

This Coast

Needs

Protection

Return to
MDC office
Counter

Book 1



Rob Peter wants to see adequate protection of the newly raised seabed at Marfells Beach after the earthquake changed the coastline.

PHOTOS: SCOTT HAMMOND/FAIRFAX NZ

EAST COAST PROTECTION GROUP

The East Coast Protection Group has been formed by concerned members to put some rules around the use of our coastline running from Marfells Beach and the Waima River Mouth.

Since the Earthquake of 2016 the changes to the coast has been dramatic with the uplift and ecosystems damaged.

The access to this area has increased with the coastline becoming more exposed. This has added stress to an already recovering area.

Pre earthquake the ATV traffic had increased but now 4wd vehicles have been added to the mix and the ease of access has meant a huge influx of traffic.

There are concerns for the recovery, the ongoing sustainability of this area and the flora and fauna damage.

We all have a duty to protect our coastline for our future generations and ask that the public take special care; we hope to have some signage to inform users of the area that this region is of special importance.

THIS AREA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Council backs Kaikoura coast protection

ELENA MCPHEE

Taking care of Kaikoura's "delicate" post-quake coastline has become a focus for Marlborough's council, following a community meeting on the issue this week.

Earlier this month Grassmere residents complained recreational fishermen were running roughshod over the lifted seabed at Marfells Beach, 35 minutes south of Blenheim, endangering sea life and threatening the new intertidal zone.

Further concerns were raised

at a public meeting in Ward on Monday, attended by more than 80 people from around Marlborough.

Marlborough District Council committee chairman David Oddie said the council's response would be guided by the community.

"At the end of the day we don't want to block access there," he said.

The council could make a bylaw, or install interpretive panels informing people of the "delicate" ecology of the area, Oddie said.

Marlborough had taken responsibility for the northern

Kaikoura area, where the seabed rose during the 7.8-magnitude earthquake on November 14.

A councillor would be working closely with the Flaxbourne Settlers' Association to get their ideas, Oddie said.

Drone footage of the area from Cape Campbell, in southern Marlborough, to Kaikoura was presented to councillors at an environment committee meeting on Thursday.

Council coastal scientist Steve Urlich said at the environment committee meeting one of the issues in the area was the amount

of kelp dying on the newly-exposed rocks.

Urlich said despite some confusion about who would be responsible for access routes - whether it was DOC, the council or private landowners - work with the community would still go ahead.

The raised coast itself was Crown-owned.

Urlich said according to the research of marine ecology expert Professor David Schiel, the major effects of the changed coastline would be a reduction of paua and crayfish in the area, and the deaths of undersized shellfish.

3/2/17

"My understanding is we are not going to see extinctions," Urlich said.

A ban on collecting shellfish and seaweed species, excluding scampi and rock lobster, was in place until at least February 20.

MPI was considering extending the ban for another nine months, and had received 31 written submissions from the public on the issue.

A decision is due this month. Shore birds such as oyster catchers and banded dotterel could be affected by human activity near the newly-exposed area.



The newly-formed Cape Campbell coastline.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

VISIT CHANCE 20/11/16

Coastal Uplift

Much of the northeastern coast of the South Island was uplifted during the 14th of November earthquake. We know this from photos of rock platforms covered in seaweed and marine animals such as crayfish and paua stranded above tide levels. We also know the tide gauge at Kaikoura was lifted up by 1 m, and continuous GPS monitoring sites at Kaikoura and Cape Campbell were also raised by 0.7-0.9 m. At this stage we estimate that the coast was raised between 0.5 m and 2 m from about 20 km south of Kaikoura all the way north to Cape Campbell. Scientists plan to find out more about this coastal uplift.

What is coastal uplift?

Coastal uplift is when the land is raised above the sea by tectonic forces. It can happen gradually over geological timescales or suddenly in an earthquake.

How does it happen?

Sudden coastal uplift happens in large earthquakes. Vertical movement on a fault can cause land to be pushed up. This is the type of movement that has built many of the mountain ranges in New Zealand. When such vertical movement on a fault happens near the coast, land is raised above sea level. Sea level is a powerful horizontal marker for measuring tectonic movement because it is very obvious which land used to be under water before the earthquake!

Is coastal uplift normal?

Coastal uplift is normal for large earthquakes near the coast that include some vertical movement on a fault. Most movement on the faults that ruptured in the Kaikoura M7.8 earthquake was horizontal but there was some vertical movement too, so it is not surprising that there has been some coastal uplift in this event.

In New Zealand there is evidence preserved in the landscape that many parts of the coast have been repeatedly uplifted through time. For example, raised marine beaches and terraces along the Kaikoura Peninsula, Wairarapa coast, Cape Kidnappers, Mahia Peninsula, north of Gisborne and East Cape are evidence of former beaches that were uplifted from the sea by earthquakes in prehistorical times. Many of these have been or are currently being studied to find out the size and age of past earthquakes.

Historical examples

In historical times we have had several examples of earthquakes causing coastal uplift that, although devastating in the short term, have led to some benefits. For example, in 1931 the M7.8 Hawkes Bay earthquake raised land around Napier by 1-2 m above sea level. Land that used to be estuary now provides space for Napier airport. In 1855 the M8.2 Wairarapa earthquake raised much of Wellington by 1-2 m. The road from Wellington city to the Hutt Valley became viable as a result of the new land around the harbour's edge.

Will the land go back down?

Probably not. The newly raised coastline of the Kaikoura coast is most likely a permanent feature. Historical and pre-historical examples show that in many parts of New Zealand these raised beaches remain high above sea level. However, in some parts of the world, raised beaches have been known to gradually drop down again (over



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centuries) or be dropped down suddenly in a large earthquake with a different sense of movement.

What will happen to all the sea creatures?

There will be a major shift in the community of marine species. Many seaweeds and animals that would normally be permanently covered by water will now be struggling to exist in a zone of transition between air and sea. Some of the animals that have been raised will be accustomed to air exposure for short periods of time, but not the full tidal cycle that they will now experience. As the animals not suited to this environment die from the reef, they will be replaced by seaweed and animals appropriate for the new tidal elevation.

How long will it take to recover?

Recovery times will vary along the coast and depend on various factors such as the amount of uplift, the coastal exposure and the weather conditions. There have been numerous landslides that have fallen into the sea along the coast and how all the debris from these landslides is redistributed by the tides and currents is also hard to predict. The recovery of marine species will happen gradually, just like in a garden. First we will see the small seaweeds arrive in the bare spaces. These seaweeds will facilitate the attachment and survival of other seaweeds and animals.

What are scientists doing to study the coastal uplift and its impact?

There are several studies being planned by geologists and biologists. Over the next weeks and months geologists will be undertaking surveys along the coastline to measure the amount and extent of coastal uplift that has occurred. Recording this information will help us to understand which faults ruptured in the earthquake, and how much slip occurred on those faults. Marine ecologists and fisheries scientists will be surveying areas on the rocky shore that have been studied for over 20 years to understand the sequence of change. This will start over the coming weeks, but will continue for long-term changes to be captured.

The information collected by scientists will be publically available.

Can the public contribute their photos and observations?

YES! The coastal uplift covers a long stretch of coastline and the scientists will not visit every location. We are interested in photographs of: displaced coastal features such as the uplifted reefs and rock platforms; displaced marine life especially before and after photos if animals are being rescued and removed from the reefs; uplifted manmade structures such as jetties and boat ramps particularly if they have tide level markers on them. We are also interested in people's observations, particularly residents who have familiarity with the coastline pre- and post-earthquake. To be of most use, we would like to know the location, date, time of the photograph and if possible, context and scale.

Photographs and information can be sent to: Kate Clark, k.clark@gns.cri.nz

Quakes accelerate sea-level rise

Press
12/12/16

Land sinkage in some areas of the country could double the impact of sea-level rises, writes **Ged Cann**.

The impact of sea-level rises could double in some areas as a result of sinking land levels, according to a Victoria University study.

While the findings had the potential to wipe thousands of dollars off the value of some seaside properties, for some it will be music to their ears, with shoreline uplift in other areas negating sea-level rises.

Study co-author Professor Tim Stern said this new information could be used by homeowners to decide land value, by the government to plan mitigation measures and the insurance industry to set premiums.

"In parts of the North Island the actual surface of the land is going down 3 millimetres in relation to the centre of the Earth, you effectively double the global rate [of sea-level rise]."

Insurance Council chief executive Tim Grafton said sea-level rise was on insurance companies' radars, and was one of the risks insurers took into account.

"Insurers draw on all available data points to inform themselves about risks."

Grafton had not seen the reports' full findings, but said he would be interested in the projections.

Stern, from the School of Environment and Earth Sciences, said the global sea-level change due to global warming and the melting of polar icecaps was projected to be around 3mm a year.

"The rate in New Zealand is being measured at about 1.5mm [a year] by tide gauges."

The study used 15 years of GPS data to predict land movements.

In other areas, including the central Southern Alps, uplift is progressing at 5 to 10mm per year, outstripping sea-level rise entirely.

Stern cautioned against anyone relying on the land elevating to safeguard seaside properties, but said it should be factored in for defence and mitigation planning.



Professor Tim Stern of Victoria University's School of Environment and Earth Sciences said new research could have far-reaching effects on seaside property values.

The findings were pertinent, Stern said, because buyers of seaside properties were looking out to 50 or 100 years in the future when making a decision.

"When it comes to real estate it's about people's perception and their confidence to invest," he said.

Some local authorities have already started looking at including sea-level information on residents' property information.

Kapiti Council previously included coastal hazard information in residents' Land Information Memorandums (LIMS), but were forced to stop after residents litigated over lost property value.

Stern said banks and insurers would find the information invaluable.

"If they have a better knowledge of what their particular area of the coastline is doing they will be in a much better shape to make good policy."

As the study continues and the data pool got larger, Stern said the margin of error became smaller.

The scope of the study is limited to areas with GPS stations. Stern



The November 14 earthquake uplifted long stretches of the coast north and south of Kaikoura, by up to 4m in some places.

PHOTO: IAIN MCGREGOR/FAIRFAX NZ

said it was important to get better coverage, particularly in the South Island.

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright said while the information was useful, sea-level rise was dictated by so many factors it would not greatly change current estimations.

She said accelerations in sea-level rise as result of greenhouse

emissions were more concerning than changes in land elevation, which were generally gradual and more consistent.

What does this mean for different areas?

The Bay of Plenty coast is rising at 2mm a year while Gisborne is experiencing a slight drop.

A pattern of land sinkage in the eastern-North Island represented a

subduction zone between two tectonic plates.

"That can't go on forever, that's why we call that locked because that will release and might uplift. That might be tomorrow or that might be 500 years away," Stern said.

Wellington sits on the cusp of a subduction zone and neighbouring rising areas, making the capital a wildcard.

The central Southern Alps and Dusky Sounds are seeing the greatest uplift, at 5 to 10mm per year.

Rotorua is seeing significant subsidence of about 10mm a year, however close coastal areas are seeing a lift.

Auckland is stable, while Christchurch data is unclear, with frequent quakes disrupting records.

Ministry for Primary Industries have placed restrictions on the fishery following the earthquake.



Fragile coastline under threat

JEFFREY KITT

Heavy vehicles and motorbikes are placing further pressure on already fragile parts of the Marlborough coastline exposed in the November earthquake.

Grassmere residents say recreational and commercial fishermen are running roughshod over the lifted seabed at Marfell's Beach, 35 minutes south of Blenheim, endangering recovering sea life and threatening the new intertidal zone.

Cape Campbell farmer Rob Peter said many residents were upset to see people driving through newly formed rock pools in the area to set crayfish pots.

"It is very emotional for some people, and it is an emotive issue," he said. "We're very confident the area will rebuild but it needs time to get there."

Peter said the cape had been thrust 1 metre upward and 3m north and the tideline at Marfell's Beach was now 100 metres further out than before the 7.8-magnitude quake.

"There's been a huge change in the sea life. As you can imagine all of the seaweed above high water has died," he said.

"The area needs time to recover and we'd like to see more protection," he said.

The Flaxhorne Settlers Association had approached both the Department of Conservation and



Rob Peter wants to see adequate protection of the newly raised seabed at Marfell's Beach after the earthquake changed the coastline.

PHOTOS: SCOTT HAMMOND/FAIRFAX NZ

"The area needs time to recover and we'd like to see more protection."

the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to discuss urgent protection measures, but Peter said the agencies had "passed the buck".

The group now planned to lobby the Marlborough District Council to protect the intertidal zones from vehicle use between Needles Point to Cape Campbell, Peter said. They would consult

Rangitāne, Ngāi Tahu, fishermen and beach goers before finalising their submission, and were also keen for the public to have their say at a public meeting planned for later this month.

The changes to the coastline were similar to those experienced in the earthquake of 1855, where entire sections of the seabed morphed, Peter said.

"The coastline going all the way down to Kaikoura is extensively rich and it needs to be given the chance to establish itself," he said.

"If we allow it to recover, it will recover.

"When it does settle down and rebuild we will end up with more coastline but it's hard to tell how long that might take."

MPI lifted the temporary emergency closure of the rock lobster fishery along the east coast of the South Island two weeks ago.

A closure notice remained in place for all remaining shellfish and seaweed species, excluding scampi and fin-fish, but would be lifted on February 20.

In a statement last week, MPI acting director of compliance Gary Orr said a scientific survey carried out after the November 14 quake indicated the rock lobster fishery had come through in relatively good shape but would still need responsible fishing.

Representatives from the council, MPI and the Department of Conservation were not available for comment.

This meeting was called - 2 months after the earthquake. Because of concerns that so many vehicles were now accessing the beach & coastline. and giving no respect what-so-ever to the environment.

Earthquake 14-11-16

100 people
Attend.

MEETING AT THE WARD TOWN HALL 23RD JANUARY 2017 (CONCERNS):

Vehicles driving on the platform rocks, rock pools and sand dune areas.

The numbers of vehicles have dramatically increased in the last 10 years. (60 ATVs have been recorded passing by in one day (pre earthquake)

Since November 14th Earthquake, Vehicle Access has been enhanced, along the 40km area.

Huge Fire Risk.

Balance is needed for vehicles verses foot traffic. Some Beach users' find the vehicles intimidating.

Disturbance to Flora and Fauna, Ecosystems and their habitats. (including numerous endangered species) Nesting sites and sea mammals visiting the area.

Protection of the Geological Reserve, Chancet Rocks.

Damage to the fragile and vulnerable areas both before and more so, after the earthquake. Significant changes are still happening. It is going to take nature time to re-establish both new tidal zones and dunelands.

This whole coastline has huge historical significance and has many important Iwi sites and values.

The adjacent land has numerous laws and protection zones and is one of the more protected areas in Marlborough.

This area has traditionally been used for both recreation and fishing, there are concerns about loosing vehicle access.

Some of the reason that there is a resource, is because previous generations have strived to protect the area.

Protection of the coastal environment as set out under the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, is clearly not being met.

Group seeks to protect quake-hit coast

JEFFREY KITT

Protection for seabed exposed in the November quake is one step closer after a passionate community meeting led to the creation of a coastal care group.

Earlier this month, some Ward residents called for boosted protection of the new intertidal zone at Marfell's Beach, 35 minutes south of Blenheim, following complaints of quad bikes and heavy vehicles driving over the fragile coast earlier this month.

More than 80 people, including residents of Blenheim, Havelock and Picton, met at Ward Community Hall last week to discuss the post-quake environment.

Flaxbourne Settlers Association chairman Stuart Oulton said the issue was emotive with some worried potential zone protections would mean a ban on beach use.

"That was never the agenda. It's about making sure people don't abuse the extra beach or reef that we have now," he said.

"The general outcome was that we can't change what has happened, but perhaps we can have some action on the future and how the area could be used by

"I'm not thinking about myself ... I want something to be there for my grandkids and even their grandkids."

Mark Wills, head of coastal care steering group

everyone."

Representatives from Marlborough District Council and Rangitane were at the meeting as was University of Canterbury lecturer in marine ecology David Schiel.

Mark Wills put his hand up at the end of the meeting to head a group to lobby for coastal protection.

Wills, of Blenheim, said he had visited Marfell's Beach for more than 50 years and wanted to ensure the coast would be healthy for future generations.

"I'm not thinking about myself, I'm thinking about the future. I want something to be there for my grandkids and even their grandkids.

