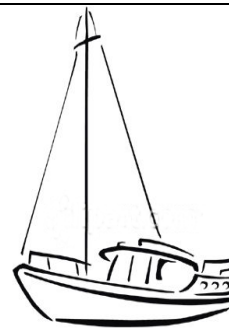


Marlborough Berth & Mooring Association (Incorporated Society)

Box 692
Picton 7250

Email: mbma@xtra.co.nz

Web: www.mbma.org.nz



Newsletter

March 2013

Since our last newsletter back in November 2012, further dialogue with the Mayor and Councillors has brought little progress with regards to achieving a better deal for boaties. Port Marlborough continues to tell council that they do not want any interference with regards to their commercial activities and there appears apathy in council to do anything that will reduce their yearly dividend.

It should be stressed that our argument is not primarily with Port Marlborough, which has an Act with which to comply commercially. Their CEO is charged with implementing these requirements. He has always been approachable and listened well to us on this and many other issues.

Our argument, therefore, is with the owners of Port Marlborough, Marlborough District Council where the issues lie.

Not willing to let matters lie the association has asked John Burton of Izard Weston Lawyers in Wellington to seek specialist assistance from a competition law expert (a former legal counsel at the commerce commission) to consider competition law aspects of Port Marlborough's conduct. Possible remedies are still under consideration. *

It should also be noted that our submission to Council's Long Term Plan has not been totally dismissed and remains as a Submission that Council might review in the future. Indeed, there may be a degree of support now amongst some Councillors.

There are Council elections later this year and it would certainly be helpful to have members of MBMA voted onto Council – we would ask any members with an interest in seeing boaties getting a fairer deal in Marlborough to look at putting their name forward.

We do note that in recent times any increase in berth & amenity prices by Port Marlborough have been very modest, perhaps reflecting our influence over recent years.

Swing Mooring Transfer fees:

A member has pointed out to us that the Marlborough District Council fee to transfer ownership of a swing mooring when sold or if transferring to another name (i.e. Trust) has recently risen from \$75 to \$300. Our Chairman wrote to Council asking for an explanation and justification for the increase. The long-winded reply is posted on our website. It would appear to us that the fee is too high for the work required.

Marinas:

Picton. The new marina looks very grand and a vast improvement on what was there before. Port Marlborough should be congratulated on overseeing this facility however the fees are higher for these new berths and will increase year by year over the next three years. Port Marlborough says the marina is full. We will see what effect these price increases will have on occupancy over this period.

Havelock. Still remains a big headache for Port Marlborough with a high percentage of empty berths. Port Marlborough is unwilling to drop fees to entice people back who have moved to Nelson. Nelson fees are approx 50% less than Port Marlborough's so this will remain a problem for some time to come.

Waikawa. All berths over 10m are full and there is a waiting list, many on the list from outside Marlborough. It is possible that Port Marlborough will remove some of the empty 8m berths and re-configure as larger berths, which is where the demand is. Perhaps the 8m berths should be made cheaper to encourage more people to purchase their first boat & get into boating?

Trust Berths. This year is the 3-year cost review. Port Marlborough has agreed to disclose greater cost details. To what extent, and how this may be used to contain increases, will be the challenge for those involved.

Whilst this is a matter for the Trust berth holders, MBMA are willing to offer support in any way Trust members feel applicable.

Waikawa Swing Moorings & Plan Change.

We have heard nothing of substance further at this stage but suspect the commissioner may have to reconvene the hearing to bring some finality. We will report as matters progress. We remind you that current mooring owners, affected by possible marina extensions, have been granted a 5-year consent for their moorings.

Your committee continues to work on your behalf to try and gain a fairer deal for boaties – there is more to do in the years ahead. This is now a good time for new people to join the committee as some current members retire.

Our AGM will soon be upon us – **Saturday 1st June 2013** 10am @ WBC – please give positive thought to putting your name forward so our important work continues.

Finally, our hard working Chairman Graeme Kerr is stepping down and will be leaving on the 5th April to live permanently in England with his family. On behalf of all our members we would take this opportunity to thank Graeme for all his valued input and time, including two terms as chairman over the last 7 years – he really has been one of the main stays of the group.

Best wishes for the future Graeme.

Your Committee.

Notice: Following our committee meeting on 5th March, Peter Thorne George, vice chairman, will be Acting Chairman until the AGM

Current Committee Members & contacts:

Chairman	Graeme Kerr	03 5737172 0274446553	gdkerr@xtra.co.nz (Resigned)
Deputy Chairman	Peter Thorne-George	0274439535	peter.tg@xtra.co.nz Acting Chairman
Havelock Rep	John Humm	03 5742755 0272436743	clare.john@clear.net.nz
Picton Reps	Phil Vining	0274466939	philvining@xtra.co.nz
	Peter Thorne-George	0274439535	peter.tg@xtra.co.nz
Waikawa Reps	Phil Vining	0274466939	philvining@xtra.co.nz
Swing Moorings Rep	Chris Williams	03 579 1200 0211388160	chrisandsarawilliams@xtra.co.nz
	Paul Williams	03 5779239 0274577009	paul@rmco.co.nz
Co-opted	Scott Wilson	0272438366	scott@zaccarat.co.nz
	Des Boyce	03 5738119	djboyce@gmail.com
Co-opted - Pelorus Commodore rep	Michael Connolly & Robert King-Turner	03 5742425	rkt@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Katie van Berlo	03 5738887 0276556930	mbma@xtra.co.nz