

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Four wheeler rides for the Juniors at the Omaha Surf Club Registration Day.

HEADLINE NEWS

WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

We have expressed some concern about progress to maintain the quality of the Whangateau, a harbour considered the highest quality remaining on the east coast of the Auckland region. We need "less talk, fewer reports and more action on the ground". The mangroves continue to spread (an outcome not a cause) and the work commenced by the ARC appears to be limited to workshops promoting best practice and publicity. More is needed and it is hoped that local body and governments understand this and assist. See our report on page 7.

SUMMER PATROLS

Our application to the local board for the grant toward the cost of this programme this year has been turned down by the Local Board. It appears the board is afraid a precedent may be set. We have pointed out the programme is well established, has run for a number of years and has been financially supported by the former RDC. It is backed by the police as a shining example of public/police cooperation and has been signally successful in keeping Omaha largely incident free over the holiday periods. We have concerns about the failure of the Community Board to recognise that this is an ongoing not first time project and we will be approaching the council directly.

RODNEY AREA POLICE AWARD CEREMONY

We were advised that Chris Martin of Insite recently received an Area Commander's Commendation at the Rodney Award Ceremony held on Friday 2 December. Well done Chris. Nice to see formal recognition of your efforts in this area.

RATES

Strong objection to the current level of Watercare charges was expressed by some residents at the recent Planning Forum. OBC were asked to make urgent representations to Watercare Services seeking to have the assessments changed. We have compared the level of charges made initially by RDC and then by RDC and Watercare and lastly by the new council and Watercare. Our comparison omitted GST and prompt payment discounts. We agree there have been steady increases but that the basis for charging at Omaha in effect remains unchanged. Any approach to the Council or Watercare at this time will be met with the response that the system of rating is under review, that a new basis will apply from July 2012 and that no changes can be contemplated. We will certainly become involved as circumstances dictate once the basis of charging is communicated.

HEADLINE NEWS

By way of interest and to put matters in perspective the editor has looked back at rate history over the period from 2003/4 to 2010/11 (the last year of the old Rodney Council). The increase will be less as the property value increases because of the fixed charges but for our property rates rose by 86% over the 7 years. These figures do not include the ARA charges; they do include the Watercare costs which commenced part way through this year. The movement in inflation over the period December 2003 to December 2010 was 23%.

Rate reductions are confidently expected in the 2012/13 year, the first year of the new Auckland wide rate charges. The increases made on Omaha residents were always felt to be excessive and one of the reasons we welcomed the new single council was to see the large rises in local body charges brought under control. For the moment we see our best opportunity to confront the fairness of the charges for water and other council services comes when the new rates are available for discussion.

MEETING DATES – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In the September newsletter we asked the question as to whether we could combine the planning forum and the AGM into a single meeting. We suggested the November date used for the forum was possibly the more popular. Initial feedback has been that trying to fit the business of two meetings with quite different objectives may be premature while we still have so many projects on the table and member feedback to receive. The AGM deals with OBC management, committee finances etc. It also provides the opportunity for clubs and community groups to talk about their activities. The forum is principally concerned to report on progress on OBC projects and hear member opinions on future plans. Both meetings aim to take on board members views.

Originally we had thought to make the changes at the coming AGM but have decided to raise this matter again and make time for a discussion then. If a strong view emerges any changes could be dealt with at the 2013 AGM or even at a Special Meeting during 2012.

As before if you have any views on this please let us know. We thank those that have commented already and look forward to further contributions. You can contact us by mail (PO Box 123 Matakana 0948) or email at us@omahabeach.co.nz

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1038 residents paid their subscription for the 2011 year. Thanks Omaha residents for your tremendous support. Please keep it up.

VALUATIONS

The new valuations for properties throughout Auckland were released in October. A recent Herald article included comments from real estate agents that individual property valuations were somewhat haphazard. It was said that about a third were too high, a third too low and a third about right.

The Council website shows overall movements. Rodney is down 7.8% on the previous valuation which was on or around September 2007. For Omaha (linked to Point Wells Campbells Bay and Baddleys Beach) the movement is down 5.93%. How has your valuation moved?

Rob Hall of Bayleys is strongly of the opinion that valuations are not helpful and we quote "While a lot of emphasis is put on the rating valuation by property buyers this valuation has no relativity to the market price levels. It is a snap shot on the day used by local bodies to set the property rates for the ensuing year". It is still a fact that valuations, which are based on property value movements, should be reasonably close to market at the time they are carried out thereafter moving away from actual as the valuation gets older over the 4 year period. If the latest valuations are unreliable the rates set based on them will be unfair.

A test of a dozen properties selected as a crude indicator of Omaha values by virtue of location suggests that the high value properties beach front or near have remained or slightly increased on the 2007 valuation. For the balance of properties decreases from the 2007 level have ranged from 6 to 10% with the median being between 7% and 8%.

PREDATOR FENCE


Earlier this year there was a report in the Herald that cast doubts on the efficacy in terms of cost of predator fences. It was interesting to note the comments made in a recent TOSSI newsletter by the Chair who said;

"The ecological recovery of the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary since the construction of the predator proof fence has been spectacular. Nowhere else in the Auckland region has such a healthy population of bellbirds re-established itself. Other bird species kaka and grey faced petrels have begun breeding in the sanctuary without the need for a translocation programme...fenced sanctuaries have a role to play in helping achieve some recovery of threatened indigenous species"

Having earlier reported that the Shorebird Trust had raised the money necessary to build the predator fence we had hoped that a tender would have been let and work commenced by now. Unfortunately it appears that there have been objections to the positioning of the fence on the boundary by the vacant sections and a notified resource consent process will be required. The timing for this project has been delayed but we are hopeful it will be in place before mid 2012.

