

# Port Underwood Association

## February 2023 Newsletter



2022/2023 summer shot from Jerdan's Bay, Port Underwood

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### President's Introduction

Greetings all,

As a step off into 2023, this newsletter provides both a look back and look forward at personalities and activities that have shaped and will continue to shape Port Underwood.

On the theme of looking back, I have recently be advised by Narelle Guard, that the Port Underwood area has been subject to many large slips and washouts over the years including:

1975 washout of the gully at White's Bay that resulted in the road being closed for 12 months and at the same time a large drop-off at Archers Gully that (luckily) left a very narrow piece of road to negotiate.

1980's Cyclone Bowler caused flooding and slips. In 1993 there were big slips and in 1995 the area had 2000mm of rain – in one day alone there were 65 slips between Kakapo Bay and Whatamango.

Looking forward, your engagement in the Sounds Future Access Study and Census 2023 will provide valuable inputs to the development of options to provide certainty for long-term access to our area. It is vitally important that you have your say during the consultation periods as you all have views of issues and ideas for solutions. In the meantime, we can anticipate future events that will leave us isolated and therefore resilience should be in our considerations.

## AGM



The Annual General Meeting of the Port Underwood Association was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January in the Hakahaka Domain. Due to ongoing COVID infections, a decision was made to hold it outside this year, and it proved to be a lovely sunny day and worked well. Drinks and nibbles were provided afterwards, and it was a great opportunity to meet others from the Port Underwood community. Minutes and Financial and President Reports have been circulated to members by email.

## 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](mailto:port.underwood.association@gmail.com)

### Ken Roush

The Committee would like to thank Ken Roush for his significant contributions to the Port Underwood community over the last 20 years. Ken has chosen to step down from the Committee in 2023. Over the time that Ken has been involved in the Association, he has made representations on behalf of the Association to Council, represented the Association on the Sounds Advisory Group, served on the committee for many years and been president of the Association.

At the recently held AGM, a motion was put forward to nominate Ken Roush as a life member. This is to be awarded to a person that has provided exemplary service to the Association over many years and made a significant contribution to the Association.

### Welcome Saxon Gregory-Hunt to the Committee

Saxon introduces himself to the Association:

I am a descendent of the Perry family and 4th generation from the family to have been visiting the Port. My parents own a Bach in Whangataura Bay, I visit this as much as possible.

I completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at Canterbury University and currently work at Hamilton Jet in Christchurch.

I am the president of a small not for profit weightlifting club, so I have some experience working on a board of a similar size to this.

I look forward to working with you all and contributing to Port Underwood. The Port is a very special place to me and provides myself and my family many special memories year after year.

### Neighbourhood Support

Unfortunately, there are continued reports of thefts from rural properties in the Marlborough region. Martin Loach spoke at the AGM about a recent theft at his residence.

As advised in previous Newsletters, Police publish a rural newsletter three or four times a year and this is posted on the Port Underwood Association website.

The main issues reported in the Police newsletter are burglaries with items stolen including; electric fence units, solar units, trailers and car transporters, fuel tanks and fuel, quad bikes, chain saws and other farming equipment. The usual advice is to secure items and to keep them in locations that are not visible from the road. Other advice is:

- Tag animals and keep records;
- Keep records of serial numbers or put identifying numbers on items such as trailers, bikes and chainsaws;
- Lock all rural buildings using decent quality locks;
- Keep an inventory of stock and machinery;
- Report all instances of crime and where suspicious activity is seen; and
- If you investigate something untoward ensure somebody knows where you have gone and when you are expected to return.

The police also recommend that security lighting is installed with motion sensors. Often the light coming on is sufficient to scare off intruders. It should also be noted that cameras are available from most electrical appliance stores that are connected to the internet and require no wiring. These will notify you via your mobile phone if there is any motion detected and record the activity in the cloud. The battery powered cameras will last four to six months before needing recharging, but permanent power will be required for longer periods.

### Roads

As members will be aware, the roads have suffered significantly due to the storms over the past number of years with washouts removing parts of the road and slips blocking access for extended periods of time. As there is no other transport link, this highlights both the fragility of, and the dependency on, both the Port Underwood and Tumbledown Bay Roads to our community, the communities within our community and to individual households.

