



## Marahau / Sandy Bay Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

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Welcome to the MSBRRA's second Newsletter of 2018. The long slow work of cleaning up homes and property continues post the damaging effects of ex – Cyclone Gita.

The newsletter is a great way for the community to be informed about things that will affect all of us. It also gives members of the community the opportunity to provide feedback and input on issues of concern. We are always interested to hear back from you about this Newsletter any of the matters included in it at;

[marahau.sandybay@gmail.com](mailto:marahau.sandybay@gmail.com).

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Acknowledgements

Late Item

committee. We encourage anyone who wants to raise any matter to come along. The committee's areas of focus in 2018 include:

- Developing a children's playground in Marahau
- Keeping Marahau tidy through a range of initiatives
- Improved signage – including a new information centre signage, working with DOC to help direct visitors to the park and other relevant parties with regard to road signage
- Lobbying the telecommunication companies for improved mobile coverage
- Ensuring the TDC and other local government authorities have a focus on Marahau in their short, medium and long term plans. We have already undertaken significant work in delivering to TDC a document – "Vision Marahau" based on resident's feedback. A full copy of this is available from the Secretary.

Meeting dates for the balance of 2018 are:

Mon 23 July

Mon 27 Aug [Mayor Richard Kempthorne in attendance]

Mon 1 Oct

Mon 5 Nov

Sunday 9th or Sunday 16th Dec – AGM

### 1. Committee Members 2017

Gavin Alborn - [gavin.alborn@aquataxi.co.nz](mailto:gavin.alborn@aquataxi.co.nz)

John Ayling (Secretary) - [j.ayling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.ayling@xtra.co.nz)

Tom Collet - [nz\\_flyboy@surf.co.nz](mailto:nz_flyboy@surf.co.nz)

Dave Gunter - [davidheather@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidheather@xtra.co.nz)

Scott Hendry (Chair) - [scott@thehendrys.co.nz](mailto:scott@thehendrys.co.nz)

Phil Hodges - [philandrebecca100@gmail.com](mailto:philandrebecca100@gmail.com)

Jack Kelly - [jack@atk.co.nz](mailto:jack@atk.co.nz)

Chris Rutledge (Treasurer) - [chris.kim@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chris.kim@xtra.co.nz)

Debbie Smith – [debbie@seashuttle.co.nz](mailto:debbie@seashuttle.co.nz)

Deb Skelton – [skeltondeb@hotmail.com](mailto:skeltondeb@hotmail.com)

Cameron Arcus – [rd2@nzll.net](mailto:rd2@nzll.net)

Please contact any of these people with things you feel are relevant to the Association.

### 2. Join the Association

If you aren't currently a paid up member of the Association we would strongly encourage you to

### Committee Meetings / Agenda for 2018

The committee have regular Monday evening meetings (7pm) at the Marahau Community Hall. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings to raise an issue or provide feedback to the

join up. The subscription is \$20 which allows the Association to fund and support various activities. To join the Association please contact John Ayling at [j.ayling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.ayling@xtra.co.nz).

An invitation was earlier extended to the Split Apple Rock Owners Association [Inc.] to have a member of their organisation attend the Associations' Committee meetings. Mr Paul Kennedy now attends our meetings in that capacity.

### **3. Otuwhero Beach Access**

The pressure on space with respect public parking and safety, operations for water based activities, public access and use of beach areas particularly at the neck of the Otuwhero Spit, is and has now led to less than satisfactory outcomes in terms of resident and visitor experience.

The Tasman District Council [TDC] and the Association have agreed to work together with residents and the commercial operators to improve the current situation. A successful workshop was held at the Community Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 where we captured the problems with the carpark. All of the stakeholder groups were well represented at the workshop. Following on from this we will develop a plan to solve the problems where we can, and where we can't, to mitigate the problems.

We are committed to having improvements.

### **4. Playground**

The Association has received a Community Projects Grant of \$5,000 for the development of a new children's playground. Initial plans will shortly be available for comment

### **5. Sandy Bay-Marahau Information Sign**

A new information sign has been commissioned at a cost of \$1,200, outside the Abel Tasman Centre. Thanks to all who contributed to the brief history of the village along with several historical photos.