OMAHA PARK

We have had no advice of any activity on the part of the developers or the Auckland Council to revisit the judgement against this planned development. We hold the balance of monies received by way of costs awarded earlier this year after repaying an advance from OBRS. The sum involved is not large and we believe it sensible to retain it for the present.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Seasons Greetings to all Omaha residents and to all visitors reading this newsletter. Have a great family Christmas, a happy New Year, a relaxed holiday and a prosperous 2012.

While there have been a number of issues since the last newsletter the changes arising from the move to the single city have been taking most of our time. The changeover has certainly been challenging for all: officials, local body representatives, central government and residents (and OBC).

RDC was a mix of urban and rural with a lower residential base and less industrial/commercial. Over the years it had grown to include a suburban element whose residents principally travelled south to work. The connection to greater Auckland was and is strong and when the super city was mooted the bulk of Rodney residents looked south rather than some rural tie to the north. The resident base, the size of the district and the rural factor meant that Rodney's infrastructural costs were high and rates rose steeply. In the 7 years to 2010 when Rodney ceased to exist as a separate council, rate rises were well above inflation and well above those of the larger urban councils to the south.

The shift to a greater Auckland Council then had attractions to residents in terms of cost effectiveness but gave rise to concerns re the ability of residents to have a say in local body matters. All of this leads into the situation where at the end of a year we are looking at the initial outcomes of the single city and find a number unsatisfactory.

Over the years OBC had built up some particularly good contact with the Rodney District Council. Our policy was to work with and in cooperation with RDC to achieve the projects that our members told us they wanted. That contact base built up over a number of years has been very significantly affected and there is no doubt that there has been a significant loss of what is described as institutional knowledge. In 2011 we and other organisations and individuals are making their first contact with people who have little knowledge of past decisions and past programmes with the result that they wish to simply start what was an established process all over again. A classic instance was the Warkworth A & P Society who have run the annual A & P show for 100 years or more and were told that they had to go through a resource consent process that had no regard to past history. Happily the matter was resolved quickly when the link

was made to the right contact but it is clear that this is happening all the time and will continue to happen until the new council comes up to speed. Additionally there is the suspicion that all hobby horses are being reactivated in the new council and that past undertakings have been ignored. We will have to rebuild those contacts. Clearly however time (and money if expert assistance is required) spent on communications/negotiations with the new council will be greatly increased in the coming year.

There has been a great deal of angst from a few residents about the rise in water rates. Frankly this issue is in some ways the straw that has broken the camel's back rather than the huge burden it has been portrayed as. Looking at the figures the costs have risen although not to the extent that a number have claimed. A new rating system applying over Auckland as a whole will be introduced for the 2012/13 year and it is confidently expected that overall, Omaha general and water rates will reduce. We have to see what is proposed but in the meantime we can only say that there is no possibility of changing the rates imposed for the 2011/12 year which are based on the old Rodney rates.

Elsewhere we note that the security patrol council contribution may not be renewed and while we intend to maintain our efforts for this to be funded we are able to continue the programme in 2011/12 without any change to our membership fees. A number of Rodney projects appear to have met the same fate.

On the positive news front we have now, working with OBCG, agreed and carried out overdue maintenance work at the Club and will be contributing to the refurbishment programme drawn up for the interior. Other major projects like the walkway require a separate team to champion and progress them and we will try to have something in place during 2012. This project will take more time than the committee of OBC are able to contribute.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard working members of the OBC committee. Your efforts are appreciated by all residents and especially by me.

To all members: I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend, at the annual meeting on the 7th of January. Do try to come.

Best wishes

Graham Painter

FROM OUR AUCKLAND COUNCILLOR

Why does Christmas come around so fast. Maybe because our lives are just getting busier. I hate to think of the hours I have spent in my car this year driving to and from the Town Hall. One of the downsides of my new life is the lose of contact with many local communities. Omaha being one of them. Graham keeps me informed of any issues and together with the Local Board members we try to work through them. It is difficult being in a much bigger organization to keep a focus relevant to this area of the "City" Centralization, while it means savings and rates cuts for many, must also be sure to recognize "local" when it comes to areas outside the Metropolitan part of Auckland. I will strive to be heard on these issues. I thank the OBC committee for their ongoing work for Omaha

May I wish you all a fabulous holiday period in the most beautiful part of our city.

Best wishes

Penny Webster

Councillor for Rodney on Auckland Council

OMAHA PLANNING FORUM

This was held on the 19th November at the Club and attended by over 100 members. Guests included Auckland Councillor Penny Webster and Local Board member (and now NZ First MP) Tracey Martin.

Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the OBC website in due course but the following summary of proceedings may be helpful. Note some items are covered more fully in other sections.

SEAWALL EXTENSION

The extension of the seawall to the Beach Club and beyond has been promised to start at any time over the past two years. Unfortunately this has not happened. At present a notified Resource Consent has been deemed necessary and a council planner has noted that the Omaha Spit may be an area of national archaeological significance thereby restricting the excavation and possible use of sand from the golf course to use in forming the surface of the new wall. We have a number of similar issues around Omaha and we are working on getting Ian Maxwell, the chief of Parks and Reserves, to visit Omaha and hopefully assist in getting things moving. In the meantime the old wall which is a mix of metal and asbestos will continue to break up.



Exposed metal and asbestos as old Seawall breaks up.

DINGHY RAMPS

It is unfortunate that these were to be lumped in with the seawall and so have fallen off the radar and even more so considering the seawall is now being consented only to the end of the golf course.

BOAT RAMP AND TRAILER PARKING

The parking area has been regrassed and trailer spacing marked. The lane markers should considerably improve the alignment

of trailers and maximize the use of what will be a high demand space over the summer. Overflow parking is available at the adjacent reserve.

