

Port Underwood Association

December 2021 Newsletter

Contents



President's Introduction	1
Committee Members	2
AGM Postponement	2
Powered Watercraft Rules	2
Recycle Bin	3
Facebook Page	3
Neighbourhood Support	3
MDC Matters	4
Sounds Advisory Group	5
Secretary/Treasurer	6
Subscription Notice	6
Tributes to George Yorke	6

President's Introduction

Greetings all,

Well, what can I say - That was certainly an interesting year in more ways than one!

On a positive note, we were indeed very fortunate to dodge the worst of the July 2021 storm event that caused such widespread devastation across the district. While we did suffer some road damage, our ability to use our roads remained largely uninterrupted and Marlborough Roads maintained a very good response to clearing slips in a timely manner. There are several dropouts that require an amount of remedial work and I understand that this will be undertaken in conjunction within a wider regional recovery plan.

We then all came to a bit of a halt in August and the rest as they say is history.

I certainly hope that you all get the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming festive season but at the same time, maintaining our collective need to look after one another.

Best wishes

Wayne

Committee Members

President: Wayne Boustridge
Secretary/Treasurer: John Davison
Members: Ken Roush
Kirsty Vercoe
Toby Martin
Anne Thompson
Martin Loach
Bruce Hearn
Phyllis Heard

Principle point of contact to the Committee is through our e-mail address
port.underwood.association@gmail.com

AGM Postponement

With the implementation of the Covid-19 Protection Framework, our ability to plan and conduct an AGM at this time is problematic due to social distancing requirements and use of masks. This is further compounded by the potential for wider instability of our Covid-19 status as we face Xmas 2021. As a committee, we further appreciate that our membership is diffuse and will be coming from different directions and circumstances. This poses potential risk currently, no matter what steps we take to comply with Government directions and our protection.

As a result of the current circumstances, the Committee has decided to postpone the AGM until Easter 2021 with the view that by this time, there will be more certainty.

In undertaking this assessment, several potential changes to the Constitution have been identified. These are:

- In line with the Covid-19 Protection Framework, is there a requirement to consider an amendment to the Constitution to allow (but not mandate) the requirement for a Vaccine Certificate (Vaccine Pass Entry) to attend PUA meetings?
- The Constitution only allows for votes to be made by each Member present in person through a show of hands or in a poll as the case maybe. Is there now a requirement to consider an amendment to the Constitution to allow virtual meetings (ZOOM, MS Teams etc) and electronic voting?

As a committee we are not seeking feedback on these points at this stage, but they are very likely to be presented as a Notice of Motion at the AGM. Signalling of the intent is made to allow due consideration in the coming months as we lead up to the AGM.

Powered Watercraft Rules

In the January Newsletter, there was an undertaking to provide the Harbourmaster rules around the use of jet skis in this edition of the Newsletter. This followed from the last AGM when there was an amount of discussion on what rules applied to these watercrafts.

These rules are contained within the Marlborough District Council Navigation Bylaw 2009 <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/bylaws>. A quick summary can be found at <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/jet-skis>.

Under the Maritime Transport Act, a jet ski fits under the definition of a power-driven vessel and are required to observe all relevant rules and regulations that apply to any ship. In this regard, they are no different from any other recreational powered watercraft. The main points to note are:

- Like any other pleasure vessel, they are required to observe a speed limit of 5 knots when:
 - Within 200 m of the shore or any structure – a mussel farm falls under the definition of a structure;
 - Within 50 m of another vessel, raft, or person in the water; and
 - Within 200 m of any vessel or raft flying the international Code Flag A (divers' flag).

The Harbourmaster is the principle point of contact for any matters relating to activities with the Harbour Limits as defined in Schedule 1.1 of the Marlborough District Council Navigation Bylaw 2007. They have a 24/7 phone contact (03) 5207400 or email

harbours@marlborough.govt.nz

You can also electronically report an incident on the MDC Cruise Guide website

<https://cruiseguide.co.nz/report-an-incident/>

Recycle Bin

The correct use of the bin has gone well this year to date. A couple of times the recycle company have been called to empty it but it has not been full. It is great if someone else phones if they see it is full but please before ringing check that the content can't be pushed to the back as quite often it has built up at the front and looks full. If you go around the back there is a door to the cardboard so it can be moved back/flattened. Thanks everyone for using it properly and appreciating this service.

