

## Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group, held at the Okiwi Bay Settlers Hall, Okiwi Bay on Monday 23 November 2015 at 9.00 am

**Present:** Clr Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Clr David Oddie, Clr Graeme Barsanti, Eric Jorgensen, Graeme Coates, Ken Roush, Linda Booth, Monyeen Wedge, Rachel Drake, Robin Cox, Aaron Robinson, Ross Withel, Tim Greenhough and Vic Holler

**MDC Staff:** Steve Urlich and Nicky Eade

**Guest Speaker:** Brian Plaisier (Tui Nature Reserve) and Les Kelly (Predator Free NZ)

**In Attendance:** Yvette Johnson (MDC Secretary)

### 1. Welcome

Trevor welcomed the group and stated that this was the last meeting of the year for the Sounds Advisory group and it was great to see many here and he thanked everyone for attending. A new person has joined the group, Aaron Robinson representing the Marlborough Forest Industries Association. Aaron then introduced himself to the group.

### 2. Apologies

Clr Andrews, Clr Brooks, Clr Dawson, Clr Jerram, Alan Johnson, David Hayes, Judy Hellstrom and Kristen Gerard

### 3. Action Points from Previous Meeting

**A document to be drawn up with regard to volunteers harvesting young wilding pines stating the requirements and the process required.** Robin Cox/Victor

*Robin spoke to Steve Murrin, Journey Manager Marlborough, NZTA regarding this and unfortunately the Health and Safety Laws make it too difficult. Robin recommended when walking on the tracks in the Marlborough Sounds, just pull out the wilding pines when you find them.*

**Advise group if Marine Protected Areas discussion paper is received by Council** Alan Johnson

*The paper has not been notified.*

**SAG Terms of Reference to be created and loaded on to the website** Alan/Yvette

*Due to recent membership changes, the Terms of Reference is under review and to be completed in 2016.*

**All members to decide whether they would like their contact details (name and email address) on the SAG page on the MDC website.** All Members

*Three members agreed to have their details on the website. It has now been decided that due to only a small amount of replies, details will not be loaded onto the website as it is also difficult to keep contact details updated*

#### 4. Joe Heberley – Resignation & Rob Schuckard - Replacement

- It was very sad to receive Joe's resignation but due to health issues he is no longer able to participate. He was recognised for his incredible contribution to this group and a letter of appreciation and thanks is to be drawn up.

**Moved:** Robin Cox      **Seconded:** Monyeen Wedge - **Carried**

- Monyeen had spoken to Joe and he will give some thought to his replacement and she will keep the group informed.
- Rob has temporarily stood down due to a family member's illness and may return at some stage. John Webber had offered to step in as the replacement to represent the French Pass area. John is to be invited to first meeting next year. Rob, over the years, has undertaken a lot of work for the group, especially with king salmon and he was thanked for his contribution.

#### 5. Pest Control Management Plan – Nicky Eade

- There have been some recent amendments to the Bio Security Act which have changed the way the pest management plans are completed.
- Jono Underwood and the team are working on a regional pest plan which will be out in the New Year as a discussion paper and will include a wide range of pest programmes and progressive control plants.
- A biosecurity strategy will be run alongside this plan and will be broader covering non regulatory pest control. Currently under the pest management strategy there is a list of ecological pests which includes Old Man's Beard etc.
- Community groups set up to do pest control, are a merging theme, now have some ambitious plans around animal and plant pest control.
- The strategy will also include the marine issues, which at this stage are non-regulatory responses.
- A question was asked about the new wasp control product that is coming out in the New Year – do you have to be licenced to operate it or will it be available for people in the community to use?
  - Robin Cox reported:

A very effective wasp bait may be available this summer. This has been used by DOC for several years under a trial permit. It is likely that it will be available to the public but training will be required. Those interested in knowing about the training should contact Richard Toft at [Richard@entecol.co.nz](mailto:Richard@entecol.co.nz). Indicative prices of the bait is:

- 1.5 kg @ \$160.00 plus GST enough for 60 bait stations.
- 500 grams @ \$80.00 plus GST enough for 20 bait stations.
- The bait stations are \$3.80 plus GST each.

