

Picton Regional Forum held at Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton, on Thursday 11 March 2019, at 1.30 pm

Present

Clr Taylor (Chairperson), Dean Heiford (MDC), Lyn Reeves (MDC)

Group Representatives

Bryan Strong (Tirimoana), Graham Low (Picton Smart & Connected), Graham Gosling (Picton Business Group), Jon Perano (Picton Museum), Monyeen Wedge (QCS Residents Association), Brian Henstock (Civil Defence), Ian Davis (Ngakuta), Jan Rosanowski (Ngakuta), Stuart Eyes (Picton), Michelle Campbell (Greypower) (1.40 pm), John Reuhman (1.50 pm),

Guest Speakers

Sergeant Richard Van Asch Picton Police Dave Hayes DOC, Steve Merito Rata Foundation, John Hellstrom Tōtarani 250 (2.00 pm)

Apologies

Clr Oddie, Clr Hook, Chrissy Powlesland, Hiram Taylor, Rose Prendeville, Ian Shapcott, Margaret McHugh

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

Graham Low/Graham Gosling: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2018 were correct.

1. Picton Police Update – Sergeant Richard Van Asch

- Richard passed around the newsletter (link below) distributed by the Crime Prevention Group in Blenheim. If you don't already receive this newsletter let the desk staff at Picton Police know so that you can be added to the email list.
http://www.pictonresource.co.nz/uploads/8/0/5/8/80585734/marlb_rural_newsletter_feb_2019.pdf
- There has been a spike in dishonesty offending lately. Burglars have been caught operating in Port Underwood. A large amount of property was recovered. Information is going to be loaded on to the Port Underwood facebook page to try to match owners with the recovered property.
- There have been several cars broken into on Moana View Road, these cars were not secured properly. Sergeant Van Asch noted that locking cars will prevent a lot of thefts (the same goes for homes and garages).
- There is a seasonal spike in gangs travelling through the area.
- A shoplifter was apprehended returning to a cruise ship recently. If you think shoplifting has occurred let the Police know straight away as the quicker they are alerted, the more likely they are to catch the offender.
- \$40,000 worth of jewellery (lost property) has been returned to owners by the front counter staff at Picton Police recently.
- Sergeant Van Asch noted that information provided to Police by the public about addresses where suspected drug dealing is occurring is helpful when the Police are trying to build a case for a search warrant.

2. DOC Update – Dave Hayes

- Wasps have been treated with Vespex. Wasps have been less of a problem than usual and some sites have only just reached the threshold for the bait to be used. Karaka Point was treated for the first time this year, other areas included Governors Bay, Momorangi, Davies Bay and Pelorus Bridge. Other landowners are also using Vespex bait. Sanfords have also been laying bait in the Pelorus/Te Hoiere area.
 - Monyeen commented that she is noticing less wasps in her area as well and that Vespex isn't used in her location.
- Queen Charlotte Track (QCT) is one of the top three tracks being considered for Great Walk status. In-depth analysis of each site is being undertaken. More information can be found on the DOC website. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/selecting-new-great-walks/>
 - One concern regarding Queen Charlotte Track is the private land ownership of 24% of the track.
- Work is continuing on the upgrade of the track between Schoolhouse Bay and Meretoto/Ship Cove. 25% of the work is completed and the upgrade should be finished by winter.
- Endangered Orange-fronted parakeets are flourishing on Blumine Island but have died out on Maud Island. Their last natural habitat is Hurunui where they are declining. Work is being carried out to find out the triggers which have led to Blumine Island being a successful habitat while Maud Island is not.
- Fire Risk on QCT is managed using drought code fire indices and considering the forecast. The track was redirected from Kenepuru Saddle to the Torea Saddle for a period during the dry spell. The track has now been reopened due to the rainfall that the area has received recently.
- Monitoring assessments are being carried out on the Long Island Marine Reserve. The Reserve has the longest running data set of any reserve in New Zealand. There is a big contrast between the amount of marine life within the Reserve compared to outside of it.
- Dave noted that fire permits are managed by FENZ. It was suggested that FENZ be asked to come along to talk to the group.
- Funding to manage responsible camping received from central government was used to employ roving rangers in the Kenepuru area over the summer to help manage the campsites. This has resulted in higher compliance and more income. Campsites have reported an increase in the shoulder seasons.

3. Tōtaranui 250 – John Hellstrom

Chrissy Powlesland who is the General Manager of Tōtaranui 250 was unavailable to speak today but John who is one of the trustees came to speak to the group on the progress of organising the commemorations.

- Although James Cook spent more time in the Marlborough Sounds than in other areas of New Zealand, the Tōtaranui 250 Trust has had its funding reduced significantly, requiring the trust to modify its programme of commemorations. Raymond Smith is the Chair of the Trust at present with a co-chair being sought.
- There has been a lot of frustration within the Trust due to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage who have been setting the rules for the national programme and have been slow in releasing the funds and finalising dates.
- The Trust has received \$300,000 for local commemorations. The community will also benefit from a grant received by Otago University and Otago Museum who are putting on an international conference in Marlborough in December.

