

# Port Underwood Association

## March 2020 Newsletter



### Message from the President

Hello Port Underwood Association members to the first newsletter of the year. I thank the members who attended the AGM earlier this year. The results of the 2019 survey of the membership was reviewed at the meeting and with the input from the attending members we had very useful discussions on a number of topics. These will be covered in the Minutes of the AGM included with this newsletter. Even if you were not able to attend the AGM I encourage you to contact myself or any Committee member with further thoughts on these topics. Speaking of the Committee, I thank Sara for taking on the role of Secretary/ Treasurer for another year and for the past committee members staying on as well. They are a great team to work with. I am also pleased to announce a new member to the Committee, Phyllis Heard. She is a very knowledgeable and capable person and an excellent asset to the Association. Best regards to all members for the coming year. Ken.

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### Committee Details

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**Facebook Page**

The Port Underwood Community Facebook page is now being administered by both Lynda Scott and Anne Thompson. While this runs separately from the Port Underwood Association it is quite useful for persons that have an interest in the Port.

**Aquaculture**

A number of resource consent applications have recently been lodged for renewal of their permits and for expansion. The Association is following the guidance of the membership in not objecting to existing marine farms if they are appropriately placed. However we may make suggestions to those applications regarding certain conditions when we feel it would be helpful. We will be objecting to applications for expansions, the current one is U200060 in Pipi Bay, and suggest that PUA members also make personal submissions where they have concerns.

**Other topics for review**

The Association will be reviewing activities taking place in forestry, roading, and freedom camping and working to ensure that the best possible outcomes for Port Underwood are achieved.

**Road signage**

Suggestions were made at the AGM regarding road signage. The Committee is currently working with a Picton Heritage group on a sign at the approach to Port Underwood from the Picton side. We have also put forward inquiries about signs for individual bays.

**Impacts of climate change**

This topic was raised at the AGM and we need more input from the members. As a community what are the specific concerns with affects on our area? How can they be addressed?

**Alternative name for the Association**

The official name of our area is now Te Whanganui/Port Underwood. The committee is still in discussion regarding a suggestion that the Association consider a name change as well.

**Application to take water at Robinhood Bay**

The Association is still in discussion with Council and the landowners about how water can be supplied to support a new vineyard operation and still protect the environment associated with Stace Creek and the surrounds.

**2020 Subs**

We thank those of you who have paid the \$20.00 subs for the year 2020. If you have not paid yet there will be a subs notice enclosed with this newsletter. As always, your continued support is much appreciated. If the current virus crisis has created a financial difficulty for paying your subs please contact Sara.

**Marlborough Environment Plan**

Most chapters of the Marlborough Environment Plan have now become operative.



**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the  
Port Underwood Association  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 3.00pm,  
11-13 Haka Haka Bay Road, Port Underwood.**

The President welcomed all members and attendees introduced themselves.

**Present**

Bryon Gleeson, Trevor Roughan, Alison Wise, Phyllis Heard, Jill and Bruce Hearn, David Whyte, Ange & Wayne Boustridge, Peter & Alex Gregory-Hunt, Jill Schwass, Marriane Fenwick, Rosemary & Susan Rutherford, Stephen Sheat, Nadine Taylor (MDC), Penny Adlington, Helen Parr, Peter & George Platts, Lynda Scott, Anne & Wade Thompson, Carol Panui, Grant Osborne, Lawry Hinton, Jenny Kennedy, Sara & Ken Roush

**Apologies**

Maureen Joyce, Kirsty Vercoe, Domenic Romano, Ruth & Alby De Reus, Dan & Becky Fleming, Zahra Gilson, Mike Davis, John & Gill Saunders, Joan Wyatt, Tim & Victoria Freer, Warren Tocker, Karen McLeay, Ken Prain, Gane Family, Jeremy & Annie Ward, Paul Blaske, Annabella & Greg Phillipson, Clare Soper, Mark & Pricilla Heard, Lyn White, Terry Schwass, Clinton Whyte, Rodger Fenwick, Vicky & Kevin Maitland, John Davison, Martin Loach

The minutes from the last Annual General Meeting on 30 December 2019 were taken as read and had been circulated with the February 2018 newsletter. Moved by Ken Roush/David Whyte that the minutes be accepted.