It is unsure what is involved to obtain a licence therefore contact Richard Toft for further information.

#### 6. SNA & Tui to Town Projects Update – Nicky Eade

- The Significant Natural Areas project is a long standing programme which began in 2001/02. This project is around identifying and promoting the protection of significant natural areas and indigenous flora and fauna and is under Section 6 of the Resource Management Act, which is a high level matter of national importance that needs to be taken account of. MDC decided to take a non-regulatory approach to this and work in a partnership approach with land owners.

- A working group was set up to make sure the project was a genuine partnership, which includes Council, DOC, QEII and three land owner representatives. Kristen Gerard is the Sounds representative.
- Refer page 2 of the presentation (attached). This shows the Marlborough District was divided into ecological districts. The purple line shows the division between the two plans, the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan to the north and the Wairau/Awatere Plan to the south. A new plan is currently being developed incorporating both these areas.
- Each ecological district unit was worked through and each of these formed a unit to be worked in. The Sounds is a big unit, D'Urville forms another and Cook Strait is some tiny little outer sounds area. The green shading is the DOC land.
- The project started with a lot of ecological survey work, which was with the permission of landowners. About 280 landowners were surveyed and 708 sites were identified as a significant natural area with about 240 of these sites identified in the Sounds area.
- The Protection programme – Landowner Assistance fund was set up after 2-3 years to help landowners protect sites. About 80 sites are now “protected” in some way and 32 of these are covenanted with QEII and about 20 of these protected sites are in the Sounds area.
- Council does not require the sites to be covenanted, they do encourage it but it is not requirement as part of the conditions. Refer page 6 – this map shows the protection projects that have been undertaken. The green dots show sites that are QEII covenanted and the red dots non-covenanted.
- Where sites have been protected a follow up is completed every two years checking for weeds and making sure the property has been maintained. It is also important to keeping in contact with the landowners and to discuss any management issues.
- D'Urville Island – the Council has been working in conjunction with the Sounds Restoration Trust to contribute to wilding pine control and looking at Hakea which is a growing concern.
- There are a large range of associated projects:
  - Attached is the September 2015 SNA Project – Newsletter and here is a link to past newsletters on the MDC website – <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-Publications-Reports/Significant-Natural-Areas-Project-Newsletters.aspx>
  - A Planting and Restoration Guide.- <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-Publications-Reports/North-Marlborough-Planting-and-Restoration-Guide.aspx>
  - More detail for this project is in the annual report - [http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/sitecore/shell/Controls/Rich%20Text%20Editor/~/\\_media/Files/MDC/Home/Your%20Council/Order%20Papers%20and%20Minutes/2015/Attachments/030915-Item%205-Summary\\_Report\\_on\\_the\\_Results\\_of\\_the\\_Significant\\_Natural\\_Areas\\_Project\\_2014-2015.pdf](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/sitecore/shell/Controls/Rich%20Text%20Editor/~/_media/Files/MDC/Home/Your%20Council/Order%20Papers%20and%20Minutes/2015/Attachments/030915-Item%205-Summary_Report_on_the_Results_of_the_Significant_Natural_Areas_Project_2014-2015.pdf)
  - Ungulate Fencing Report 2015 – a small report prepared by Andrew Macalister and Dave Butler from Nelson to explore the possibilities of various fencing options and costs to exclude feral animals in the context of the Sounds environment - [http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biodiversity/~/\\_media/Files/MDC/Home/Environment/Biodiversity/Ungulate-Pigs\\_Deer\\_Goats-Fencing\\_Report-Sounds.pdf](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biodiversity/~/_media/Files/MDC/Home/Environment/Biodiversity/Ungulate-Pigs_Deer_Goats-Fencing_Report-Sounds.pdf)
- There has been a rise of Community Conservation Groups and Council are working through the best way to support these groups i.e. through pest control.
- At present these groups do not feed into Council but Nicky has been asked to represent the South Island in a group called Nature Space. The website <http://naturespace.org.nz/> has been developed

by DOC and some of the lower North Island Councils. Any feedback, please contact Nicky on [nicky.eade@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicky.eade@marlborough.govt.nz).

