the very few that haven’t, there is a sub notice enclosed with this newsletter. We do appreciate your continued support.

Secretary Treasurer Sara Roush

**Sounds Advisory Group**

To avoid taking up a lot of space in this newsletter, below are highlights of some issues discussed by the Sounds Advisory Group recently. Full notes with more information from the meetings can be found on the MDC website.

* Forestry and Roading – Review of Policy and Plans. There is currently a study area in Kenepuru centred around transportation and the possibilities of barging. Other areas of high interest include Port Underwood.
* State of the Environment Report 2015 has been published by MDC.
* Ocean oil spill response presented by the Harbour Master.
* A program is being set up to map seabed habitats in Queen Charlotte Sounds and Tory Channel.
* The Cruising Guide to the Marllborough Sounds is available as a phone app or online at <http://cruiseguide.co.nz>
* There is a slight pause in the Marlborough Marine Futures program at the moment because of funding and time diverted to the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan.

**Snippets from the Past**

**My trips to Port Underwood as a child. Ruth Simonsen**

My first trip was 72 years ago on my Great Grandfather Tim Daken's boat, The Jack. I was 3 months old and was bought over to visit myGrandparents at Whangataura Bay.

From when I was five years of age my father came to help Wilf Crump shear his sheep at Ocean Bay each year, and we had the front bach rent-free for around 3 weeks.

Our journey started on the banks of the Opawa River where our farm was. We would hear Ivan Guard’s mail boat the Midlothian coming down the river and we knew that our holiday was about to start. We would wind our way down the rest of the Opawa River then over the Wairau Bar into Cloudy Bay.

I don't know if Ivan didn't like children, because all 6 of us were put into the cabin and OH if we even thought of being sick we would get the evil eye from him.

After crossing Cloudy Bay we would round the point into Ocean Bay and Wilf would be waiting for us in his boat to take us ashore.

In those days there were three Baches in the bay. One on the beach on the left hand side of the Bay that the Lucas Family used and two further back on the right hand side of the bay. The back one was not used, as it was stored with all the school equipment from the Old Ocean Bay School.

Our bach was very basic, a veranda with 2 bunk rooms *off* it, a sitting room and a kitchen with only a wood and coal range and a sink. When we arrived the beer was put into the creek, the meat safe hung in the tree, then Dad would erect a canvas shower outside for us all. We had a long drop for the toilet. Every second day we would get our supply of milk from Albert Guard. The great social occasion was the cricket match between Ocean Bay and the rest of the Port.

After shearing had finished Dad would take us fishing and we caught so much fish we lived on Butterfish, Blue Cod and huge Moki, that were so large that the heads and tails had to be cut off for them to fit in the oven.

When the people in the bay decided to drag for flounder, during the day we would collect drift wood and then at night light a bon fire on the beach. Dad would row out casting the net, then all hands on deck as the net was pulled in, my brother and I would wade into the water when the net was in close to the beach and turn the spreaders. We would then try to count how many fish was in the net but it was impossible as there were so many. In those days we could wander round the rocks and see crayfish feelers sticking up through the kelp, we used to flick them up onto the rocks. Dad always had a kerosene tin with him and he used to cook them up on the beach in the salt water from the bay.

In the January of 1954 when the Queen was coming to Blenheim, we

had to cut our holiday short to go back t0 town to see the Queen. It was one of the roughest trips I can ever remember and we were put off at Monkey Bay. Ivan helped Mu and Nana and my baby brother off and then the rest off us were told to jump when Ivan yelled at us. It was very scary with high seas and the rocks were wet the -Midlothian heavinq-up and down and Ivan standing behind us yelling at us that if we didn't jump he would pick us up and throw us over onto the rocks.

We finally all got off ok and arrived at Blenheim to see the Queen, but all we saw was a little hand through the window, we all said what a waste, we could have been out in the dingy mucking around at Ocean Bay

We had many happy years holidaying at Ocean Bay we visited all our Daken relations that still lived in many of the bays in the Port. Mum would tell us about her life in Port Underwood when she was a girl living with her Grandparents. Telling us about her long hikes to school from Whangataura Bay up over the Tongue to Whangakoko Bay.

My Dad loved Port Underwood and was in his element when he was weaving nets, teaching us to fish, and showing us where sea horse colonies, scallop, and oyster beds were, and what fish was caught on each point in the Port etc.

The Port is still very much the same weather wise and we still scuttle back when a southerly comes in as we did in those days in the 50's and 60's. We still obey what my father used to tell us as kids when fishing in our dinghy “If a puff of cotton wool comes over Cape Campbell get inside the bay pronto.”

Thank you Ruth. If any of you have any snippets from the past or present, we would love to hear about them. Send them to sarakenroush@gmail.com. Thanking you Sara Roush