

Port Underwood Association

December 2023 Newsletter

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President's Introduction

Greetings all,

Well, here we are, almost at the end of the year. Looking back to the previous newsletter, we set ourselves a task to critically examine our collective response to emergencies to assure our own resilience. Following engagement with both MDC and Emergency Management, a Port Underwood specific Community Emergency Readiness and Response Plan has been developed and published. This is being held up by Emergency Management as an exemplar for other like communities to develop plans against. I encourage you read this plan when you get the opportunity.

With the Incorporated Societies Act 2023 and supporting Regulations coming into effect from 5 October 2023, the Association is required to re-register and in doing so, we are required to make changes to our Constitution to set the framework for compliance to the new Act. This work was led by John Davison with the drafting of the new (compliant) Constitution being prepared for presentation and adoption at the AGM.

We have included in this newsletter results of a number of MDC led works this year, one on the establishment of Sounds recycling and transfer stations (RTS) which I know will be of interest and the second on a sea level rise assessment. There is concern on the RTS solution for Port Underwood as a suitable location has not yet been determined and the current site being deemed unsuitable. This will require a close watch as the ability to recycle locally has developed into a valuable asset. The sea level rise assessment is an interesting body of work as a first step for MDC to drive climate resilience development.

On behalf of the Port Underwood Association, we wish you all a safe and merry xmas and look forward to seeing as many that can make it to the AGM.

Best wishes

| Wayne

2023 Committee Members

President:	Wayne Boustridge
Secretary/Treasurer:	John Davison
Members:	Kirsty Vercoe
	Martin Loach
	Bruce Hearn
	Phyllis Heard
	Saxon Gregory-Hunt

Principle point of contact to the Committee is through our e-mail address:

port.underwood.association@gmail.com

Roading

Considerable efforts to repair the roads in Port Underwood and to maintain access in the area have been undertaken by Marlborough Roads within the reported funding constraints. While a number of repairs have been identified, full repairs will not commence until MDC decisions are made on the final levels of service and the known funding mechanisms. A summary of MDC efforts to date and the plan going forward is as follows:

- As a result of the Stantec work, the Port Underwood option is recommended as Road Access with the section between Waikawa and Oyster Bay being identified as build back stronger and targeted improvements for the other roads.
- Council has endorsed the business case to present the recommend costed options to the Waka Kotahi Board (scheduled for 11 December 2023) with the total region cost repair estimate now at \$234M as an increase from the initial estimate of \$160M.
- Once the Whaka Kotahi Board approve the business case and their funding assistance, the MDC will know if there is a funding shortfall and if so, what that is.
- If there is a funding shortfall, MDC will make recommendations to ratepayers on how any funding shortfall might be funded. MDC has stated that options may include a more targeted rate in the impacted areas or by a district wide rating increase noting that at present, MDC operate a one road maintenance funding policy - an even spread regardless of where the rates are drawn from.
- MDC will then undertake a formal special consultation process with all ratepayers on the options to meet the funding shortfall. This is anticipated to occur between April and June 2024 as part of the Council's Long-Term Plan.
- Following this process, the MDC will decide on the final levels of service and funding mechanism in June 2024. At this time, final works decisions can be completed, and the construction programme can commence.

The PUA will continue to be a conduit for information to ensure that members are aware of key dates and inputs. Please note that the PUA will not make a representation on any shortfall funding options. These are for individual rate payer inputs through the special consultation process.

Constitution Changes

The Port Underwood Association is required to alter and update its constitution following the introduction of Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Failure to do so will mean the Association will be removed from the register of Not for Profit Organisations. This would mean that committee members incur some personal liabilities that are currently assumed by the Registrar and as such, a new Constitution has been prepared based on the identified requirements. The changes have not resulted in major alterations to the constitution and are accessed to not present a restrictive management burden. The following additions have been included:

- Inclusion of the requirement requiring Members to give consent to be members;
- Inclusion of the requirement for at least three committee members to run the association;
- The duties of the committee members are more clearly defined (act with reasonable care, act in good faith etc.);
- Inclusion of the requirement for a contact person to be nominated;
- Rules have been introduced concerning how accounts are to be drawn up and when;
- Inclusion of an internal dispute mechanism; and
- Inclusion of the requirement for surpluses on winding up to be given to another not-for-profit organisation.

The new version of the constitution is attached and will be presented for approval at the AGM.

Emergency Readiness and Response Plan

As outlined in our last AGM, the committee set a task to develop a Port Underwood specific Community Emergency Readiness and Response Plan. Following engagement with the MDC and Marlborough Emergency Management, this has been completed and is available at the following link:

[Te Whanganui / Port Underwood Community Emergency Readiness and Response Plan \(marlborough.govt.nz\)](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/te-whanganui-port-underwood-community-emergency-readiness-and-response-plan)

As you will discover when you read the document, it sets out the things that we can use to be better prepared in an emergency. The whole purpose is to help us all be well prepared so that we may be better able to help ourselves and each other in that period in which it takes external support to arrive.

Like all plans, it is a living document. Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with it. Hard copies can be made available from Emergency Management via the Committee if required.

Any feedback can be provided to the committee to pass on to MDC.

Jerdans Bay history write-up

For the last four years, Kirsty Vercoe (nee Martin) has been researching and writing up the history of Jerdans Bay, located at the end of Tumbledown Road, and the farthest bay in Port Underwood reachable by road.