Whilst the recent storms have been the most severe for some time, it is not the first time that access roads have been blocked and this should be anticipated to occur again. It is timely that we be reminded of the MDC resilience (self -service) planning figure of 10 days in these types of situations.

## Future Access Study

By now most members should be aware of the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study that is being undertaken by Council, in conjunction with Stantec (an international engineering company), with the purpose to develop a business case for a safe, resilient, and affordable transport system for the wellbeing of the Marlborough Sounds communities. This Study is planned to be undertaken over the next 12 months and will examine access issues in four geographical areas, noting each has distinct access issues.

1. **French Pass.** Ronga Road (Rai Valley), Croisilles-French Pass Road, Te Towaka-Port Ligar Road, Bulwer Road, including Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island
2. **Pelorus.** Kaiuma Bay Road including Daltons Road / Track and Te Hoiere Road – Linked to Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment linking back to Te Hoiere/Pelorus River
3. **Kenepuru.** Queen Charlotte Drive (Havelock to Picton) including Kenepuru Road and the outer Sounds.
4. **Port Underwood.** Port Underwood and Tumbledown Bay Roads (to Rarangi campground)

Rate payers should have received an information pack on the study with a link to a public survey which you are strongly encouraged to complete. As with all surveys, the questions may not suit each respondent and full use of free text writing space should be used. The survey closes 22 February and if you have not received the information pack, please visit the following link.

### [Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study - Marlborough District Council](#)

There was an initial meeting on 24 January with stakeholders (John Davison represented the Port Underwood Association) to develop a bottom-up initial start state on the identification of access issues and potential solutions. The slide pack for this meeting is attached at the following link.

### [PowerPoint Presentation \(marlborough.govt.nz\)](#)

This is to be followed up by a series of public meetings, starting 31 January. At the meetings, the project will be seeking additional inputs on issues and inputs into potential options to enable foundation thinking for the Business Case development.

These meetings will be held at the following locations:

**Tuesday 31 January.** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. French Pass Town Hall

**Wednesday 1 February.** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The Millers Rest, Rai Valley

**Wednesday 1 February.** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Havelock Town Hall

**Thursday 2 February.** 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Port Marlborough Pavilion, Waikawa

**Friday 3 February.** 9:00 am – 11:00 am. The Portage Hotel, Kenepuru Sounds

**Friday 3 February.** 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Waitaria Bay Hall

**Wednesday 8 February.** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. Zoom online.

The Zoom meeting can be accessed at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83594599876>

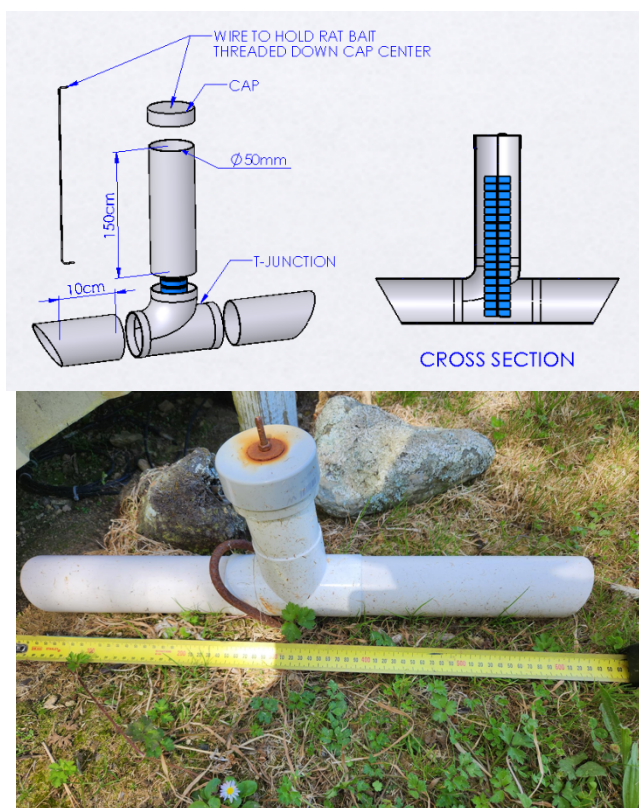
There will be further opportunities to provide feedback via the survey and the study group will be consulting again with the community in May.