COCKLE BAN

The ban continues. More signage to alert visitors to the ban is expected to be installed.

WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

No report received at the meeting. See separate notes.

MARINE RESERVES

The draft Auckland Plan includes proposals which would significantly increase the protected reserve area within the Hauraki Gulf. This plan appears to have been slipped in without prior consultation and the areas are poorly defined. If approved there would be very negative impact on recreational and commercial fishing and it is clear the proposals have to be strenuously opposed. Our local body representatives believe the proposal will not go beyond the draft stage. Any reduction in areas in which fishing is allowed within the gulf will create a storm of protest and general opinion is that it will never be allowed to happen. Through Richard Brabant we expect to be kept in touch with developments.

TANIKO WALKWAY

This major project needs a separate sponsor/leader and help group. If you believe you can help please contact us. The OBC committee is largely committed and does not have the time required to get a project of this size up and running.

A further walk through the trail marked during the winter will give a better picture of the level of water in this "wetland" The initial survey suggested that perhaps half of the track would need to be board walk. Pending this and the identification of the walkway team no action can be taken in the meantime. A bridge across the stream at the southern end leading to the quarry walk will be needed for the walkway and could be used to evacuate residents in the event of a tsunami warning, This will be discussed with council who own the land on this section of the proposed track. The bulk of the land is under the control of DOC.

STORMWATER

The problems experienced following the heavy rain events earlier this year have given rise to very lengthy discussions with the council with the object of identifying what corrective measures can be taken. It will be remembered that Omaha residents contribute a substantial sum for stormwater services through rates and little of this money has been spent on Omaha facilities in recent years.

An initial report provides a summary of the flooding issues, likely causes, the role of groundwater and recommended further work and potential solutions. There are now four groundwater monitoring bores in the vicinity of The Southern Isle, and water levels are measured manually on a monthly basis. Specialist monitoring equipment and telemetry has been installed and there is now 24/7 groundwater monitoring at The Southern Isle to determine how rapidly watertables rise during storm events or their rate of recovery. This information will be used to determine

COMMUNITY MATTERS

the potential for increased underground storage of stormwater runoff and will also provide a direct alarm to Council Staff in the event of surface flooding.

The stormwater soakage system at the Eastern end of Dungarvon Place is under stress and nuisance surface flooding can remain for a considerable time after storm events. Council's operations staff are looking at the feasibility of providing a minor stormwater connection from the ponding/flooding area into the gravity stormwater system draining. At Success Court primary stormwater disposal will still be by ground soakage, but a minor pipe connection to Success Court would allow any surface flooding to be drained away within a few hours or less.

Council is currently investigating the following stormwater issues:

1. Flooding of properties at The Southern Isle and Ruby Cove
2. Overflowing of swales in the centre of Mangatawhiri Road in Omaha South
3. Ponding, mosquito problems and restrictions to beach access at Pukemateko Reserve and Rahui Te Kiri Reserve in Omaha South.

TSUNAMI PLAN

See separate section

FOOTPATH OMAHA DRIVE

A resident raised this issue at the forum. Previously we have been advised by the Council that due to drainage issues they are not prepared to consider this and previously residents have been divided as to whether this was a project they supported. We do not intend to take any action.

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE: A FOLLOW UP

We reported that OBC had commissioned a detailed report on the condition of the Omaha Beach Club (Community Centre) from Hutchinson Consultants. This identified a number of matters requiring immediate attention and a number that would have to be addressed in the near future.

Because this is not a "commercial" lease external maintenance work that might fairly be felt to be the responsibility of the owner (Auckland Council) is to be paid for out of the maintenance fund built up over a number of years from the levy paid by OBGC. It is the object of the agreements with the Council that the building be maintained in good condition up to the time the current and any future agreement ceases. No separate contribution can be expected from the Council so the fund has to be maintained at a level to meet current and expected outgoings. At the time of writing we have spent well over \$30k principally in repairs to the deck, Chemwashing, repairs to the roof and painting.

It is our intention to prepare an ongoing maintenance programme to determine what work will be required over the next 5 years and based on this to determine the adequacy of the present fund and the level of funding required annually.

The Golf Club have expressed concern for some time about the decor and appearance of the inside of the Club. While the agreement clearly makes them responsible for redecoration The Club have now produced a draft plan that they believe will significantly improve the appearance of the interior and once this is agreed we have advised we will support the programme by contributing up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$10,000.

COMING EVENTS

OBC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday 7th January, 4.00pm

Omaha Beach Club

SURF CLUB AUCTION

Tuesday 3rd January, 6.00pm

Stables Restaurant Matakana Country Park

A & P SHOW

28th 29th January

Showgrounds, Warkworth

HIGHLIFE FESTIVAL

New Years Eve

Matakana Country Park

WHANGATEAU HARBOUR CARE FUN DAY

January 29th 2012

CLASSIC HITS WINERY TOUR

4th and 5th February 2012

Ascension Winery

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Thank you for your support during 2011

I will be on deck during the festive season, so please feel free to invite me around for drinks at any time!!!!!!

ROB HALL

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ENVIRONMENT

MATAKANA WALKWAY

It is hoped to start work on Stage 2 of the project this summer, funding permitting. The next section runs from Jones Rd to Takatu Rd. Costs of \$67k are budgeted with the walkway/cycleway continuing on an easement through the Whitmore's property to Tongue Farm Rd (where Morris and James are the best known residents). Ultimately two further sections will be required, the last including a footbridge over the river and falls area at Matakana. Additionally three sections of track will need to be built on the Jones, Takatu and Tongue farm roads.

