

RIVERSDALE BEACH

RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (INC).



NEWSLETTER : OCTOBER 2019

Labour Weekend

- Golf Club : Friday meals available as usual
Sunday 27th : 12.30pm : Ambrose Golf Tournament : shotgun start : \$60 teams of 4
- Surf Club : Patrolling : 12pm – 5pm Sat & Sun, + Mon morning
Sunday 27th : 4pm : Annual General Meeting
- Store : 8am – 8pm Sat & Sun
8am – 5pm Monday
Saturday night – pizzas
NB: the store is looking for summer staff – if anybody is keen please ring (372 3476) or email (riversdalebeachstore@xtra.co.nz).
- Market : Sun 27th - 9.00am - 1pm (ish) on the Riversdale Road/Blue Pacific Parade intersection. Contact is Raewyn Hullena (raewyn.hullena@gmail.com) or 06 372 3611 and leave a message on the answerphone. Stalls are \$15 or \$10 for Goldcard holders.

BASIL BODLE RESERVE : OFFICIAL NAMING CEREMONY : MON 28 OCT 2019

- 11.00 am VIPs, Riversdale residents & guests assemble Pinedale Crescent, opposite Waimanaaki
- Officiating - MDC Mayor or Deputy Mayor
Followed by : Skateboard demonstration – Sloan McPhee & sponsors
Waimanaaki - tour of facilities and accommodation
St Joseph's Church – tour and inspection of refurbishment

All welcome – bring the kids along

Dune planting

Thanks so much to all those who helped plant the dunes at Riversdale on the annual planting day in June. Riversdale Dunes Committee member Jan McLaren reported on a fantastic day with a great turnout. Around 1300 native spinifex and pingao plants were planted which will future-proof the dunes.

The planting day was part of a long term plan to progressively plant the dunes along the beachfront from the Surf Club to the Southern Reserve. The dunes opposite the Surf Club were planted about ten years ago and native grasses have flourished there. The native sand-binding grasses, spinifex and pingao, create dunes with gentle slopes that repair themselves after storms and offer better long-

term protection for coastal land. They replace the introduced marram grass which leads to steep, unstable dunes. The aim is to improve the resilience of the dunes, increase native biodiversity and help protect the coastal settlement from the sea.

Conservation Week – Riversdale dunes were buzzing with students from Whareama School and a few locals on Friday 20 September. The students, guided by Kolja Schaller, Land Management Advisor from the Greater Wellington Regional Council, put wires with nets over the 350 native pingao plants which were planted along with spinifex to improve the ability of the dunes to withstand storm events and provide native biodiversity. The young pingao plants are very edible for rabbits and hares, so it is important to protect them to make sure they get off to a good start. The students also learnt about dune ecosystems and predator trapping as part of the Department of Conservation's Conservation week. The work in the dunes is a collaborative project between Masterton District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation and the Riversdale community

Services Directory

There are many people who make Riversdale Beach their home on both a permanent or semi permanent basis. They also provide a range of services which you can make use of. There are significant benefits from using a local service provider, the most important being the back up service and support. The Directory is posted at the Riversdale Beach Store for the information of residents and visitors and a soft copy (electronic) will be available from the Riversdale Beach Store Facebook page.

Update - Mōtūwairaka Marae Project.

In April this year, MB Brown Ltd from Masterton was awarded the building contract to complete Stage 1 of the building project. Residents would have noticed all the activity such as fencing and warning signs that were erected in April. This site is classified as a building site and under the jurisdiction of MB Brown Ltd until the sign off completion which is expected to be in May or June 2020.

A blessing to commence Stage 1 was held on site Friday 12 April and along with a small representation from the Marae, MB Brown Ltd site manager and Jan Burns and Bill Roberts also attended.

The foundation work on the Whare Tīpuna (Meeting House) and Wharepaku (Ablutions) have been laid and in the next few weeks the pre-cast panels (28 in total) will be delivered on site. From that point a crane will be used to lift and erect the panels. Pending all going to plan, the shell of the building will be erected over a period of a few days.

The school holiday period commences on 30 September through to 14 October so for safety reasons we need to remind our young ones of the dangers and not wander onto the site to satisfy their inquisitive minds.

Information provided by Sue Taylor of Motuwairaka Marae

Message from Wellington Region Emergency Management Office / VHF radio

The CDEM supplied VHF radio at Riversdale Beach Store is currently unserviceable.

Both Jane Mills and I had a discussion about it and our thoughts are because there is already a VHF radio in the Riversdale Beach Community Emergency Hub at the Golf Club, we will remove the radio from Riversdale Beach Store on Wednesday 4th Sept, and will not replace it.

If there was enough warning for a tsunami, the hub radio is more mobile, as it has a mobile antenna and cables able to be connected to a car battery.

