

Picton Regional Forum Meeting held at the Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton on Monday 12 March 2018 at 1.30 pm

Present

Clr Nadine Taylor (Chairperson), Dean Heiford (MDC)

Group Representatives

Rose Prendeville (Port Marlborough), Dave Hayes (DOC), Bryan Strong (Tirimoana), Brian Henstock (Greypower), Graham Low (Picton Smart & Connected), Graham Gosling (Picton Business Group), Monyeen Wedge (Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui), Aileen Walker (Whatamango Bay), Don Miller (Picton Dawn Chorus), Hiram Taylor (Waikawa Bay), John Jackson (Karaka Point), Tim Newsham (Bay of Many Coves)

Guest Speakers

Sergeant Richard Van Asch (Picton Police Station)

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Secretary MDC)

Apologies

Clr David Oddie, Clr Trevor Hook, John Reuhman

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Hiram Taylor/Brian Strong: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017 were confirmed.

Nadine reminded the members that at the last meeting John Foley from (FENZ) had told the Forum that he was available to bring the Firesmart Programme out to Residents' groups, and that to connect speakers with the members' organisations was one of the reasons that the Forum existed. (No-one present indicated that their organisations had undertaken the Firesmart Programme).

1. Picton Police Update – Sergeant Richard Van Asch

- Nadine welcomed Sergeant Richard Van Asch to the meeting and commented that the Picton Police have been helping to run the CACTUS programme for Picton youth which is taking place three mornings per week at the moment.
- Sergeant Van Asch has been in charge of the Picton and Havelock Police Stations since May last year. There are currently four constables in Picton along with the Sergeant, and two non-sworn counter staff who man the front desk from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. The sworn staff work from 7.00 am until 11.00 pm during the beginning of the week with extended hours until 3.00 am at weekends.
- Sergeant Van Asch confirmed that Picton has 24 hour police coverage.
- Havelock has two constables that work similar hours to the Picton Station (until 1.00 am in the weekends).
- There is always a constable on call at other times at both stations. If the Police are required you need to ring 111 (even if it isn't an emergency). The calls may be answered from anywhere in the country and the call is triaged by the person answering it. The Police have accepted that this system is not working as well as it could and a new system with a single non-emergency number for the whole country is going to be rolled out in the future.
- For non-urgent matters you can still ring your local Police Station but this will also be put in a pool and may be answered from anywhere in the country.

- Issues affecting Picton are:
 - Tourist thieving; shop lifting, stowing away on the ferries, property stolen by other tourists
 - Freedom camping
 - Trucks parking in the streets around Picton
- An issue from before Sergeant Van Asch's time was discussed; where the Police did not attend an incident that occurred in the Sounds. He agreed that the Police have let the public down in the past but noted that the Picton Police do have the facilities to attend to incidents in the Sounds where there is no road access. He doesn't believe that those who live in remote areas are less entitled to a Police service than those living closer to towns. The Coastguard, DOC and Harbour Master's boats are all made available to the Police when required and the Lady Elizabeth can make it from Wellington to Picton in under an hour if necessary. The resources are there for emergencies and for non-emergencies it is a matter of prioritisation.
- The Police rely on the public for help and if you see something amiss call 111. Don't think that you are a nuisance to ring the Police. If it is not an emergency the issue will eventually end up on Sergeant Van Asch's desk and he will make sure it is dealt with.
- It is also possible to report anything suspicious anonymously by ringing Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111 or going in to see Mary or Anna at the Police Station.
<https://www.crimestoppers-nz.org/about/contact-us/email-anonymously>
- When a member of the public has a police matter that is being dealt with by an individual constable, the constable is able to share his or her email and cell phone number which makes communicating much easier.
- Sergeant Van Asch noted that when he first came to Picton there was a problem with youth issues but that using specialised teams to provide wrap around support has made a big difference to these types of concerns in Picton.
- Brian Henstock noted that there is a problem with campervans parking outside people's houses and trying to get on to home owners Wi-Fi. This is something that the Police have come across when out and about at night as well.
- The security cameras in Picton are monitored by the Picton Police. The cameras are fixed and the footage is kept for 14 days. Rose noted that Port Marlborough also has cameras which are monitored 24/7.
- If you see tagging please report it to the Police by dropping in to the Station, or you can let the Council's Customer Service Officers know and they will pass the information on to the Police. Ring 111 if you see someone in the process of tagging.
- The Police find it frustrating that members of the public sometimes see crimes or are the victim of one but do not report it straight away. A recent example was where a back packer had items stolen in the middle of the night but the crime was not reported until later. A police dog could have been deployed to track the offender if 111 had been rung straight away.
- Sergeant Van Asch once again reiterated how important it is for the public to report anything they may think is an issue to the Police as sometimes these pieces of information can help fill in a bigger picture. The Picton Police email is pictonpolice@govt.nz.
- Cllr Taylor thanked Sergeant Van Asch for coming to speak to the group.