Beyond this project it is interesting to hear of a cycleway project linking Leigh, Omaha, Point Wells, Matakana, Warkworth and the Mahurangi settlements, Snells and Algies. A visionary project but at a very early stage

THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST

The spring season is always a busy time at the Omaha sand spit. The godwits arrive from Alaska after their non-stop nine day flight and feed on the Whangateau mudflats. Up to 200 godwits can often be seen resting on the spit during high tides. Dotterels and variable oystercatchers have been nesting since the end of August but so far no dotterel chicks have been observed. We are very concerned that they are being taken by predators as soon as the eggs hatch. Black backed gulls, hawks and cats are suspected. There is nothing we can do about the gulls and hawks as they are natural predators and have always been present. Cats however are a consequence of the nearby human population and we ask that all cat owners take precautions to prevent their pets hunting on the spit. Please keep them well fed and inside at night.

Other predators such as rats, stoats, weasels and hedgehogs are controlled by trapping. Trapping has continued through the winter and as a result catch rates in the spring have been lower than normal. We are continuing to refine our trapping techniques and experiment with trap locations and baits. In order to deal with predators which could swim across from Ti Point we have devised traps which can be located within the nesting areas and not endanger the birds we are trying to protect. The planned new fence will allow much improved breeding success through better control of predators.

We are concerned about the number of birds which have become entangled in fishing gear including one of the best breeding variable oystercatchers which we and DOC were unable to assist and was later found dead. Successful rescues include a pied shag which had a hook through its beak and the trace around its wing and a gannet which had line around its leg and wing. If you are fishing on the spit please be very careful not to leave line, hooks or old bait around and if you do hook a bird do not just cut the line. Recover



Grateful gannet after being freed from fishing line by DOC Ranger Dave Wilson.

the bird and if possible cut and extract the hook. If necessary contact the Department of Conservation (**0800 DOCHOT**).

Visitors will also notice new signage at the spit explaining the importance of not disturbing the birds, particularly during the breeding season from August to January. Dogs are not allowed on the spit at any time and we are please to report that residents are now observing this rule.

HOUSEKEEPING

Just a reminder to residents about some housekeeping matters that are causing problems at Omaha Beach

Dog droppings: Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dogs. However there seem to be some who, having bagged their dog's droppings, leave the bag on the beach or along the walkways. This simply adds plastic pollution to the problem of faecal pollution.

Bait bags: A significant proportion of the plastic rubbish landing on the beach consists of old bait bags which have been thrown overboard by recreational fishers. Boaties should realise the value of protecting our environment. Many sea creatures such as whales, dolphins and turtles die from ingesting plastic which they mistake for food. Please take your bait bags ashore and dispose of them properly.

Bottles and cans: We frequently see empty bottles and drink cans left on the beach, thrown into the sand dunes or simply dropped along the roadsides and walkways. There are ample rubbish bins in the car parking areas for visitors, and residents should take empties home and put them in the recycle bins. The irony is that a person consuming an energy drink does not have enough energy to take the can to a bin!



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WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

Some of you will recall that in 2008 OBC made a submission to the then Auckland Regional Council (ARC) to highlight the exceptional quality of the Whangateau Harbour and the need to protect it from pollution for present and future generations.

An excerpt from that original submission is included below:

“The Whangateau Harbour is now at risk of being similarly degraded (like other harbours in the Auckland Region) if urgent and stringent management of the various polluting sources are not appropriately dealt with.

The Whangateau is considered to be the highest quality remaining harbour on the east coast of the Auckland region. It is a place where the community gathers shellfish (pipis and cockles) without fear of pollution, where you can still see through the crystal clear waters at high tide and see the shellfish on the bed and fish swimming in depths of up to 5 or 6 metres. It is a place where children can safely sail their yachts and swim.

It provides a safe access for all manner of boating and aquatic activities. Most of all it is valued for its sheer intrinsic values that enable enjoyment by all who view or come into contact with its extraordinary qualities.

Present and future generations of the community that enjoy the Harbour and coastal waters in various ways should be able to look forward to the Whangateau and adjacent coastal waters receiving the utmost protection to preserve these natural values into the future.”

The ARC accepted this submission and over the next 3 years put \$250,000.00 into the Whangateau Harbour action plan. The OBC highlighted that while the potential risks to the quality of the harbour are from storm-water, wastewater and sediment discharged, by far the greatest threat is from sediment sources from the surrounding catchment including landslip, erosion, roading and tracking, forest harvesting, quarrying, stream bank erosion and stock access to streams. Support for reduction in all these sediment sources (as number 1 priority) was given in 2008 via community consultation carried out by the ARC.

The OBC pointed out in 2008 that there did not need to be money spent on more monitoring or research to confirm this as more than a decade of water quality monitoring at the harbour mouth confirmed that the quality is virtually as good as at Leigh Marine Reserve. What was needed right now was standard soil conservation techniques being applied throughout the catchment and funds being directed to those activities i.e. “action”. Unfortunately the \$250,000.00 has been spent largely on more reports and not one grain of sediment has been stopped from reaching the Whangateau Harbour.

Ironically one of the ARC funded reports (Review of Marine Environment July TR 2009/003) that reviewed existing scientific information confirms what OBC had pointed out in 2008.

A quote from that report states:

“Whangateau Harbour is arguably the Auckland region’s most valuable mainland estuary.

Unfortunately the natural values of the harbour are being degraded by the cumulative impacts of numerous activities that are carried out in the coastal marine area and in the adjoining catchment. Further degradation is inevitable if preventative and, in some cases, remedial action is not taken.”

And also states:

“The potential consequences of increased sediment run-off are significant, given the value of Whangateau ecosystem and presence of sensitive species. Sedimentation could lead to an increase in mangrove cover, increase muddiness, reduce community and habitat diversity and lead to the direct loss of sensitive species”.

With these findings in their own independent scientific reports it seems incredible that the Council is not putting funds into protecting the Whangateau Harbour and taking some serious action. We need less talk, fewer reports, and more action on the ground.