In this scenario, the store radio would need to be disconnected from the power supply and battery before taking it to higher ground. The antenna is mounted on the roof of the store and there are no cables to hook up to a car battery.

I'm letting the Ratepayers Association committee know what will be occurring, and could you please communicate this change to your members in your next newsletter.

Please give either Jane or myself a call if you have any questions.

Receive emergency alerts with the Red Cross Hazard App - www.getprepared.nz/alerts

Darryl McCurdy | Emergency Management Advisor (Wairarapa) | Operational Readiness and Response

Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)

M: [0274 465628](tel:0274465628) | T: [06 370 6325](tel:063706325) getprepared.nz | fb.com/WREMONz |

Pest control – rabbits

The following information has been received from Steve Playle of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

A spotlight/thermal imaging survey around Riversdale was carried out on 29 August to get a feel for the density of rabbits in the dunes and surrounding residential areas. We commenced the night counts from Acacia Ave and walked the dune area north to the Surf Life Saving Club where we only saw one rabbit in the planted areas. No rabbits were seen between the dunes and the beach perimeter of residential properties. On the Southern Reserve we only saw 3 rabbits in total. We did count 34 rabbits from the shop along the road down to the Reserve with most in private sections or on the roadside berm areas. We counted 8 rabbits off Blue Pacific Parade, 39 on the Golf Course, 27 off Pinedale Crescent, 4 rabbits off another side road and 9 rabbits in the playgrounds. In total we counted 125 rabbits over a two hour period. The majority was mature but juvenile rabbits must be there also as we caught 3 of them in the DOC 250 traps near the beach when servicing the Dotterel traps recently.

Going forward, shooting and laying poison to reduce rabbit numbers sufficiently to protect dune plantings will be difficult and unlikely to be successful given that there are mixed opinions by residents for buy-in to bait on private properties or to undertake safe shooting.

Given the numbers of bunnies seen it is clear that unprotected plantings on the dunes will always be vulnerable as the species planted are highly palatable to them. As I have previously mentioned, protective nets will need to be placed over all plants and then maintained to maximise the long term

success of planting projects. President Bill Roberts agreed with me when I suggested limiting the number of new plantings by volunteer groups to what can actually be netted and protected at any one time. As I have noted from my inspection the last planting project done that has protectors in place are generally doing ok. Earlier planting where protective nets have deteriorated or are missing have been subjected to heavy browsing by rabbits.

Obviously the release of the last K5 strain of Calicivirus at Orui Station in 2017 has had little to no impact on the Riversdale population at this stage.

Greater Wellington has no plans to re-release the latest strain again that I am aware. There was a significant cost involved by all Regional Councils who participated with these managed releases and we were guided by Landcare Research with protocols around release methods, procedures and timing. It needed to be done prior to the rabbit breeding season to maximise effectiveness in the wild rabbit population. Landcare only expected a possible rabbit reduction if successful of somewhere between 40 to 80%. Obviously the Orui release point has not been very successful as shown by our night count figures. Sorry I cannot provide you with another effective solution to scale back the resident rabbit population to low levels within the residential zone at Riversdale.

GWRC could carry out shooting at Riversdale but this would only be done at the Golf Course, MDC land and perhaps the dune areas with the blessing of MDC or DoC if they oversee this area. We would also have to charge our time for any work done to MDC or the owners of the Golf Club. We have no authority to discharge firearms onto private property without owner permission. This would only be applying a band aid to a sore really and would not provide enough protection to dune plantings left unprotected. If MDC want to engage a private operator to do some shooting on behalf of Council then I am completely comfortable with that arrangement. The end result will not be any different.

Southern Reserve

A brief progress report on work on the Southern Reserve walking track

Following damage to the Upper Loop track by heavy rain, remedial work has been ongoing. Vice President John Christie organised a working bee recently and 10 local volunteers built a stairway on the steep part of the track at the southern end, and also constructed handrails on two of the boardwalks on the top loop.

We arranged for a load of lime to be provided as a stockpile and John will use some of this lime to finish off the steps.

Part of the walkway to the Upper Loop is very sandy, and Marcus has been unable to get his mower past this area. We will use the rest of the lime to enable him to mow all the way to the bottom of the stairway.

Arrangements are in place for the hire of a small digger on 16 and 17 October which will be used to improve drainage and also spread lime on the sandy areas.

We are pleased to report that the tracks continue to be extremely popular with residents and visitors to the beach.

MDC : Service requests procedure

Vice President John Christie met with Council officials earlier in the year and one of the discussion points raised was how we should go about getting the "little things" done in a timely manner. It was pointed out that MDC have a well proven process of Service Requests that anyone can raise by ringing 06 370 6300 or emailing mdc@mstn.govt.nz . This is the best method of getting small things attended to, ie, notification of potholes, signage repairs, tree issues etc and all such requests are recorded, tracked and reported on internally.