- The themes of navigation, the meeting of two peoples and the saga of the Kupe (who had already visited and named the areas visited by Cook) will all be pulled together for the commemorations. The role of Tupaia (originally from Ra'iātea who sailed with Cook and was one of the great navigators of the Pacific at the time) will also be commemorated.
- The main event will take place between 21-26 November. A fleet of ships including the Endeavour replica will be sailing to Meretoto/Ship Cove on 24 November and then into Picton Harbour the same evening for an event at the foreshore (weather dependant – alternative 25 Nov). The Spirit of New Zealand, some other ships and three voyaging vaka from Tahiti will be part of the fleet. Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Apa and possibly Te Ātiawa will also have waka on the water.
- The Endeavour will be moored at the Ferry Terminal at the wharf closest to the Edwin Fox, the Spirit of New Zealand will be at the yacht club and the vaka will possibly be moored in the luxury berths at the Marina.
- The Trust has received fantastic support from Port Marlborough who have provided the old float plane office and jetty to the Trust for the year. Council have also funded \$300,000 towards the commemorations.
- It is intended at this stage that the whole fleet will leave Picton and sail to the mouth of the Wairau River on Tuesday 26 November to acknowledge the significance of Pokohiwi and the connection with Tahiti and Ra'iātea, before sailing on to Wellington.
- John acknowledged the difference in attitude between the past perception of Cook discovering New Zealand and today's recognition of the significance of the skill and knowledge of Polyesian navigators.
- There is a programme being run in schools throughout the country with special Marlborough stories for the local area. Local children will play a significant part in the celebrations on the evening of 24 November.
- A travelling exhibition sponsored by the Swedish Embassy will be coming to Marlborough later in the year commemorating one of the world's greatest botanists - Daniel Solander, who was on board Endeavour. Significantly Tupaia acted as a translator for Solander which resulted in the first written words of Māori being recorded.

Questions/Answers

- Funding has been received from Rātā Foundation and other sources and additional funding is still being sought. There has also been a lot of support received in kind from Port Marlborough and other organisations.
- A project to open up access to Cook's lookout on Arapaoa Island is struggling due to lack of funds. DOC would be supportive of this project if a proposal addressing the ongoing maintenance and funding was put forward.
- Community support to get as many people to the events as possible is being looked into.
- The Trust has been approached by DOC to see if they would work with the local community to propose that Meretoto/Ship Cove become a National Landmark. (A new category of recognition by Heritage New Zealand). More information on National Historic Landmarks can be found via the link below:
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/national-historic-landmarks>

John Hellstrom withdrew from the meeting at 2.35 pm.

4. Rātā Foundation Update – Steve Merito

- The end of the financial year is approaching which means organisations will be able to make new applications for the upcoming year.
- The Rātā team would like to have more of a presence in Marlborough and are working at being able to attend meetings in the area once a month or so with an option to have a drop in location for people with questions to come and see them while they are here.

5. Actions from the Previous Meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Take discussion back to member groups on future of Picton targeted rate See below Agenda item 7	Members
2. Get some feedback on how the surplus targeted rate money can be used See below Agenda item 7	Dean
3. Report back on works planned for Waikawa Bay car park See below – completed	Dean
4. Ask Robyn Blackburn about providing road safety education to forestry contractors on Port Underwood Road Robyn has requested more details, Clr Taylor is going to forward her email to the Port Underwood and Karaka Point Residents Associations - completed	Dean
5. Find out what public information noticeboards are available A fixed noticeboard is going to be installed for public information - completed	Dean

Point 3

Report on plans for Waikawa Bay car park.

- Grahame Smail (Council's Reserves and Amenities Officer) is having ongoing discussions with Waikawa Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRRA) on the area.
- Positive feedback is being received on the improvements undertaken, the boat launch area has been sealed and marked out, pontoons have been upgraded, chains have been removed and the new grass area is working well.
- Resealing of the upper car park will take place when new sewage tanks have been installed and the lower carpark is still to be resealed.
- A management plan for Waikawa Bay is due to be released for consultation within a few months.

Steve Merito withdrew from the meeting at 3.00 pm.