Under the new Auckland Council regime, OBC again put forward a submission to the 2011/12 Annual Plan pointing out the lack of “action” and sought that significant funds be put into a soil conservation programme to make some serious progress in controlling sediment discharges into the harbour. The result of this submission was a disappointing zero funding. The new Auckland Council appears to be struggling to sort out its priorities and ensure that worthwhile environmental programmes are implemented. At a recent Auckland Council community meeting at Point Wells, Council staff advised that they had no funds to carry out “action” in the Whangateau Harbour catchment. They advised that they are carrying out a desk top exercise looking at land use capability and risk of erosion in the catchment.

Unfortunately the risk of sediment discharges to the harbour that the OBC has been warning the Council about over the past 3 years was highlighted with the 28th January storm this year when 160mm of rain fell in the catchment in 3.5 hours, with a total of 200mm in 7hrs. Large slips in the catchment were observed and the harbour was like a mud pool for at least the following month. That sediment would have put the already impacted shellfish beds under further stress and probably will affect their recovery. Other aquatic life will have undoubtedly also been impacted.

A side effect of this increased sedimentation in the harbour is that it also provides an environment for the mangroves to expand their coverage, which in some areas is unwelcome.

OBC will continue to push for robust action to be implemented so that we can all continue to enjoy the very special qualities of this harbour now and into the future.

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WARKWORTH AREA LIAISON GROUP

A number of reports have been received lately suggesting work normally carried out by local contractors in the Rodney area is being passed over to a central supplier. The following comments were made at a recent WALG group meeting and give further weight to the concerns expressed elsewhere in this newsletter.

“Yes, work has dried up considerably for local contractors. Roading and earthmoving work from government and council has virtually stopped. And for some time now there has been no money made available for capital works. (However the word is that the revenue stream for this work is to start up again very soon.) There has been no notice of any up-coming work given to local contractors. Tenders for some smaller jobs are being offered to, and won by out-town firms and it is suspected that they have cut their pricing hard to get the work, and therefore, in their efforts to still make money on the job, may not do it as well.

The Auckland waste removal issue has also impacted on local contractors and there is the possibility of far greater impact in the future

Local harbour work and maintenance has been taken away from local control, and at least one local worker who has a wealth of local experience from working in this area, has lost his job because it was restructured and centralised to be run from Auckland. This has caused the loss of a lot of local expertise and knowledge of this area. Also gone is the ability to act quickly to situations that arise.

The local contractors have supported the area hugely through sponsorship and local community donations but if they are struggling to get work against out-of-town firms then this source of community support is unaffordable to the companies affected.

The concern is that with the control of local works being centralised, the local contractors may fall off the radar of main contractors who are less likely to know of, or use them. There is also concern that without a local presence in control of what work is done, and when work is done, there will be less work allotted to be done in this region.

WARKWORTH TOWN HALL CENTENARY

Built in 1911 the Warkworth Town Hall recently turned 100. It has a category 1 Historic Rating and over the years has served as town hall, been used for community gatherings, as a theatre, for dances, award nights and movies. RDC were not prepared to spend money on an upgrade and it is uncertain whether the new Auckland Council will feel any more obligated. The costs to bring the old building up to modern standards are large (between \$1.6 and \$2.4m depending on the future use) and presently there is no general agreement on the future use of the property.

KOWHAI FESTIVAL

After earlier concerns that the festival would continue the 2012 festival was a notable success. A \$10k grant from the Lion Foundation and contributions from Pub Charities and Warkworth New World meant a large crowd, particularly on the Huge Day Out which coincided with the a semi final of the RWC. Thousands attended over the festival period and opinion is that it was a great success.

STOCKYARD FALLS DEVELOPMENT IN TROUBLE

The Stockyard Falls property, site of the Mitre 10 Mega (Mitre 10 formerly based in the Warkworth town centre) and to be occupied by Ceratelle in 2012 is for sale. It had been expected that KinderCare and Siteworks Lighting would take space at the site but that is now uncertain. The future of the site as a retail complex must be affected by these developments.

HIGHLIFE FESTIVAL

This is to be held at the Matakana Country Park from 4.00pm Saturday 31 December to 4.00am New Years Day. An impressive number of artists are expected, playing 4 stages, with other attractions including an air show and a fireworks display. The Golf Club are organising the campground across the estuary as they did in 2010 and a large crowd is expected. Camp lots are available for 1 and 3 nights.



Campers at the last New Year event.

THE OAKS-WARKWORTH

161 submissions have been received on this project (reported in the September newsletter). A hearing date is yet to be set

MILLBROOK STATION FOR SALE

This 1050 ha property, one of the largest in private ownership on the east coast north of Auckland, is for sale. The property includes 400ha of covenanted native bush, waterfalls, farm buildings, two homes, an airstrip and a quarry. It has a history going back to 1886 and since 1950 has been owned by the Longuet-Higgins family. It is bounded by Pakiri and Matakana Roads.

ASCENSION 2012

Those taking part in the 2012 Classic Hits Winery tour will be Gin Wigmore, The Mutton Birds and Avalanche City. Gin Wigmore, whose debut album Holy Smoke went platinum was a major winner in last year's NZ Music awards. 2012 is 20 years from the release of the Mutton Birds debut album and 10 years since their last show. The Ascension concerts are on the 4th and 5th of February 2012

LEIGH MARINE CENTRE

The new interpretive centre at the Auckland University Marine Centre featured in the September newsletter has now opened to the public and is very well worth a visit over the summer period especially if you are visiting Goat Island reserve.

At the time of writing the hours were weekends 10 to 4 but hopefully by the time the newsletter is posted opening times will have been extended to 7 days a week (same times. For further information look up Leigh Marine Centre via Auckland University website www.auckland.ac.nz / Faculty of Science / Leigh Marine Visitor Centre.

