

Port Underwood Association



October 2019 Newsletter

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Message from the president

The winter months have slipped by and the freshness of spring is upon us. While it has been a little while since the last newsletter I think you will see from the articles below that the Committee has not been hibernating. I want to particularly mention the new membership survey. I highly encourage everyone to have a look at it, think about the issues and provide a response back to the Association. A high response rate with thoughtful comments will be extremely helpful to the Association in advocating for what you think is best for the Port Underwood community and environment.

Best regards, Ken Roush

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Membership Survey

The Association distributed a survey in 2012 to help inform the committee of the members' viewpoints on a number of issues. A high number of responses from the members was made to that questionnaire and this has been very useful in determining what actions the Association should take. As some issues still remain, some issues have passed, and new issues have arisen, we thought it was time to distribute a new survey. It is similar in form to the previous one to help in correlating the responses from the two surveys, but some questions are different in response to the changing issues.

As a sign of changing times, the questionnaire will be distributed by email, shortly after this newsletter is sent out, and can be returned by email. However, the survey will be included with this newsletter if we do not have an up to date email address for you.

Oyster Bay Wharf

The Port Underwood Association has been meeting with Port Marlborough regarding planned redevelopment of the Oyster Bay Wharf area. Refurbishment of the fuelling jetty will take place. Other discussions have involved the layout of the working wharf area with the issues of a safe working environment for commercial users while retaining access for public usage. Car and trailer parking and use of the boat ramp have also been discussed. Final decisions have not been reached in these matters.

New Marlborough Roading Contract

The Port Underwood Committee has been engaged with Marlborough District Council, Marlborough Roads, and another community group regarding the upcoming new contract for all of the Marlborough roads. Our focus has been on ensuring that Marlborough Sounds roads get adequate funding and priority to enable our roads to operate at a level that is suitable for their users. This will be helped by having a road crew dedicated to Sounds roads thereby performing preventative maintenance and fast response to storm or disaster created damage. An improved communication system between the communities and the maintenance contract workers will also be helpful.

Wilding Pine Workshop - 27 October

A wilding pine poisoning workshop will be held by the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust in Port Underwood. This will be two to three hours of instruction and hands-on activity in learning how to correctly and efficiently poison wilding pines. **Attendance is free.** A number of people have indicated that they wish to attend so any others that plan to attend please advise the Port Underwood Association so that the correct numbers can be catered to.

Timing - 10am 27 October

Location - 2417 Port Underwood Road (2km south of Ocean Bay).

Sounds Advisory Group Meeting in Port Underwood

A public Sounds Advisory Group meeting was held in Port Underwood. Unfortunately only four members of the public attended which was very disappointing as these meetings are a great way to meet directly with the MDC Councillors and staff. Topics covered included forestry and logging, roading, sedimentation, streaming of MDC meetings, and freedom camping. The notes from the meeting can be found on the Port Underwood Association website.

Extension to Mussel Farm in Port Underwood

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. Even though an independent marine expert said there was good reason to require further study of the impacts on the environment the application was approved.

Application to Build Jetty

U190431 was an application to build a jetty at one of the new properties being developed on the peninsula on the east side of Port Underwood. Feedback from the PUA membership indicated a number of concerns including the possible cumulative effects of long term car and trailer parking at the various launching sites in the Port from this and future applications. The Association has indicated that it wishes to have further discussions with the applicants and Council on this concern and that the application did not contain information required by MDC policies and was thus incomplete.

Draft Southern Scallop Strategy Marlborough Sounds

The Association advised the membership of this Draft Strategy document. The Association has verbally supported this draft but has not put forward a written position on this.

Proposed Aquaculture Policies and Rules for Marlborough Environment Plan

We have been advised that a draft of these Policies and Rules has been approved for public consultation but it has not been advised when that consultation will take place. We will advise and seek recommendations from the membership when the document is available.

Recycle Bin

The Recycle Bin seems to be operating well. We thank the members for using it appropriately but remember, if it is abused by leaving items outside the bin or leaving non-recyclable materials it will be removed.

Port Underwood Community Facebook Page

A reminder that there is a "Port Underwood Community" facebook page. It is not a part of the Port Underwood Association but a number of members and others find it useful.

Neighbourhood Support - Sara

I will be sending out new neighbourhood Support lists in the next newsletter. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to keep up with the change of ownership or new people to the area. If you know of anyone that should be on the lists it would be much appreciated if you would let me know.