"We need to make sure this area can recover after the quake. It's about giving the area time until we have more information and stock numbers from the experts."

About 10 people signed on to join the steering group and Wills said he planned to engage with the council within the next fortnight on what could be done to protect the beachfront.

Rob Peter farmed at Cape Campbell and joined the group with his wife Sally.

The change in coastal habitat appeared to be extreme and Peter hoped the group could further the discussion for protection from Needles Point to Cape Campbell.

The Ministry for Primary Industries was responsible for ensuring the maintenance of healthy populations of marine species.

MPI acting compliance director Gary Orr said this responsibility was no different in the newly uplifted areas of seabed along the Marlborough and Kaikoura coast.

"The ministry acknowledges that as a consequence of the earthquake, shellfish and other inter-

tidal species are easier to access as a result of the earthquake uplift," he said.

"However the rules in place to protect the sustainability of cray and shellfish populations remain the same."

Scientific analysis of the Marlborough fishery revealed crayfish stocks have come through the earthquake and consequent seabed uplift in relatively good shape, Orr said.

The closure of the rock lobster fishery along the east coast of the South Island was lifted just before Christmas.

Compliance staff were continuously monitoring fishing activity in affected coastal areas to ensure the least disruption to fish stocks, Orr said.

"There is no current requirement to establish new zones or controls. The status quo remains in place with current catch limits deemed sufficient to protect the fisheries," he said.

The impact on shellfish and seaweed species was still being assessed. A closure notice remained in place for all shellfish and seaweed species, excluding scampi and fin-fish, until February 20.

MARLBOROUGH MIDWEEK, JUNE 8, 2017



MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Only Marlborough

Coastal protection for the East Coast

Discussions are continuing with East Coast residents, property owners and iwi about measures Council may be able to take to help protect the coastline around Cape Campbell, now that it has been altered by earthquake land movement.

Residents and others with an interest in the area have formed the East Coast Protection Group, concerned that the lighthouse and coastline are much more accessible with the Kaikoura earthquake having lifted so much land up above sea level.

The group fears environmental damage is being caused by 4WDs as people are now driving over the dunes and intertidal areas and the important archaeological sites in this area.



From left, East Coast Protection Group members Larnee Wichman, Mark Wills and Sally Peter, MDC Senior Environmental Scientist Pete Hamill and Wairau-Awatere Councillors Gerald Hope and Cynthia Brooks.

5/1/17

News

Marlborough Express

Raised quake seabed 'not a road'

JEFFREY KITT

A commercial crayfish operator has joined the call to prevent recreational fishers from driving on top of quake-hit coastline.

The appeal comes as Grassmere residents discuss protections to prevent fishermen running roughshod over the lifted seabed at Marfell's Beach, 35 minutes south of Blenheim, endangering recovering sea life and threatening the new intertidal zone.

Burkhart Fisheries co-owner Trevor Burkhart said the zone did not need 4WDs and quad bikes driving over it as nature settled into the changed environment.

"We've got to get recreational fishers to be responsible, it's everybody's backyard, not just yours to plough the paddock," he said.

Four commercial fishing operations worked in the Ward area and Burkhart said none of them launched their cray pots from the tide line.

He said commercial operators were dedicated to maintaining a healthy environment as it was the basis of their employment.

"The reality is if we don't look after the environment we won't have a healthy resource," he said.

The fisherman suggested a code of practice be created for beachgoers displayed on a sign at the entrance to Marfell's Beach.

The most practical way to keep fishers off the intertidal zone would be for people to drive along the old high-tide mark and walk their gear the 100 metres to the water, Burkhart said.

The Flaxbourne Settlers Association had approached both the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries to discuss urgent protection measures for the newly formed rock pools.

The group planned to lobby the Marlborough District Council to protect the intertidal zones from vehicle use between Needles Point and Cape Campbell.



Commercial fishermen Trevor Burkhart, left, and Larnce Wichman discuss calls to protect intertidal zones on the Ward coast.

PHOTO: DEREK FLYNN/FAIRFAX NZ

Recreational fisherman Roger Hambleton had caught crayfish and paua from Marfell's Beach for more than 10 years.

He maintained that even though the coast had moved, he was only driving his quad bike on

the same path of rock and sand which had always been driven on.

More than 80 recreational fishers used the beach and Hambleton said although the majority were responsible, some did overfish.

No protections were necessary as the coast would recover as it always had after an earthquake, Hambleton said.

"Any protection put in would not be enforceable, you'd need police to stand there and say 'you

can't do this' and 'you can't do that'," he said.

The Canterbury Marlborough branch of rock lobster industry association Cramac 5 had worked for more than a decade to replenish stock to a healthy level.

Executive officer Larnce Wichman said raised coastline was a very emotive issue but one which needed to be in the spotlight. "It's about education, many are not aware that the area is so fragile," he said.

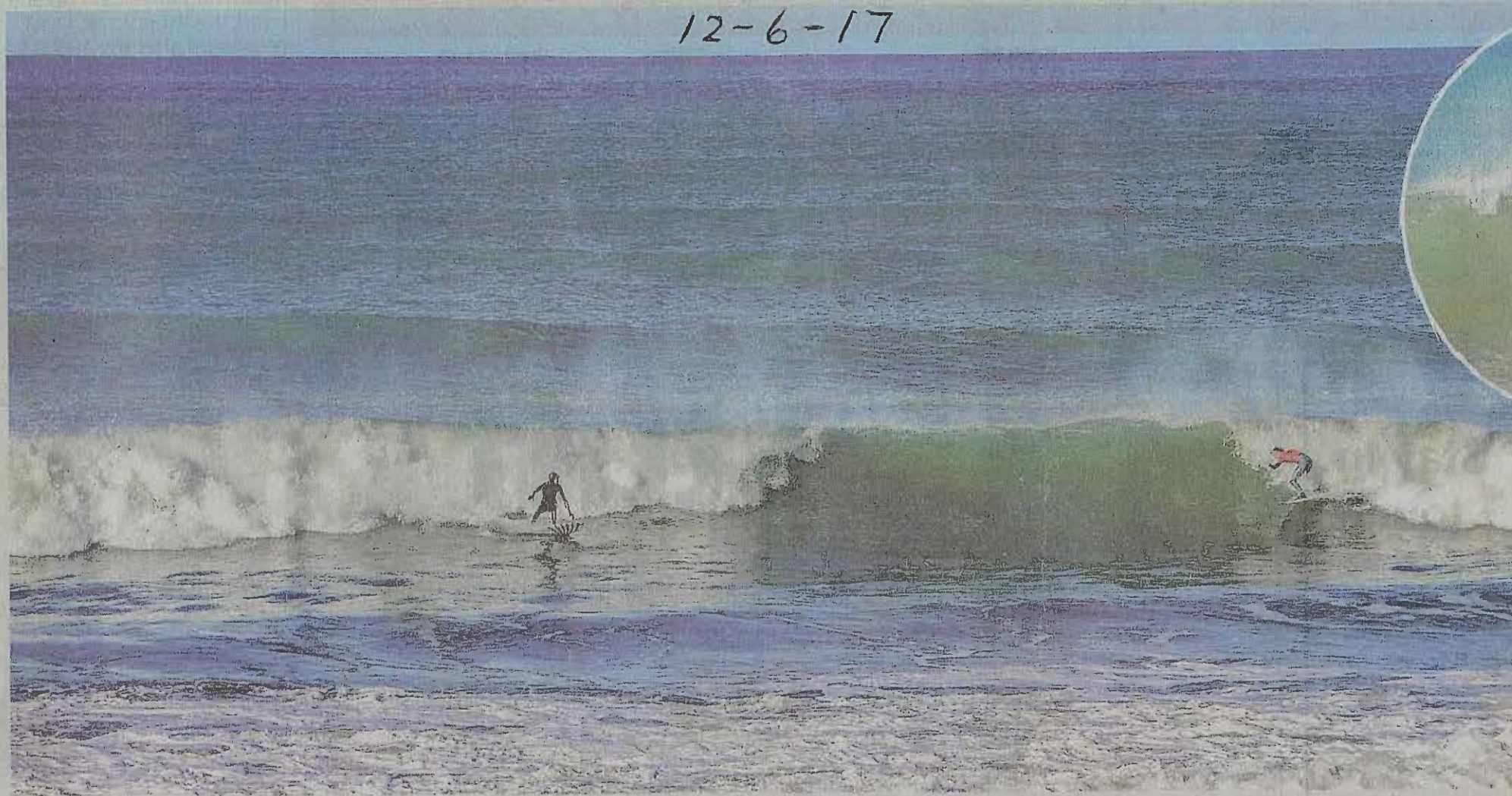
The ministry lifted the temporary emergency closure of the rock lobster fishery along the east coast of the South Island two weeks ago.

A closure notice remained in place for all remaining shellfish and seaweed species, excluding scampi and fin-fish, but would be lifted on February 20.

The ministry was contacted for comment but had not responded by the time of publication.

The Flaxbourne Settlers Association planned to meet about the proposal later this month.

12-6-17



James Spence competes in the Riki Walker Memorial surfing competition, at Ward Beach, on Sunday.

Another set of waves roll in at Ward Beach, the country's newest surf spot.

PHOTOS: RICKY WILSON/FAIRFAX NZ

Seismic waves along quake coast

OLIVER LEWIS

Seismic waves along the quake-hit Marlborough coastline have surfers excited and eager to hunt out more undiscovered gems.

Before the 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit, the idea of holding a surfing competition at Ward Beach, about 45 kilometres south of Blenheim, would have been laughable.

Fishermen launched their boats from the beach, divers scoured the area for crayfish and paua, but it was too deep to ever get a good wave.

But that all changed last November. The force of the earthquake lifted the seabed by about 2 metres, instantly transforming the beach into a new surf break.

On Sunday members of the Blenheim Boardriders Club gathered at Ward Beach to hold the Riki Walker Memorial Surfing competition.

Surfers hit the water, riding 1m waves, as spectators and judges looked on from the top of the stony rise leading down to the ocean.

Club vice chairman Richard Norton said surfers used to pass through Ward before the earthquake to get to beaches around Kaikoura.

"A year ago we would have laughed if you'd said we were going to be surfing here. There was nothing," he said.

"There's been about 10 feet of uplift, whereas before it was too deep to break."



"A year ago we would have laughed if you'd said we were going to be surfing here. There was nothing."

Richard Norton Blenheim Boardriders Club vice chairman

As well as Ward Beach, Norton said surfers had also discovered a new surf break near the Ure, or Waima River, slightly further south.

He described the finds as positives to come out of the earthquake, agreeing it was almost like

a Christmas present for surfers in Marlborough.

"There's probably some undiscovered breaks along the coast too, so some of the guys are thinking about taking four-wheel-drives out to look for other opportunities," Norton said.

Sean Johnson, whose cleaning company Restore sponsored the competition held in honour of a Marlborough surfer who died in 1994, first started surfing Ward Beach in December.

Johnson, who discovered the site's potential after being sent pictures of the uplift by his uncle, a fisherman who worked in the area, said it was exciting for surfing in Marlborough.

"I spent the past 25 years living in Dunedin surfing really good quality waves and then I moved back to Blenheim, which isn't known for being near any good breaks," he said.

"But the earthquake has created some really good surf spots."

Both Johnson and Norton were hopeful the new breaks would increase interest in surfing in Marlborough.

Micheal Stephens, who had been surfing in Marlborough for more than 25 years, described the waves at Ward Beach as challenging but fun.

"The bottom's come up so much - it was deep here before so the waves would just dump on the beach," he said.

"No-one would ever bother surfing it, but now it breaks offshore. It's pretty cool."

THIS AREA IS ZONED AN ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE SITE

We have major concerns about longterm affects of motorbike usage of the coastal riparian strip between Marfells Beach and Canterbury Gully.

Motorbikes (and even at odd times vehicles) can drive around the beach at low tide only, to access the tidal zone along the south side of the Cape Campbell Pennisular.

Over the years the number of bikes has grown to such an extent that they are now making a definate impact on the this fragile area. At high holiday times we have seen up to 60 bikes at one low tide period.

If the bikes would stay on the wet tidal zone things would not be so bad. But they encrouch onto the platform rocks to access rock pools and channels to put their cray pots and to look for paua. Over the years these tracks have made definate impressions on these rock areas to the extent that you they are very visable and there is a deteriation of the plant life and a rounding off on the rocks.

The continual frequency of these bikes on the intertidal zone causes huge disturbance to ground nesting birds.

Not only is this area at risk but also the dunelands where the motorbikes frequent also, sometimes 2 wheelers use this area for a race track. All bikes can very easily access farmland, it is not possible to lock all gates along this stretch of beach.

Our worries are with the number of bikers and walkers using this tidal zone becoming greater and some better signage and information not being available to the public so that they can use this area without damage being left.

rubbish, fire danger,dogs, freedom camping (with no toilet facilities or drinking water available) noise and intrusion to walkers and other users of the area.

This is Significant Natural Area with many restrictions being made to the landowner but none being made on the public using the Ecologically Significant Marine site.

What can we do:

More signage to inform the public of the right way to use this area and also very clear lines as to what a high and low tide is (many people get stranded with the sea coming in) they do not understand the tide tables. When people are stranded it is up the landowner to organise their return to Marfells Beach via their property or else they make their own way back over farm land not open to the public.

To keep this area as a Unique coastal environment these steps need to be made sooner than later.

21 February, 2017

Rob Peter,
Needles Rd,
Ward 7350

By email

Dear Rob,

I'm sorry it has taken me a while to get back to you with information about beach access from the Waima/Ure mouth, around Cape Campbell to Marfell's Beach, to inform a group concerned about vehicle-damage to sea-life along coast uplifted by the November 14 quake.

Foreshore access is not an area the NZ Walking Access Commission has particular knowledge about and our interest is generally in promoting rather than restricting public access. However, it seems that in this case there are a variety of reasons why restricting vehicle passage could be sought.

My research suggests that the MDC is responsible for the legal road and unformed legal road (ULR) running along the eastern end of Marfell's Beach through to the Waima/Ure mouth. Access along this ULR could only be stopped – or restricted – by the Marlborough District Council passing a bylaw.

The only gap in this ULR is along Marfell's Beach to Mussel Point. There is also public access along this gap, through conservation land along Marfell's Beach then on the common marine and coastal area, seaward of mean high water springs.



This area, where there is no unformed legal road, falls into the Clifford and Cloudy Bay Marine Mammal Sanctuary administered by DOC, restricting seismic survey for the protection of Hector's and Maui dolphins so this is probably not relevant.



<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-protected-areas/marine-mamals-protection-cliffordcloudy.pdf>

The ULR of course, has not shifted due to the earthquake although we understand that it has become accessible to more vehicles for a longer time.



The Marlborough District Council is also responsible for determining what can and can't occur in the "common marine coastal area" (from mean high water springs to 12 nautical miles from shore) - which **will** have shifted as the result of the quake - through its regional coastal plan. Minister of Conservation functions include approving regional coastal plans. The Department of Conservation also plays a role, including carrying out management activities in this area.

The Resource Management Act is the principal statute for managing activities in the common coastal marine area, created under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act, administered by the

Department of Justice.

The Commission is limited to providing advice on access. For information such as relevance of the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 around wildlife being disturbed and the Wildlife Act 1953, relevant to bird nesting sites or Te Korowai-type management, contact the Department of Conservation.

Regards,

Penny Wardle,

Regional Field Advisor,

New Zealand Walking Access Commission | Ara Hikoi Aotearoa

P: (03) 577 8863 | **M:** 027 205 2339 www.walkingaccess.govt.nz

Promoting access in the outdoors



Copies of this advice have been sent to the Marlborough District Council and Department of Conservation.

LIMESTONE COAST PROTECTION

Proposed area - Mussel Point to the Ure (Waima) River coastal zone.

This is a very rich area that has been formed coming from the fertile land and the strong coastal currents.

An often neglected area that has been afforded some protection because of its extreme weather and limited access – it is now getting some recognition.

History – Settled in the very earliest times similar to Wairau Bar, by Maori and of national importance because of the layers of occupation up until the 1830's.

Dual guardianship by Nga Tahu and Rangitane – concerns have been raised over vehicles driving in sand dune areas – especially at Mussel Point.

The land was covered in native bush until being burnt about 4-500 years ago – grasslands since. Burning, rabbits and overgrazing have been problems. Vegetation cover is now significantly better than in the last 100 years. Although, improvements are still needed.