HILL ST INTERSECTION

No information on any developments or a future work programme.

ANNUAL MEETING

OBC INC COMMITTEE 2011

Office	Name
President	Graham Painter
Vice-President	Merv Dry
Treasurer	Kim Fisher
Secretary	Trish Jackson
Committee	Chris Allan
Committee	Roger Donald
Committee	Glenys McBain
Committee	Lois Chisholm
Committee	Erin Sullivan
Committee	Martin Illott (Resigned)
OBRs Representatives	Steve Marshall Mike Campbell

Co-opted for sub-committees:

Denis O'Callaghan, Cathy Gould
Reviewer – Hayes Knight Audit
Honorary Solicitor – Hesketh Henry
Banker – Bank of New Zealand Ltd
Life Members – Bill Freeth (1997), Judy Crooks (2001),
Peter Jackson (2008).

TREASURERS REPORT

The results and the changes made in the last year to our accounts reporting made in the last year require an explanation.

At the beginning of the 2011 year OBC registered for GST and the 2011 figures are net of GST. Prior to this there was no GST element in our revenues and all costs included GST. The change means the comparative figures for the two years are not strictly comparable. Roughly the revenue and expenditure figures for 2010 should both be reduced by the rate of GST (12.5%). We registered because our revenues had reached the qualifying level.

Other changes to note include the Councils contribution to the security patrol. In 2010 this was set off against costs. The grant has been included in the income figure in 2011. There are also some other minor changes in relation to the treatment of donations.

In 2011 we increased the overall subscription/levy to \$50 inclusive of GST. This has meant that we had to account for GST on income but could claim GST on costs.

The surplus for the year is significantly higher than was expected. When we set the fees for 2011 it was in anticipation that OBC would be making grants toward specific projects. These included

the Taniko Walkway, the Quarry garden and a contribution to the refurbishment of the Omaha Beach Club (Community Centre).

Despite our efforts none of these projects has advanced to the point where any money has been spent although the Club project will be completed by early 2012. A total of \$10,000 has been promised here to match dollar for dollar the amount spent by the Golf Club.

In the 2012 year, regardless of the final outcome of our request for a contribution to the holiday security patrols, our intention is to fund the shortfall from our reserves. It will be recommended by the committee that our subscription and security levies remain unchanged for 2012. It is always nice to have a buffer and given the projects we have in mind I am comfortable with the level of funds held.

The accounts for the Community Centre Maintenance Fund show expenditure on maintenance has increased very substantially in this year. We have reported the programme entered into following the receipt of the Hutchinson report. It is likely that the total spend on maintenance from the Fund over the 2011 and 2012 years will approach \$40,000.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL MEETING OF Omaha Beach Community Incorporated will be held at the Omaha Beach Club, North West Anchorage, Omaha Beach, on January 7th 2012, at 4pm.

BUSINESS:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 3 Jan 2011
4. Receipts of the President's Report for 2011
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31 Oct 2011
6. Confirmation of the appointment of a Chartered Accountant to conduct a Review Engagement for the period ending 31 Oct 2012
7. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2012 Subscription Year as recommended by the Committee
8. Election of the Committee for the 2012 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
9. Receipt of Club Reports - Golf, Bowls, Tennis, Surf Club, Outrigger Canoe
10. General Business

Trish Jackson, Secretary

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OMAHA HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION LIMITED

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ACCOUNTS

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2011

2010		Notes		2011
	ASSETS			
	<u>BANK & DEBTORS</u>			
574	ASB Bank		276	
3874	BNZ Warkworth - Current Accounts		8718	
40642	BNZ Warkworth - Term Deposits	1	60945	
767	BNZ Warkworth - Accrued Interest		648	
2750	Accounts Receivable		4153	
48607				74740
	<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
12854	At Cost	2	12854	
2695	Less Provision for Depreciation		4854	
10,159				8000
	<u>INTANGIBLE ASSETS</u>	3		
100	Database Software		100	
100	Logo Design & Artwork		100	
100	Website Design & Development		100	
300				300
59,066	TOTAL ASSETS			83040
	LIABILITIES			
3281	Accounts Payable		1637	
-	G S T	4	717	
3,281	TOTAL LIABILITIES			2354
55,785	NET ASSETS			80686
	ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
	<u>Made up as follows:</u>			
48078	Opening Balance at 1 November 2010			55785
7707	Plus Surplus from Operations [Deficit]			24901
55785	CLOSING BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2011			80686

The accompanying notes form part of these Financial Statements

For and on behalf of the Committee

President: Graham Painter

Treasurer: Kim Fisher

Date: 27 November 2011

ACCOUNTS

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2011

2010		Notes		2011
\$	INCOME		\$	\$
26475	Subscription Income			24362
18571	Security levy			29800
	OTHER INCOME			
13550	Advertising - Newsletter			15463
1700	Advertising - Website			709
	- Advertising other			2000
4419	Donations Received			-
2091	Interest from BNZ			2121
21760				20293
66806	TOTAL INCOME			74455
	EXPENSES			
	COMMUNICATION			
11188	Newsletter - Printing		10114	
3114	Newsletter - Envelopes & Postage		1410	
	- Signs & Posters		-	
559	Website Maintenance		455	
6536	Database Maintenance		500	
500	Depreciation entry sign		-	
21897				12479
	SECURITY			
	Security Cameras Depreciation	2	2159	
5000	Security Cameras Maintenance	2	4348	
19989	Security patrol costs		25255	
24989				31762
	ADMINISTRATION			
844	Accountants fees		750	
1877	Members Meetings		1395	
228	Bank fees		248	
350	General Expenses		422	
322	Insurance public liability		320	
	- Legal Fees		157	
	- Maintenance Community Centre		510	
1422	Stationery		241	
795	Subscription Notices		634	
	- Taxation on interest earned		636	
5838				5313
6375	GRANTS	4		-
59099	TOTAL EXPENSES			49554
7707	SURPLUS FOR PERIOD			24901