2. DOC Update – Dave Hayes

Dave gave an update to the group.

- Campsites have been very busy this season.
- Extra funding was provided to DOC from the Government to help compensate for the increase in tourism across the country. This helped provide extra staff at Momorangi and for patrolling some of the high use camping areas.

Blumine Mouse Incursion

- Only one mouse was finally captured 1.7km from where the tracking card sign was detected during routine island biosecurity surveillance monitoring in July 2017 (positive mouse tracking on several

inked tracking cards). No further sign of mice on the island was discovered following exhaustive detection device checking and multiple visits by rodent detection dogs.

- Management of this incursion event cost just short of \$50,000. This highlights the unplanned cost of managing island biosecurity once an incursion has been detected, notwithstanding the normal monthly costs of biosecurity surveillance.

Blumine Island Orange Fronted Parakeet monitoring:

- A team of DOC staff carried out monitoring of this island population of birds earlier in the year and the population is doing well. This is the only remaining New Zealand island population of this nationally critical species.

Wasps

- DOC is planning to carry out wasp control at a number of Sounds sites, some with the help of Sanford's staff as part of the Fairfax Wasp Wipeout programme. Generally, wasp activity has been patchy over the district, with some sites having very low numbers.

Queen Charlotte Track

- Work on reroute of the track out of Ship Cove is progressing. The tender process to identify a contractor is nearly complete. The aim is to complete the new part of the track by the end of the year.
- DOC is undertaking a visitor satisfaction survey on Queen Charlotte Track. Responses from 700 track users will have been gathered by the end of March. Survey analysis will assist with future decision making regarding the track.
- Staff have completed work on a section of track between Mistletoe Bay and Torea Saddle repairing water damage. This work was funded by Queen Charlotte Track Landowner Cooperative Access fees.

Whale Sculpture

- There has been a suggestion for a humpback whale sculpture to be installed at the Perano Whaling Station. No formal proposal has been received as yet. It was noted that Council has approved in principle the use of the library car park over the winter to build the whale, but this is subject to detailed requirements.

Jacobs Bay Jetty

- DOC is continuing to work through possible outside funding solutions to restore the jetty. The jetty will remain closed until this can be resolved.

Recent Storms

- Recent storm events have resulted in large amounts of debris above the normal waterline especially in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere. Some extra clearing of windfalls has been necessary but overall damage has been light. During Ex-Cyclone Gita campers were advised to move out of the Kenepuru and French Pass.

Myrtle Rust

- There have been no sightings of Myrtle Rust in this region but concern remains high due to sightings in Wellington. Key staff have been trained across the region to identify and respond correctly. DOC has also undertaken seed collection of vulnerable species in the region to establish a viable seed bank. The DOC information sheet on Myrtle Rust has been attached as Appendix 1 (Please forward this to your community groups).
- Dave emphasised that if you suspect Myrtle Rust don't touch it or try to take a cutting as this will run the risk of spreading the disease. Alert DOC who will take action.

3. Wattle Trees around Picton – Hiram Taylor

- Hiram brought this issue to the attention of the group as wattle trees continue to spread in the hills surrounding Picton.
 - Dave responded that DOC has no plans to bring the wattle trees under control even though they are an invasive weed. He noted they are most invasive when the bush is young. A wattle control programme cannot be done on a small scale. He noted that if there was a community based project similar to what Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust are undertaking with wilding pines that DOC would consider undertaking a partnership agreement.