6. PRF Finances – Dean Heiford

- Discussion took place on the future of the targeted rate as discussed at the previous meeting. Main points as follows:
 - It is possible for the group to recommend to Council that the rate be extinguished.
 - There is some support from the community that the rate should be retained. Dean noted that if the rate is continued there needs to be a clear process outlining what the money should be spent on.
 - The function of the forum was discussed. There is an outline of the origin of the forum on the website, see link below:
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/picton-regional-forum>
 - When the Forum was originally set up it was considered that the money would be used for administration and to bring in guest speakers. A small amount is used for administration but the money has not been used otherwise.
 - Some groups are in support of extinguishing the rate and would like input into what the money is going to be put to. Dean noted that the group could make a recommendation on what the money is used for but sign off would have to come from Council.
 - It was decided to leave the item on the agenda for the next meeting which will probably mean missing the 2019 Annual Plan submission phase. Dean suggested that if the consensus is to remove the rate it may be possible to do it by a staff submission so that it doesn't run on for another year.
 - It was requested that each member of the Forum formally ask their member organisations to decide whether they want to keep the rate or not and send feedback directly to Rebecca before the next meeting on 13 May via email to collate for Dean.
Rebecca.Waldron@marlborough.govt.nz
- If the targeted rate is removed, the issue of what to do with the remaining funds is going to be treated as a separate issue.
- Lyne Reeves (Council's Community Development Advisor) outlined what needs to be considered with regard to distributing the money:
 - the purpose and the criteria for distributing the money are the main issues to resolve before making a suggestion to Council;
 - what benefit the \$60,000 (approx) could be to the community (while avoiding distributing it to causes which are already receiving funding from Council); and
 - the possibility of giving the money to one larger project or several smaller ones that have a significant impact or provide a lasting legacy rather than providing smaller amounts to many groups which may not provide any lasting benefit.
- Cllr Taylor asked the members of the Forum to take Lyne's advice back to their groups and also consider the following when discussing the options:
 - the purpose and criteria for allocation (not a wish list); and
 - whether a project in Picton is representative enough of the outer communities or should the amount be spread further afield.
- Bring the feedback back to the next meeting to discuss. She noted that it will only be possible to make a recommendation to Council.

7. Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust Update - Bryan Strong

- The numbers of passengers carried continue to grow with 42 passengers carried in the first two months of this year. Information on the numbers of passengers carried attached (Appendix 1).
- 362 passenger journeys have been carried out since the Trust began. 1/3 from Picton, 2/3 Blenheim and vicinity.
- The \$40 fee does not quite cover costs but the Trust does not want to put rates up as they are trying to help those in the community. The Trust continues to receive support from the Rātā Foundation and Council are looking at approaching the NMDHB for some additional support.
- A succession plan is being worked out for the co-ordination of the drivers and clients. Committee members are also being sought.
- Lyne is going to provide some information on membership of the Trust in the Council's community news section of the newspaper.

8. General Business

- The Picton to Blenheim bus trial has not commenced yet.
- It was suggested that the Mayor be invited to the next meeting to give an overview of what is happening with regard to the \$60 million capital works.
- An air pollution monitoring programme for PM₁₀ is going to be carried out at 12 sites in the Picton area commencing in the winter. The monitoring will run for a year. This will capture data from the steam train, industrial pollution and home fires. The results will be reported through the Environment Committee.
- Sergeant Van Asch confirmed that there is a community patrol operating in Blenheim on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Council has allocated \$15,000 to Neighbourhood Support to continue while future options are investigated.
- Port Marlborough will take over the running of the truck park on 1 April.
- Road Speed Review – dates to be confirmed.
- Cemetery Fees Review – proposal to change ratio of rate funding to user pays. (*The link to the webpage outlining the changes and submission process was sent to the Forum members by email after the meeting*).
- A civil defence group is being set up in Picton and Waikawa. 26 people have volunteered already. Information to follow.

9. Actions from the meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Forward own associations feedback on whether to keep targeted rate to Rebecca before 13 May	Members
2.	Discuss what to use the surplus money for (if it is decided to remove the targeted rate) with own associations, and bring feedback to next meeting	Members
3.	Forward Robyn Blackburn's request for information email to the Port Underwood and Karaka Point Residents Associations	Clr Taylor
4.	Include a small article promoting membership of the MSCVT in the Council's community pages of the newspaper	Lyne Reeves

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

Future Speakers

Safe Communities representative

Mayor John Leggett

Rhys Welbourn (CE Port Marlborough) – July

FENZ

Picton Civil Defence

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2019

- 13 May – 1.00 pm start
- 8 July
- 9 September
- 11 November

10. Appendix 1

Passenger figures for MSCVT

2018	Picton	Blenheim	Sounds	Total	Rescue	Trips
Jan	1	9	1	11		7
Feb	3	4	4	11	2(S)	8
Mar	6	4	1	11		9
Apr	5	8	1	14		11
May	6	4	1	11		9
Jun	7	4	0	11		9
Jul	7	5	0	12		9
Aug	9	18	2	29		19
Sep	4	19	1	24		19
Oct	11	17	3	31		26
Nov	9	34	0	43		21
Dec	9	20	0	29		22
	77	146	14	237		169
	32.5%	61.6%	5.9%			71.3%
					Trips with 2 or more	68
	101	200	19	320		231
	31.56%	62.5%	5.9%			72.2%
					Trips with 2 or more	89
2019	Picton	Blenheim	Sounds	Total	Rescue	Trips
Jan	5	18	2	25		24
Feb	4	11	2	17		16
Mar	0	0	0	0		0
Apr	0	0	0	0		0
May	0	0	0	0		0
Jun	0	0	0	0		0
Jul	0	0	0	0		0
Aug	0	0	0	0		0
Sep	0	0	0	0		0
Oct	0	0	0	0		0
Nov	0	0	0	0		0
Dec	0	0	0	0		0
	9	29	4	42		40
	21.43%	69.05%	9.52%			95.24%
					Trips with 2 or more	2
	Total Passengers to date			362		