The accompanying notes form part of these Financial Statements

ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE 2011 ACCOUNTS

Omaha Beach Community Inc is an Incorporated Society and is a reporting entity for the benefit of its members. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. They are prepared on the basis of historical cost. Accounting policies have been applied on a consistent basis to the prior year

OBC Registered for GST effective 1 November 2010. Revenues and expenses have been recognised in the financial statements exclusive of GST. All items in the Statement of Financial Position are stated exclusive of GST except for receivables and payables which are stated inclusive of GST

1. BNZ Warkworth term deposits

Interest rate 3.0%/4.8% Mature between November and December 2011

2. Fixed Assets

The security cameras have been replaced in October 2010. The cost of the original installation has already been written off including cabling and other infrastructure which largely remain in place. The maintenance agreement will continue although subject to a review to reflect current operating conditions. The original cost and accumulated depreciation have been removed. Depreciation will commence in the 2011 year. The gateway entrance sign has now been completely written off.

	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net Book Value
Security Cameras	10159	2159	8000
Entrance Sign	2695	2695	-
Total	12854	4854	8000

3. Intangible assets

Three valuable intangible assets were created in 2005 in terms of database Software, the OBC Logo and the Website. We have retained a nominal value for each of these in order that the cost may not be forgotten in future years

4. GST

Omaha beach community Registered for GST effective 1 November 2010.

5. Grants

No grants have been made this year although A grant of up to \$10000 has been offered to the Omaha beach Golf Club to be matched dollar for dollar by the Club on an interior redecoration. It is also intended a grant be made to provide seed capital to the walkway running at the back of the wetlands at the Southern end of the beach.

6. Omaha Park

A recovery of costs was received by the Omaha Park Fund and these monies have been retained against any further attempt to carry on with the proposed sub division.

7. Contingent Liability

The Rodney District Council (RDC) leased the land and buildings forming the Community Centre to Omaha Beach Community (OBC) for a term of 18 years commencing April 2001 at an annual rental of \$1.

Subsequently under a management agreement approved by RDC the Omaha Beach Golf Club (OBGC) took over the management of the centre and the obligations imposed by the lease for the same term.

Included in the lease and incorporated in the management agreement was the requirement to establish a Maintenance Fund to meet future requirements for capital expenditure maintenance and upkeep.

In the event of OBGC failing to meet its obligations under the management agreement there would be a liability for OBC to assume responsibility, financial and non financial.

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ACCOUNTS

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE MAINTENANCE FUND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2011

2010				2011
\$	INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Notes		\$
5000	Contribution from OBGC	1	5000	
1439	Interest from BNZ Term Deposit		1862	
6439	Less spent on Community Centre Maintenance		17100	6862
	Tax on Interest	3	559	
6439	Increase (Decrease) in Fund			17659
55844	Opening Funds at 1 November 2009			-10797
				62283
62,283	ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 31 OCTOBER 2011			51486
	REPRESENTED BY			
11235	BNZ Warkworth - Current Account		7964	
50402	BNZ Warkworth - Term deposit	2	60509	
646	BNZ Warkworth - Accrued Interest		405	
-	GST	3	2421	
62,283				71299
	Less Owing at year end			
	- Suppliers		19254	
	- Taxation		559	
				19813
62,283				51486

For and On Behalf of the Committee

President: Graham Painter
Treasurer: Kim Fisher
Date: 27 November 2011

Background

The Community Centre Maintenance Fund was established under a Management agreement between the Rodney District Council, Omaha Beach Community Inc. and the Omaha Beach Golf Club Inc.

It commenced on 1 April 2000 for 3 terms of 6 years expiring 31 March 2018. The fund is intended to provide monies to pay for capital additions and major maintenance at the Centre and can only be applied for such purpose and with the approval of the three parties.

1. Omaha Beach Golf Club - Contribution \$5000

Under the terms of the Management Agreement the Omaha Beach Golf Club makes a contribution to the Fund of \$5000 per annum in quarterly payments on 1 April, 1 July, 1 October and 1 January.

2. BNZ Warkworth Term Deposits - \$50,403

Interest rate 3.4%/4.8%: mature November 2010/January 2011.

3. Arising from the registration for GST provision has been made for taxation on Interest earned by the Fund.



**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
TO THE COMMITTEE OF
OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INCORPORATED**

We have reviewed the financial statements of Omaha Beach Community Incorporated on pages 1 to 4 for the year ended 31 October 2011.

Our review was carried out in accordance with the Review Engagement Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

A review is limited primarily to enquiries of the organisation's personnel and analytical review procedures applied to financial data and thus provides less assurance than an audit. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the figures reported in the accompanying financial statements on pages 1 to 4 are not fairly reflected.

Hayes Knight Audit

HAYES KNIGHT AUDIT

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

30 November 2011

Hayes Knight Audit
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Level 1, 1 Broadway
Newmarket
Auckland
New Zealand

PO Box 9588
Newmarket
Auckland 1149

T +64 9 550 5910
F +64 9 307 0143
E audit@hayesknight.co.nz
W hayesknight.co.nz



AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF MORISON INTERNATIONAL AND THE HAYES KNIGHT GROUP

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HOLIDAY PATROL

At the time of writing we have been advised that the local Community Board is not prepared to carry on the contribution to the summer patrol programme as had RDC for the past 4 years.