Facebook Page

A reminder that the Port Underwood Community Facebook page was designed for Port Underwood residents and Bach owners as another form of contact. It has proved very handy this year as a quick way to be kept in the loop for blocked roads, lost animals, and items for sale and a conduit for the dissemination of Police matters.

On its conception it was meant to be, like other areas, solely for locals to be kept in the loop so to speak and you could feel confident only those in the area knew what was going on in the Port. It has got a bit bigger and further reaching than intended. So, to get it back to its original purpose, admin have undertaken a bit of a cull as there were over 200 members! If you have been deleted in error, we apologise for that and request that you please join again.

Members are required to answer the question what the address of your house or Bach in the Port is.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynda Scott for getting the page up and running and keeping it running smoothly. Lynda and Scottie will be missed in the Port and we wish them well over in Nelson. Anne Thompson is taking over as the principal administrator of this Facebook page.

Neighbourhood Support

It has been reasonably quiet for the last year which could possibly have a lot to do with the pandemic and that there have not been as many people around the Port. Notwithstanding,

there has been several thefts and skulduggery which appear to be opportunistic in nature, particularly trailers and readily moveable items that have been left insecure. One recent theft involved the removal of the two back wheels off a car parked overnight at the Oyster Bay wharf.

A big thank you to Bryon Gleeson, a long-time resident of Tom Canes Bay, who will be taking my place as Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Support for all of Port Underwood

With Lynda Scott moving out of the area, we need a volunteer to take up the reins of Co-ordinator for Oyster Bay Neighbourhood Support. You don't have to be a resident in the Bay to be co-ordinator, so please step forward if you would like to take on the role. We have an accurate list of those that live in Oyster Bay now and your job would be as people move in and out of the Bay, to keep this list up to date.

As previously mentioned, the Port Underwood Community Facebook page has become a means of rapid dissemination of several community matters and if you are not a member, please consider joining. For those that do not wish to be on Facebook, as notified in a previous newsletter there is a Rural Police Newsletter within the on-line Picton Resource Centre and can be found at <http://www.pictonresource.co.nz/rural-police-newsletter.html> This provides a good summary of local Police issues and an avenue to maintain situational awareness.

MDC Matters

Marlborough Environment Plan

Most of the new Marlborough Environment Plan has been notified and is now active. Some provisions have been appealed and are going through mediation or court hearings. The issues pertaining to Port Underwood that have been appealed concern the landscape and natural character classification of areas in the Port. The classification of areas can affect which activities that can take place in those areas. The Association will be keeping a watch on these appeals.

Application for a Jetty in Whangatoetoe Bay

The application for a jetty in Whangatoetoe Bay has been granted. Provisions for public access and signage on and around the jetty has been included in the consent conditions.

Application for a Mussel Farm Extension in Pipi Bay

This application has been delayed by the applicant once again to obtain more information regarding the effects of the existing farm and proposed extension. The Association currently opposes the application based on significant feedback from the membership against the proposed extension and will continue to monitor the situation.

U190766 Application for water take Stace Creek, Robinhood Bay

This application has been extended yet again pending design information for a storage dam. We await further information.

Sounds Advisory Group

Marlborough Storm Recovery

Marlborough is still under a recovery notice from the July 2021 storm event which will be extended again and provides support for those affected by roading issues. Council and the roading team will be working on how to rebuild roads with the foresight into climate change and sea level rising and more frequent weather events.

It is estimated that it will be at least 18 months until all regional roads can be back to pre-event conditions.

Three Waters Review

As you will all be aware, the Government has confirmed it will create four publicly owned water entities and that these entities will work with councils and communities to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable water services.

Continuing conversations with local government and iwi/Maori will provide guidance for the shape of the three waters system and the SAG will maintain a watching brief over this as it develops.

Marine litter in the Ocean – Citizen Science

Citizen science is an initiative that is gaining support around the world and involves community volunteers using practical field monitoring tools that meet scientific best practice, to report on the state of their local communities.

Council is interested in obtaining reports on the volumes of plastic and litter in the Sounds such as rope, tanalised timber, plastic litter etc. If the community groups are interested in forming a litter survey group, then Council will come out to their community and assist in setting the group up to support Nautical Science.

To this end, if there is an interest in anyone leading a litter survey group, then please contact us and we can liaise with Council to help get this up and running.

Sounds Advisory Group Review

The Group is in the process of reviewing its purpose and representation. Updates on this will be provided in future newsletters as more is known on this review.