**Presidents Report**

Proposed MEP – Draft Aquaculture provisions yet to be presented to the public for discussion.

Restoration Trust Workshop – Not enough people were interested in attending to justify bring a tutor out to Port Underwood.

A Sounds Advisory Group meeting was held in Port Underwood in March. Even though it was well advertised to the community only 4 members of the public showed up. I found this very disappointing as this was an excellent opportunity to meet face to face with your representatives on the Marlborough Council.

Last year I spoke about the role of the members in guiding the Association on matters that are important to them and the membership survey which we will discuss later is very helpful in this regard. This year I would like to speak about how the Association should proceed on those matters.

So who is responsible for looking after this great area that we all love and enjoy? It is all of us, both the commercial entities and the individuals who use it. But, it is also the community as a group as represented by this Association and the Marlborough District Council, with guidance by us, the community and central government.

In our Constitution some of the objects of our Association are to protect and enhance the beauty and natural values of the area and to represent and advance the interests

of the Members to any authority having control or influence on matters affecting the area. It is my interpretation of these objects that the Association should be forward in creating meetings or making submissions when it is in the interest of the majority of the membership for us to do so. In this way we can make a stand as to what Port Underwood should be. We can discuss this topic later in the review of the membership survey.

Nadine Taylor reported that the Roding Contract was to be for the whole district and was currently being finalised for commencement on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Fulton Hogan/HEB were the successful tenderers as a joint venture operation. Noted that draft Aquaculture provisions for MEP were yet to be presented to the public for discussion.

### **Financial Statement**

The financial accounts were passed out and presented by Sara. She explained a timing issue of the Newsletter in 2018 being sent out early which resulted in some of 2019 income being included in 2018 accounts. Moved Susan Rutherford, Seconded Jenny Kennedy that the accounts as presented be accepted and carried. A copy of the accounts are attached to these minutes.

### **Neighbourhood Support**

Sara reported that two new co-ordinators had been appointed, Penny Adlington for HakaHaka Bay and Berni Veale for Flagg Bay. She thanked them for taking up their new roles.

There were extra Neighbourhood Support Signs for people to take with them to place around the Port.

It was noted that the Facebook page has been useful in getting a timely response when issues arise in the Port.

### **2019 Membership Survey**

Ken presented a summary of the 2019 membership survey and much discussion was forthcoming on the survey topics and results.

**Marine farms in Port Underwood** – Over 90% said that the Association should oppose any new marine farms and expansions to existing farms. However, the membership, 78%, was neutral or disagreed that we should object to renewals of existing farms.

**Trawling in Port Underwood** – There was a strong feeling, 81%, that trawling in the Port negatively impacts the environment. We do have a “Gentlemen’s Agreement” that trawlers will not work the Port between Christmas and Easter. It would take a major effort in time and expense to ban trawling year-round.

It was suggested Nelson boats may not be aware of the “Gentlemen’s Agreement” not to trawl in the Port between Christmas and Easter. Discussion was held on the legal rights of fishers under the Quota Management System (QMS). It was agreed that much of the benthos in Port Underwood was already degraded.

**Set netting** – There is a real mixed bag of opinions about set netting in Port Underwood but a strong feeling that recreational, customary, and commercial set netting should be under the same restrictions and that protection of the Hector’s dolphins is very important. It was reiterated in the meeting that set netting should have the same rules as customary and commercial netting.

**Forestry** – There is general agreement that forestry can offer financial benefits but it needs to use appropriate methods that do not lead to harm of the environment and a strong feeling that the Association should be involved to ensure that those methods are in place and adhered to.

**Roading** -There was a slight bias towards our roads needing better maintenance but all other factors were inconclusive. Discussions indicated that better maintenance on roads was needed and it was noted that permanent residents tend to want better roads and may have a different view on road maintenance than occasional users. Nadine Taylor reported that Council had no plans to seal more roads in the Sounds and that a targeted rate would be needed if a community wanted it. It was noted that sealed roads also require maintenance and Nadine said that any photos of issues that were received by Council would be forwarded to Marlborough Roads. Noted that gutters needed to be kept clear.