- The Tui to Town project is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and the boundary has been extended into Wairau Valley, Seddon and Ward. If anyone sees a Tui in any of the new areas, please get in contact with Nicky on [nicky.eade@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicky.eade@marlborough.govt.nz).
- Robin passed on a compliment from Nelson and Tasman District Council areas. They were envious of MDC and their undertakings in the Marlborough Region with relation to the SNA programme and particularly the assistance that is given to landowners in order to protect these areas.

## 7. MDC Coastal Programme Update – Steve Urlich

- There is a study being undertaken on how Picton Bays have changed - Shakespeare, Picton Harbour and Waikawa. The study will give an overall picture of contaminants, significant marine sites and effects of outfall pipes.
- Friends of the Library have been searching over 900 books in the Marlborough collection to research anecdotes of environmental change in the Sounds.
- The study completed by Sean Handley last year on the 'History of benthic seabed change in Pelorus Sound' is to be repeated for Queen Charlotte Sound.
- The Picton Bays study will be reported to Council in February 2016 at the first Environment Committee meeting.
- In association with the Marine Farming Association and MPI, Council has contracted NIWA to drill "back in time" over 1000 years into the seabed to understand how seabed ecosystems have changed in the Pelorus Sound.
- Further hydrodynamic modelling is proposed to examine in more detail some of the findings of the Pelorus and Queen Charlotte models published recently (<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems/Hydrodynamic-Models.aspx>). The additional work seeks to improve some of the underlying mathematical assumptions in the model. This will enable simulations around the effects of aquaculture to be re-examined with more refined data.
- Significant marine sites – <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems/Significant-Marine-Sites.aspx>. The expert panel looked at the results from this year and classified the benthic (seabed) sites by the risk of, and sensitivity to, disturbance. Some sites will not be able to tolerate anchors or commercial/recreational dredging and trawling. Some sites can handle recreational anchoring and some like Croisilles bed could potentially handle recreational dredging but not commercial. The expert panel report is to be presented to Council's Environment Committee on 26 November <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings/2015-Council-Meetings/Environment-26-Nov.aspx>
- Council's Environment Committee will also consider a Council investigation into the causes and consequences of fine sediment from forestry on the Sounds ecosystems. The Council report examined over 12 scientific studies over 35 years and identified practical measures to mitigate the effects of sediment on seabed ecosystems. .

## 8. 2 Peninsulas Project (2PP) – Brian Plaisier & Les Kelly

- NZ is losing its wildlife at an alarming rate – 80% of all remaining NZ Birds, 88% of skinks and geckos and 100% of frogs.
- Predation is the main cause of the decline of NZ native species - rodents (mice & rats), possums, stoats, feral cats and wasps.

- These species are all facing extinction (Environment Aotearoa Report, October 2015) <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/environment-aotearoa-2015>
- This is a large scale community project for a “remove and defend” strategy of tree climbing predator animals and wasps.
  - Using new methods and technologies like non-toxin Goodnature self re-setting traps.
  - Using the skills and expertise from an expert team to advise the community of the technical ways.
  - Working together with Universities and Crown Research Institutes to trial new methods that will be available at a later stage.
- Maud Island is outside the project but it is very important to the project as they have special programmes running.
- DOC land is in orange and the private landowners are in red. This whole area is building up in a very supportive way with people offering accommodation and labour (refer to attached document 2PP Restoration Project).
  - Core Area 1 - Te Kopi (No. 5) – the land owner is looking at finishing off a fence and is talking to recovery groups.
  - Core Area 2 – Mt Shewell/Tui Reserve. The past 5-6 years were spent on breeding species - Yellow Kakareke and Giant Weta.
  - Core Area 3 – Taipare – the Schuckard family is working on a big project where a wetland has been created for the sea birds.
  - Core Area 4 – Elaine Bay (virtual fence) – it was still being decided by the community whether a virtual fence versus a physical fence would be created. The long term maintenance is very important as well.
- The success of this project:
  - Reversing the decline of the wildlife and its habitat.
  - The return of wildlife to the peninsulas.
  - The re-location and release of native local species.
- Other benefits for the community:
  - By restoring this heritage park, the interest from visitors will grow and will use Marlborough with the Sounds as their recreational garden.
  - Tourists are likely to spend more time in Marlborough.
  - More jobs will be created (project, tourism, related industries etc).
  - The Nydia Bay walking track has the potential to be developed further into the restored areas (the tramping market is steadily growing).
  - A win-win situation for all stakeholders involved.
- A website is in the process of being developed. Once complete this can be linked to the MDC website.

