

Marlborough Berth & Mooring Association (Incorporated Society)

Box 692
Picton 7220

Email mbma@xtra.co.nz
Web www.mbma.org.nz



MB&MA Chairman's Annual Report March, 2010

This will be my last Report to you. I stand down as Chairman of your Association, after those initial three years, since our formation.

It has been quite a journey! Most of us were, initially, fairly green with regard to the problems we faced on your behalf, but we learnt fast! Now we can claim that have represented you well and have achieved much.

I must express my sincere thanks to all the committee members over these years for their input, guidance and general hand- holding. The success we have had is due far more to their efforts than mine. In particular I would like to thank my Vice Chairman, Neil Croad, for his wisdom and friendship.

Our activities over the last year are encompassed in the February Newsletter and I will not reiterate them in detail here.

The Waikawa Bay Moorings issue has now been encompassed in the comprehensive Coastal Plan Change document now before Marlborough District Council and soon to go out for public consultation.

A major achievement we have accomplished, on behalf of members, was successfully to object to MDC's level of charges, relating to the Moorings Resource Consent Applications. Committee members, in particular Paul Williams our lead person, argued successfully to the Commissioner that the MDC charges were excessive. As a result a sum of \$25,000 was deducted from the initial billing by Council. This represents a reduction of \$132.00 per mooring applicant. Whilst not a great amount in itself, it certainly sent a clear message to Council that MB&MA is a formidable organization, which wishes to be heard and dealt with fairly.

On behalf of those with moorings in the Bay I must give an enormous vote of thanks to our sub-committee members who have worked tirelessly with Port Marlborough and MDC members to bring this about.

There remain Marina issues in all three sites.

In Havelock, there is the issue of berth holder charges that include a 'levy' for dredging costs that have not occurred. We hope that the Pelorus Boating Club will

have taken up the offer from Port Marlborough to meet to discuss this and any other marina issues.

Your committee will help in any way it can if Havelock issues are brought to it.

In Picton, several of the old jetties have been replaced with high standard floating concrete jetties – but, as elsewhere, rental charges will increase over the next three years to recoup costs. Not only does this reflect the necessary commercial stance Port Marlborough must take with regard to cost recovery, but also the consequences of the longstanding lack of maintenance or renewal of these facilities. Following the Ports Act the MDC received the accrued maintenance funds from the Harbour Board for this purpose, but decided to put marinas into the Port Company – but not the funds!

In Waikawa, we are heartened by Port Marlborough's plans for the land-side development, with marina service industries to be located to the fore, improved and with room for expansion with increase demand.

There will be contention from the public with regard to the submission in the Plan Change for two marina extensions. Your Association has made their views clearly known, that we support one extension only and that to the North West.

From Port Marlborough's view, they see that they have to include plans for two and not just concentrate on one North West extension. Perhaps in case the NW application 'fails'!

This will all be sorted out during public consultation, both for this Plan Change document and for the later Resource Consent processes as the come along.

The future.

It is so important that we keep a strong membership base. Indeed we must aim to increase it.

The first question we are asked by MDC or Port Marlborough is "how many do you represent". The more members we have the greater the sway we hold in our dealings with these bodies on your behalf.

We would encourage members, not only to renew their membership, but also to recruit others on their jetty finger, or those they know, to join. Similarly with mooring owners, where further challenges may yet arise.

We are now an important part of the decision making with regard to boating in Marlborough but we must not be complacent, particularly in this period of lull in activities. There will be much to do on your behalf over the next five years with new marina developments in all sites. One problem may revolve around who pays for the costs of new marina extensions. Will this be visited on current berth holders by way of a substantial rental increase?

Our finances are strong but must be maintained at least at the level of our administrative costs. One legal challenge to be met could quickly erode these.

My final plea? Renew your membership. Recruit others!

Thank you for the privilege of representing you.

Graeme Kerr
Chairman