**Freedom Camping** – there was agreement, over 80%, that freedom camping should be prohibited on both Port Underwood Road and Tumbledown Bay Road. The Council is reviewing its Responsible Camping bylaws at the end of summer and the Association has been asked to provide feedback. There was agreement that properly self-contained vans were OK but that some people just pay lip service to the self-contained rules and carry a porta pottie that is not used.

**Boat launch sites, moorings, and jetties** – most people were neutral about these subjects.

**The Association's representation of the members and communications** – 100% agreed that the Association was fulfilling its role. Ken thanked the members for their support. As noted in the survey comments, the PUA has a diverse membership and cannot represent each and every viewpoint but does try to adhere to the views of the majority. Any comments or criticisms are welcome.

**General matters, Survey – suggestions that have been made in the survey:**

1) A signpost at the bottom of the Hakahaka Hill Rd upgraded to list the names of the Bays in each direction. The sign on the junction of French Pass Rd and Carluke is a good model. Also, each Bay needs to be named, particularly along the Tumbledown Bay Rd. Discussion indicated better signage would be helpful for bays that are accessible to the public. Councillor Taylor suggested that the Sounds Advisory Group would be a good starting place to proceed with this.

2) The Association and membership should start to think about the implications of climate change especially sea level rise on the Port roads and infrastructure. This will be an issue very soon and a few scattered communities with only 200 people max is not going to feature highly on the council priorities. Perhaps a presentation and some questions to think and talk about at the next AGM? Sea level change/rise was discussed. Nadine Taylor noted that Marlborough District Council was aware, that roading was an issue and already pumping stations were being located higher. As a community we need to identify specific concerns.

3) A member would like to see the Association adopt an alternative name for itself in te reo Maori. They understand the te reo name for Port Underwood is Te Whanganui and this could perhaps be used as the basis for such an alternative name. Underwood was a Sydney businessman who never visited New Zealand and so this name does not seem very compelling to them. This was discussed and it was noted that a sign at Tumbledown Bay was in English and Te Reo. Costings for the

change would need to be made and there was some support for the use of both names.

4) There was a suggestion that the PUA should not be making submissions to Council and only advise members of upcoming activities. Other suggestions included limiting matters that we submit on. To what level does the membership wish the Association to react regarding issues that may affect the Port? Currently, the committee reviews the proposals and background information and if it is of a nature that the members may be affected we send a notification to the members asking for them to take personal action and supply feedback to the Association. Then the committee determines what further action is required, if any, by the Association and carries that out.

Discussion was had on what level the Port Underwood Association should get involved in RMA submissions to Marlborough District Council and what the present position was. Members agreed that the first step was to ascertain whether there was an impact and the discussion should flow from there. It was noted that the constitution requires certain actions to be taken to preserve the objects. It was generally agreed that the present position was satisfactory.

#### **Resource Consent Applications- Update**

**U180102** was an application to extend the size of an existing mussel farm on the Western side of the Tongue. The Association opposed the application on several grounds including cumulative environmental impacts from the ever increasing numbers of mussel lines around the Tongue area. An independent marine expert agreed with us and said there was good reason to require further study of the impacts on the environment. However the application was approved.

**U190431 Jetty at Whangatoetoe Bay** - An application for a jetty was made to provide access to the Bay. The PUA submitted stating that the application lacked information to address the flow-on effects on the wider community, how the proposed jetty fits in with the overall development of the property and the necessity of having a jetty as they stated that they did have road access. These are all stated by Council as requirements to properly assess the application. We proposed a meeting with the applicants and their consultants but have yet to hear back from them.

**U190798 fuel jetty at Oyster Bay** – Refurbishment of fuelling jetty. We think this will be beneficial to the Port Underwood community and were going to make a written support of the application. Unfortunately, it slipped out of the to do list and a submission was not made.

**U191936 Renewal of mussel farm at Whangakoko Bay** – no plans to submit on this.

**U191071 Logging near Whatamongo Bay** - There are plans to harvest forestry over the next ten years in Whatamongo Bay and the logs will be trucked out via Port Underwood Road. There will be a number of entrances onto the road. We do not plan to make a submission on this but want to warn the members to expect more heavy traffic along the road.