- Discussion followed on this issue with suggestions that a community group would need to be formed to begin with and a suggestion of putting in an application to the Regional Development Fund. It was noted that some people in Picton have suffered health issues because of the wattles.

4. Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust Update – Bryan Strong

- Money has been granted by Council and the Rātā Foundation to buy two cars to be based in Blenheim and Picton. Bryan would appreciate if there could be some recognition on the generous contribution given by Omega Rental Cars (they have provided a car to the Trust on 81 occasions). Dean and Cllr Taylor are going to look into this.
- Approximately 66% of the passengers being carried are from Blenheim, 25-30% from Picton and the rest from the Sounds.
- The Trust is looking for somewhere to park the Blenheim car when it isn't being used. It needs to be in a place where the key is available between 8.00 am to 5.00 pm daily.
- Bryan is looking at future proofing the Trust by putting together a data base so that others can take over the co-ordinating of the passengers, drivers and cars.

5. Port Marlborough Update – Rose Prendeville

- The application for the extension to Waikawa Marina has been lodged. Te Ātiawa have given affected party approval. Rose was pleased with the numbers who attended the open days.

6. Picton Signage – Grahame Low

- The new signs have been installed at the lookout above the ferry terminals. Additional funding is being applied for so that the remaining signs for around the Picton Township can also be installed.

7. Council Update – Dean Heiford

Long Term Plan (LTP) Process – Submissions

- Key issues affecting Picton:
 - Proposal for funding to help finish the Link Pathway. (Marlborough Roads have agreed to place safety signs where the Link Pathway crosses Queen Charlotte Drive).
 - \$500,000 per year over the next four years for the proposed Picton to Kaikōura cycle route. (Dependant on matching funding from other stakeholders and other criteria).
- Submissions will open 13 April 2018 and close 14 May 2018. Hearings are on 5/6/7 June as required.

Marlborough Environment Plan – Dean Heiford

- Pere Hawes (MDC Environmental Policy Manager) provided an update on the progress of the Marlborough Environment Plan hearings as follows:
 - The Hearing Panels are starting Block 3 of the Hearings on Monday 12 March which includes Historic, Heritage and Noble Trees; Public Access in Open Space; and Significant Wetlands. In Block Two which was completed in early March they considered Natural Character and Landscape; Indigenous Biodiversity and Energy; and Climate Change which are all very relevant to the Marlborough Sounds and most of the evidence presented was Sounds based. Hearings are scheduled to run to the end of the year and a decision will be released thereafter.
- A full but only indicative schedule can be accessed below:
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Environmental%20Policy%20and%20Plans/Hearings%20on%20the%20PMEP/Important%20Documents/Hearing_timetable_for_2018.pdf

Marlborough Lines

- Dean has received two letters from Marlborough Lines after he wrote to them with concerns from the Forum:
 - **Waikawa Foreshore Power Undergrounding** – Marlborough Lines have said they are not aware of any specific safety reasons why the lines should be undergrounded and to let them know if any specific issues arise which may lead them to reconsider.
 - **Safety of Marlborough power poles** – Marlborough Lines have replied that they have a programme of surveillance of power poles and that problems are rectified as required. If there are specific potential problems to let them know directly.

- Discussion on this subject followed with Dean noting that he has discussed with Council's CE Mark Wheeler whether he might instruct Marlborough Lines to inform Council if they are going to renew their assets. This would be the best time to discuss opportunities for co-funding.
- Please let Marlborough Lines if you find any safety issues and inform Dean at the same time.

8. Actions from the Previous Meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Rectify poor visibility of sign at entranceway to Picton	Dean
	This has been added to the maintenance schedule. Completed	
2.	Top end of Devon Street (Garden Terrace) – issue with poor visibility and narrow road	Dean
	This issue has been brought to Marlborough Roads attention and although they are not able to do anything about the narrow road they are going to get the contractor to trim the vegetation vigorously to increase the sight lines. Completed	
3.	Flags in Picton	Grahame Smail
	The flags have been replaced. Completed	

