

[Marahau/Sandy Bay Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.](#)

c/ 64 Marahau Valley Road, Marahau RD2 Motueka 7197 marahau.sandybay@gmail.com

Dear residents and ratepayers of Marahau and Sandy Bay,
I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful winter we are experiencing so far! Just about every day I marvel at how lucky we are to live where we do, especially as I watch the sun come up and give rise to another beautiful day!

I have tried to concisely compile a few bits of information of things that are of interest for our community. As usual, please feel free to join us at any of our association meetings, we welcome everyone and value your input.

Enjoy the wonderful winter!

Deb Skelton
Chair, MSBRRPA

Committee Members 2020

Deb Skelton (Chair) - skeltondeb@hotmail.com
Chris Rutledge (Treasurer - chris.kim@xtra.co.nz
Sue Thorp (secretary) – sct.poolest1949@gmail.com
Gavin Alborn - gavin.alborn@aquataxi.co.nz
Brenda Brownlie – brendabrownlie@hotmail.com
Lynette Freeman - eandfree@gmail.com
Dave Gunter - davidheather@xtra.co.nz
Phil Hodges - philandrebecca100@gmail.com
Sarah Rees - sarah23rees@gmail.com
[Renee Thomas - renee26rat@hotmail.com](mailto:renee26rat@hotmail.com)
Tim Wraight - sealevel@ts.co.nz

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

Committee Meetings

The committee have regular meetings every 5 to 6 weeks split between either a Sunday at 4pm or a Monday at 7 pm at the Marahau Fire Station/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 objectives for 2020 are:**

After discussion the following were agreed to;

- a) Complete an up to date membership list
- b) Progress the Sculpture project
- c) Maintain and enhance the Wetlands
- d) Maintain a watching brief on Stage 2 of the Newhaven residential development
- e) Progress Dark Sky status for Marahau
- f) Infrastructure Levy – develop options
- g) Continue to advocate for a long term plan for Marahau, with an initial focus on a 'traffic management and parking plan'
- h) Maintenance of the revetment gardens

Remaining Meeting dates .All to be held in the Community Hall/Fire Station:

Monday - 20th July 7.00 pm
Monday - 24th August 7.00 pm
Sunday - 25th October 4.00 pm
Monday - 23rd November 7.00 pm
Sunday - 13th Dec - AGM 1.30 pm

If you aren't currently a paid up member of the Association we would strongly encourage you to join up. To join the Association please contact Sue Thorp at Marahau.sandybay@gmail.com. The subscription is \$20 and enables the Association to fund and support various activities. Payment can be made by direct credit to our bank account at Westpac 03-0693-0166109-00. Please enter **your name** as the 'Reference'.

Dog Control Bylaw

A Dog Control Bylaw review for the Marahau to Tapu Bay area is scheduled for later this year. It will involve the standard public consultation process with submissions requested. These will be considered by a "Hearings Panel", with the opportunity to speak re your submission. The panel will make recommendations to the Council, who will decide on any changes to the current Bylaw. Advertisements for submissions should occur within the next 2-3 months, & it's expected the whole process will be completed by Christmas.

Cockle Limits in Marahau

For all those interested, the association has been in contact with Fisheries and they have given us a contact who might be able to help us organize a cockle survey and monitor the cockle population over the next couple of years. This would be a productive study as currently Fisheries and MPI believe that the cockle population will likely rebound in the next 2-3 years and have no intention of reducing the current limits of cockles for collection. If you are concerned about the possible reduction in cockle numbers and cockle size then we would be interested to hear from you and would love your help if we decide to conduct a population survey.

Dark Sky Community

Top of the South Dark Sky initiative has informed us that they are pursuing a Dark Sky Reserve for Kahurangi, Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes National Parks. The reserve area takes in 15 km around this boundary which would therefore include Marahau. This is a special designation and difficult to achieve and may take years but it is in the works. Check out www.darksky.org.

Toilet Upgrade and Cell Phone Tower Location

Still trying to find a suitable location for the public toilet relocation, upgrade and the suitable location for a permanent cell tower.

At the time of writing a few from the committee and TDC have met to try and figure out where to go with the location of a public toilet in Marahau. As you have probably noticed it is really only a matter of time and high tides before we lose the toilets at the Otuwhero spit and so far we have been unable to find a suitable location for the relocation and upgrade of the toilet close to the Wakatu entrance.

The Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) is a government appointed, independent entity established to build the infrastructure shared by New Zealand's three mobile network operators and to operate and maintain the new open access network. They are working hard in this area to come up with a suitable location. Once this is done and possible sites found, the MBRRPA would like to organise a meeting between the RCG and the community. Date yet to be determined.