Oyster Bay Launching Ramp Improvements



At the time of writing, Port Marlborough are undertaking improvements to the Oyster Bay Launching Ramp structure in the form of a platform and ladder to allow access to and from vessels safely. Further works and new signage will be erected soon to improve access and safety on the Wharf.



Secretary/Treasurer

After a very long and dedicated contribution to the PUA, Sara has decided to stand-down in her current role of Secretary/Treasurer. Over the last 10 years, Sara has been a stalwart supporter of this Association and a driver of Neighbourhood Support. Importantly, her passion for producing `snippets from the past' providing valuable reminders of our local history and personalities. On behalf of all members, I would like to extend our appreciation for her loyal, reliable, and outstanding commitment to this Association.

A note from Sara is as follows....

I have enjoyed working with the committee and association members for many years now and feel that it is time to let someone else take over. For the past several AGMs, John Davison has been taking the minutes (as I can't read my own writing anymore) and he has an extensive accounting background. John will be taking over the role of secretary/treasurer from the beginning of the new financial year, starting December 1, 2021, until the election of officers takes place.

Subscription Notice

The 2022 subs of \$20.00 are now due and can be paid into:

Westpac Blenheim
Port Underwood Association
03-0599 0216931-00.

Please quote Name and Bay as references.

We do thank you for your continued support.

Tributes to George Yorke

George Yorke died earlier this year having lived the last 56 years of his 91 years in Hakana Bay, Port Underwood. We thank Narelle Guard and Bruce Hearn for the contributions, below, to remember a man and acknowledge his family who have had such a long-standing connection to Port Underwood.

George Stanley Beresford Yorke was born in Auckland on the 3rd of November 1929. He was schooled in Christchurch and Masterton.

His father wanted George to take on a milk run but he had other ideas and at the age of 16 he bought a horse and dogs and became a shepherd working in the Wairarapa. From 1949-1952 he was one of New Zealand's top shooters as a deer culler working for the Government program to reduce the South Island deer population with his trusty .303 Lee Enfield rifle. But in later years he was reluctant to shoot any animal.

He returned to Masterton where he met Doreen who worked there as a nurse. He would turn up at the local dance on his horse which he later updated to an Indian motor bike. They married in Masterton and moved to Moawhango near Taihape where George had secured a farm managers job and worked there for ten years where three of his four children were born. With a heavily pregnant Doreen the family moved to the coastal farm in Hakana Bay in Port Underwood in June 1965, where they would stay for the next 56 years. By all accounts, on arrival the house was in a sorry state and the farm required considerable TLC!

Soon after arriving the wool price, which had been high, collapsed and to make ends meet George net fished and potted crayfish in Cook Strait in a heavy clinker dinghy now in the Picton Museum next to the Edwin Fox. He also had a good team of dogs and undertook shepherding work in the Clarence. His priority was his farm and as was the way then, he had some exciting times as a "matchbox farmer". He had top sheep, cattle and horses which were keenly sort after at the cattle yards. George was especially proud of his D4D Caterpillar bulldozer on which he was a skilled operator for work around the farm and the Port. At one time George dabbled in salmon farming in Port Underwood but he didn't have a great deal of enthusiasm for this. He was a sheep, beef, horses, and dogs man.

George adored his wife Doreen until her passing six years ago. In the circumstances they found themselves in, Doreen was a tower of strength.

He died peacefully at home in Hakana Bay on 18 July 2021 as he would have wished for. He will be missed by many.

Bruce Hearn

I first met George about 1973, we had to always call at his home to collect the key to the Fighting Bay locked gate. He was always a gentleman and hard worker...he lived with his wife Doreen and family; they were always very welcoming. He and my late husband, John, had many telephone conversations...of course on fishing and hunting trips, also in later years the Forestry removal across the Port from Kakapo Bay. George kept John well informed.

In my first 40 years here, we had a very strong neighbourhood social life...every 3 months we would gather at a home for a Potluck Dinner, usually to celebrate some ones Birthday, Anniversary, or the Xmas Party at Fighting Bay with Irene & Murray Eagle. Always lots of laughs had by all.

In 1982 and 1992 everyone came to Kakapo Bay to celebrate Albert Guards 80th and 90th Birthdays...then in 1995 for his Funeral.

An interesting coincidence, George died on John's birthday, the 18th of July.

Another "Totara has fallen" you are sadly missed George.

Narelle Guard,
Kakapo Bay