

NBCA NEWSLETTER #1/2019

Mid-Winter Get Together will be on the 1st of June, 5pm at Ngaire and Tony Sigmund's home, 2305 Queen Charlotte Drive.

Our AGM was held 4:30pm on 5 January at 2303 Queen Charlotte Drive with 40 residents in attendance.

Councillor David Oddie addressed the meeting:

Our request to the Council, through our submission to MDC last May, to return to our previously designated zoning of General Rural is ongoing. We have set up a sub-committee that will continue to lobby the Council on this matter.

There was a motion on whether to request the removal of the 30km speed limit during the high season with a majority voting for the sign to remain. However, after discussions with David Oddie and Marlborough Roads there are plans to install road crossings over Queen Charlotte Drive which will hopefully slow down traffic passing through the Bay and enable children during the summer months to safely cross the road.



The chairperson showed a brochure, produced by the Harbour Board, promoting safety procedures for the reinstated water ski lane.

You can view this brochure on the NBCA website.

Ngakuta Bay Community Association

**Julian Hawken, Chairperson – Email: tim4him@securenym.net
2303 Queen Charlotte Drive, Ngakuta Bay RD 1, Picton, 7281. Tel (03) 5739270**

Dianne John spoke to us regarding the successes of trapping rodents and requested help from residents. Neil Black outlined the plans to develop the wetland area at the bottom of his property. An agreement has been signed with DOC but there is a need for volunteers and to raise funds to purchase native plants. NBCA will be working with Dianne and Neil and their sub-committees and help channel funding for these projects.



The Sea Walls were examined by a DOC Structure Inspector who advised that we need to attend to wall undermining and return displaced rocks. Last week DOC carried out this work on the “Boat Trailer Park promontory” sea wall, where the water ski lane posts are located, when they had access to a digger.

Norm Gourdie also recently coordinated a community working bee to remove rocks from the sea floor around the jetty and cement them in on the western side of the sea wall as was done last November on the eastern side.

Our local volunteers hard at work taking sand to fill potholes and repairing the sea wall

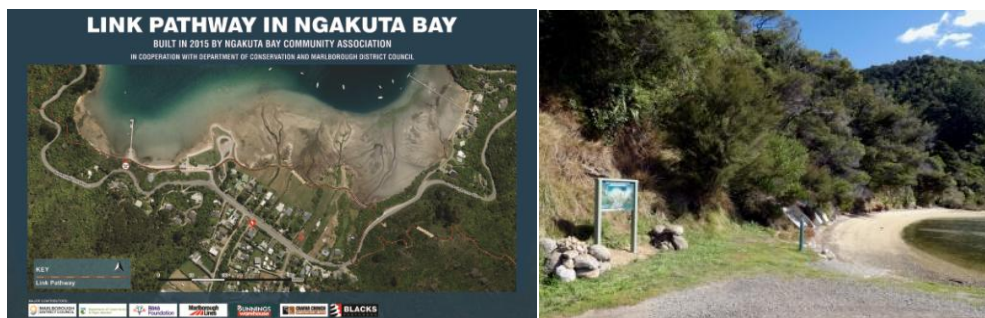


Neighbourhood Support – A local newspaper recently published an article outlining events that had taken place in Ngakuta emphasising the need for respect of private property. It had already been brought to our attention that people had been stealing fruit off trees in a garden without the permission of the owner. There had also been a number of serious incidents of vandalism to boat trailers and cars at the foreshore. If you see anything suspicious please contact Picton police on 24/7 Police Crime Report phone: 520 3120 and when possible take down vehicle details like colour, model and number plate.

A New Toilet Block on the foreshore would be desirable, and has been discussed with Picton DOC. An application has been made by Picton DOC to the national office for funding but there is presently a heavy demand on their financial resources. As a result NBCA will look into applying for a grant from a charitable organisation with the view to raising a portion of the funding required. A new facility would be a double unit with a storage tank for periodic emptying.