## Pest Control Programme

Martin Loach and James Lambie have recently linked into the Marlborough Biodiversity Forum and we are in the process of establishing our own biodiversity project – more to follow on this.

Pest control was spoken about at the recent AGM and after the AGM, there was some discussion on how to manage rats and mice when home owners are away for extended periods.

Peter Gregory-Hunt has kindly shared a bait station design he has used previously on the Chatham's and currently at Whangataura Bay.



*“The bait station shown has proved phenomenally successful when used both in and outdoors. The idea behind the design is that it should continue to function and re-bait itself when you are away for a lengthy period of time. It should also protect your pets from contacting the rat bait.”*

*The pipe used is Holman PVC pipe. This is quite a bit cheaper than Marley or similar brands. We have been setting these traps around the house anywhere it looks like mice or rats might go under or enter the house. Since using, we no longer hear little legs tapping throughout the night”.*

Peter also advises that periodically, the brand of bait is replaced to avoid animal shyness. He is also happy to manufacture these bait stations for a minimal cost and his contact details can be obtained by emailing a request to the Port Underwood Association Gmail address.

## In Memory of Edward Guard

As a member of the well-known Guard family, Edward was brought up and lived much of his life in Port Underwood. The family occupied the beautiful, but isolated, Kakapo Bay and Edward's early education was through the correspondence school followed by secondary schooling in Wellington at St Patrick's College. At 18 he was called up for Compulsory Military Training at Burnham, where he said he loved the discipline and the sport.

Edward worked on farms around Port Underwood as a teenager which provided the money to build his own dinghy and buy an outboard motor and, with salt water in his veins, he started fishing when he was 19 years old. Ed bought his first launch when he was just 21 and was joined by younger brother John in the fishing business. Together these two became renowned for their expertise with net, line and cray pot in the treacherous waters of Cook Strait and the coastline around the top of the south.

Their exploits are well documented in Don Grady's book "Guards of the Sea". Roughly every ten years they launched a new boat, increasing their range and carrying capacity until they were able to cover the coast from Kaikoura to the West Coast. Ultimately, with the introduction of quota limits and ever-increasing costs, the economics of the business became marginal and in 1990 the brothers decided the time had come to sell up. Ed and Elaine, who served as Secretary of the Port Underwood Association during its formation stages, moved to a farmlet in Paynters Road for a few years before settling into retirement in Blenheim. We mourn the passing of Edward and acknowledge his contributions to the Port Underwood area.

### New Year's Eve Oyster Bay vs Hakahaka Bay Volleyball Battle

New Year's eve laid out a stunning day for the battle of bays annual Volleyball competition. Although tightly contested, the trophy this year was lifted by Hakahaka Bay – if only Oyster Bay could find the trophy to hand over! While absent on the day, it was widely voiced that Haysley MacDonald may know of the trophy whereabouts?



### Facebook Page

Just a reminder that the new Marlborough Port Underwood Community - Te Whanganui Facebook Group has been established as the previous Facebook Group got hacked and had to be shut down without the ability to transfer the membership across to the new Group.

Facebook has been an effective way to rapidly disseminate information across the community and if folks wish to join the new Group, please apply via the new Group name.

Any urgent updates are sent through the Association email group, but Facebook remains a useful way to quickly disseminate information.

## Memberships

Last year was a 'free' year as the 2022 AGM decided that the membership fee was to be suspended for that year. The \$20 membership fee was then reinstated for 2023. Some members paid in 2022 and where this occurred, payments have been carried forward for 2023.

If the Association has not received your membership subscription for 2022 or 2023 the membership fee of \$20 is now due. This can be paid by direct deposit to:

Port Underwood Association  
Westpac Blenheim  
030599  
0216931 00

Please quote surname and bay as references.

If you are unsure if you have paid or not, you can check with the membership secretary by writing to [port.underwood.association@gmail.com](mailto:port.underwood.association@gmail.com).