## **9. Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management programme update**

- At the last public forum those present identified some common themes that were seen as being high priority areas to initiate progress of. The two central themes were the health of the benthic environment and the impact of fine sedimentation on the seabed within the Marlborough Sounds.

- The outcome from the forum was a resolution that the Trust write to the relevant agencies urging them to come together to address this ongoing and important issue as no single agency had sole responsibility. The draft letter will be reviewed at the next forum on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr Steve Ulrich will update the forum with regards to the findings of an expert panel's review of the Rob Davidson report "Significant Marine Site Survey and Monitoring programme; Summary 2014-2015" report and potential mitigation methods to reduce fine sediments entering the marine environment.
- A small number of people are very keen to establish the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) immediately whilst others believe it is still too soon to do so. The Trustees feel that without the firm support of the agencies it is not appropriate to do so as there is the likelihood that this support will come with some caveats.
- Any potential member of the SWG should have the opportunity to understand any caveats before committing to the process. Also, a SWG without the support of the key agencies would not be effective at facilitating and/or implementing solution.
- The Trustees continue to work with the four key agencies attempting to garner commitment to the process we believe needs to be implemented to ensure an integrated approach is in fact taken to managing the natural resources of the Marlborough Sounds and the wider geographic areas in so much as they impact the marine environment.
- There are a number of activities on the radar that different agencies are planning and there needs to be a method to ensure the best outcomes for 'our place' and that these different initiatives are integrated and informing each other.
- Examples of these initiatives are the Regional Policy and Plan updates (MDC), the proposed Marine Protected Areas Bill (MfE), Sustainable Seas Science Challenge (MBIE) and the National Environment Standards for Forestry and Review of the Fisheries Management System (both MPI).

## **10. Blue Cod Fisheries Guidelines – Eric Jorgensen**

- On December 20<sup>th</sup> new rules come into force for blue cod fishers in the Marlborough Sounds and the wider Challenger East area. These rules have been adopted to address concerns identified with the health of some areas of the fishery following the 2013 blue cod surveys and following extensive consultation through the middle part of 2015.
- Of particular note is the removal of the slot rule and the transiting rule. The slot rule was removed based on anecdotal information concerning high levels of mortality of returned fish. The rule was also very unpopular with some groups of fishers and because of this may have contributed to higher than normal levels of non-compliance and a lack of care or ownership of the fishery. In conjunction with the slot limit being removed there is a new minimum legal size of 33cm. It is hoped that this will help address the serious concerns in many areas of the lack of larger breeding sized females; a key necessity to improve the productivity of the fishery.
- A key message received during consultation was that fishers wanted simple, consistent and equitable rules across all areas of the fishery. As a result the rules across the Marlborough Sounds Areas and the remainder of Challenger East Area have been rationalised. This enabled the, also unpopular, transit rule to be removed and sees the Marlborough Sounds Area bag limits (two blue cod per fisher per day) set across the entire region.

- To provide for greater access and enjoyment of the fishery a daily accumulation limit is introduced enabling fishers to retain in their possession two daily bag limits (aggregating to four fish) provided those fish are legally caught (i.e. on different days and complying with other blue cod regulations). This means that fishers can have in the possession four blue cod but please note that this is at all times; so for instance if you are on holiday in the sounds when returning home you can only possess four blue cod caught in the Marlborough Sounds.
- As always it is important that we all adopt good practises when fishing to reduce as much as possible incidental mortality which can really harm the fishery. Good practices include using circle or kahl design hooks and the bigger the better (size 6 minimum is recommended), don't let your line go slack as this encourages fish to swallow the hooks, don't place fish on hot surfaces and return fish to the sea as soon and gently as possible. If you are catching a lot of undersized fish or shags are present and predated returned fish then do your bit to help the fishery rebuild and move.
- A summary of the key rules is present below.

