



Marahau / Sandy Bay Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

C/- Split Ridge, 102 Tokongawa Drive, RD2, Motueka 7197 – marahau.sandybay@gmail.com

Welcome to the MSBRRA's first email for 2018 and what a start it has been, with torrential rains and significant damage to property and infrastructure. And now the long slow work of cleaning up homes and property. If you are considering making an insurance claim contact the Earthquake Commission first on 0800 326 243

The AGM in December elected a new committee [see below]

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 any of the matters included in the newsletter via marahau.sandybay@gmail.com.

In This Newsletter

[Joining the Association](#)

[Beach Access](#)

[Playground](#)

[New Sandy Bay-Marahau Information Sign](#)

[Esplanade Maintenance](#)

[Entrance to Marahau](#)

[DOC Development](#)

[Community Hall](#)

[Tasman District Council – Long Term Plan](#)

[Tourist Infrastructure Fund](#)

[Cell phone coverage](#)

[Wetlands](#)

- Developing a children's playground in Marahau
- Keeping Marahau tidy through a range of initiatives, including twice yearly working bees
- 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 2018 are:

Wed 4 April

Mon 7 May

Sun 3 June [provisional]

Mon 23 July

Mon 27 Aug

Mon 1 Oct

Mon 5 Nov

Sunday 9th or Sunday 16th Dec – AGM

1. Committee Members 2017

Gavin Alborn - gavin.alborn@aquataxi.co.nz

John Ayling (Secretary) - j.ayling@xtra.co.nz

Tom Collet - nz_flyboy@surf.co.nz

Dave Gunter - davidheather@xtra.co.nz

Scott Hendry (Chair) - scott@thehendrys.co.nz

Phil Hodges - philandrebecca100@gmail.com

Jack Kelly - jack@atk.co.nz

Chris Rutledge (Treasurer) - chris.kim@xtra.co.nz

Debbie Smith – debbie@seashuttle.co.nz

Deb Skelton – skeltondeb@hotmail.com

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

join up. The subscription is \$20 which goes towards things like publishing this newsletter. The stronger the Association's membership base the more notice the Council and others will take of the community's views on important matters like the Long Term Plan which is presently being consulted on.

To join the Association please contact John Ayling at j.ayling@xtra.co.nz.

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 Association together with representatives of kayak operators recently meet with the Mayor and senior Council Staff where it was agreed that a 'management plan' for this area was needed. The parties agreed for the Association to prepare a draft Terms of Reference for a joint project to develop the management plan to ensure the interests and safety of residents, visitors and operators. The meeting agreed this would be implemented by 1 September in time for the new season.

4. Playground

The Association has also received a Community Projects Grant of \$5,000 for the development of a new children's playground.

5. Sandy Bay-Marahau Information Sign

A new information sign will shortly be installed – 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 Side 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. Cyclone Fehi has caused scouring of the rock wall walkway and it has been decided to wait for that to be repaired before cleaning up the garden plots. However members and friends are on notice.

7. DoC Development

Construction of the Marahau DOC carpark and Park Café waste water system and toilet upgrade is now finished and has been fully functional over summer. The new bus terminus and shelter is also complete.

Stage two kicks off in April/May which will involve landscaping the carpark, placing new signage, and providing a link pathway from bus terminus to track entrance via the Café. The installation of a carved waharoa (gateway) and the removal of the existing kiosk/shelter (located adjacent to the Café) will also occur this winter.

The recent cyclones also created havoc along the causeway. A 50 metre bridge was shunted sideways and this structure will be repaired, along with the construction of a new 24 metre bridge at the park entrance

For any inquiries, please contact Mark Townsend by email at mtownsend@doc.govt.nz

8. Community Hall

The lease for the site where the Marahau Community Hall is currently located at 269 Sandy Bay Rd will not be renewed by TDC when it expires in October 2018. TDC have advised the Association that the new amalgamated fire service organisation, Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ), will not accept the current Rural Fire Station located at the Community Hall and that new premises will be built adjacent to the DoC carpark by the Park entrance.

Both recent extreme weather events resulted in flooding in the DoC carpark and we are seeking advice from DoC/FENZ on the suitability of the proposed site for this emergency facility.

The decision not to renew the present lease means we face the prospect of losing this community facility, which clearly demonstrated that it was a vital link in the recent and ongoing recovery efforts for Marahau. The Council consider that Marahau has alternatives in Marahau and/or within 15 minutes driving time. Further options are being considered.