The following are some examples of requests previously made and actioned by your Association. **MDC responses are shown in red :**

17/04/2019

A number of Riversdale Beach residents have expressed their concern regarding driver behaviour on Otarara Road and Palm Parade, specifically speeding. The road in question is steep enough to cause road safety issues, especially during holidays. It has been suggested that the installation of a speed hump could be the answer.

18/06/2019

The Roading Engineers advise that the speed hump issue will be investigated during the next holidays and that some speed counters will be put out. The survey results will then be looked at and the findings brought back to the Ratepayers Association.

(29/09/19 - awaiting further response)

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17/04/2019

Our local shopkeepers have asked for a "slow down" sign at the corner of Bodle Drive and Blue Pacific Parade. The shop corner is busy at the best of times, and especially during the holiday period, when there is a considerable increase in the number of children gathering at this spot. The most important issue however, is that the shop is the collection and drop-off point for the school bus, and several near misses have been noted.

18/06/2019

The Roading Engineers advise that the corner of Bodle Drive and Blue Pacific Parade is a slow zone already, you must slow down to turn right so are unsure that a sign is needed.

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17/04/2019

Our local shopkeepers have requested a recycling facility for use by residents and visitors, to avoid the constant use of their own recycling bin, which is not cleared by Earthcare.

We note advice in the latest Council Update ("Recycling Wheelie Bins Coming Soon"), and ask whether this facility might be applied to Riversdale Beach.

17/04/2019

The query concerning the Recycling Wheelie Bins introduction, unfortunately for those on the Masterton Coast (Tinui, Riversdale and Castlepoint) rubbish and recycling collections there will remain the same. You will not receive a wheelie bin and can continue to use your existing recycling bins as usual.

18/06/2019

The Manager Assets & Operation will follow up Earthcare and get back to the Association late in July.

(NB: RBRA is working with MDC on the provision of recycling bins)
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15/05/2019

Concern has been expressed at the state of the sand ladders which run through the dunes opposite the Surf Club and down to the beach. The ladders are in disrepair and some parents have complained that using them can be dangerous, especially for young children.

18/06/2019

This matter will be put on the agenda for the next Dune Management meeting. No date for the meeting has been confirmed yet but the meeting should be held in early July.

(29/09/2019 – awaiting further response)

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Graffiti Removal Kits

These were made available at the Community Centre in Masterton and we took advantage of this offer – the kit is held at 4 Palm Parade for use by residents as required. Neighbourhood Support advises that if you see any graffiti in your neighbourhood, please do report it to the police and try to remove it ASAP (within 24 hours is ideal) with one of the free kits. All that is required is to complete the application that is attached to the instructions and leave it at the location you have collected your kit from (Community Centre in Perry Street).

WE’VE BEEN BUSY

Here are some of the issues and projects on which the Association has been working on your behalf.

Recycling bins – Council is liaising with Vice President John Christie regarding the provision of bins at Riversdale Beach similar to those installed at Castlepoint. A decision is outstanding as to proposed location.

Rugby posts – a suggestion has been made that posts be provided for kids’ practice purposes. Local residents are working on this.

Beach access signage – following an approach from a RBRA member, inquiries were made of Council about the possibility of providing signage indicating beach to road access, with a view to avoiding the use of private property. This is a work in progress nearing completion.

Welcome brochure – RBRA committee member Marquerite has done an amazing job in updating our brochure, and this will be delivered to all properties over Labour Weekend.

Seesaws – a work in progress for the kids’ playground area. VP John is working with local residents with a view to completion by Labour Weekend.

Artificial Cricket Pitch – Vice President John Christie is following up this suggestion and has asked for advice from NZ Cricket on costing and suppliers. The idea is to install something that will encourage children to play, and for social cricket matches.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place as usual in January 2020, on Wellington Anniversary Day. Further details will be circulated in the pre-Christmas newsletter. Please bear in mind that nominations for office holders and committee members should be with the HonSec 7 days prior to the meeting. Nomination forms are available at the Store. Note that both the President and Hon Secretary will be stepping down from these roles in 2020.

Updating RBRA records – kindly remember that all matters relating to subscriptions are to be referred to the Treasurer, and any new contact details to the HonSec.

2019 Committee contacts :

President :	Bill Roberts	06 372 3425
Vice President :	John Christie	0279 507 281
Secretary :	Jan Burns	06 372 3425
Treasurer :	Cath Green	0272 462 680
Committee :	Roger Broughton, Jan McLaren, Christine Prattley, Robin Richards, Trevor Ronowicz, Merle Te Tau, Tanisha Wardle, Marquerite Vierstraete-Williams, Sharyn Yeo	

JAN BURNS
Hon Secretary
Riversdale Beach Ratepayers' Association Inc
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