



Marahau / Sandy Bay Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

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Welcome to the MSBRRA's third and final newsletter for 2017. The committee and a number of local residents have over the past year invested significant time and energy in pursuing the key focus area it outlined when it was elected.

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.

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- 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 has 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.

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

Heather 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

Will Simes - will@ecokiwi.co.nz

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 join up. The subscription is \$20 which goes towards things like publishing this newsletter. The stronger the Association's membership base the more notice TDC and others will take of the community's views on important matters like the review of the Tasman District Plan which is being carried out this year.

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

Committee Meetings / Agenda for 2017

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. Please note that the **AGM is set down for Sunday 17th December at 1.30 pm in the Community Hall**. Please support your Association by attending.

The committee's areas of focus in 2017 included:

3. Northern Beach Access

Earlier in the year the Association received a grant of \$5,000 from the Motueka Community Board to 'beautify' the north end of Marahau Beach revetment. While very grateful for the grant the Committee formed the view that until a more permanent solution was implemented to address the persistent and ongoing erosion this would not be a good use of this money. An alternative application to the Community Board has been made. The Association is pleased to receive a revised grant of \$10,000 from the Motueka Community Board for the 'enhancement of Marahau'.

A meeting was held with TDC to discuss the Council's plans to address the recurring erosion at the beach. The Association request that consideration of other sources of sand be considered has been agreed to by Council staff.

4. Playground

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

A draft survey questionnaire is in the process of being finalised. If you are interested in being involved in the playground project, please contact Scott on 527 8250 who has taken over this project from Amelia.

5. Sandy Bay-Marahau Information Sign

We are currently in the final stages of developing the new information centre map – outside the Abel Tasman Centre. Included, as with the existing map, will be a brief history of the village along with several historical photos.

6. Development at 1 Sandy Bay - Marahau Road

The Association is aware of a proposal at 1 Sandy Bay – Marahau Road to establish a multi-purpose facility providing 11 room accommodation, café/shop and space for an enclosed garage and storage. Clarification has been sought from TDC on its consenting status and at time of writing a Resource Consent application has not been lodged. We have sought assurances that an opportunity for the community to be heard on the proposed development will be provided.

7. Esplanade Road Side Maintenance

The Association is very grateful to those who have made themselves available at the last two 'working bee's. However the low turnout has prompted the question of whether the Association hand back responsibility for maintenance of this area to the Council. It is a matter to be considered at the AGM.

8. Entrance to Marahau

At the last meeting of the Committee received a concept plan from a local artist for a suitable sculpture to be commissioned at the entrance to Marahau.

After discussion the Committee agreed that a small model be prepared for presentation to the members at the AGM.

9. DOC Development

Construction is now well underway of Stage 1 being installation of a waste water system and upgrading of toilets. The new waste water system will be opened this month and likely completion date for the new terminus will be mid-December. Work on the project will then go on 'hold' until Autumn, when work will recommence on the landscaping and installation of the a Totara waharoa (gateway).

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

10. 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 November 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.

TDC believes it is important to retain the Fire Station in Marahau and the Association strongly support this. However the decision not to renew the lease for the Marahau Community Hall means we face the prospect of losing this community facility.

This also will be a matter for discussion at the AGM.

11. Representation to TDC re long term plan

Last year the committee agreed to formulate a future plan of 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 report which has been distributed to all members and interested parties has now been sent to TDC as part of their current review of the district's Long Term Plan. We have also had a meeting in Marahau with TDC staff on the conclusions and our suggestions arising from this work. In essence, the following matters are in need of attention – a number of which have already been initiated (see next page).

Scott and John recently met with senior TDC staff to discuss the issues raised in our 'Vision Marahau' report. The Council intend to include the lack of decent rubbish, recycling and toilet facilities in an application to the Government's recently announced "Tourism Infrastructure Fund". We also pressed the Council on the parking congestion at the Otuwhero spit. Improved signage has been recently been installed. Finally there was an acknowledgement that a more coherent and longer term approach to infrastructure for Marahau is required in light of the significant increase in visitor numbers.

12. Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The Association has been advised by the Council that our jointly prepared applications for funding from the Tourist Infrastructure Fund (TIF) to improve signage, improved/additional toilets, rubbish facilities and recycling at Marahau has been endorsed and is now being considered by Official in Wellington for approval which is expected on or before the 30th November. There is also included a longer term project to undertake and fund a 'Plan for Marahau'.

13. Cell Phone Coverage

Vodafone, Spark and 2degrees announced in May this year of a joint proposal to the Crown Fibre Holdings (CFH) to improve rural broadband and mobile infrastructure in 'hard to reach' communities. The three telecommunications providers have made a joint submission to CFH for

the delivery of high speed broadband and mobile infrastructure using the Rural Broadband Initiative Extension (RBI2) and Mobile Black Spot Fund. It is understood that a decision will be made early in the New Year.

Spark has confirmed that they will again provide a temporary service over the coming summer season

14. 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.

Finally and on behalf of your Committee best wishes for the coming festive season.