Historically the area has supported huge fish stocks – massive reductions in paua, crayfish, hapuka, cod, rig, whitebait etc. Around 400 tonnes of paua was taken in the Cape Campbell area by one of the land owners in the early 1970s. Stocks have not recovered since. Large quantities of crayfish could be caught with ring pots in the daytime before the WWII – over fishing in the 70s-80s depleted stocks. Careful management since has helped regain some ground. Cod and hapuka could

be caught from the beach in the earlier days. The recreational take is now significant.

All the area is protected under Natural Landscape plans and Marine Ecological plans, this is a reflection of public opinion. These strong rules are applied to the private land regarding landscape, health and safety and weed control. These rules also cover the public land but they haven't been implemented. Are the rules about protecting the environment and people or are they a social tax on those with a perceived ability to pay.



Banded Dotterel at Ward Beach

Canterbury University have been researching this area since the early 90s with indepth studies and records of the tidal zone. With more foot traffic and motorbike use along the coast and on the tidal rock platforms they have grave concerns about the damage done to the tidal ecosystem. Also the take of seaweed and fish species within this zone is concerning, and the sustainability is questionable.

FAUNA AND FLORA

The area between Mussel Point and the Waima River is a very significant area for Fauna and Flora, as identified by the SNA programme through MDC.

Birdlife is very diverse with many migratory birds using this coastline for winter roosting and feeding whilst travelling.

Along with these regular visitors we have colonies of birdlife up and down the coast, some with nesting areas in the dunelands and gravel lands close to the tideline. We have seen a disappearance of some nesting sites in the past 20 years.

The fur seal numbers have increased greatly with baby seals being a frequent site at the Pennisular. The earthquake doesn't seem to have affected their numbers.

Among visitors we have had from the Southern Islands include, the Elephant Seal (Some of which gave birth in the Cape Campbell Area, whilst feeding their young they do not enter the water for 6 weeks and lie on the beach in the high tide zone)

We have also seen - the Yellow Eyed Penguins, Erect Crested Penguin, Albatross and Leopard Seals.

The gravel lands have had significant numbers of Katipo spider, Gecko and Skink Lizards living along the Cape Campbell Coastline, which we have noticed a big decline in.

This coastline is also home to some unique and rare species of flora and although some areas are protected by private land owners there are pockets of plants exposed to the general public that need awareness. The soil structure is very fragile because of the lack of rainfall and the exposed nature of the land and plants do take a long time to establish back into strong areas.

Marram grass (introduced) has increased at the expense of native species and tends to dominate fenced off areas and is of a huge fire risk.

The large areas of sand left after the 1855 earthquake have nearly completely grassed up. This process has taken more than 150 years.

We would expect the shoreline to return to a pea metal beach as it was before the earthquake. This would mean a large increase in sand and gravel lands. The pea metal moves north with the southerly storms and currents, from the Ure and Clarence Rivers.

Livestock numbers have greatly reduced, much of the coast is now not stocked. There is concern about cattle on dune and gravel areas around the lighthouse. More fencing is required which is very expensive to build and maintain. Approx \$25,000 plus \$1000 per year to maintain.

There has been a great increase in people using the beach. With this increase we have had some ongoing problems with the toilet facilities at our cottages at the lighthouse. Because there is no public toilet, the use of ours is becoming common and this is not without problems. We are reluctant to lock the toilet but it is often abused. Is there a need for a toilet facilities for walkers from Marfells Beach.

DRAFT

SHELLFISH BEDS- MUSSEL POINT MARLBOROUGH

Ninety two different varieties of shellfish have been found washed up on coastline between Marfells Beach and the Cape Campbell Lighthouse. Some may have washed up from away but most are local.

Huge numbers were killed after the earthquake uplift in November 2016 and many more washed up during a large easterly swell on the 6th of September 2018.

Concern over the welfare of these shellfish beds has resulted in five transects being set up to monitor shellfish numbers along the 1.2 km beach halfway between Marfells Beach and the Lighthouse. Three sample holes, 300 x 300 x 300 mm were screened in the high, mid and low tidal zones at each transect. 15 test sites altogether.

Although hundreds of empty juvenile shells were found, no live shellfish of any variety were recorded in March 2019.

These Shellfish beds are in real trouble.

Since March 2019, ten further random test holes have been screened. One 11mm Pipi and one 10mm whelk were found in the mid tide zone.

Midden layers 1.5m under the surface reveal that many varieties of shellfish were prevalent in this area hundreds of years ago. Artifacts and broken moa bone fragments from the earliest midden layers identify Mussel Point as among one of the oldest sites of human settlement - similar to Wairau Bar and well before the greenstone era. Moa were believed to be extinct within 100 years of habitation.

The 92 varieties of shellfish have survived the previous large uplift from the estimated 8.1 magnitude earthquake in 1855. Will they survive this uplift?

Many things have changed in the last 160 years - the adverse impact of humans in

DRAFT

the coastal zone at Mussel Point is now significant. Over the Christmas 2018 period almost all of the beach surface was disturbed by human activity. The tide covers up some of what is happening.

Much research has been done on shellfish in NZ. Species like pipis and tuatua have similar lifecycles to toheroa. They spawn, and then the 0.3mm larvae wash up into the upper tidal zone where they settle and start changing into small shellfish as we know them. The larvae are like little blobs of jelly and are easily smashed by traffic on the beach. As the shellfish grow they migrate down the beach and form beds. It is important that the adults spawning live close together so the eggs and the sperm can fertilise and not be diluted by the ocean. Flat beaches are best for the juveniles so they are not dug out by the waves.

Research tells us that many shellfish beds around NZ are declining. Human activity is the main reason for this decline. Research also shows that recovery is possible with care and protection of dune areas and the intertidal zone. At Oreti Beach in Southland some areas have been protected and a 400% increase in juvenile toheroa has been recorded. The main improvements have been achieved by banning traffic on the beach and in the sand dunes. (Healthy dunes tend to form healthy beaches) Water quality and changes in the sediments are also thought to be contributing to the decline of toheroa but these problems are a work in progress.

Traditionally livestock haven't had a big impact on this beach but after the 2016 earthquake many fences were damaged and stock were getting on the foreshore. Over the last two years many kms of the new fences have been built by local landowners to control wandering stock.

The land behind this beach is extensively farmed with sheep and cattle, with low levels of spraying and fertilizer. Nitrate and phosphate soil levels are not greatly above natural levels. The soil and freshwater is high in calcium which is very important for shellfish. Sediment run off has greatly reduced over the last 60 years mainly through rabbit control and reducing stocking rates in drought

DRAFT

times.

There is a proposal to plant the lower reaches of the main watershed, Fishermans Creek, in local native swamp plants and small coastal tree species. This would help water quality and cool the water with shading. Fishermans Creek flows in wet times but can be dry for several years in a drought.

The seawater, surface foam and the sands all appear to be very healthy along this beach. The currents come from a North Westerly direction. Monitoring of acidification, detergents and heavy metals would be helpful for gaining more knowledge to help recovery.

Juvenile mussels are starting to recolonise the uplifted rocks at Mussel Point.

Duneland restoration of native coastal ribbon wood, spinifex, pingao, and sand tussocks would be very good but it is hard to achieve with the current traffic, and the history of protective barriers being removed.

There is no public road status along this beach.

The area is identified with the highest rating of 'Outstanding' in the Coastal Natural Character and Landscape Overlay maps in the Marlborough District Council Plan. Restrictions have been placed on the adjacent private land and commercial users but so far no restrictions have been placed on the public land even though the ratings are justifiably higher on the foreshore and the biodiversity is being lost.

A temporary ban on collecting shellfish and seaweeds is in place from Marfells Beach to the Conway River south of Kaikoura.

Is it our responsibility now to protect these shellfish for future generations?

Rob Peter.

An oystercatcher feeds at the water's edge of Marfells Beach.

PHOTO: SCOTT HAMMOND/FAIRFAX NZ

Fishery needs more time - MPI

JEFFREY KITT

The Government wants to shut down shellfish and seaweed fisheries along the South Island's earthquake-hit coastline.

The Ministry for Primary Industries proposal seeks to close the fisheries indefinitely until scientific research is complete.

A closure notice has been in place for all shellfish and seaweed species from Cape Campbell to Kaikoura since the 7.8-magnitude earthquake in November.

The proposal, which is now open for public comment, will invoke Section 11 of the Fisheries Act of 1996 to ensure a longer-term closure of the fisheries.

Ministry inshore fisheries manager Steve Halley said the earthquake had a significant negative impact on the marine environment and the people connected to it.

"MPI is proposing action to help the fisheries and marine habitats recover," he said. "[We are also] consulting with the local community to ensure that its actions contribute to the long-term sustainability of the fishery, and to the social, economic, and cultural



A fishery closure for all shellfish remains in place for southern Marlborough.

PHOTO: SCOTT HAMMOND/FAIRFAX NZ

well-being of the people of this region."

Recreational fishermen driving quad bikes and four-wheel-drives over lifted seabed at Marfells Beach, 35 minutes south of Blenheim, drew the ire of residents in January.

A coastal care group was formed and called for the protection of the new intertidal zone.

Blenheim man Mark Wills

headed the group, and said in January it was vitally important to protect marine life for future generations.

"We need to make sure this area can recover after the quake. It's about giving the area time until we have more information and stock numbers from the experts," he said.

A ministry spokesman said community concern showed the

need for a longer-term ban. "We've worked closely with a wide range of community interests in and around the Kaikoura and Cape Campbell region," he said.

"As a result, this proposal is actively supported by the community, including Te Korowai, the Kaikoura Coastal Marine Guardians and local paua fishers."

The continued closure of the fishery would allow important scientific research to gauge the full impact of the quake, he said.

"[This would] help inform fisheries management decisions," he said.

"The amount of time required under the closure may vary among species. Using Section 11, MPI will be able to review management controls for different species separately as information on their status becomes available."

The proposed closure would be enforced from Marfells Beach in Marlborough to Conway Flat, south of Kaikoura.

Public comment would be open for the next month and it was important for people in the region to have their say, Halley said.

The consultation will close on July 7 at 5pm. For more information, visit the MPI website.

East Coast Marlborough Beach & Coastal users We need your help



To help protect our coastal environment for future generations

We ask that:

- ✕ No fires
- ✕ Please be careful where you go. Avoid all vegetation/dune-lands and tidal rock pools.
- ✕ Give the ecology, birdlife and animals space and time to recover.
- ✕ Whatever you take with you, bring it back! Rubbish is becoming an increasing problem.
- ✕ Please remove craypots from the beach when they are not being used.
- ✕ Dogs must be on-leash
- ✕ Leave only your footprints.

Be informed
Help the recovery

The East Coast Protection Group (ECPG) has been formed by traditional users of the area and local residents. Our aim is to protect this unique area and to ensure that human activity treads lightly on the landscape.

VISION STATEMENT

- ✕ To create local leadership, and educate coastal users.
- ✕ To achieve protection of our coastal environment for future generations,
- ✕ To understand the distinctive biological diversity and cultural heritage of this outstanding natural landscape and its values.

For more information on the East Coast Protection Group please email eastcoastprotectiongroup@gmail.com

THANKS
FOR LOOKING
AFTER OUR
HOME!



Marlborough East Coast Protection Group



Marlborough's East Coast is renowned for its isolation, rugged beauty and plant and animal life that call the area home.

Since the Earthquake of 14 November 2016 and the associated coastal uplift, much has changed.



Cape Campbell before the earthquakes



Cape Campbell after the earthquakes.

We understand that you will want to visit the area and discover what has changed but ask that you respectfully share the environment with nature and other beach users.



Did you know the East Coast is a hotspot of New Zealand's Biodiversity?

Coastal currents from the north and south converge to bring a unique assemblage of species to these shores. Fur seals use beaches and headlands for pupping and basking. Many sea birds have nesting colonies here and the coast is a known migration route. All of these are under threat of being damaged by increased usage of the coastal strip.



Banded Dotterel nesting on the beach

Canterbury University scientists have been monitoring this area for over 20 years. After recent events they are visiting the area more often to monitor the affected coast and the recovery process. Prof David Schiel and his Marine Ecology team have informed the community that the health of the near-shore zone has undergone massive disruption and needs time to restore itself. It is obvious that rocky habitats have been propelled upwards, but less obvious is the extensive loss of 'biological habitat', including the seaweeds and small organisms that sustain and feed through the coastal food web, such as pua, fish and birds.



Uplifted beach platform - Cape Campbell

Quake exposes Marlborough's boulders

8/1/18

EMILY HEYWARD

Thanks to the 2016 earthquake near Kaikōura, Marlborough has its very own version of the Moeraki Boulders.

Well, they were there before the quake but now the concretions can be appreciated.

The uplifted seabed has exposed a variety of rocks on Ward Beach, south of Blenheim.

Forest and Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin said some of the rock formations were similar to the popular Moeraki Boulders, south of Oamaru.

"The concretions aren't as big as the Moeraki Boulders but they are exactly the same type of formation."

Martin said the 7.8-magnitude earthquake had exposed the formations on Ward Beach, as well as in other areas along the coast.

"It's quite visible to the eye, the significant uplift that has occurred right along the Kaikōura coast, Ward Beach is part of that."

Martin said the best time to see the concretions was at low tide.

The boulders at Ward Beach were unlikely to become a huge tourist

"You can see more of it now that there has been the uplift but I don't think it changes its importance ... It all depends on how much you love rocks."

Debs Martin Forest and Bird top of the south regional manager

spot like the Moeraki Boulders, Martin said. "You can see more of it now that there has been the uplift but I don't think it changes its importance ... It all depends on how much you love rocks," she said.

Spherical rocks "as big as beach balls" had also been found on the east coast shoreline at Gooch's Beach, near Kaikōura nine months after the November 2016 earthquake.

The Moeraki Boulders attracted about 300,000 people a year.



Sophie Mason, 6, explores the boulders at Ward Beach during low tide.

PHOTOS: SCOTT HAMMOND/STUFF



The Kaikōura earthquake exposed a variety of rocks at Ward Beach, including the same type of boulders as those at Moeraki.



Chop the dog poses for the camera on a Moeraki boulder.



The uplifted seabed exposed a variety of rocks on Ward Beach after the earthquake.

Marlb Express 26/1/18

Letters to Editor

Beach access

I am unable to remain a mute bystander any longer.

Your article 'Ward commercial dotterel spotters' (*Express*, Monday, January 22) takes the cake. Seriously, is this article for real or are you pulling our collective leg?

Are these commercial operators so blinded by commercial desire to the point that they are way out of touch with reality and think that the public and Marlborough District Council will be taken in by their hilarious offer. Hilarious because consent applications are

meant to be serious, cost a lot of time and money for both the public (ratepayers) and the applicant.

The fact is that the application was denied and is subject to appeal. Meanwhile, the commercial applicant has not only flaunted authority and willfully driven bulldozers along 1.5km of beach illegally, they have also trampled on the sensitivities of the objecting public.

This, and the offer to institute dotterel spotting, is both childish and naive, and worse still an insult to all those concerned who don't have a commercial motive.

Also, I understand that all beaches in New Zealand are legal roads meaning that all vehicles are required to be roadworthy and licensed accordingly. The bulldozers, boat trailers etc do not have roadworthy status so should not be permitted.

Like all other quake-affected people, why don't the applicants adapt their modus operandi? They have adapted in the past but seem to have forgotten the past 40 years of operation and adaption in favour of utilising public property, rights, reserves and sanctuaries for continued commercial gain. Please reconsider and look at the big, long-term picture for the benefit of all rather than a few.

Greg Moir
Kerikeri



Banded Dotteral at Ward Beach December 2019



Once they lurked beneath the waves, now the reefs are plain as day. Sophie Preece reports.

When the dust settled on the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, Sally Peter had a new view of the jagged, ship-wrecking reefs at the edge of her Marlborough farm.

Between 1845 and 1947, 19 ships came to peril along this east coast stretch, "and now, with the uplift, you can see why, because all these rocks have appeared, showing reefs we have never seen before", says Peter, an avid hunter of Flaxbourne history.

The Cape Campbell Lighthouse was first lit in 1870, with the site chosen after the wreck of the *Alexander* in 1858, in which one person was drowned. The tower was replaced in October 1905, and later painted in striking black and white stripes, but the reefs continued to find their victims.

