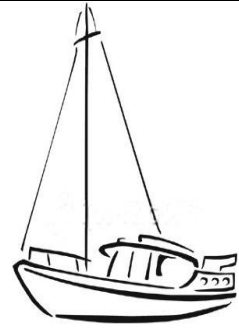


Marlborough Berth & Mooring Association (Incorporated Society)

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Marlborough Berth and Mooring Association

NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Your Committee has been hard at work over these winter months.

Submission to the Council Plan

As you will know, we made a very full and detailed Submission to the Marlborough District Council's Long Term Plan, stressing the value of recreational boating to the community and the negative effects that high berth charges are having, with many of those on lower incomes being forced out of boating.

This comprehensive and very professional document took a huge amount of work, essentially by one person, Paul Williams, to whom we are greatly indebted.

The Submission is on our website at www.mbma.org.nz

When we followed up with Council we received a letter essentially saying, "Council won't & can't interfere with Port Co business". It is apparent that the letter came from Council Officers who do not want to see income from Port Marlborough reduced in any way, affecting Council's budget balance.

Your Chairman followed up with the Mayor to try to resolve matters. The Mayor took a more supportive stance and agreed to convene a further meeting with selected Councillors

This meeting took place on the 16th October with Graeme Kerr, Paul Williams, Phil Vining, John Humm and Scott Wilson from your committee in attendance plus the Mayor, Councillors David Oddie & Trevor Hook.

Amongst other things, we stressed how the financial and pricing issues are affecting middle and lower income berth holders leading to the subsequent move of people to cheaper facilities in Nelson, or onto swing moorings or out of boating and into other pursuits especially campervans.

With around 80 empty berths in Havelock the loss in spending with local businesses, at about \$8,000 per boat p.a. is probably well over \$500,000. This should be of great concern to Council. This is an example where berth price reductions in Havelock seem essential to attract the Nelson boats back.

We showed that, in Waikawa, a 15m marina berth that cost \$1,022 p.a. in 1987, now costs \$7,896 p.a. An increase of over 500%. Launching ramp fees are also amongst the highest in NZ. We pointed out that berth holders, who are Marlborough ratepayers, not only pay their rates but are also subsidising other Council activities through the high fees they pay, contributing to Port Marlborough's dividend to Council

MBMA has asked for the statement of corporate intent for the marinas be changed from the current one of maximising profits to the following:

“Marlborough marinas have multiple objectives of: provision of marina berths at a reasonable cost to encourage people from all walks of life to take up and stay boating; encouragement of regional economic development through associated spending and; making a return on investment. In order to balance these objectives, MDCH shall accept a lower return on investment if required.”

The Council representatives present made it quite clear that the rest of Council would not support any reduction in income from Port Marlborough – we already knew this and it will be a very difficult attitude to change.

Of the solutions we put forward, the option of ring-fencing the marinas within Port Marlborough, to be managed in a more cost effective way, thus keeping prices down, and still make an acceptable profit return to Council (similar to Nelson) was the one to make traction.

The Mayor agreed, initially, that they would look at this suggestion more closely with Councillors Hook and Oddie and then meet with two MBMA representatives, further to explore this. It now transpires they are planning to undertake a full survey so they can better understand the issues involved and the value of the boating industry to Marlborough.

The Marinas:

Waikawa: An important matter, rectified by your committee!

Port Marlborough recently took over the travel lift operations from Franklins, installing a new travel lift. We received many complaints about the new haul out contract, which completely exonerated Port Marlborough from any liability for damage whatsoever, caused during any lift operation!

Your committee referred the contract to our lawyer, John Burton, who advised that parts of it breached various Acts. John wrote to Port Marlborough, which has resulted in a re-write of the contract, in a manner legally satisfactory. We thank John for his actions on our behalf.

Picton: The rebuild of the marina continues. The finished project will look very smart but will be very expensive to use when the staged berth charge increases reach their peak after three years.

Havelock: John Humm, our Havelock representative, tells us there are some 80 empty berths in the marina. We know there are many boats in Nelson, which would come back to Havelock if berth charges were lower.

Coastal Plan Change:

You will know that the moorings involved in Waikawa Bay have received a five-year consent, in the interim, whilst Port Marlborough continues discussions with Te Atiawa and other parties. There is no real sign of a resolution on the horizon, so finalisation of the managed moorings areas and marina development remains in abeyance.

Finally:

We reported at the AGM the sad loss of our Chairman. Neil Croad, hence you find me, Graeme Kerr, as your Chairman yet again!

Your committee has had some changes with resignations from Dick Hall, a long-standing member, for personal reasons. Also Paul Tredennick because of business commitments. At the AGM we recruited Chris Williams, from the Waikawa Boating Club. Well known and experienced. Also we were fortunate to be able to appoint Scott Wilson who volunteered his services. He brings a valuable talent with him.

MBMA Committee Members

Elected Members:

Chairman	Graeme Kerr	03 5737172 0274446553	gdkerr@xtra.co.nz
Deputy Chairman	Peter Thorne-George	03-5734509	peter.tg@xtra.co.nz
Havelock Rep	John Humm	03 5742755 0272436743	clare.john@clear.net.nz
Waikawa Reps	Phil Vining	0274466939	philvining@xtra.co.nz
	Scott Wilson	0272438366	scott@zaccarat.co.nz
	Chris Williams	03 579 1200 0211388160	chrisandsarawilliams@xtra.co.nz
Swing Mooring Reps	Paul Williams	0274577009	paul@rmco.co.nz
	Phil Vining	0274466939	philvining@xtra.co.nz
Co-opted	Phil McMath	03-5794774 03 5788855 021458161	phil@constructioncoatingsltd.co.nz
Co-opted	Des Boyce	03-5738119	djboyce@gmail.com
Co-opted Pelorus Commodore rep	Michael Connolly and Robert King-Turner	03 5742425	rkt@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Katie van Berlo	03 5738887 0276556930	mbma@xtra.co.nz

A plea: *The numerical strength of our membership lends great weight to our negotiations with the various bodies concerned.*

Please continue your membership.

If you are on our mailing list but have let your membership lapse, please renew it!

Your committee always needs new blood! We can co-opt you on at any time!

Please contact us if there are matters you think we can help with.

A pledge: *Your committee will continue to work persistently on your behalf, not only to control marina charges, but also on all matters relevant to your continuing boating enjoyment.*

We wish you, your families and friends, a happy and safe Christmas

Graeme Kerr
Chairman
On behalf of the Committee