The Martin family took over the homestead and 30 hectares in 2017, however had had a long history with the area and holidayed in the bay since the 1970s as part of the original forestry partnership.

Kirsty had written in the 2019 newsletter about her history collation so far. Four years later ongoing snippets of information continue to emerge, photos and connections to previous landowners or descendants.

Kirsty is having her book published for anyone with an interest to read. Please contact her if you would like to receive a copy for a small contribution to cover printing costs and postage. kirstyvercoe@gmail.com or 027 704 5688.



Arapawa Land Transfer and Survey Records Map 1/12/1942

Horahora Kakahu Island Restoration



Horahora Kākahu Island located in Port Underwood is notable as the site where, in 1840, the British proclaimed sovereignty over the South Island as part of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi at near-by Kākāpo Bay. At the time, the island was an important fortified pā.

Today, the island is managed by tangata whenua/mana whenua iwi - Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Rārua. The island was returned to the iwi through their respective Treaty Settlements.

The local Sounds Restoration Trust has been donated some funding from an estate which they are using to do restoration work on the island.

“When local law firm Dew & Company approached us last year about undertaking a project in Te Whanganui / Port Underwood, Horahora Kākahu was an obvious site to invest in, given its cultural and historic importance,” says Andrew Macalister, project manager for the Trust. The project is being supported by iwi as an opportunity to exercise kaitiakitanga over the site.

“Without intervention, it would gradually be overtaken by wilding pines, macrocarpa and the invasive weed old man’s beard. So, in June we undertook initial control of these ecological weeds and will plan some repeat visits in the future.” The historic macrocarpa at the top of the island, which was planted in 1900 to commemorate the Treaty declaration, will be left intact.

“The island is thankfully goat, pig and possum-free and we hope that, with the removal of weeds, the regeneration of native vegetation on the island will be able to continue.”

The work is being funded by the Estate of Isobel Livingstone, administered by Dew & Company, after she created a charitable trust to benefit causes in Marlborough in her will.

It is hoped that the project will open up further restoration opportunities for the island. Alongside restoration of native forest, ecological consultant Geoff Walls reckons that, with predator control, the island “should be full of penguins, terns, gulls, shags, burrowing shearwaters, giant weta, geckos and skinks, fantails, bellbirds and weka.”

In September 2023 the restoration work has continued with aerial spot-spraying of the trees on the bluff that they can't get to by foot, and next project will be to remove the old man's beard.

For further information please see Sounds Restoration trust

<https://www.soundsrestoration.org.nz/>

Post Note:

For those that now see the Island, you will notice the wildling pine trees have turned a yellow colour as they die from the control that was undertaken.

Waste Management

Earlier this year, MDC undertook an examination of Sounds waste management. As a result, MDC have determined that Port Underwood, along with other communities, requires a Remote Transfer Station to take both recycling and general waste. These will be purpose-built facilities with the design still being finalised but expected to be in place across the Sounds by July 24.

At this stage, MDC have identified that the site of the current recycling container above Haka Haka is not fit for purpose however an alternative site has yet to be identified. While MDC did identify the potential to establish a shared facility with and in the vicinity of the Oyster Bay Wharf, Port Marlborough rejected this due to their plans to fence off the Wharf working area to maintain health and safety. The PUA will maintain a close watch on this matter as we move into the first part of 2024.

Marlborough District Sea Level Rise Assessment

To support the need for information to meet national legislation, MDC contracted NIWA to complete a district wide assessment of potential coastal inundation influenced by Sea Level Rise (SLR). This assessment was presented to the Council's Environment and Planning Committee on 5 October.

The full report including methodology, assessment and recommendations can be found at the following link:

[NIWA Client report \(marlborough.govt.nz\)](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/niwa-client-report)

The report provides projections based on:

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- A range of Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP). These demonstrate a range of potential futures and range from SSP1-2.6, a very low greenhouse gas emission future to SSP5-8.5, a very high emission future.
- The allowance for Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR), that includes projected changes to Mean Sea Level from climate change and Vertical Land Motion over a 100-year planning time, out to 2130.
- Two high level inundation scenarios relating to permanent Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS) and an extreme sea level, equivalent to a 1 in 100-year event above the new MHWS.

In addition to the report, there is a mapping tool (at the link below) where the different above projections can be inputted to obtain a graphic view of the projections.

[Marlborough Sea Level Rise \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

What next?

Council sees the report feeding into a longer-term collaborative process to identify values to be protected and prioritise areas, assets, and infrastructure where the coastal environment is under threat of inundation from rising sea levels and storm surges. The aim being to develop and implement a plan to avoid or mitigate effects.

AGM

The AGM is scheduled to occur on 2 January 2024 at 2pm, at the Haka Haka Domain. In preparation for the AGM, please find enclosed:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Revised Constitution
- 3) Accounts and Treasurer's report for the period
- 4) 2023 AGM minutes
- 5) Notice of Motion Form
- 6) Notice of Intention to Stand for Committee/Officer
- 7) Proxy form

Subscriptions

Subscriptions of \$20 are due from 1 December 2023 for the 2024 year. These can be paid direct to the Port Underwood Association bank account:

Port Underwood Association
Westpac Blenheim
030599 0216931 00
Please quote Surname and Bay as references

A confirmation email can be sent to port.underwood.association@gmail.com. A receipt will be issued in due course.