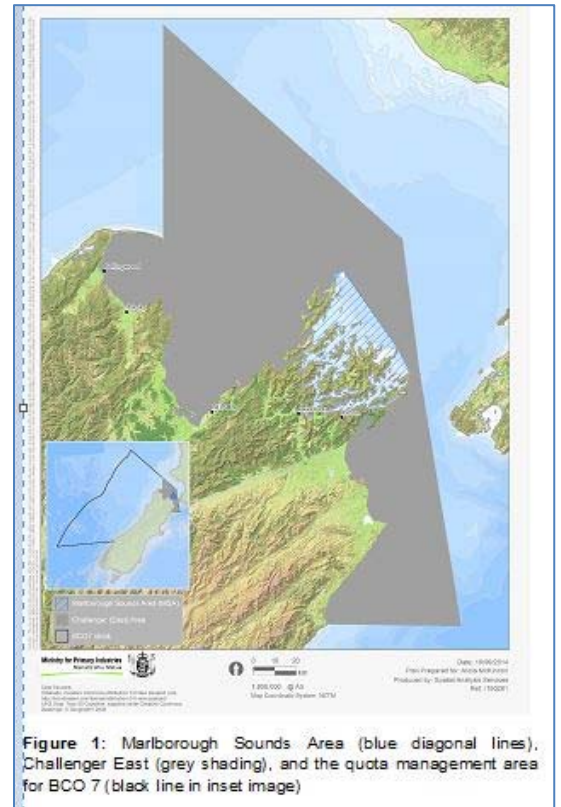


Figure 1: Marlborough Sounds Area (blue diagonal lines), Challenger East (grey shading), and the quota management area for BCO 7 (black line in inset image)

Area	Fishing rules	Settings from 20 December 2015
<b>A new combined Marlborough Sounds and Challenger East area</b>	Recreational size limit	New minimum size of 33 cm 'Slot rule' is removed
	Recreational daily bag limit	A total of 2 blue cod
	Recreational accumulation	Accumulation of 2 daily bag limits only at any time in the Challenger East area provided they are caught legally.
	Recreational 'transit rule'	No transport restrictions. 'Transit rule' is removed
	Recreational filleting rule	No change to the rule to possess blue cod in a whole or gutted state only, unless fish are for immediate personal consumption
<b>Marlborough Sounds area only</b>	Seasonal closure	No change to the recreational seasonal closure 1 Sept to 19 Dec New commercial seasonal closure 1 Sept to 19 Dec
	Recreational hook limit	No change to the maximum of 2 hooks per line when fishing for any species
<b>Maud Island</b>	No take finfish zone	No change to recreational no take New commercial no take of any finfish

- For more go to [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz) or text the word 'app' to 9889.

## 11. DOC Update – Robin Cox

### Staff Changes

- Staff in Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast has been operating under a pilot organisational structure that is now accepted as the model for the whole Department going forward. This means that staff in Nelson, Marlborough is unlikely to have to experience change in the short term.



- The large region of Nelson, Marlborough West Coast has now been split back to the old Conservancy boundaries of Nelson/Marlborough and the West Coast. Each of these regions will now have an operations director and Roy Grose has been appointed the director for Nelson/Marlborough. For most people with some knowledge of the Department this equates to the old Conservator position.
- The new manager in Picton is David Hayes who was the South Marlborough area manager prior to the restructure. Prior to the pilot being introduced he was appointed as the Marlborough Partnerships Manager. David's role will be almost exactly the same as that previously undertaken by Roy as the Sounds Area Manager. There were no changes in staff numbers in the Sounds as a result of these latest changes.
- Staff changes since August were:
  - Dan Palmer has been appointed to replace Frank Rosie in the Bio diversity Team. Ben (or Dan?) comes from Wellington and has a wildlife background.
  - Frank and Sue Higgott have been appointed to replace Chris Buckingham on Maud Island.
  - Leanne Flynn has stepped into Margot Farrier's role of senior ranger recreation while Margot is on secondment to South Marlborough.