**U190766 Water take at Robinhood Bay** – Feedback from the members was requested as to how the Association should respond to this application. In 2016 a vineyard was established in Robinhood Bay. A three year consent was granted to draw water from the local creek. The applicants were to monitor the water abstraction and water flow in the creek in order to assess how much water could be removed without causing environmental damage to the flora and fauna in the creek. The PUA met with the applicants at that time and we were told that they would be establishing a reservoir so that water take in the summer would not be necessary. Neither the water flow monitoring nor the reservoir work has been carried out as was required by the consent conditions. Extremely dry conditions in the stream have been observed last summer. The MDC staff have stated that there are several species of aquatic life, that are classified as “Threatened – at risk”, that frequent the lower part of the stream and any reduction in water flow will have a detrimental impact on their survival rate. The applicants now propose a 10 year consent to take water. What stance does the membership wish the PUA to take on this new application?

There was some divergence of opinion but agreement that a 10-year consent should not be agreed to. A submission is needed.

### **Recycling Bin**

Anne and Wade Thompson have taken on the role of looking after the recycling Bin. Anne reported that 10 months of the year were good but for 2 months around Christmas time there was abuse of the system. They have cleaned up the mess that others have left so that Port Underwood can keep the recycling bin. Anne asked if they could be reimbursed for the tip fees that they have to pay to remove the rubbish. This was unanimously approved.

Possibly better signage was needed to stop the abuse. It was noted that a \$2 fee for collection of rubbish on the road to French Pass was not successful.

Anne and Wade were thanked for all that they have done.

### **Newsletter**

Additional articles are needed for the Snippets from the past. It doesn't need to be old history. Tell us about yourself or something that happened recently in the Port. Buy and sell is not receiving much action.

### **General Business**

Lynda Scott is in charge of the Port Underwood community Facebook page and said that it is working well. Lynda was thanked for being in charge of vetting both the people who joined and what information was entered on the page.

Confidentiality of email addresses was discussed. We do not give out email addresses unless there is a very good reason. For instance, someone was writing a book and needed to get in touch with a specific person. In that case we did give out the email address. Another instance was when someone needed to go across someone's land to get to a grave site. There was general agreement that the committee should decide.

One member had concerns about marine farm rubbish on the beach at Whangataura. Two other members noted significant improvements over time and satisfaction with the current position. It was noted that the local Marine Farming



Association have a hotline to report concerns about marine farm rubbish 0800 433 2747.

Proposal that the current subscription level of \$20.00 to continue was proposed by David Whyte and agreed to by members.

**Election of Officers**

Ken Roush was nominated and seconded as President. Elected.

Sara Roush was nominated and seconded as Treasurer. Elected.

The existing committee was nominated by Ken and seconded.

Phylis Heard from Ocean Bay was also nominated and seconded. Elected.

**The meeting closed at 5pm**

## Accounts

		<b>Port Underwood Association Inc</b>			
		<b>PO Box 59 Blenheim 7240</b>			
<b>Income Statement</b>		30-Nov-19		30-Nov-18	
Income					
	Subscriptions	\$1295.00		3015.00	
	Interest	\$9.68	\$1304.68	11.43	3026.43
Total			\$1304.68		3026.43
Expenses					
	Stationery, post, printing,	\$587.30		890.41	
	Website	\$439.00		0	
	AGM Expenses	\$202.61		184.41	
	Donations	0		0	
	Submission expenses	\$21.21	\$1250.12	0	1074.51
Net Surplus			\$54.56		1951.92
<b>Balance Sheet</b>					
Assets					
	Cheque Account	\$4136.78		4091.90	
	Simples Saver	\$11439.90		11,430.22	
	Petty Cash	\$63.20	\$15639.88	3.20	15525.32
Liabilities					
			0 -		-
Capital Account			\$15639.88		15525.32
<b>Statement of capital</b>					
Brought forward		\$15525.32		13573.40	
Surplus			\$54.66		1951.92
Carried forward			\$15579.88		15525.32