Mārahau Halo Update

Things are progressing quickly for us, we have passed the 250 catches milestone (268 total: 113 rats, 1 mustelid, 2 possums and 152 mice) and in the last few weeks we have received several fantastic donations.

Project Janszoon has donated funds which will allow us to purchase the traps needed for the Harvey Rd trap line. Tasman Environmental Trust (along with the Mens Shed) gifted us 8 single set DOC 200 stainless steel traps and Friends of Flora have passed on 13 of their single set DOC 200 traps. These traps will form the basis for the Mārahau Valley line, which we hope to have up and running soon.

We are also in the process of building boxes for mouse traps to go alongside the existing rat traps. We hope this will solve the issue we are currently facing of having mice eat the rat bait. Fingers crossed.

A huge thank you to Wally and Anna-Kate for their help checking traps. Wally and Anna-Kate have been checking the New Haven line near daily and have had a fantastic result with 70 of our catches coming from their line.

And just a quick reminder, if you live inside the 'ring' (Franklin St, New Haven and the properties along the Sandy Bay-Mārahau Rd between the boat ramp and the Ocean View Chalets) and would like to have (and monitor) a trap on your property please contact Chris (marahauhalo@gmail.com) to arrange. Alternatively if you already have traps and you would like your results to be included in our tally please let us know - this goes for the wider Mārahau area as well.

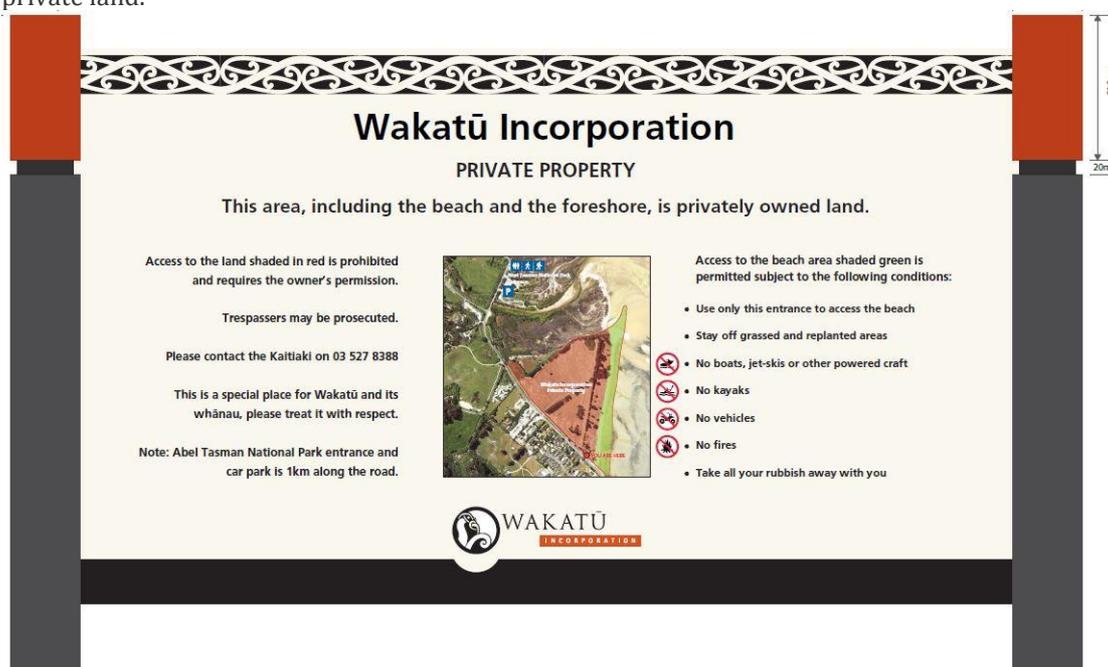
Thank you all for your support,

Chris,

<https://www.facebook.com/MarahauHalo>

Wakatu Information Board.

A board has been erected at the beachfront to remind visitors about the beach access to Wakatu private land.



Community Plantings

Maintenance of the revetment gardens –At the last MSBRRA meeting Chris Rutledge proposed a sum of up to \$1000 to purchase plants and compost to do an Autumn/Winter planting to bulk up plantings and plant bare patches. Members will be notified by email of a date and time of this, and more planting at Wakatu ,for volunteers to help at these events.

Wetlands

The Wetland group are waiting on the contractor to come down to continue the earthworks as per last newsletter. Some trees noted by networktasan need trimming and this will be attended to by them. Of concern is that a seedling of **Old Man's Beard** has been found in the area which is a reminder to us all to be vigilant and eradicate any seedlings found.

That concludes this Winter Newsletter . Any **feedback** would be welcome. Please email Sue Thorp, Secretary, or any committee member at marahau.sandybay@gmail.com if you would like to add anything to an agenda before meetings.

Thank you.