Peter still finds coal washed up on shore, likely from the *Ohau*, which was carrying 22 crew, 4000 metres of timber and 800 tonnes of coal when it disappeared in gale force winds on May 12, 1899, presumed wrecked on one of the Cape Campbell reefs.

"A lot of people don't realise that New Zealand relied on coastal trading," says Peter, who owns Cape Campbell farm with her husband Rob, and is fascinated by the history of its settlers, lighthouse keepers and shipwrecks. "There were no roads – and the only way of getting anywhere was around the coast for everything. That is why the lighthouses were so important and the reefs were so dangerous."

Peter's beloved Flaxbourne Museum was destroyed by the 2016 seismic slam, but she and her heritage "partner in crime", Jack Taylor, have their treasures, including remnants of some of the wrecks, in storage until they rebuild. "There's a dear old sewing machine with a twisty handle that

came off a shipwreck, and we have the ship's lamp off the *Hautapu* wreck."

She has also compiled a thick folder on the known wrecks along the coastline, including the *Fidele*, which went down in 1854, killing well-known Kaikōura founder and whaler Robert Fyffe and his one crew member. They were carrying whale oil from Kaikōura to Wellington when they wrecked, their bodies and schooner found a few days later by William Leachwell, who had strayed off the 45km trail between Wairau and Flaxbourne and saw the boat on the beach. The *Marlborough Express* reported that Leachwell, having discovered the wreck, walked back to the Wairau to inform authorities.

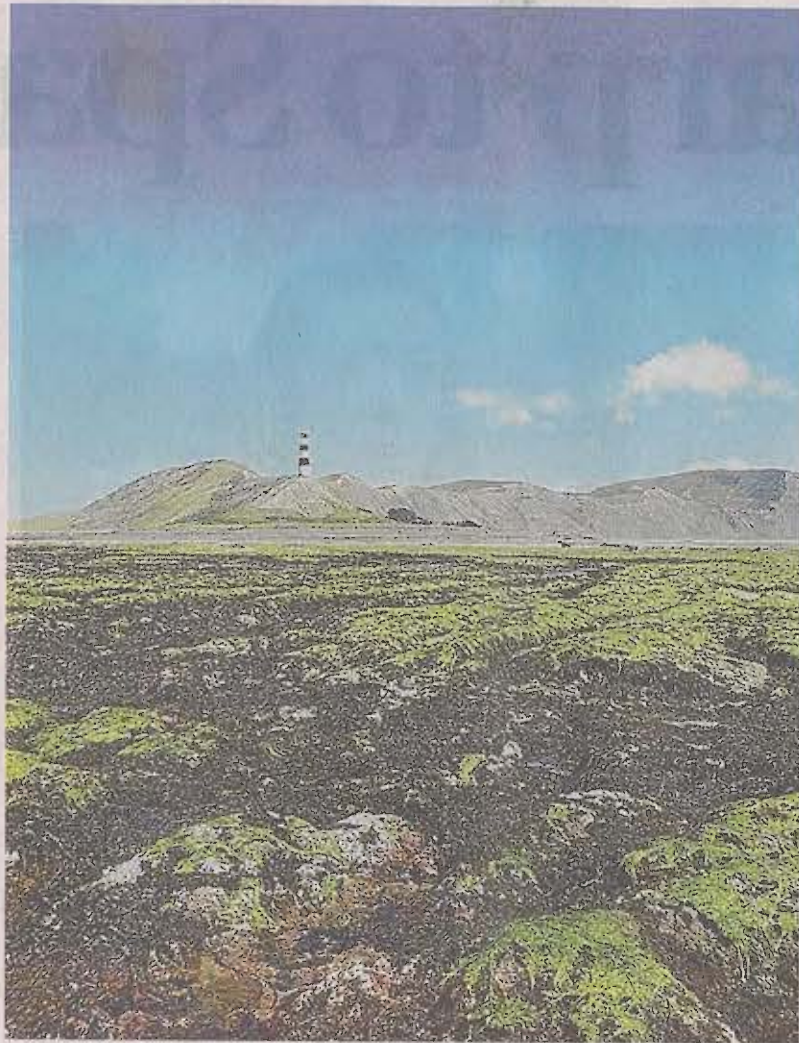
A subsequent story in the *Wellington Independent* details the clothes Fyffe was wearing – "two blue shirts, and inside flannel, a pair of drawers, and pair of trousers" – as well as the injuries he sustained, and the items found in his pockets and hand. The body was buried above the high water mark and a surveyor peg marked the spot, says Peter.

"So we should know where it is, but it was the year before the big 1855 Wellington earthquake, and the whole coast uplifted here." While the most recent earthquake has revealed insights into the wrecks, the 1855 one veiled them, destroying any marker of Fyffe's grave.

The largest ship to wreck was the *Southminster*, which was 1223 tonnes and 60 metres long.

In November 1878, having already landed six railway engines at Port Chalmers and Lyttelton, the fully rigged ship was heading to Wellington with 500 tonnes of reapers and binders (cropping machinery) and American organs, when she struck the Shepherdess Reef.

The ship drifted and became



The rocky shore at Cape Campbell has been exposed by the November 2016 earthquake. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

lodged on an offshore rock, south of Cape Campbell, from where the master and his wife, along with 23 crew, escaped safely to shore. The master, named McFee, then walked to the telegraph office at Kēkerengū, says Peter, remarking that such 50km journeys are recorded by press and inquest as if it's a brisk 30-minute walk.

Having lived along that coastline herself, and spoken to others that lived there before her, she knows how inhospitable it can be to a well-provisioned person, let alone someone who has washed up on the beach.

"When it's a storm, it looks like there's been a frost, but it is just



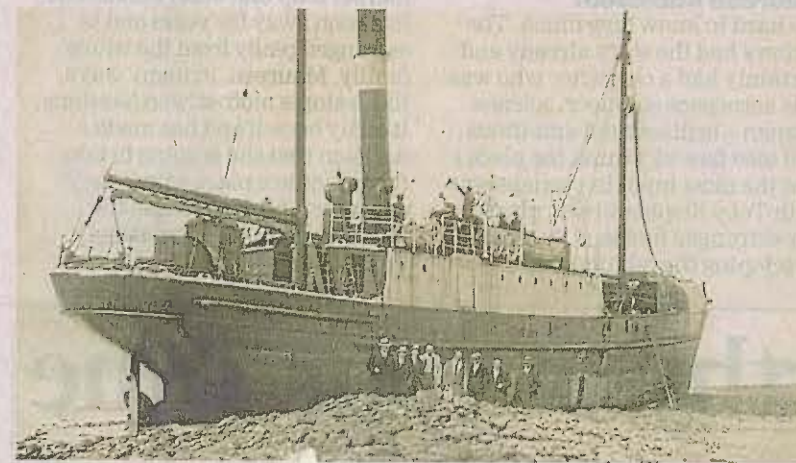
The trawler *Hautapu* on the beach at Flaxbourne on November 3, 1963.



Sally Peter winds the crank of the clock mechanism that rotated the light beacon of Cape Campbell lighthouse.



The *Taiaroa* was wrecked at Woodbank Point on April 11, 1886.



The *Wakatu* wrecked at Woodbank Point on September 6, 1924.

the southerly cold burning off the grass. It can be wicked out there," Peter says. "I have interviewed some of the lighthouse keepers and they have crawled on their hands and knees to get up the steps and turn on the light."

But those who made it to shore were the lucky ones, she says, telling the story of the *Taiaroa*, a steamer heading from Wellington to Lyttelton when it sank at the mouth of the Clarence River in 1886, with 34 passengers and crew drowned.

"A Salvation Army girl was on it and they found her bonnet," says Peter. It's a harrowing inquest to read, thanks to transcripts from

some of the 14 survivors. "They groaned and at intervals all died in the boat," says one, who was in a life raft for 11 hours. "As the men died they were washed underneath the thwarts; some floated out and others were put over by myself and the man who died last." Tragically, it eventuated that the ship was lodged on a reef, and had they stayed put rather than fled to lifeboats, they could have later made it to shore easily, Peter says.

She has spent countless hours researching the shipwrecks, as well as the stories of people who farmed the 23,000-hectare Flaxbourne sheep station until 1905, when the government divided it into smaller blocks and "a whole influx of people arrived to start their new lives".

They arrived in all means of transport – walking, horses, wagons – to a balloted piece of land they had never seen, she says. "Some lived in tents for 12 months before they could construct a bit of a hut."

It's clear Peter could share much more about the history of the east coast, its farms and wrecks, and the tough people in every one of the stories. "It's a passion," she admits. "I just love that you can walk the trails people have walked before, and better understand the place you come from."

15-2-19

FIRE WATCH

Marfells Beach seen from the air as Fire and Emergency Marlborough principal rural fire officer John Foley flew over the district on Tuesday to assess the risk.

- QCT diversion plan on standby
- Upper Wither Hills a no-go
- Marfells Beach campsite to stay open

Alice Angeloni and Paula Hulburt

A stretch of scenic bush walk in Marlborough could be closed to the public next week over fears walkers could be trapped should a fire break out.

The Queen Charlotte Track – still in contention for Great Walk status – will have diversions in place from Tuesday, at Kenepuru and Torea Saddles, if there is no significant rainfall.

The last time the track had diversions put in place due to fire risk was 20 years ago, when sections were closed off for six weeks in 1999.

Destination Marlborough general manager Jacqui Lloyd said the 23 kilometre section of track

from Kenepuru Saddle and Torea Saddle, on the Kenepuru Sound side, had been identified as the highest fire risk.

"This section is predominantly on a ridgeline with very few exit points and therefore, in the event of fire, it could prove difficult to remove walkers off the track quickly," Lloyd said.

"The major risk is a fire starting at the bottom of a hill on Kenepuru Sound side on a dry, hot, high windy day and moving to the top of the hill where the track is. A fire can travel at great speed."

Independent and freedom walkers and riders would not be allowed into the diversion area, which included campsites at

Black Rock and Bay of Many Coves.

"Guided walks with DOC concessionaires that meet the guide criteria will still be able to use this section of the track," Lloyd said.

"It is important to note that all other sections of the Queen Charlotte Track, Ship Cove/Meretoto to Camp Bay, and Torea to Anakiwa, are not affected.

"There has been a lot of work behind the scenes ... to ensure that visitors can still experience the track safely," Lloyd said.

Alternative routes included the road between Punga Cove and Portage and a water taxi from Punga Cove.

Queen Charlotte Track chairman Rob Burn said public safety

was paramount. "Once we've got that established, then we want to make sure we continue to provide a great experience for our visitors.

"Most people that are coming to do the track will be more than well aware that the fire danger is extreme," he said.

"I could honestly say that I don't think it would be a surprise that some diversions are in place, when our neighbours in Nelson Tasman have closed all their tracks."

A special emergency meeting was held in Marlborough on Monday to discuss potential fire risks, as farmers in South Marlborough called for a campsite

TURN TO PAGE 2

Fire watch: Plan for track diversions ready to go

FROM PAGE 1

near them to be closed amid tinder-dry conditions.

Fire and Emergency Marlborough principal rural fire officer John Foley flew over the district on Tuesday to assess the fire risk.

Yesterday, Foley provided the Marlborough District Council with a report which said Marfells Beach was no more of a fire risk than any other part of the district.

In the report, he said the risk of ignition did not reach the threshold to prohibit or restrict access to the beach using the Fire and Emergency Act.

With no significant rain forecast for the next two weeks and resources tight following the Tasman fire, response capabilities were reduced, Foley said at Monday's meeting.

Queen Charlotte Track Land Cooperative director Lynda Scott-Kelly said it had been incredibly

hot since Christmas.

"Unfortunately when the risk gets so high, you just have to take measures.

"All it takes is someone to do something silly like throw a cigarette butt out. People just have to absolutely think fire risk," she said.

Marlborough District Council announced yesterday afternoon that walkers using the Wither Hills Farm Park should use only the lower tracks around the town boundary, and not venture up the gully or ridge paths.

If there was a rapidly-moving fire, people on the hills could be at risk of injury or death, a spokesman said.

Council was also considering restrictions at Victoria Domain in Picton.

FENZ recommended all non-essential spark-hazardous work be rescheduled until cooler weather.

TINDER-DRY CONDITIONS

The Tetley Brook area near Seddon, in South Marlborough.
SCOTT HAMMOND/STUFF

13/2/19



Flyover to assess fire risk

Weather
Alice Angeloni
alice.angeloni@stuff.co.nz

A special emergency meeting has been held in Marlborough, off the back of farmers calling for a campsite to close because of the fire risks.

The meeting was called as the region's concerns are heightened by wildfires south of Nelson.

With no significant rain forecast for the next two weeks and resources soaked up in Nelson, fire response capabilities are reduced.

Fire and Emergency Marlborough principal rural fire officer John Foley said the only way to lessen fire ignition risks was to get the public on side.

The meeting was held at Marlborough District Council on Monday afternoon with representatives from the Department of

Conservation, Federated Farmers and Wine Marlborough.

Foley was flying over the region yesterday to assess fire fuel and dryness.

"If we get a fire start now, it's going to move pretty quickly, especially if there's wind and slope involved," he said at the meeting on Monday.

So far this summer, the several fires they'd fought had been contained pretty quickly. But the district was very dry and the whole Marlborough region was sitting in a total fire ban, Foley said.

"Any resources that we require for a fire are currently soaked up in Nelson so our response capability is going to be slightly reduced.

"The only way we are going to reduce the risk of ignition is getting the public on side, to buy in," Foley said.

The public needed to be think-

ing twice about any activity they were doing which was generating heat, and whether it needed to be done in the heat of the day, he said.

"Everyone that works in the rural area needs to buy into this and talk to their staff.

"It doesn't matter whether it's viticulture, forestry or farming, some of the activities that are undertaken at this time of year are quite risky, and have a reasonable chance of starting a fire."

Maintaining equipment, cleaning gear, and carrying water rather than a fire extinguisher were important for rural workers, Foley said.

A massive fire covering about 2300 hectares near tinder-dry Nelson had been burning since last Tuesday. Civil Defence said on Monday it was still "unpredictable".



Marlborough principal rural fire officer John Foley says it's important to get the public on side.

More than 2600 people had been evacuated from their homes. It's "almost certain" the fire was caused by agriculture machinery. At least one house near Nelson had been lost.

Tinder dry grass and a lot of wind had farmers beside Marfells Beach, near Seddon, concerned visitors were posing an extra risk in already ripe fire conditions.

Cooking on a barbecue or a gas stove, stubbing out a cigarette or letting off fireworks were often seen at campsites.

DOC South Marlborough operations manager Phil Bradfield said there was pressure to close Marfells campground.

"In the last week, I've received

From page 1 // Flyover to assess Marlborough fire risk

a number of emails from locals."

It was relatively easy to close a campground, but it was much harder to close a reserve, he said.

"But I guess the biggest worry is that, what do those 50 to 80 campers a night, where do they go?"

Bradfield said he was concerned that if the campground was closed, campers would go looking for places to go freedom

There was a lot of traffic going through the Marfells Beach campground which had become increasingly popular since the 2016 earthquake, she said.

Pinoli Limited director Andrew Wiltshire, who farms pine nuts in the area, said crops, and potentially lives, were at risk.

Two years ago, "joy riders" lit fireworks on Marfells Beach which caused a fire on his prop-

On Sunday, the road through Molesworth Station closed to the public due to "extreme" fire risk. A campsite in the station was also closed.

Bradfield said they would be guided by advice from FENZ on whether to close the Marfells Beach campground.

Cape Campbell farmer Sally Peter was calling for the Marfells Beach campsite, which is near her farm, to close until the fire risk was less of a threat.

"It's as big a risk as it is at Molesworth or Rainbow, there's no distinction."

In the last six months, they had found little camp fires on the coast near the campground, she said.

"It's distressing in the least. Until it rains, it should be closed and all care should be taken by everyone."

"Just by chance it drizzled that night, otherwise it would have been a lot worse. This is not just a hypothetical issue.

"We know that most campers are extremely responsible people but there's always a few who don't make the best choices."

Wiltshire said it was a "reasonable question" to ask whether or not the campsite should be closed.

Wairau-Awatere ward councillor Geoff Evans said he had been hearing concerns from farmers all over the province.

"Everyone is really concerned at the tinder dry-like condition that we have at the moment.

"If they can close down the road through Molesworth, which they have... it's not too big a call to close down the coastal area where it is so dry."