Wilding Pines at the top end of Brough Place have been examined for removal. However, there are potential soil instability issues so this has been put on hold till expert advice is available.

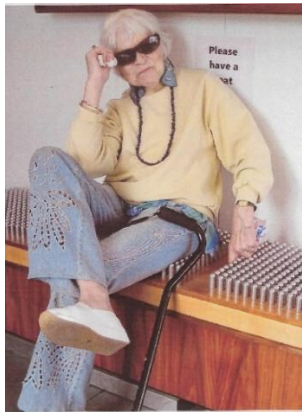
Link Pathway on the foreshore has now been mapped and is displayed on new signage near the jetty. *We invite you to go and have a look!*



Letter from Wendy Sullivan (Community Ranger, DOC Picton) outlines the Department's responsibility and the need for residents to consult with DOC before proceeding with plantings and structures:

“The Department of Conservation is pleased to have recently signed a Community Agreement with the NBCA. The agreement gives the community the legal authority to undertake trapping, weeding and wetland restoration on public conservation land. It is great to work with such a proactive community on conservation projects. Having this agreement in place means that there is clarity about what work is authorised, Health & Safety is met and that DOC can cover the public liability insurance of these activities.

Unfortunately, there have also been some cases of unauthorised activities on the Sounds Foreshore Reserve, such as vegetation removal, erecting public and private structures and planting exotic or non eco-sourced native plants. All work on public conservation land must have authority provided by the Department, and we are happy to discuss any ideas or issues you have.”



In Memoriam for Eve Dawson. Sadly, Eve passed away on 17th February 2019. Many of us will remember fondly the conversations exchanged when meeting Eve while walking her dog, Daisy. Our thoughts are with Eve’s relatives and friends, especially Catherine and Paul Codlin and their family who have played a large part in Eve’s life and been very supportive of Eve as she has ventured out less often.

Predator Management in Ngakuta Bay has made some significant progress with the placement of 8 serviced traps on residents’ properties and 52 traps in the bush around the bay and foreshore.

Over the last 27 months residents’ traps have caught 101 mice, 23 rats, and 1 weasel. Bush traps over the last 36 months have caught 154 mice, 6 rats, 7 weasels, 1 stoat and 1 hedgehog.

The Bay’s total catch over this period will be greater as there are some traps in place which do not have their catch reported.

This has been achieved with the work of Norm Gourdie, Neil Black, Gary & Judith Andrews led by Dianne John.

The trapping team needs more volunteers, call Dianne on **573 5509** if you are interested in being a part of making Ngakuta (Great Again!).

Donations are much appreciated. The trapping programme has received from a number of generous donors a total of \$1650. Along with the donation of \$1500 worth of trap boxes by Picton Dawn Chorus, this will go a long way to implementing trapping in both Ngakuta Bays. A big 'Thank You' to donors.

Ngakuta Bay Wetland is located on DOC land at the Bay's eastern side, near the new track up to QCD. Staff from MDC and DOC have met with us to work through an enhancement plan. This will largely involve planting more native wetland species, weed control and intensified trapping. Natural wetlands are rare in Marlborough as more than 90% have been drained, with a major loss in this habitat for native species.



Banded rail (L) and Fern bird (R) have been seen in our wetland! This is quite exciting as two or three people confirmed the sightings each time. These birds are under decline across NZ, they prefer wetlands but are very reclusive. So, guarding their habitat from drainage and predation is essential to protecting these birds. Fernbird is sparrow-sized with a long tail. Banded rail looks a little like a small weka but has distinguishing bands (www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz).

Membership Fees - have you paid your 2019 NBCA fees yet? Please give Anne Maslen, our treasurer, the **\$40 subscription fee** (by cash or cheque), or pay by direct credit to our bank account **389008-0700176-00 (NBCA)** using your name as a reference.

If you have any further queries please contact Anne at **5737879**.

Regards,

Andrew (Newsletter scribe)