### **6. Esplanade Road Maintenance**

The Association is very grateful to those who have previously made themselves available for working bees and also to those residents who maintain the gardens adjacent to their properties. Advice is now

being sought on options available for a low cost planting and maintenance program for the foreshore gardens

### **7. DoC Development**

Stage 2 of the Marahau carpark is now well underway. This involves raising and levelling the lower carpark, landscaping the site and resurfacing with locally sourced aggregate. A meandering pathway linking the bus terminus to the Park Café and Abel Tasman Coast Track will also be constructed. The existing kiosk will be removed late winter and a new Waharoa (gateway) carved from Totara will be installed in the Spring.

For any inquiries, please contact Mark Townsend by email at [mtownsend@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mtownsend@doc.govt.nz)

### **8. Community Hall**

The lease for the site where the Marahau Fire Station & Community Hall is currently located at 269 Sandy Bay Road has provisions for renewal when it expires. The Tasman District Council earlier confirmed its intention to not renew the lease when it expires in October 2018. However we are delighted to learn that Fire and Emergency NZ [FENZ] have advised of their intention to exercise the renewal provision in the lease for a further term of 5 years. The Hall is available for use so if you want to use it get hold of Deb Skelton at 527 8226.

### **9. Representation to TDC re Long Term Plan**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018, the Association hosted the Mayor and senior staff of the Council at a consultation meeting on the Long Term Plan. There was a good turnout of residents. The Association has made a substantial submission to the draft plan covering the following issues of;

- Increasing visitor pressure on community infrastructure
- The need for a 'Strategic Development Plan'
- Provision of suitable community facilities [a community hall, public spaces & childrens playground]
- Adequate car parking
- Toilets that are regularly serviced and rubbish facilities
- Foreshore & esplanade maintenance

- Clarification of the wastewater standards
- The long-term consequences of events such as ex cyclone Gita.

### 10. Tourism Infrastructure Fund [TIF]

The Association has been advised that following on from the approvals of Round 1 of the above [[2017] two new rubbish compactors are [or have] been installed. With respect to the public toilets, the Council has advised of their intention to install a new two-toilet fully-accessible facility to replace the existing single toilet on the roadside adjacent to the entrance to the Wakatau entrance. The servicing programme will be the same as the current toilets which is Monday and Friday all year, plus Wednesdays over summer (1 Nov – 31 March).

The Association has been advised by the Council that the *“new rubbish facilities at Marahau won’t include recycling at this stage. In the meantime, we plan to install signs letting people know about the recycling facilities at Kaiteriteri”*. The Committee will continue to make representations on this matter.

With respect to Round 2 of TIF, the Association has again worked with the Council to prepare a further application for a ‘Feasibility Study’, the purpose of which is *“to identify and respond to parking and visitor beach/water access facilities and issues”*. The results of the feasibility study will inform a wider strategic plan for Marahau, which Council anticipates will guide the ongoing sustainable development of the settlement for visitors, commercial operators and residents.

### 11. Cell Phone Coverage

The most recent storm highlighted the ‘public safety’ implications of inadequate cell phone coverage when the telephone lines were out of action. The Association is presently in contact with the telecommunication providers and the Rural Connectivity Group.

Welcome mobile services via the temporary cell tower continues.

### 12. Wetlands

The Wetlands were badly affected by cyclone Gita and a large quantity of logs and debris has been swept into the wetland. At the Association meeting

this month the committee agreed to set aside funding of up to \$3, 500 for repairs to the Wetlands. Substantial remediation has now taken place. The Association is grateful to the contractors and the Tasman Forest Management for undertaking this work.

### 13. Ground Water Quality

As advised in the last newsletter, over summer TDC undertook testing of the ground water quality at Marahau. The results were mixed; in several areas the groundwater does not meet the NZ Drinking Water Standard (NZDWS). TDC’s advice is that residents using untreated bore water should boil the water. If this affects you, you should have been contacted by TDC by now. For more information on this please contact Chris Rutledge.

### 14. New Members

The Committee have approved the membership applications and renewals of the following;

- Terry and Pamela Soutl
- Dave Bloomfield
- Jean-Francois Robert
- Paul Kennedy and Marieann Kennan
- Errol and Lynne Freeman

### 15. Civil Defence

Civil Defence personnel recently hosted a meeting in Marahau to outline their plans post the Gita event. The present 2012 Response Plan and schedule of available assets is well out of date and aspects were found wanting with respect to Gita. It is to be revised with local community input and contributions with respect local resources, VHF radio capability and more local training. Watch this space.