9. General business

- The sewer upgrade is on track to be completed on time.
 - The state of Waikawa Road where the sewers have been upgraded was discussed. This issue has been mentioned to Steve Murrin from Marlborough Roads who will be invited to the next PRF meeting. .
- The footpath from Lagoon Road down Dublin Street to Auckland was discussed. Landscaping of the footpath will take place after all the construction work in the area is completed.
- It was suggested that the Tōtaranui 250 Trust may like to come and make a progress report to the group. Dean will follow this up.
- Please let Rose Prendeville know if there are any lighting issues at the Marinas.
- The Picton Business Group was thanked for the contribution they made to the funding of the new flags for the Picton CBD.
- Enviro Hub Marlborough and Plastic Bag Free Picton Update - Linda Thompson was not able to attend, this item will be added to the next agenda.
- There was no radio reception for The Breeze and Radio Live from mid-afternoon on Saturday 10 March until 7.15 pm Sunday 11 March. This could be of concern if there was an emergency situation at this time. It was noted that Brian FM is partnered with Civil Defence for emergency information.
 - Dean has subsequently checked that Brian FM was not affected by this transmitter outage as their transmitter is not currently located on Mt Freeth where the power outage occurred. The coverage map for Brian FM is included in Appendix 2 and there is also a link to the map on the website below:
<http://www.brianfm.com/Coverage-Map/>
 - It was noted that some people in the Sounds do not receive Brian FM. The frequency for Picton and surrounding Sounds area is 105.9fm and from Ngakuta to Havelock and Sounds areas is 100.1fm.
- The alarm at Waikawa Bay was discussed. After the meeting Brian Paton from Civil Defence Emergency Marlborough was able to confirm that they do not operate any tsunami alarms in Marlborough.

- It was noted that there are more logging trucks on Waikawa Road than expected. Dean is going to follow this up with Steve Murrin.
- Jamie Lyall (Council's Property and Community Facilities Manager) and staff were commended for finding a solution to a parking issue which had been causing problems for local businesses and Rail and Sail.
- It was suggested that it is timely for a Council Meeting to be held in Picton. Dean was going to look into this.
- Traffic issues caused by the railway were discussed. Rose Prendeville noted that there may be changes to the ferry terminal areas in the next 5 – 7 years and that the surrounding areas out to the Elevation will be considered as part of the bigger picture.
- The trees overhanging at the western entrance to Waikawa Marina were discussed. Dean is going to follow this up with Steve Murrin.

10. Actions from the Meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Ask Tōtaranui 250 to attend a PRF meeting	Dean
2.	Provide recognition for Omega Rental Cars	Clr Taylor/Dean
3.	Investigate the issue with the radio reception - Completed	Dean
4.	Inform Steve Murrin that there is an issue with extra logging trucks on Waikawa Road	Dean
5.	Investigate warning siren at Waikawa Bay -Completed	Dean
6.	Look into when a Council meeting can be held in Picton	Dean
7.	Investigate overhanging trees on Waikawa Marina (Marina Drive and Beach Road corner)	Dean

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14 May 2018

Future Speakers

Steve Murrin – Marlborough Roads

Tōtaranui 250 Trust

Rosemary Wells or Tony de Reepa – Rātā Foundation

Meeting Dates for 2018:

- Monday 14 May
- Monday 9 July
- Monday 10 September
- Monday 12 November

Record No: 1872843

Appendix 1

Myrtle Rust Information

Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that severely attacks plants in the myrtle family including pōhutukawa, mānuka and rātā. It is now in New Zealand.



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Look out for myrtle rust and contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66 if you see it.

What to do if you see myrtle rust

- Don't touch!
- Don't collect samples as this might spread the disease.
- If you can, take a photo of the rust and the plant it's on.
- Phone MPI's exotic pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66.
- If you accidentally come in contact with the affected plant or the rust, bag your clothing and wash clothes, bags and shoes/boots when you get home.



Figure 1 How the disease begins and forms - new yellow pustules and small brown spots



Figure 2 The lesions get bigger and produce masses of bright yellow spores

Your reports of suspected cases are vital in helping determine where myrtle rust is in New Zealand, how far it has spread and whether eradication, containment, or even slowing the spread is feasible.

The earlier we find out about any New Zealand infection, the greater our chance of doing something about it.

For more details please visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/myrtle-rust>



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Appendix 2

Brian FM Coverage Map