### Recreation

- Staff have had two trips into the Pelorus Valley clearing tracks, repairing huts (Roebuck was repainted) and walk bridges.
- Nydia Lodge has had its annual maintenance undertaken. This included path and building repairs as well a general clean up.
- The selection of camp ground hosts to supervise Camp Bay, Kenepuru Head, Cow Shed Bay, Harvey Bay and Nydia Lodge is well underway. Local residents do the same role at Waimaru, Elaine Bay, Whatamango Bay and French Pass.
- The large amenity block at the rear of the Momorangi Camp ground is being replaced and the work is almost complete apart from landscaping. This is the fourth and last block to be replaced at Momorangi.
- Improving the Queen Charlotte Track has continued with:
  - Outward Bound students continue to re bench the QCT between Anikiwa and Davies Bay.
  - Painting and staining the structures at Ship Cove, Ship Cove Lookout and Black Rock shelter has been undertaken.
  - The Jetties at Ship Cove, Jacobs Bay and Motuara have been repaired.
  - All camping areas and road ends are being upgraded in anticipation of the summer visitors.

### Bio-diversity

- The security to the many pest free islands is now a much higher priority than in the past. After the mouse invasion on Maud and the possums on Blumine a great deal of time is now being spent on the quarantining of visitors. Operators to the open islands such as Motuara, Blumine and Long are being asked to be more vigilant. A network of resettable Good Nature traps at a spacing of 100m x 100m is being set up by National office on Pickersgill Island to eliminate the rats that have invaded from Arapawa Island.
- The most recent rat monitoring in the area treated during the Battle for our Birds indicate that in the treated area (Mt Stanley) the August result was 37% up from 32% in May. In the untreated area (Editor Hill) the results were 45% in August down from 56% in May. There are indications that there could be a beech mast year this summer so some preliminary planning is being done.



- The hunting team has spent time on Arapawa Island operating in the reserve. For their efforts 156 goats, 2 pigs and 2 sheep were eliminated.
- Almost all the Picton field staff joined with Council staff to undertake bone seed control in Tory Channel, Bay of Many Coves and Ratimera Bay. This plant is on the Council elimination list.
- The rowi kiwi chicks that were relocated to Motuara earlier in the year have now being transferred back to the West Coast. During these transfers the opportunity is often taken to allow the public to have a close encounter with this iconic species.
- To enhance the pest protection for Blumine Island more DOC 200 traps and monitoring tunnels are being installed. This island is close to Arapawa so reinvasion of rats and stoats is always a possibility. Possums on Blumine Island are hard to explain as it is believed there are none on Arapawa.
- The only toxin left on Maud Island is Brodificoum and this is only in buildings. No mice have been caught or sign observed for a considerable period. Two indicator dogs were taken to the island during the week of the 9<sup>th</sup> November and nothing was found. A reduced number of public visits has been allowed for in January but at this time it is unlikely that there will be Takahe back on the island.