In the meantime can residents and operators please let the Secretary know of the assets [see below], that they would be prepared to volunteer in the case of a Civil Defence emergency in order that the present list of assets can be updated? The present schedule includes;

Diggers	Tractors	Boats
Generators	VHF/UHF Radios	Fuel
Trucks	Construction Tools	Pumps
Water Supply	Recovery Winches	Chainsaw’s
LPG Gas	Trailers	Other

## 16. Sustainable Marahau Inc. Soc.

A group of local Marahau and Sandy Bay residents came together immediately after the February weather event in order to proactively address some of the issues exacerbated by current forestry practices. The objectives of this group were identified as being short, medium and long term:

**Short:** To provide immediate support for those directly affected by pine plantation debris intrusion on to their property.

**Medium: 1.** To provide a submission to Tasman Forest Management's 'emergency' review of their future planting and management plan; **2.** To commission an independent review of the possible sedimentation effects of forestry operations on local inlets; and **3.** To produce a short documentary of the event in order that a record be made.

**Long:** To advocate for, and actively pursue, a change in current forestry practices on Separation Point Granite in order to preserve life, property and the intrinsic value of the natural environment.

The group has been very successful in achieving its short and medium objectives to date. The group have respectively and effectively worked alongside Tasman Forest Management to restore property as far as is possible. The submission to the Management Plan advocated for the identification of:

- Which land should be immediately retired from pine plantation and actively managed back to native.
- Which land remained suitable for pine plantation?
- Alternate commercial species which are more sustainable.
- Alternate harvesting practices to replace the current default method of clear felling.

The results of the independent review on the impacts of forestry related sedimentation on the inlets can be found through these links:  
<https://abeltasmanecotours.co.nz/cyclone-gita-the-path-to-recovery/>  
and

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/x9v3n78q74tn90w/Estuary%20impacts%20%28Davidson%202018%29.pdf?dl=0>

The film documentary had its 'premier' in the Marahau Community hall on Friday, April the 13th. This was attended by over 120 people and was a 'standing room only' event. The intention is for more public screenings before being released onto the internet at some point in the future.

If anyone is interested in learning more of this group and the work they do, the Chair, Ross Morton, can be contacted at [morton\\_ross@hotmail.com](mailto:morton_ross@hotmail.com).

## 17. Spotted!

A Marahau resident of long standing was recently spotted in a faraway place searching it is believed, for Guinness and leprechauns!



The success or otherwise of this search may be reported in the next Newsletter.

## 18. Acknowledgements

The Association has acknowledged the recent passing of Pete Alborn. A donation has been made to the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Service. Pete and the Alborn family have and are strong supporters of the Association.

## 19. A late item from the TDC on sand replenishment – north end of the rock revetment

The Association has had correspondence with the TDC on alternative sources of sand for replenishment of the north end of the rock

revetment. The Council very recently responded as follows;

*"... We have investigated the feasibility of alternative sources of sand for the periodic replenishment of sand at the northern end of the rock revetment (southern end of Wakatu beach). The main reason why the existing sand source on the Marahau foreshore area near Otuwhero spit was chosen was:*

- *the nature of the material (effectively being the same as the sand typically present on the beach)*
- *proximity, which means the sand replenishment can be completed as cost effectively as possible*
- *the operation within the chosen area can be completed without having more than minor effects on the environment.*

*It has been suggested there is an alternative supply of sand available from the Otuwhero Stream area. We have recently assessed this alternative site and have found the following:*

- *the material in this area is too contaminated with other organic matter to be acceptable for sand replenishment*
- *it would cost at least twice as much to shift material from this site to the Wakatu Beach compared with sand relocated from existing source, due to the smaller machinery and trucks that would be able to be used and the longer haul distance, which would need to be on public roads.*
- *the environmental effects of sourcing material from the stream and/or estuarine area would be no better, and could be worse, than the existing source.*

*I hope this clarifies the issue for the Association.*

*Jamie McPherson Transportation Manager"*

**ENDS**