TURN TO PAGE 2

Recovery moves for shook up paua fishery

Storm Stanley - Chairman, Pāua Industry Council

The Minister of Fisheries will soon be making decisions on proposed new daily bag limits for pāua in PAU3 (Canterbury/Kaikōura) and PAU7 (Marlborough). While no-one enjoys having their catch limits reduced, there are sound reasons for easing fishing pressure on pāua stocks in these two areas. The proposed changes will help rebuild the earthquake-affected fisheries and will ultimately benefit everyone who values a good feed of pāua.

and juvenile pāua habitat was severely disrupted. In order to protect the surviving pāua populations, the area from Marfell's Beach to the Conway River was immediately closed to the harvesting of pāua, seaweed, and some other shellfish species. This closure will remain in place until scientific evidence shows that the fisheries can be safely re-opened. In the meantime, important pāua harvesting areas in PAU3 and PAU7 are no longer accessible to

pressure on a smaller fishery. Pāua are sedentary (i.e., they don't move around much), and this makes them especially vulnerable to depletion if fishing pressure is concentrated in a localised area. Overfishing of a local pāua population can affect spawning success and hinder the productivity of the entire fishery.

The risk of commercial fishing effort shifting from the closed area to other parts of the coast has already been averted by a combination of

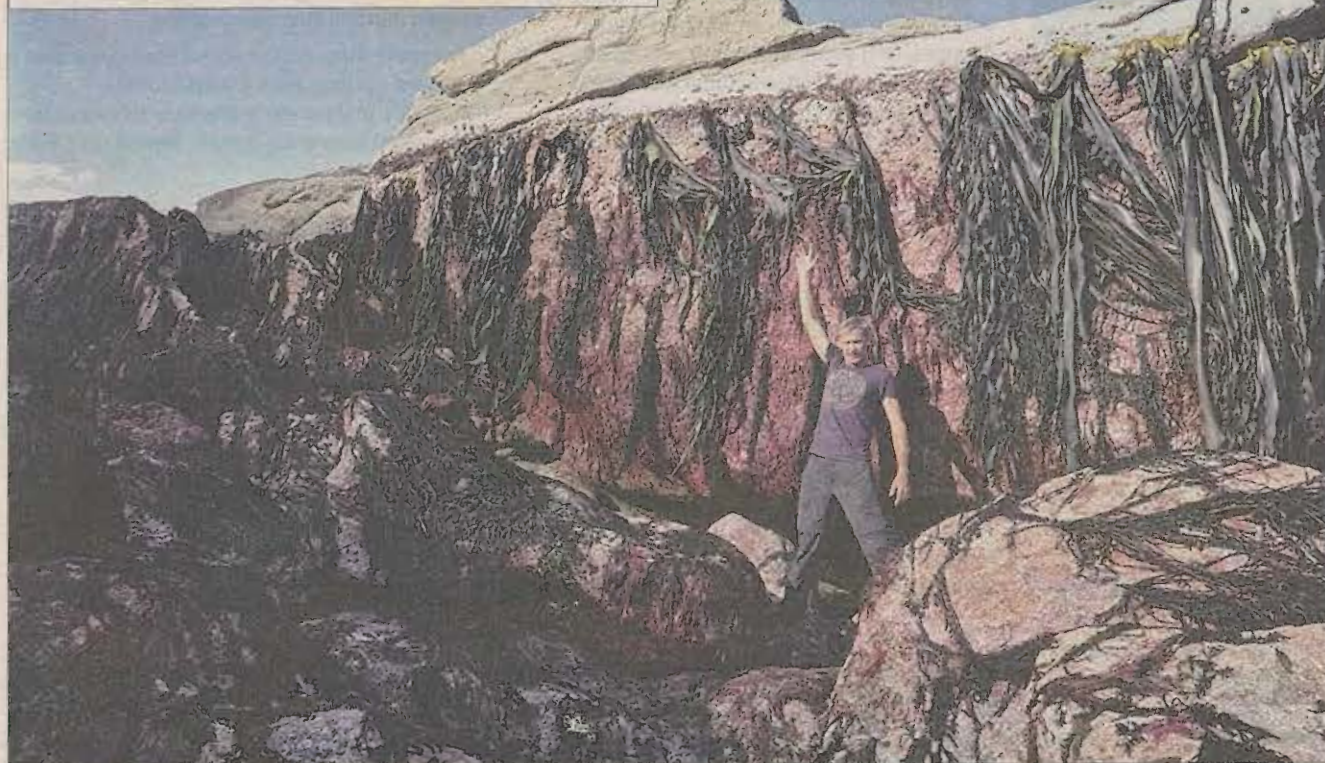
PAU3 and over 10 percent in PAU7 (on top of a 50% reduction in the PAU7 TACC in 2016), effectively removing any excess commercial fishing effort in areas either side of the earthquake closure.

Although new recreational allowances were set in October 2017, the daily bag limit was left unchanged at 10 pāua per fisher – which is the current limit in most parts of New Zealand. As a result, in the two years since the earthquakes, recreational fishers have sought to



Earthquake impact. Dr Tom McCowan photo

The scale of the uplift was staggering. Geoff Laing photo



When the earthquakes struck in November 2016, the coastline around Kaikōura and Cape Campbell was uplifted. Intertidal species such as pāua were left high and dry,

recreational or commercial fishers.

When areas are closed, fishing effort inevitably shifts into the remaining open areas, placing more

TACC reductions and ACE shelving (where quota owners voluntarily forgo catching a portion of their quota). Commercial catch has been reduced by 50 percent in

take their 10 pāua from the coastline north and south of the earthquake closure, placing extra pressure on popular fishing spots such as Port Underwood and the Marlborough Sounds to the north, and Motunau and Banks Peninsula to the south. People who dive these areas regularly will have seen how the additional fishing pressure has depleted local pāua populations.

At the end of 2018, Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) consulted on a proposal to reduce the daily bag limit in PAU3 and

PAU7 to either five or three pāua and to reduce the accumulation limit (the total number of pāua a person is allowed to accumulate over multiple days of fishing) to either 10 or six pāua. Reductions of this magnitude are necessary because FNZ considers that recreational harvest needs to be cut by half in order to protect the remaining pāua fisheries. To halve the total recreational catch, the daily bag limit needs to be small enough to actively constrain the catch taken by the large majority of fishers and for the large majority of fishing trips. A small reduction – for example, a bag limit of eight or nine pāua – wouldn't be effective because many fishers already take fewer than 10 pāua.

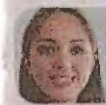
Once the Minister has made his decision, the new daily bag limits will be put into regulation and are expected to come into effect in June 2019. While there will be some pain from the reductions, displaced fishing effort will be removed and the pāua fisheries will be allowed to rebuild more rapidly. Once the earthquake-affected area has recovered, bag limits may be reconsidered in the longer term. In the meantime, it may be worthwhile for recreational divers to seek out bigger pāua to fulfil their bag limit. Not only does this achieve a greater weight of pāua per bag – it's also a good thing to do for the fishery, as it allows pāua to spawn for several more years before they are harvested.



Ward resident and volunteer firefighter Tom Loe, who lives near Ward Beach, with daughter Kyra.

RICKY WILSON/STUFF

Quad riders not welcome



Coast

Chloe Ranford

chloe.ranford@stuff.co.nz

People riding quad bikes down a Marlborough beach covered in fossils are being warned off by neighbours trying to protect the coast.

Drivers have long cruised along Ward Beach, south of Blenheim, but access to it became easier after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake exposed flat platforms of reef that used to be under water.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) says increased vehicle access, particularly by four-wheel-drives, dirt bikes and quads, is placing pressure on a variety of natural values along the coast.

Blenheim resident Amanda Ham said she had been walking along Ward Beach last month after driving a quad bike with her husband, when she was intercepted by a local.

"An old fella came up, and said, 'what are you doing?' He came down, and ... he said, 'you were on the quads'. He knew I was on it, and he said, 'you must have seen the signs, which say not to have quads

down there',” she said. She told the man they had come from the Ward Beach car park and hadn't seen the sign.

The man said locals were trying to make the beach more walker-friendly, as it was a valuable coastal area, Ham said.

But signs needed to be installed at the car park, not by the beach, if locals were to enforce a no-quads rule, she said.

“We were looking at the fishery signs at the car park, but there was nothing there about quads, so we took ours out.”

DOC senior ranger supervisor Chris Wootton said DOC is working with iwi, landowners, the community and the council to address the issue of increased vehicle access along Marlborough's east coast.

Signage has been installed at Ward Beach, asking users to limit vehicle speeds to 30kmh, keep clear of wildlife, not light fires and remove rubbish.

Ward resident and volunteer firefighter Tom Loe, who lives near Ward Beach, said he is “on the fence” when it comes to quad



Signs at the Ward Beach car park tell vehicle users to drive below 30kmh.

RICKY WILSON/STUFF

bikes. “The area is a natural habitat for everything other than motorbikes, and I'm all for that, but as someone who likes to use quads for recreational purposes, I can't say 'no' to them, as I do it myself,” he said.

“I know there are fossils there and there's a more exposed area to look at, but the more people explore on their vehicles, the less people whose job it is to look at these fossils get the chance to see them.”

Kevin Booker, who lives in Ward, and does “odd jobs” near Ward Beach, said quad bikes should be barred from the beach as they could run over dotterel birds and their nests.

“The Kaikōura earthquake exposed more of the coastline, and now people are out there looking at it,” he said.

“The ideal solution is to just stop doing it [quad biking].

“Just walk down at the tide line, not up the top of the beach, near the nests.

“Quad bikes are not OK up there.”

Updated all day at **stuff**

Eastern shellfish beds struggling to recover

Conservation
Alice Angeloni
alice.angeloni@stuff.co.nz

Shellfish beds on Marlborough's east coast are in "real trouble" and have deteriorated since the Kaikōura earthquake, conservationists say.

Concerned over the welfare of shellfish beds, the East Coast Protection Group has been monitoring shellfish numbers along a 1.2-kilometre stretch between Marfell's Beach and the Cape Campbell Lighthouse.

Fifteen tests conducted in March showed hundreds of empty juvenile shells, but no live shellfish.

A series of 10 random tests after March found only two living shellfish; one 11mm pipi and one 10mm whelk.

East Coast Protection Group committee member Rob Peter said the team wanted to inform the public on what was "actually happening" in the area.

"These shellfish beds are in real trouble," Peter said. "I think public perception is that the earthquake has passed, that it's a natural disaster and that it's in recovery, but that's not what we're seeing through research."

Huge numbers of shellfish were killed after the earthquake uplift in November 2016 and many more washed up during a large easterly swell in September 2018, he said.

The group had identified 82 varieties



"These shellfish beds are in real trouble."

Rob Peter, East Coast Protection Group committee member, above.

of shellfish washed up on the coastline. New Zealand had more than 3660 species of shellfish – from microscopic sea snails to giant mussels. Gathering of shellfish and seaweed had been prohibited between Marfell's Beach and the Conway River since the earthquake.

Heritage Trust regional collections manager and archaeologist Logan Coote had identified the different species of shellfish.

"The ones that are most visible are the angel wing rock borers *Barnea similis*," he said. "There are thousands of these on the beach at the moment due to the eroding of the earthquake uplifted sediments, they were in the soft mudstone."

Coote said he had also discovered fossil tusk shells (*dentalia*), the Cook's Turban (*Cookia sulcata*), the Horse Mussel (*Atrina zelandica*) and the Spengler's Triton (*Cabestana spengleri*).

The earthquake caused significant uplift to the beach, which opened up access and had seen an increased number of vehicles, horses and foot traffic across the tidal zones.

Peter said the increased traffic crossed the upper tidal zone where shellfish larvae settled.

The group was working alongside Marlborough District Council and Department of Conservation conducting monitoring and research in the area, Peter said.

"In terms of actual runs on the board, we haven't achieved a lot.

Councils, iwi and DOC unite for conservation

July 2019

Nelson-Marlborough Farming Magazine

An alliance of councils, iwi and the Department of Conservation in the top of the South Island plans to work collectively with their communities to restore natural landscapes across the region – from west to east and from the mountains to the sea.

Kotahitanga mo te Taiao Alliance includes Buller, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough and Kaikōura councils, the West Coast Regional Council, a number of iwi in the region and DOC.

A dawn blessing was held in Nelson to launch the Alliance and its strategy for collaboratively achieving significant conservation gains across the top of the South Island. The launch was timed for Matariki, marking the start of a new season and the start of this new way of working for conservation.

The Alliance will provide environmental leadership and coordination in working together and with others to protect and enhance the wider region's diverse natural landscapes. The landscapes include vast areas of beech forest, eastern dryland, alpine hinterland, the sheltered sounds of Marlborough, freshwater catchments and varied marine environments including extensive intertidal flats and wild and exposed coasts. Hundreds of native plant and animal species live within those landscapes, including some unique to the region.

Kotahitanga mo te Taiao Alliance independent chair Martin Rodd says the Alliance and its strategy are focussed on enabling landscape-scale conservation projects that have environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits.

"Our aspiration is to see the natural environment across the top of the South Island flourishing through ecological restoration over large areas with people caring for and benefiting from the environment and the flourishing nature in turn enriching communities.

"Kotahitanga is about collaboration, working together in collective action with communities, industry and a variety of organisations to achieve conservation gains that enhance and protect Te Taiao, our natural heritage.

"Having this alliance across local government, iwi and DOC enables us to do more together than we can each do on our own to achieve successful landscape-scale conservation across district boundaries and places.

"The Alliance's leadership and coordination role will include identifying, prioritising and integrating conservation, attracting investment and resources for new conservation work, providing advice and support to conservation projects, and linking new projects with existing projects.

"The Kotahitanga mo te Taiao Alliance Strategy outlines high-level conservation goals and provides guidance and direction on where and how to work. The strategy was developed with the support of natural heritage management practitioners and scientists.

"Core to the strategy is combining science with mātauranga Māori, Māori knowledge and values, recognising the interconnected relationship between the spiritual world, the natural world and people.

"The strategy will change and develop over time as Alliance members engage with their communities and community aspirations are integrated into it."

Marlborough Mayor John Leggett says, like other regions, Marlborough's indigenous biodiversity is fragile with species at the brink of extinction and ecosystems in a state of collapse. A new approach is urgently needed, he said.

"This strategy, pooling resources and expertise to tackle some agreed targets, makes so much more sense than continuing to work on our own patches. This way we should be able to make some real progress."

Groups come together to protect landscapes

Conservation

Carly Gooch

The top of the South Island is set for a shakeup in its conservation after a number of groups have teamed up to maintain and restore its natural landscapes.

Launched by a dawn blessing on Friday, the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance includes Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, Buller and Kaikōura councils, the West Coast Regional Council, a number of iwi in the region and the Department of Conservation, all providing environmental leadership and co-ordination to protect and enhance the wider region's diverse flora and fauna.

Tasman district mayor Richard Kempthorne said the initiative was a "tremendous opportunity for some large conservation efforts".

He said one of the projects was to kill off wilding conifer.

"They're a serious problem up and down the country."

The only way to stop them

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance formed by groups in the top of the South has a strategy for achieving significant conservation gains across the greater region.

COREY MOSEN



spreading was to eradicate them, Kempthorne said.

He said the task would be "a big effort", using all the work of the alliance along with assistance from the forestry industry.

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance independent chair and DOC partnerships director, Martin Rodd, said the alliance and its strategy was focussed on enabling landscape-scale conser-

vation projects that have environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits.

The top of the south's countryside is home to hundreds of native plant and animal species,

including some unique to the region. It also includes vast areas of beech forest, eastern dryland, alpine hinterland, the sheltered sounds of Marlborough, fresh-water catchments and varied marine environments.

Rodd said the alliance's role would include "identifying, prioritising and integrating conservation, attracting investment and resources for new conservation work, providing advice and support to conservation projects, and linking new projects with existing projects".

"Core to the strategy is combining science with mātauranga Māori, Māori knowledge and values, recognising the interconnected relationship between the spiritual world, the natural world and people," Rodd said.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust chair, Brendan Wilson said iwi looked forward to achieving significant outcomes across the wider top of the south area, which may not have been possible without the collaboration.

Group abused over ban plan

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter

Conservationists fighting to protect Marlborough beaches from vehicles say people abusing them should talk to the decision makers instead.