## Community

- The level of community involvement in conservation tasks in the Sounds is the envy of many locations. Be it pest control at Anikiwa, Kaipupu, Moetapu, Okiwi Bay, Endeavour Inlet and Pelorus Bridge to name a few. Other groups are being formed to do similar work around Picton, Bay of Many Coves, D'urville Island and Tennyson Inlet. In this year's allocation of Community Conservation Partnership Fund the D'urville Island group and the Forest and Bird protecting bats at Pelorus Bridge received funding assistance.
- There is a lot of community effort to eradicate wilding pines throughout the Sounds. The leading organisation in this task is the Sounds Restoration Trust, and they have also been assisted with funding from the CCPF. The efforts of private land owners also need to be acknowledged. Private land owners have been active in South East Bay, Admiralty Bay and parts of Arapawa Island often with supplied chemical and /or motorised drills.
- The CCPF allows for the provision of recreational facilities and opportunities. The Link Pathway and the Ngakuta Bay Community have either received funding or have been promised assistance in the next round. Over half the distance of the Link Pathway is now formed. The sections between the Kaituna River and Cullens Point, Linkwater School to The Grove, Anikiwa to Queen Charlotte Drive and the Wedge Point to Ngakuta Bay are largely completed. The involvement of Outward Bound must be acknowledged in these achievements.
- Ngati Koata has undertaken conservation work at Moawhitu on D'urville Island. This has included an eel survey using scientists from DOC in Canterbury and native plantings using plants grown from seed collected from D'urville Island.
- Several businesses are helping with conservation in the Sounds. Kathmandu is sponsoring the development of a walk and associated interpretation at Momorangi. It is intended to open the walk and dedicate the associated interpretation panels early in the new year.
- Yealand Wines are providing funds for interpretation along the Queen Charlotte Track. Initial concepts have been sent to Iwi, land owners and other interested groups to seek comment.
- King Salmon have provided funds to assist Link Pathway with interpretation. They also assisted with the costs of a training course to improve the knowledge of commercial launch masters operating around marine mammals. For the Picton course 22 skippers attended. King Salmon also assisted several conservation groups to attend the Marlborough A & P Show by paying their stall fee.

- The large macrocarpa trees at Sandy Bay have now been fallen and most of the wood removed. Most of the non-merchantable wood was delivered to resident's property for firewood. Native plants were provided to landscape the area and the community undertook to do the planting.
- As part of the large military exercise in the Top of the South, Titirangi is a large base for their operations. During the exercise specialist units will reroof and rewire the homestead using materials supplied by DOC. Some existing farm tracks will also be cleared in an effort to add realism to the exercise. Areas of archaeological significance are being avoided.

## 12. Freedom Camping Bylaw - Chairman

- In October a new Freedom Camping proposed bylaw was placed on the MDC website which replaced the nearly new Freedom Camping Bylaw that was up a year ago. Not a lot of changes in the majority of Marlborough, which is working well throughout the district with some areas taken out of Blenheim such as the carparks and A & P park.
- Picton became problematic and the reason for the new Bylaw change there, was 180 submissions were received from Picton, which effectively said "we do not want Freedom Camping in our town". Therefore there will be no Freedom Camping allowed in Picton this 2015/16 season.
- New submissions are now being called for until after Easter weekend. Looking for solutions and ideas on improving this issue.
- MDC are very keen to hear from anyone that has Freedom Camping problems in their area. Council monitors and inputs all complaints into the system, which will then be used for decision making on this topic by the committee in 2016.

## 13. General Discussion (other items)

- A letter regarding the Tsunami Risk Community Consultation written by Mark Wheeler (Manager of Assets & Services) and Brian Paton (Emergency Services Manager) was distributed via email to all residents associations and the SAG group. The letter pertains to the study that GNS Science has completed for Council, to map a tsunami risk, a 1 in 500 year and 1 in 2,500 year event. (See attached letter). If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Brian Paton on [brian.paton@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:brian.paton@marlborough.govt.nz).

## 14. Positive Feedback

- Ken Roush thanked MDC, particularly through Steve, for the sedimentation project. This is a topic that was raised through this group since SAG began and it is great to see that this is now being attended to.

## 15. Meeting Dates for 2016

- 14 March, 13 June, 8 August, 14 November
- The SAG June meeting will be held in Tennyson Inlet. Graeme and Linda to coordinate.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be at MDC in the Committee Room on Monday 14 March 2016.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm

**Agenda items should be sent to  
Yvette Johnson (e-mail [Yvette.Johnson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Yvette.Johnson@marlborough.govt.nz))  
by Friday 29 February 2016**

---

Action	Responsibility
A letter to be written to Joe Heberley thanking him for his contribution to the Sounds Advisory Group.	Alan Johnson
A temporary replacement for Rob Schuckard will be John Webber who will represent the French Pass area. John is to be invited to the first meeting in the new year.	Alan Johnson
A link to the 2PP website once completed to be uploaded to the MDC website.	Alan Johnson

---

Record No 15240094