An Update On Police Reporting

Phone 105 to report things that have already happened that don't need urgent police assistance. Use this number to report matters like theft from a car, lost property, property damage, your car has been stolen, you suspect a scam, you suspect drug dealing, your house has been burgled, your bike has been stolen, someone broke your car window, someone put graffiti on your wall, you lost your wallet, etc. You can also report on line to www.105.police.govt.nz.

Also, **Phone 105 or (555 from mobile only)** for urgent but not life threatening traffic matters that don't need an emergency police response. Things like continuous poor driving, traffic congestion, breakdowns, etc.

Always phone 111 in an emergency for police, fire, and ambulance. When a crime is happening and the offenders are still there or just left, someone is in danger or badly injured, there is a serious risk to life or property, you see a major public hazard, (like trees blocking a road), if there is a fire of any sort, you need an ambulance because someone is seriously hurt, someone is breaking into your house right now, there is a car accident where people might be hurt, or cars are blocking the road, someone has been assaulted and the offender is still there, you are afraid for your safety or for those around you or you need an emergency police response.

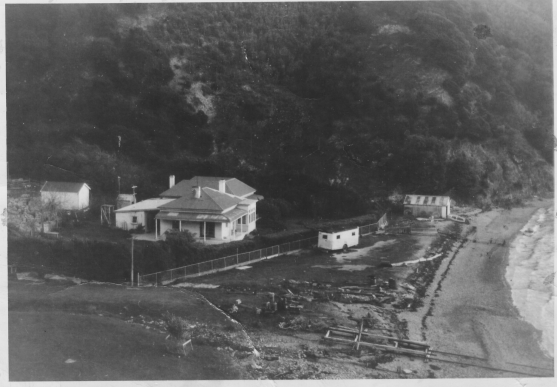
Snippets From The Past - Jerdan's Bay Port Underwood, capturing the history

Myself, along with my four siblings, have recently purchased the Homestead at Jerdan's Bay, with woolshed and 30ha of surrounding land. Having visited the property throughout our childhood (my father's family were part of the original Whataroa Forestry partnership), we have had a long history with Port Underwood and some incredible childhood memories there, so were keen to secure this for the next generation.

Those that have been into the bay recently will note that the Homestead is in need of a lot of work, having not been maintained for a number of years. We are slowly tackling some of this work and while doing so are conscious we want to maintain as much history as possible.

I have embarked on a project to collect the history of those that have farmed and owned the Jerdan's Bay property throughout the years. With input from George Yorke,

Ruth Simonsen, Tony Flood, David Crispin and Narelle & John Guard so far, we are slowly piecing together parts of the past.



One particular aspect of the history we are keen to find out about is the house – having originally thought that it was two houses barged in in two pieces (partly because of the different roof lines and internal layout); but we have found conflicting information suggesting otherwise. Bob Flood's book (Memories too Good to be Forgotten) suggests that "the river steamer "Wairau" landed the timber for Dat Munro's new house in Jerden's Bay, Port Underwood

23rd June 1912) noting that his previous house in Ngakuta Bay had burnt down in 1911. But other reports suggest that one part of the house was original and the other brought into the bay from another Port Underwood location. There is also a story of a bricklayer visiting in the late 1800's to work on the fireplace, leading us to believe that perhaps the kitchen end was there prior to Dat Munro bringing in additional timber for the bedroom wing in 1912.

There are a number of books on the area which have snippets of Jerdan's Bay (or Jerden's as it is sometimes referred), of particular reference is Bob Flood's book mentioned above and J Eyles Place Names of Port Underwood. Working out the timelines of ownership, we believe that Dat Munro purchased the farm off Joseph Flood on 5 May 1910 followed by Frank and Mary Daken (?), then their son Laurie Daken farmed it until Carole and Graham Russell took over in 1970. In 1978 it was sold to the Whataroa Forestry partnership, then in 2014 to Gerard and Angus Malcolm who subdivided the property prior to our purchase of Lot 6 in 2017. Huntley/Iy's and Clow families are also listed but how they fit in the time order is to be determined.



I have been lucky enough to speak with Carole Russell who with her husband and 4 children lived and farmed the property from 1970-1978. Her daughter Helen has been able to provide me with the below photos, taken during their time there and speaks very fondly of growing up on this isolated farm, being home-schooled and that it was a wonderful life for a family.

We would love any information that readers may have to help us piece the puzzle together so please get in touch kirstyvercoe@gmail.com or 027 704 5688. Thank you to those that have helped so far with our research. I hope to write an article in more detail to encapsulate this in a future newsletter.

Kirsty Vercoe (on behalf of the Martin family, Jerdan's Bay) September 2019.