The East Coast Protection Group has championed the preservation of the region's east coast for years, after concerns drivers were damaging areas lifted by the Kaikōura earthquake.

In November the Marlborough District Council agreed to draft a bylaw barring motorists from a 45-kilometre stretch of beach, from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth.

Since then, members of the group say they have had opponents dig up old records to "get stuff over us" and have faced abuse, including being labelled "try hard tree huggers" with a "hidden commercial agenda" on social media.

Group chairman and Far North District councillor Rick Stolwerk, who owned land near Ward, said he could not detail specific incidents, but he knew it "wasn't very pleasant" for members.

"I know it's been difficult for them and the council," he said.

"I'm fully in support of the blanket ban. People have to realise it's not a nasty thing,



not a knee-jerk reaction. It's proposed not only to protect the wildlife, but the people as well."

Group member and Cape Campbell farmer Rob Peter said there was less pressure on members since the council decision.

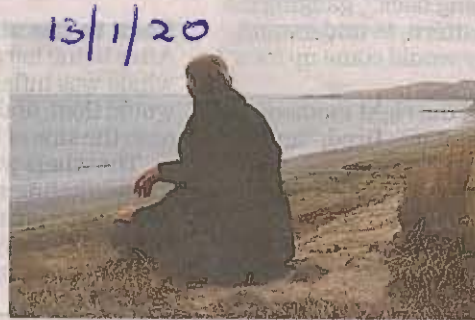
But a lot of landowners felt they could not speak in support of the proposed bylaw, due to reactions on social media, he said.

"People have been through our records and former council consents, trying to personally get stuff over us," he said.

That involved a resource consent application made in 2016 to the council for a single-room building at Cape Campbell, which could be hired for events and school camp trips. The application was withdrawn in July, 2018.

"To find that in the council records would take a bit of time. Since then, we've cancelled that. We haven't made plans to further it.

"Everyone says we're going to gain a lot out of it [the vehicle ban], but the light-



East Coast Protection Group member Rob Peter looks over the east coast, towards the Cape Campbell Lighthouse. CHLOE RANFORD/LDR

house accommodation is fully booked anyway. It's just pocket money. There's not a lot in it, really."

He said he knew of a landowner from Blind River, south of Seddon, who sold their property after "lots of intimidation" from the public.

More than 1400 people had signed a petition against the proposed bylaw.

Group secretary and member Heather Davis said she knew of a few friends who were being targeted for their views.

Council environmental scientist Peter Hamill said he was aware of the pressure being placed on the community-led group.

"That's why, most of the time, we like to make sure everything comes through the council. We want things to go through us because we're an organisation. People can throw mud at us."

Rat plague threatens bats

Matt Brown

A population of native bats are in danger of being wiped out by a plague of rats. Experts are warning a record number of rats could have a "dire" effect on the population of bats in Pelorus.

Forest & Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin says they are tracking the highest number of rats ever recorded.

"It's pretty gruesome out there," she says. "We could seriously lose our populations of bats at Pelorus through this mast year." A mast season is where plants produce an abundance of fruit and seeds.

Deb says rats climb the trees the bats live in, corner them in their holes and eat them.

"The bats can't get out."

During a previous mast year in Fiordland, bat colonies went locally extinct.

"They thought they had it covered, but they lost one of the colonies," she says.

"It's a real gnarly problem."

Trapping this year has already seen the rat catch top 60 per cent of traps set.

"We're tracking double what would be local extinctions," she says.

Previously, the record high was 42 per cent in 2014.

"We had a really mild summer with a lot of really nice weather, and it was really warm."

"That triggered a whole lot of trees flowering and fruiting."

"We had a huge abundance of fruit and seeds, which is really good for our native birds because they breed up and have a really good year."

"But it's like putting feed out for the rats," Deb says.



Forest & Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin. Inset: A New Zealand native bat. Photos: Supplied.

The group uses tracking tunnels to get an indication of how many rats are in the area.

Debs says, in an ideal scenario, rats would be below five per cent.

"At around 30 per cent tracking, you'll get some localised extinctions of some species."

"I was walking around Pelorus, and even the walking tracks would be covered in berries and fruit."

"That drives up the number of rats and mice."

"Normally, when you go into winter rats will run out of food and their population numbers start crashing."

Deb says rats stash the seed in dry hollows

and rat nests and feed on it right through winter.

"Rather than starving through weeding and slowing down, they're breeding up right through winter."

Debs says the only thing they know that will bring rat numbers down enough is aerial 1080

"Our area is not targeted for aerial 1080 so we're just going to have to do as much as we can to try and suppress the numbers and take as many out as we can."

"Hopefully we can take a bit of the heat off it, enough to get our bats through."

For further information or to volunteer contact Forest & Bird at forestandbird.org.nz/volunteer.

Farmer welcomes spider resurgence

Wildlife

Alice Angeloni

A Marlborough farmer is stoked to see the return of New Zealand's most venomous spider to the coast where he grew up after concerns for the declining population.

Cape Campbell farmer and keen conservationist Rob Peter said in the 70s and 80s, the katipō spider was "plentiful" along Marlborough's east coast.

As children, they were easily able to find them under logs, but in recent years, they had struggled to find any, he said.

"We were really worried they were becoming extinct."

But Peter was pleased when he heard about the katipō discoveries of Marlborough teenager Eve Anderson, 14, and her dad Mark Anderson.

"That they are surviving and they're certainly doing reasonably well," Peter said.

Since April, the father-daughter duo had found hundreds of katipō along Marfells Beach on the east coast of Marlborough. For her science fair project, Eve set out to find where the spiders were in relation to the dune line, and whether they were living in the "new dunes" which had been uplifted in the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake.

Peter had previously been out looking for katipō with the Andersons and had found "good numbers".

They had been finding them in native vegetation, rather than the introduced marram grass, which didn't seem to be a suitable habitat, he said.

Once found on sandy beaches around New Zealand, the katipō had been disappearing. They



"We were really worried they were becoming extinct."

Rob Peter, pictured.

were granted "absolute protection" under the Wildlife Act in 2010, in response to declining populations.

In 2010, they were reported to have disappeared from the Wellington region, but were still found frequently in parts of the South Island.

The main threats they faced were habitat loss, challenges from introduced sand-binding plants such as marram grass and lupins and predation by an introduced spider.

Eve's findings follow a previously uncatalogued population of katipō discovered near the entrance of Wellington Harbour last month, sparking hope among conservationists there could be more.

Peter thought Marfells Beach would be one of the most "prominent populations" of katipō in New Zealand.

Katipō translates from Māori to English as "night-stinger". While they have a potentially lethal bite, the last confirmed fatality was more than a century ago.

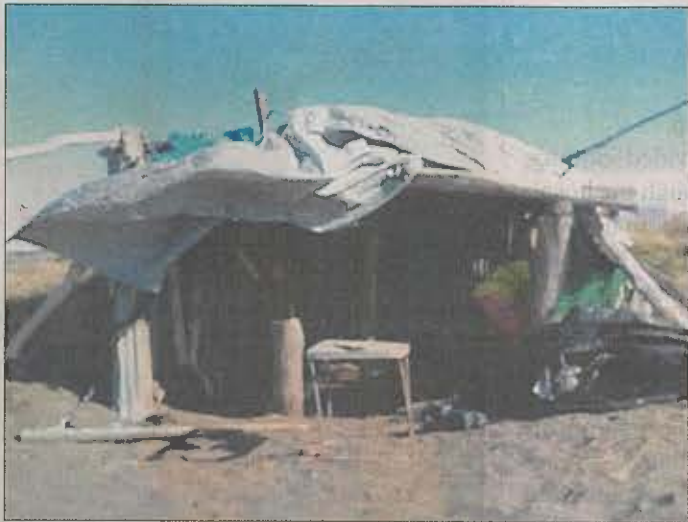
Marfell Beach's family hut trashed

It's survived an earthquake, but a small structure on Marfells beach near Seddon could be taken down by tanked teens.

The hut, built by a local family for shelter from the notorious east coast wind, has become a dumping ground for raucous revellers.

Human faeces, piles of rubbish, including empty bottles and cans, are turning the hut into a tip - the "childish" antics wrecking the shelter for everyone else.

A local Seddon resident, who asked to not be named, says he erected the hut for his family as a respite when walking the popular beach. "It's a good place to kick back



Bottles, human excrement and other detritus mar a popular hut on Marfells Beach. Photo: Supplied.

and get out of the sun and wind," he says. "I haven't been there for a long time, but it was always

Marfells Beach Road and the wharf, the shelter was intended to be used by fishermen and families walking the shore.

But a four-wheel-drive track adjacent to the structure has proven to be its downfall.

The Seddon local thought it was local teens wrecking the structure for everyone else.

"It's absolute childish stuff," he says.

"I've sent a few people down there to clean up glass and faeces.

"I've yet to deal with the people that did it.

"They're ruining it for everybody else," he says.

Council has been approached for comment.

kept pretty good." Constructed prior to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2016, halfway between

Cape Campbell access

Dear Ed,
In response to a write-up on Cape Campbell access, dated 6.8.19.

I totally agree with Tony Ashworth, no areas, especially coastal, should be closed off to the public. It is public domain, with conditions of speed, etc, etc.

The East Coast Protection Group have made a great effort in fencing off bird nesting areas.

If they wish to fence off seal areas and put white centre lines

along the beach, so be it.

As far as having stationary vehicles within 20 meters of seals, I do not see that on SH1 when travelling south and seals are at the road edge.

The coastal area farmers should think themselves lucky. Theoretically they have gained land. It would be a bit different if the coast was lowered instead of being raised.

The Queens Chain is approx. 20 meters above the mean high

water line.

If farmers wish to fence above that line, do it. Impossible, I know, in most places.

Another point of interest: re. access to the Cape Lighthouse, maybe the Peters should open the road to the public, which taxpayer paid for many decades ago.

My suggestion is: farmers, get over it, and get on with it.

Phil Russ
Ward



Cape Campbell

21-8-19 "Sun"

Beach access threat to cape

Matt Brown

Vehicles are being blamed for the destruction of a pristine Marlborough beach by residents who want to see tighter controls. The 2016 Kaikoura earthquake uplifted land around the Cape Campbell peninsula and the beach became a popular destination for four-wheel drive vehicles.

But Cape Campbell Experience manager Thomas Peter says the hike in numbers is putting the area at risk.

He says while people have been driving along the beach for years, since the earthquake it's gone from "casual usage" to upwards of 50 vehicles on a busy day.

"With the Kaikoura quake, the area has had a real spotlight on it," Thomas says.

The cape, well known for its lighthouse that guided ships around the dangerous reefs since 1870, is the natural habitat for several native species including the Banded Dotterel.

"Being a peninsula, it's a nesting site for quite a few birds and it has a seal colony on it," Thomas says.

"You can see the tyre tracks going right through the middle of where the seals are. "I know down the Kaikoura coast if a vehicle is within 20 metres, it must be stationary with seals."

Thomas says to protect the area; the answer is to look nationally - to other councils around New Zealand.

"They've effectively put a lot of bans and controls over timing and allowances of vehicles and speeds," he says.

"Look to Wellington, they've put bans over huge proportions of the beach now.

"Auckland, even 90-mile beach now, I understand you can't drive on it like you once



Signs to educate the public seen at Cape Campbell peninsula. Photo: Matt Brown.

could."

But Marlborough 4WD Club captain Tony Ashworth says no area should be closed off to Kiwis.

"The locals are trying to get everything banned down there," Tony says.

He says the beach has always been driveable and claims land owners have only started complaining about access since they haven't been able to charge.

"We do everything with a tread lightly mindset. You can use the area without destroying things.

"I know there are people that go out on their own, but we don't condone that."

The club has organised an annual Cape Campbell 4WD trip for about 27 years, Tony says.

"The older members of the club always talk about it."

A community group formed to protect and enhance biodiversity of the area wants

to work with the community to find a solution.

Marlborough East Coast Protection Group secretary Heather Davies says they are working closely with DOC and MDC to educate the public.

Information signs and temporary fencing to protect particularly sensitive areas are in place.

"People are going further along and disturbing native birds and the formation of dunes," Heather says.

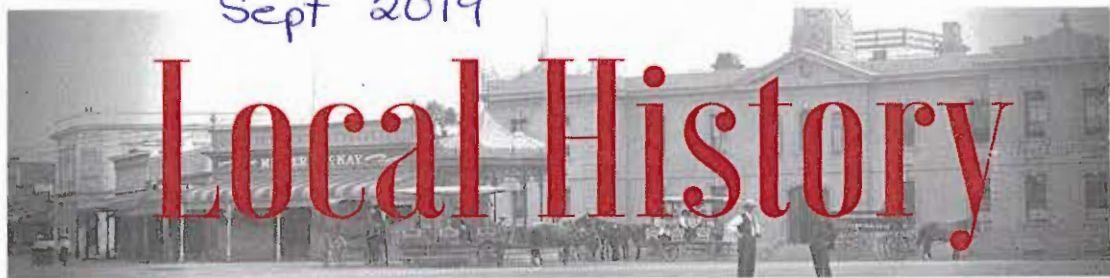
She wants the region's residents to share a sense of responsibility.

"That what they are doing, they have an impact. That people understand that these are Marlborough's unique species.

"Those animals live there," she says.

A council spokeswoman says the council is aware of the broad nature of ecological, economic, and social values that require a balanced approach to management.

Sept 2019



Local History

CAPE CAMPBELL LIGHTHOUSE

Cape Campbell is Te Karaka to Maori who had been living there for 800 years.

In 1861, it was suggested that a lighthouse should be built as the area was a danger to ships.

In 1869, construction began. By 1870, the lighthouse was lit up using an oil lamp and later kerosene.

This wooden tower became unstable and by 1905, the lighthouse we see today was built and lit. This tower is made from 100 curved sections of steel. It had been put together at the foundry in Thames to test before being shipped. All sections were brought ashore in surf boats taking over a week.



Supplies were delivered to the permanent lighthouse keepers every three months.

In 1938, diesel generators and electricity replaced the kerosene light. In 1940, a private road was put in. By 1960, mains electricity had been connected and by 1986, the light was automated.

Between 1845 and 1947, 18 ships were wrecked on this section of coast with 43 lives lost. The reefs were invisible underwater before the recent earthquakes. The lighthouse saved many ships and lives.

Recently, the lighthouse was used in the film 'Light Between Oceans'. The 'East Coast Protection Group' has been formed to care for this section of coastline. The Flaxbourne Heritage Centre is in the process of being built to house local and lighthouse history.



Compliments of the Marlborough Museum, Brayshaw Heritage Park, 26 Arthur Baker Pl



Marlborough Express 9/8/19

Updated all day at **stuff**

Crayfisher beach ban permanent

Environment
Jennifer Eder

A crayfishing company that struggled to launch its boats post-quake has been permanently banned from using heavy machinery on a beach populated by threatened birds.

Burkhart Fisheries was essentially left high and dry after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in 2016 raised the south Marlborough coastline by up to 3 metres in places, leaving its normal launch site unusable.

The company used bulldozers to drag its boats further up the beach to a new launch site until Forest & Bird complained to the Marlborough District Council, which got urgent cease and desist orders from the Environment Court in December 2017.

Those interim orders have now been made permanent, with Environment Court Judge John Gault issuing final enforcement orders in June.

The orders relate to a section

of beach south of geo-preservation reserve Chancet Rocks called the "exclusion zone", where threatened bird species banded dotterels and variable oystercatchers nested on the beach. The orders banned Burkhart Fisheries from using heavy machinery in the exclusion zone.

Judge Hassan also ordered the company to pay the council's costs for its investigation, and its attempts to mitigate adverse effects of the company's movements on the beach.

After the interim order in late 2017, Burkhart Fisheries commissioned a bird expert to assess the beach and create a plan, with conditions including a "bird spotter" to accompany machinery to shoo birds out of the way.

But while a council scientist approved of the plan, Judge Hassan refused to amend the order, saying the court could not give permission for something that would usually require resource consent.

The council planned to introduce a bylaw banning vehicles on vulnerable beaches later this year.

18-1-18



Banded dotterel parents protect their nests well from other birds, but are less successful against mammals. AILSA HOWARD

Banded, but increasingly stranded

The banded dotterel is in the same boat as the great spotted kiwi - nationally vulnerable, with a population predicted to decline 30-70 per cent over 10 years or three generations, whichever is longer. But this peculiar little bird is another of New Zealand's forgotten species, writes **Ged Cann**.

eight out of 10 native birds are currently threatened.