9. Representation to TDC re Long Term Plan

Last year the committee on behalf of the Association presented a report on the direction and action on how Marahau could look, with the expectation of giving residents and visitors an

enjoyable experience while ensuring the special character of Marahau is maintained.

The Council are now consulting on their recent review of the Long Term Plan [LTP]. It can be found at:

<http://www.tasman.govt.nz/policy/public-consultation/draft-long-term-plan-2018-2028-ltp>

A supplementary document [Marahau Settlement report] on the specific intentions for Marahau can be found at:

<http://www.tasman.govt.nz/policy/public-consultation/draft-long-term-plan-2018-2028-ltp/supporting-information/settlement-area-reports/>

Marahau residents are encouraged to become familiar with these documents and take up the offer to make a submission. Points for consideration could include

- Addressing the growth and development pressures, generated largely by the tourism activity, which are and will result in significant resource management and environmental design issues at Marahau which include parking, wastewater and water supply
- Extending cell phone coverage
- A permanent community hall.

The Council is consulting with communities on the LTP and the Association has arranged a public meeting with Councillors and senior TDC staff at the Community Hall at 4:00 on Tuesday 3 April to provide feedback on the plan. We strongly encourage to attend to support the Association's submission on the LTP.

10. Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The Council has advised that the bids made to the above fund for additional toilet, rubbish and recycling facilities at Marahau have been approved and that the new facilities will be installed in time for 2108/19 season.

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. Further representations are being made to the telcos and the Rural Connectivity Group.

We have written to Spark to tank them for re-instating the temporary cell tower at short notice.

13. Wetlands

Over the last 25 years the Association has undertaken the rehabilitation of a key wetland area in Marahau. The wetland is on land held by LINZ on behalf of the Crown and the Association holds a lease for the land occupied by the wetland. The Association has maintained and enhanced the wetland and are grateful for the contribution of Will Simes who continues to provide oversight of this iconic feature of Marahau. For those interested in further understanding or assisting in the management of the wetlands please contact Will at 527 8161.

The Wetlands were badly affect 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 provide funding of \$3500 for repairs to the wetland.

14. Marahau Volunteer Fire Force [MVFF]

MVFF is calling for committed volunteers who are prepared to attend practises and undertake training for the NZQA standards required under FENZ (Fire and Emergency New Zealand).

The crew we have now are doing a great job but they need more help in emergencies as was shown recently. The MVFF crew attend practises and training with Tasman Rural Fire (TRF) in Motueka and this is working really well and the crew appreciate their support. TRF have undertaken to train a crew boss for Marahau with MVFF operating under TRF's umbrella, retaining the fire station and equipment in Marahau but with support from TRF. Give it a go!!

When a Civil Defence emergency occurs as happened in February, the MVFF under direction from FENZ, respond to help with immediate safety and care. In some communities around the district (including Marahau), Civil Defence have people that they can call on to obtain on the ground situation reports. These people are usually not part of the

volunteer fire force or fire brigade but communicate closely with them.

15. Ground Water Quality

Over the summer TDC undertook testing of the ground water quality at Marahau. If you would like a copy of the report and results please email our Treasurer (chris.kim@xtra.co.nz). The results show in a number of cases the groundwater does not meet the NZ Drinking Water Standard (NZDWS) and TDC advice is that residents using untreated bore water should boil their water. TDC will be contacting the bore owners to advise them of the test results.

16. Entrance to Marahau

The recent AGM meeting clearly endorsed the proposal for sculpture works at the entranceway to Marahau. The recent storms have prompted the Committee to defer progression of this project at this time.

17. Acknowledgements

The Association has acknowledged and congratulated a member - Pic Picot – who was awarded the MNZM in the most recent New Year's Honours. Well deserved.

18. Marahau Hill Road/Forest

The Association has today – [9th March] received the following advice from Megan Bell, [Tasman District Council] re the Marahau Hill Road.

"The gate at the top of the Marahau Hill (Marahau end of Riwaka- Sandy Bay Road) will be closed for the next two weeks.

This will mean no access for anyone (including residents). There will also be a clear road closure set up at the Riwaka end. The reason for this is that logging contractors have now entered the area and will be felling trees.

Dump trucks, diggers and skidders will be moving up and down the road.

At night logging trucks will be carting out of the forest at Marahau (including during the weekends).

Could you please pass this information onto residents and businesses?

I have called residents located at the bottom of the Marahau hill, Kayak companies and the Marahau shop to advise them of this.

This information will also be on the Council website.

Ends