But a Lincoln University survey showed 70 per cent of the public felt the state of the country's native plants, animals and fish was adequate or doing well last year.

Research co-author Ross Cullen describes this perception as "totally wrong", and says the misunderstanding probably boils down to a focus on a dozen or so "charismatic species", such as tui and kiwi.

It's no wonder the plight of a small bird that likes to stay hidden on our coasts has gone unnoticed.

Howard has been studying the dotterel for three years along the Kaikōura Peninsula, and says numbers are believed to have decreased nationally from 50,000 to 19,000 in recent years - a reduction of almost two-thirds.

Dotterel numbers are falling because they have evolved to protect themselves only from other birds, and haven't learned to cope with mammalian predators.

"They are incredibly artful in the art of deceit. They are incredible to watch because their behaviours are evolved to deceive other birds," Howard says.

"They are incredibly entertaining in the way they lead you away from the nest, and the way adult pairs act as a team.

"They might pretend to nest somewhere else, and they do a lot of broken wing dancing."

The banded dotterel, or tūturiwhatu, is slightly larger than a blackbird, and nests in braided rivers and on shorelines.

Howard says it is incredible

to watch the males distract unwanted visitors, while females sneak back to the nest.

"They are amazingly courageous. They would fly at a cat, they fly at gulls, they sometimes fly at people. These tiny things - you will sometimes see them chasing gulls down the beach."

Like many of the country's native birds, the banded dotterel used to exist in massive quantities.

"People can't get their heads around that they're suddenly becoming endangered, because their reproduction is so sensitive to mammal predation.

"When they are sitting on eggs, the birds are strongly territorial."

The birds also contend with increasingly irregular tides, and Howard says every year nests are washed away.

"I have some guys who are on their fourth nest at the moment. I guess the birds have evolved to repeat nests to get some chicks away."

Howard criticises the previous government for a lack of interest in conservation.

"They put money into a few highly critical projects, in other words where the animal they were trying to protect was so endangered the gene pool barely had enough variety in it to resuscitate the species.

"In other words they have had these critical things like takahē and kōkako and kākāpō, so we have these as poster things for DOC, but what DOC has actually been doing has been very tight-lipped.

"Their effort has been on public perception and tourism infrastructure. They have been really gagged, and that's been for 10 years."

Only one fledgling has emerged this season from the 32 known banded dotterel nests on the Kaikōura Peninsula, according to Forest & Bird branch chairwoman Ailsa Howard.

All the rest were predated by cats or hedgehogs, or swept away by an ever-more erratic sea.

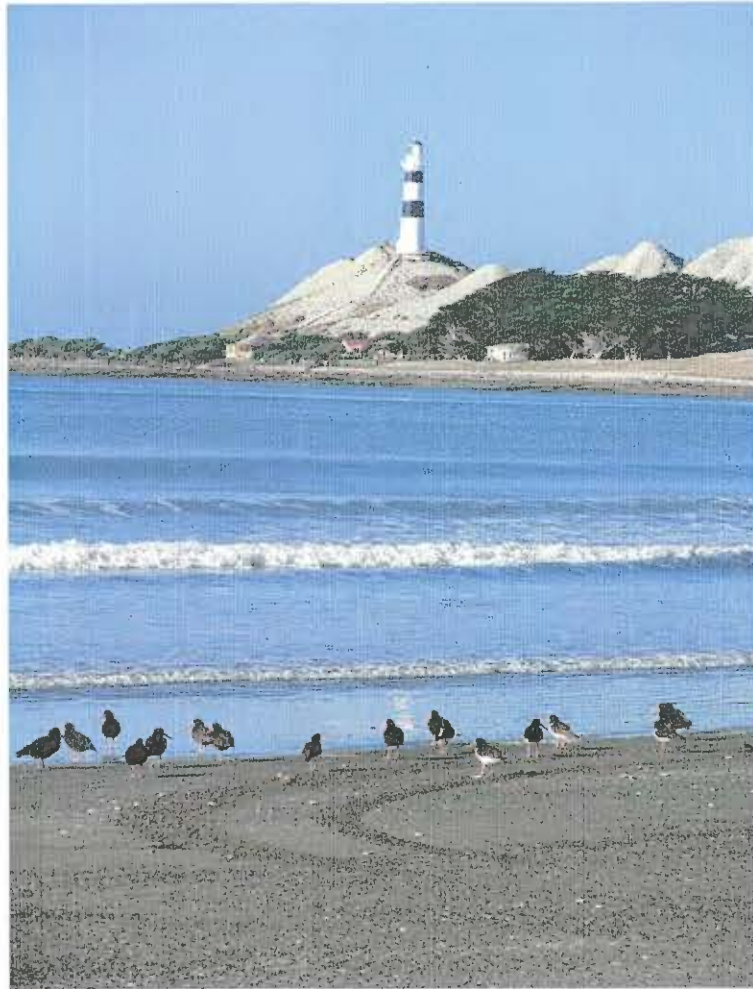
The stories flew under the radar, while those about the ōkārito and northern brown kiwi having their endangered status reduced left New Zealanders feeling they were doing a good job for their native species.

Meanwhile, every year, the estimated 20,000 breeding adult banded dotterels are falling. They are not alone.

Outside the spotlight, more than 900 native species are approaching extinction and 2800 are declining. According to a recent report from former parliamentary commissioner for the environment Jan Wright,



Threatened bird species banded dotterels nest on Ward Beach between June and January. GEOFF VAUSE/STUFF



EAST COAST PROTECTION GROUP

DROP IN OPEN DAY anyone welcome all or part of day

28TH NOVEMBER 2019 @ WARD TOWN HALL

10am to 3pm

Agenda for the day:

Morning tea: self-service.

10am to 11.00 General Meeting and Discussion Time.

11.00 to 11.30 fill your cup, visit displays

11.30 to 12noon: Shane Orchard presentation. Shane is an Environmental Scientist and Policy analyst, researching with the UC-RECOVER PROJECT. His focus is on information collection

and raising awareness around the changes that have occurred on the coast, since the quake, together with continuing changes and the consequences looking ahead. The study area is Oaro to Marfells Beach. There are varying degrees of uplift within this area, and we will tend to focus effort on areas with the biggest uplift or biggest known impacts from the quakes, together with other areas less affected for making comparisons (e.g. to predict trends). Focus on detecting potential issues for coastal habitats of species to 'naturally' recover to similar extent and condition as pre-quake

Lunch : Barbecue provided.

Within the Hall there will be displays for you to interact with:

The Katipo, displayed by Mark Anderson and Eve Anderson.

Lake Elterwater: a project of revegetation of natives and a crucial bird sanctuary.

Traps - predator control. Different traps and their uses.

Shell Fish varieties that can be found at Mussel Point.

Photo Display of pre quake and post quake, coastline from Marfells Beach to the Waima River. Biodiversity, from the intertidal zone right up to the upper reaches of the gravel lands and sand dunes.

What makes this area so important?

1pm to 1.30: Alisa Howard - presentation on Banded Dotterel. Threats and how we can protect them. Ailsa is a Wildlife Researcher @Banded Dotterel Study, South Bay Kaikoura.

1.30 to 2pm: Shawn Gerrity and Tommaso Alestra - "Shawn Gerrity and Tommaso Alestra are researchers from the Marine Ecology Research Group (MERG) at Canterbury University. Together they have spent the last 3 years surveying the intertidal ecosystem affected by the 2016 coastal uplift event, as well as conducting experiments to assist recovery of important taonga species. Shawn will be discussing their work on recovery and restoration of paua, including work with the Paua Industry Council conducting commercial reseeding. Tommaso will discuss the recovery of habitat-forming seaweeds and experimental restoration efforts. They look forward to sharing what they have learned and interacting with the community that calls this coastline home.

2.pm to 3pm: Question, Answer Time and General Discussion: Mike Aviss will be leaving 3pm to plant Pingao and Spinafex plants at Marfells Beach, Volunteers needed, bring a trowel and or a small spade.

6/12/19

Vehicle ban plan welcomed

Environment
Alice Angeloni
alice.angeloni@stuff.co.nz

A proposed vehicle ban on Marlborough's east coast has been welcomed by conservationists.

The East Coast Protection group heard the news while hosting a public information day in Ward on Thursday, where scientists and community groups came together to discuss coastal ecosystems.

The Marlborough District Council announced it would draw up a bylaw banning drivers from the 45-kilometre stretch of coast, from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth. A date has not been set for consultation on the bylaw.

Quad-biking fishermen, and four-wheel drivers have long cruised the region's east coast, but access to it became easier after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake exposed flat platforms of reef which used to be under water.

The East Coast group, which has long fought for protection, including from human pressures such as vehicles, say the council move is a step in the right direction, and hope the consultation period will result in a "compromise" between beach users and conservationists.

About 60 people, including representatives from the Department of Conservation, Marlborough District Council, students from



Conservationists have welcomed Marlborough District Council's move towards banning vehicles on Marfells Beach. Left, East Coast Protection Group committee member Rob Peter holds a photograph of a thriving ecosystem at the lighthouse peninsula in 2014 before the Kaikōura earthquake.

Ward

School, as well as scientists from Canterbury University, attended the open day on Thursday. Presentations were made on dune rehabilitation, birdlife, as well as post earthquake recovery of paua

fisheries and intertidal zones.

East Coast Protection group chair Rick Stolwerk said they wanted to create more community interest in the area.

"The only way you're going to get anything done is to get the community behind it. I feel like that's off to a great start."

Having the students from Ward School attend encouraged

interest in the area from a young age, he said.

"If you get a 6-year-old to plant a plant, they're not going to ride their motorbike over it when they're 16. Education is by far the best approach, rather than legislating against it."

Stolwerk thought consulting on no-vehicle access was a good starting point for the community.

"If we start at the high level, we're going to come to a compromise that will suit everybody."

Protection group committee member Rob Peter said it welcomed the news.

"We're fully aware of the consultation process it will have to go through. It's going to be another season before any practical steps to protection are going to be put into place."

He said vehicle traffic and the amount of pressure on the environment had steadily increased since the 2016 earthquake. "When you're out seeing it, it becomes very apparent that it's unsustainable. A lot of people feel that they're still seeing some wildlife so there isn't a problem, but the trends for nearly all these species are that they're declining."

Department of Conservation South Marlborough operations manager Phil Bradfield said it was an "incredibly important and fragile landscape with a very precious and fragile ecosystem".

"They're very vulnerable to human induced pressures, like introduced predators and vehicles.

"While a lot of people can drive respectfully, it only takes one or two that don't, who will wreck it for decades and do irreparable damage."

This community group had been a champion for the landscape and ecosystems, he said. "It's a fantastically collaborative approach to protecting our special places."

Council controversy over plan to ban drivers from beaches

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter

A controversial bylaw which may ban drivers from beaches along a 45-kilometre stretch of coastline has been given the go ahead by council.

Marlborough District Council staff agreed earlier this week to draw up a bylaw banning drivers from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth.

The move comes after concerned residents implored council to take action to protect threatened indigenous species.

But the plan has "staggered" some of those who routinely use some of the access roads and beaches. Council strategic planner Sarah Edmonds says increased access was hampering the recovery of the environment.

"There will be long-term damage if vehicle access continues.

In a report presented to council's planning, finance and communities committee on Thursday, Sarah says the council has a "duty" to control vehicle access.

The report proposed cutting off beach access to vehicles, from Redwood Pass to Ward, and in-

roducing a speed limit at Marfells Beach and Ward Beach, where boats could still be launched.

The bylaw would also restrict vehicles on unformed roads.

Marlborough Angling and Surfcasting Club president David Miller says he was "staggered" the bylaw was approved.

"I can't believe it. They can't close beaches off like that."

David, who fished along the stretch at least 10 times a year, was also part of a group that cycled the coastline.

"Recently we cycled to the lighthouse and had a picnic. We were on the sand, so we were no damage to the environment."

He had previously attended a meeting in Ward where members had discussed their concerns about quad bikes running over dotterel birds and their nests, before suggesting a vehicle ban.

"I said all beaches are legally public roads and that the council didn't have the authority to restrict access to a beach like that."

He would encourage the club's 70 members to object during the bylaw's consultation period, which had not yet been given a set date, he says.



Increased access to some east coast beaches is threatening the burgeoning recovery of the quake damaged landscape. Photo: Matt Brown.

A fisherman, who did not want to be named, said someone would end up "drowning or getting hurt" trying to access areas on their boat close to reefs, which were previously accessible on a quad.

"The new bylaw means you can only launch small boats from, say, Marfells Beach, but it's rough

there at the best of times."

Forest and Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin said the news was received with excitement, but resignation.

"We know we'll have another summer of damage along the shore in the interim, while the bylaw is being drafted."

Councillor Cynthia Brooks says

it was a "significant day" for the council.

"There's a lot of history around vehicle use on the coastline, but it's not the coastline it was three years ago, and it's under threat.

"It's one of the few wildernesses left in this country."

29/11/19

Fossils over fishers?

The Marlborough District Council is looking to ban vehicles from 45 kilometres of the region's east coast.
CHLOE RANFORD/STUFF



LR Local Democracy Reporting

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter

Fishermen are "staggered" they may no longer be able to ride quad bikes down fossil-covered beaches in Marlborough.

The Marlborough District Council has agreed to draw up a bylaw banning drivers from a 45-kilometre stretch of coast, from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth, after concerns from residents.

Drivers have long cruised the region's east coast, but access to it became easier after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake exposed flat platforms of reef which used to be under water.

Council strategic planner Sarah Edmonds said increased access was hampering the recovery of the environment, and putting people and threatened indigenous species at risk.

"There will be long-term damage if vehicle access continues," she said.

Her report was presented to the council's planning, finance and communities committee on Thursday, and said it had a "duty" to control vehicle access to Marlborough's east coast.

The report proposed cutting

off beach access to vehicles, from Redwood Pass to Ward, and introducing a speed limit at Marfells Beach and Ward Beach, where fishers could still launch their boats.

The bylaw would also restrict vehicles on unformed roads.

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David Miller
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"Recently we cycled to the lighthouse and had a picnic. We were on the sand, so we were no damage to the environment."

He had previously attended a meeting in Ward where members had discussed their concerns about quad bikes running over dotterel birds and their nests, before suggesting a vehicle ban.

"I said all beaches are legally public roads and that the council didn't have the authority to restrict access to a beach like that."

He would encourage the club's 70 members to object during the bylaw's consultation period, which had not yet been given a set date.

A fisherman, who did not want to be named, said someone would end up "drowning or getting hurt" trying to access areas on their boat close to reefs, which were previously accessible on a quad.

"The new bylaw means you can only launch small boats from,

"I can't believe it. They can't close beaches off like that."

David Miller
Marlborough Angling and Surfcasting Club president

say, Marfells Beach, but it's rough there at the best of times."

Forest and Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin said the news was received with excitement, but resignation.

"We know we'll have another summer of damage along the shore in the interim, while the bylaw is being drafted."

Forest and Bird requested the council introduce a bylaw restricting vehicle access in March last year, Martin said.

It was part of the East Coast Protection Group, which formed after a landslide of concerns about the future of the coastline.

"There are some incredible rock patterns here, and people are driving over them. It's only got worse each year," she said.

Councillor Cynthia Brooks said it was a "significant day" for the council, despite the hard decision to restrict beach access.

"There's a lot of history around vehicle use on the coastline, but it's not the coastline it was three years ago, and it's under threat. It's one of the few wildernesses left in this country."

Brooks said trying to follow correct procedures and gather scientific evidence about the changed coastline, while also "holding back the community", had been "frustrating".

The bylaw would fall under the Land Transport Act.

Enforcement and emergency vehicles would still be allowed on the coast, such as Marlborough's Harbourmaster.

A draft bylaw would be offered up for consideration at the first planning, finance and communities committee of 2020, before going to the public for consideration.

Council staff would also work with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to investigate the cost of barriers.

The New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), iwi and DOC would be consulted on the proposal, alongside commercial rock lobster and paua businesses.

26/12/19

Beach ban 'discrimination'

Environment

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter



Plans to ban quad bikes at fossil-covered beaches in Marlborough have been described as "discrimination" by locals, and based on fear, not research.

More than 700 people have signed a petition hoping to kill a proposed bylaw that would bar motorists from a 45-kilometre stretch of coast, from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth.

The Marlborough District Council agreed to draft a bylaw last month after conservationists said drivers were damaging the region's east coast, lifted by the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake. A date

has not been set for consultation.

Council environmental scientist Peter Hamill said vehicle traffic and the amount of pressure on the environment had steadily increased since the earthquake.

But petition organiser and fisherman Mark Wills said the council had "not done their research" and omitted information from their technical report.

The report, which took 18 months to complete, pulled together scientific data on the



Mark Wills is leading the charge against a proposed bylaw that could ban quad bikes from much of Marlborough's east coast.

CHLOE RANFORD/LDR

east coast from several sources, including the Department of Conservation.

For two years, Wills chaired the East Coast Protection Group, which championed the coast's preservation. But he left last year as he felt it was "clear" the group wanted a vehicle ban, which he disagreed with. He believed access to beaches was a New Zealander's right, that storms did more damage than people, and that beach walkers did more damage than quad bikers, as vehicles had less downward pressure.

"The average weight of a human is 88kg. That all goes to one foot when someone is walking. A quad has about a third the amount of pressure."

Most quad bikers drove in the "dead zone", an area between the

neap tide and spring high tide, where nothing living existed, Wills said. The dead zone could be from two metres to 30m wide.

"These areas above the neap tides, they don't get water for up to 10 days, so aquatic life cannot survive there," he said.

"But no birds or lizards will live in the area because it's flooded with water every few days."

Hamill, who helped compile the report, said there was "no such thing" as a dead zone.

"There's always something in a habitat, even things like sand hoppers eating seaweed and sea birds eating those."

Hamill did not know whether a quad exerted less pressure than

TURN TO PAGE 2

From page 1 // Beach ban 'discrimination'

a person, but said quads were a bigger concern as they could cover more area than walkers.

"The environment doesn't get the chance to establish. It gets disturbed all the time."

There was a "huge potential" for dotterels and their eggs to be run over.

"People, when driving at speeds, do not have time to see where birds are and avoid them," Hamill said.

But Wills said motorists built stick fences around banded dotterel bird nests and drove below the nesting area, to ensure their survival.

"Why should those who play by the rules and look after the environment be punished, when it is not them doing the damage?" he said.

"It's the Queen's Chain. That's the worst thing that annoys me. They [the council] don't have the right to put this bylaw down."

"I oppose ratepayers' money

being spent to lock people out of a public beach ... It's not conservation, it's discrimination."

Wills said most petition signers opposed a total vehicle ban but didn't mind other enforcement options, such as speed limits.

He was working to form a committee that would look at alternative ways to protect the coast, outside a vehicle ban.

German travellers Evelyne and Saadik Goll said Marlborough should look to Tasman's Taupata Gravel Reserve for advice on protecting beaches.

Travellers had installed signs in more than 25 languages to warn visitors of birds nesting near the reserve, they said.

"If you made an official sign instead, it would not be the same thing. But maybe they can make a sign for this beach."

Anyone wanting to sign the petition could email Wills at agsafetraining@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Beach ban threatens family tradition

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter



George Addis has camped with his quad bike on Marlborough's east coast "almost every summer" for the past four decades, but this could be his last.

His long-time stomping ground and popular fishing destination, Marfell's Beach, falls under a proposed bylaw which, if approved, would prevent quad bikers from travelling outside the beach, breaking years of tradition.

The Marlborough District Council agreed to draft the bylaw in November after conservationists said vehicles were damaging the east coast, lifted by the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake. A date has not been set for consultation.

"It looks like we're paying the price for what a few locals are doing," Addis said, standing by a

quad bike at his family's beach-front camp site.

The bylaw proposes cutting off beach access to vehicles along a 45-kilometre stretch, from the Awatere River to the Ure River, and introducing a speed limit at Marfell's and Ward beaches, where fishers could still launch their boats.

The council thought increased access was hampering the recovery of the environment, and putting people and threatened native species at risk.

Addis' wife, Raeleen, said her late husband had camped at the beach with a quad bike as a toddler, as had the couple's children



George and Raeleen Addis with their quad bike at Marfell's Beach.

CHLOE RANFORD/LDR

and grandchildren, and many of their friends.

"We want our kids to explore here. We want our grandkids to do it," Raeleen said.

The couple weren't the only campers to fear an end of tra-

dition. A Local Democracy Reporter found most campers at the site had quad bikes and most considered them a staple of holiday life.

Todd Foot, from Blenheim, had hitched his tent at Marfell's

Beach since he was "a little kid", and these days took his own children to the site.

"[The proposed bylaw] is a bit silly really," he said. "I use the quad for crayfishing and to take the kids around. It's a good family tradition."

Blenheim resident Jesse Klempel said he was against the council's proposed motor vehicle ban, but "all for restrictions" being put in place, like speed limits.

"I've been swimming here since I was a kid. The bird numbers seem better now than I've ever seen them. It's the 4WD cars that are the bad thing," Klempel said.

Marlborough residents Aaron and Letitia Parish had holidayed at the beach for "a couple of years" and had three quad bikes, including one for daughter Kayla.

"We don't agree with the

bylaw. There's only a small road to follow, which sometimes goes below the waterline, and we stick to that," Aaron Parish said.

"We come out here and have a good time. Four-wheel-driving is a Kiwi thing to do, and there aren't many places we can do it ... We're not hooning around."

Marlborough's Simon Cox had camped with his quad bike at the site for seven years, like his father had for 30 years before him.

"It's sort of a traditional summer at Christmas," he said.

"I don't think they should do it [ban quads]. I don't think we do much damage."

But Forest & Bird top of the south regional manager Debs Martin said quad bikes had not been traditional for long, as they had come along in her lifetime.

"We can say people have maybe been doing it for a gener-

ation," Martin said.

The earthquake had also opened up areas not traditionally accessible, she said.

"Just because you've always done things a certain way, it doesn't always mean that they're the right way ... We could say it was tradition a long time ago that women didn't vote, but now they do have the vote, and that's not a bad thing."

A Neighbourly poll showed 62 per cent of respondents supported the proposed bylaw, 36 per cent opposed it, and 2 per cent were unsure.

Seddon's Rodger Hambleton had been camping and fishing with the help of a quad bike for about 12 years along the east coast, but said quads had cruised the region for 40 years.

Hambleton was helping to collect signatures for a petition to kill the proposed bylaw.



East Coast Protection Group member Rob Peter looks over the east coast, towards the Cape Campbell Lighthouse.
Photo: Chloe Ranford.

Environmentalists face abuse over coast vehicle ban plan

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter

Conservationists fighting to protect Marlborough beaches from vehicles are facing abuse from opponents.

The East Coast Protection Group has championed the preservation of the region's east coast for years, after concerns drivers were damaging areas lifted by the Kaikōura earthquake.

In November Marlborough District Council agreed to draft a bylaw barring motorists from a 45-kilometre stretch of beach, from the Awatere River mouth to the

Ure River mouth.

But group members have since come under fire with opponents digging up old records to "get stuff over us." Some have faced abuse, including being labelled "try hard tree huggers" with a "hidden commercial agenda" on social media.

Group chairman and Far North District councillor Rick Stolwerk, who owned land near Ward, says he could not detail specific incidents, but he knew it "wasn't very pleasant" for members. "I know it's been difficult for them and the council," he says.

"I'm fully in support of the blanket ban. People have to realise it's not a nasty thing, not a knee-jerk reaction. It's proposed not only to protect the wildlife, but the people as well."

Group member and Cape Campbell farmer Rob Peter says there was less pressure on members since the council decision.

But a lot of landowners felt they could not speak in support of the proposed bylaw, due to reactions on social media, he says.

More than 1400 people have signed a petition against the proposed bylaw.

Group secretary and member Heather Davis says she knows a few friends who are being targeted for their views.

"I don't know anyone who fears for their safety, but it's just nasty. It's saying these people are horrid, when they're not," she says.

The East Coast Protection Group will host a field trip at 7611 State Highway 1, Mirza Downs, on 23 January at 1pm, and a group meeting later that day, at 3pm. The public are invited.

LR Local
Democracy
Reporting



MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Only Marlborough

East Coast protection bylaw process underway

The Council is beginning the process to get public input on a bylaw protecting the coastline around Cape Campbell, between the Waima/Ure and Awatere river mouths. The approach was agreed by councillors in December.

The Kaikōura earthquake dramatically uplifted 110 km of the East Coast, raising it by up to 2.5 metres in the area between the Awatere and Waima/Ure.

Councillor Gerald Hope, Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee, says the uplift caused the high tide mark to shift up to 200 metres, leaving much more beach and shoreline exposed.

"People have raised their concerns with the Council about the environmental impact of motor vehicles along the coast."

"Before the earthquake, vehicle access to this area was virtually impossible and restricted by the tides, but after 14 November 2016 it became possible to drive along the coast at almost any time. The popularity of the area has

increased as a result, and vehicles are unfortunately having a significant effect on the landscape and seals, birds, reptiles and rare plants that inhabit what was previously remote wilderness."

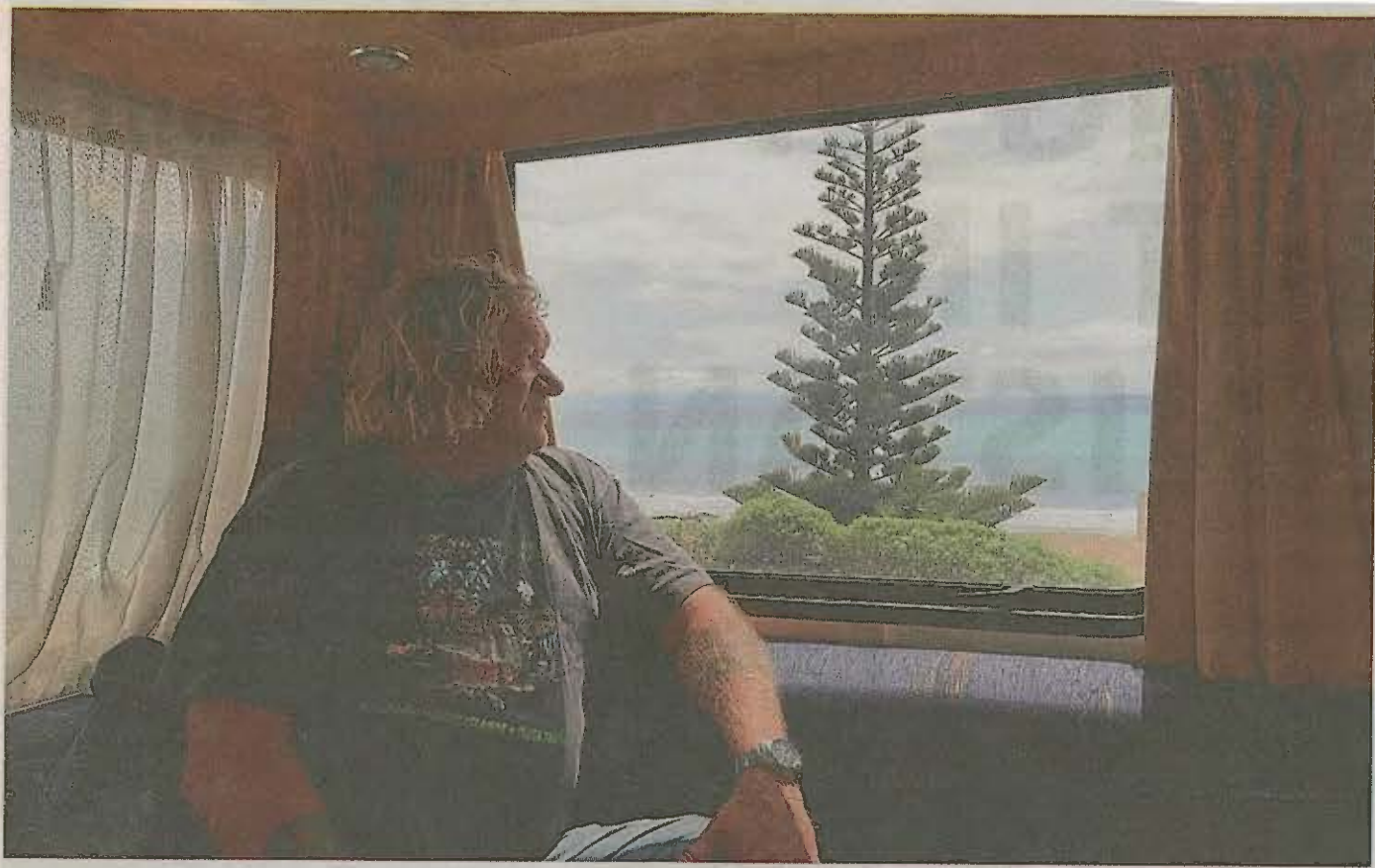
"If uncontrolled motor vehicle access continues, there could be long-term consequences for the natural landscape, biodiversity and the safety of the public," Councillor Hope says.

A draft bylaw will be discussed at the Planning, Finance and Community Committee and is expected to be adopted at the February or March full Council meeting, with public submissions opening in March or April, for one month's consultation. After public input, it would then go to a hearing with commissioners, and come into force later this year.

For further information please go to <https://bit.ly/35yFyMt> to read "Marlborough's East Coast – Technical Report," and also the "issues and options" report.



20-1-20



Mark Wills, who is organising a petition against a proposed quad bike ban in Marlborough, looks out the window of his campervan at Marfell's Beach. CHLOE RANFORD/LDR

'Hope' for halt to beach ban

Chloe Ranford
Local Democracy Reporter



The organiser of a petition against a proposed quad bike ban in Marlborough has been "given hope" after meeting with a top council boss.

Fisherman Mark Wills met with the region's deputy mayor, Nadine Taylor, on Thursday to find out how to kill plans to bar motorists from a 45-kilometre stretch of coast, from the Awatere River mouth to the Ure River mouth.

The Marlborough District Council agreed to draft a bylaw in November after conservationists said drivers were damaging the region's east coast, lifted by the Kaikōura earthquake.

Wills chaired the East Coast Protection Group, which championed the coast's preservation, for two years. He departed the group last year as he felt it was "clear" it wanted a vehicle ban.

He said he left the meeting with Taylor "thinking: 'Wow, there's someone in council that's going to listen to us.' I just hope there's more than one honest person."

He said Taylor talked him through the bylaw process. A draft bylaw would be taken to the council in February or March, before a month-long consultation period from March or April, where the public could voice their thoughts.

"Unfortunately, the process the [East Coast Protection Group] took has got it to this stage of drafting, but we do know now that if we have a hope of stopping it, where we can now go," he said. "I've been given hope."

The council's technical report, which informed the proposed bylaw, said there would be "long-term consequences" if uncontrolled vehicle access continued along the coast. The report, which took 18 months to complete, pulled together scientific data on the east coast from several sources, such as

the Department of Conservation (DOC), and Forest and Bird.

It recommended speed limits be imposed at Marfell's Beach and Ward Beach, so four-wheel-drives could still launch boats.

About 2000 people had since signed a petition to stop the ban, Wills said. If a motor vehicle ban was approved on parts of Marlborough's east coast, he would not return to camp at Marfell's Beach.

"It will put the DOC camp host out of work, because no one will come here," Wills said.

"A lot of people in New Zealand can't afford \$85 for a crayfish, but they can pop here over the summer and fish enough crayfish for a year."

Taylor declined on Friday afternoon to speak about the meeting.

"As a councillor, I meet regularly with private residents and ratepayers, and it would be inappropriate for me to comment on an individual meeting."

Wills asked those who signed the petition to make a submission on the bylaw when public consultation opened, set down for March or April.



28-1-20



More vehicles travel around Cape Campbell after the 2016 Kaikōura quake. Photo: Matt Brown.

Marfell's Beach tunnel vision

Dear Ed,
Mark Wills has tunnel vision re camping at Marfell's Beach. I for one would be delighted if the fishing fraternity went elsewhere. I have enjoyed some great camping experiences in the past at Marfell's Beach but once the fishermen took over the area and made me feel like an outsider I no longer found it a comfortable place to be.

I am sure if the fishermen can't fish elsewhere many other campers would return to enjoy a more peaceful and safe environment. Marfell's Beach will not die as an area for family camping if the bikes are banned but the shellfish will if bikes continue to race up and down the beach.
Judith Andrews