OBC have had only positive feedback about the programme and it seems that membership approval is universal. We experimented with reducing the hours last season. If there were no alarms or incidents and a quiet night was expected the patrol finished earlier. At the same time we extended the coverage to allow a patrol on all the holiday weekends. This enabled us to extend the programme to cover all the holiday weekends. Whatever the council outcome the programme will continue.

TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANNING

An evacuation brochure has been prepared and will be posted to members late December early January. It will be accompanied by an elevation map of Omaha which will show resident the approximate height of their property above mean high water. It is our suggestion that the map and the brochure be kept at Omaha and if not displayed then put on a cupboard-back to be easily available in the event of an emergency. In the following article Denis O'Callahan condensed a comprehensive scientific report concerning the impact of a tsunami on the coastline of the Hauraki Gulf taking into account the possible origins the time line and the likely level of disturbance.

TSUNAMI MODELLING

The OBC has been working with Auckland Council and Civil Defence to prepare emergency plans in case a tsunami wave threatens. In order to understand the risks posed to the Omaha community by a tsunami we have studied a number of reports prepared by NIWA (the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric

Research) and GNS (Geological and Nuclear Science). Tsunami waves are caused by earthquakes, under water landslides and submarine volcanic eruptions which cause the displacement of large volumes of water. It is impossible to predict exactly when and where these events may occur and what the results might be at any specific location. However there is considerable historical and archaeological information about past events and it is possible to use this information to create computer models. Given the magnitude and location of an earthquake the computer models can predict the effect on the coastline of New Zealand. The waves travel at high speed (600km/hour) across the open ocean but slow down and become higher and steeper as they approach shallow coastal water so the computer models require detailed maps of the sea floor.

Historically the tsunamis which have affected New Zealand have originated from four general areas:

- Chile and Peru. A very active seismic zone but provides 12 to 14 hours warning.
- Solomon Sea and New Hebrides Trench. Active seismic zone. 4 to 5 hours warning.
- Tonga-Kermadec Trench. Closest active seismic zone. May be less than 1 hour warning. The computer models considered events in 3 zones, Southern, Central and Northern.
- Unknown source northeast of North Cape. There is evidence that several very large tsunami struck the coast of Northland in the 15th century. These are thought to have originated from under water landslides. Modelling of these events indicates that the effects at Omaha would have been slight.

This chart summarizes the results of the computer modelling for the first 3 sources, giving the rise or run-up of the water above the normal level.

EARTHQUAKE SOURCE LOCATION	EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE	EAST COAST GREAT BARRIER ISLAND	OMAHA BAY	ARRIVAL TIME DELAY, HOURS
Distant				
Chile	Mw 9.0	>1.5m	0.5m	12 to 14
Solomon Sea	Mw 8.5	0.2m	0.2m	4 to 5
Solomon Sea	Mw 9.2	0.5m	0.5m	4 to 5
New Hebrides	Mw 8.5	0.3m	0.3m	4 to 5
New Hebrides	Mw 9.2	1m	1m	4 to 5
Regional Tonga/Kermadec Trench				
Southern	Mw 8.5	>3m	1.5m	Under 1
Central	Mw 8.5	1.5m	0.7m	1 to 2
Northern	Mw 8.5	1.2m	0.7m	2 to 3
Southern	Mw 9.0	>5m	3m	Under 1
Central	Mw 9.0	>5m	3m	1 to 2
Northern	Mw 9.0	2.5m	1.5m	2 to 3

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PROMOTING A SAFER OMAHA



Tsunami surge through harbour entrance.

Another computer model estimated the tidal currents which could be caused by a tsunami. For example a wave originating from an Mw 9.5 earthquake in Chile may cause a run-up of 1 to 2 meters. This would cause tidal currents at the entrance to the Whangateau Harbour and Kawau North Channel of 6 to 8 knots.

Further computer models estimated the extent of inundation on low lying land and the effect of the rise in sea level expected over the next 50 years.

The first sign of an impending tsunami is usually that the tide recedes and then rises rapidly. The first wave is often not the largest and waves may continue every hour or so for up to 24 hours. To ensure your safety it is important to stay away from the beaches, estuaries and channels during this time.

You may also find information on tsunami in the following websites:

<http://www.gns.cri.nz/>

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/>

REMEMBER THE SIGNALS

The sirens were tested the Sunday daylight saving commenced. If you were at Omaha you should have heard them. Reportedly the system worked satisfactorily.

In the case of tsunami the siren system will sound as follows:

ALERT SIGNAL, DASH-DASH-DOT-DOT FOR 15 MINUTES.

- Evacuate beaches.
- Listen to radio or TV for information.
- Prepare to evacuate if required.

EVACUATE SIGNAL, DOT-DOT-DOT FOR 15 MINUTES.

- Evacuate immediately to nearest safe high ground.
- Directions and traffic control measures will be provided.

ALL CLEAR SIGNAL, CONTINUOUS TONE FOR 5 MINUTES.

- Return to home if not affected.
- Follow directions of the emergency services if your area has been affected.

FIRE BAN

Just a reminder that fires on Omaha Beach are permanently banned all year under Council by-law. Additionally the restricted fire season started on December 1.

The following activities are prohibited by this restriction and permits will not be issued for: open air solid fuelled cooking fires/barbeques, braziers, chimeras or charcoal burners in public places and on foreshores, open top non-type approved incinerators, solid fuelled cooking fires/barbeques, braziers, chimeras or charcoal burners when used in an inconsiderate manner on private land.



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CLUB REPORTS

OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB

Email: gm@omahagolf.co.nz New Website
www.omahagolf.co.nz Phone: (09) 422 7551
John Phillis, General Manager

The challenge for the year was to build on our membership and to achieve an ambitious budget. We successfully achieved both, albeit through the tough economic times and the golf industry suffering globally. The attraction of property ownership in Omaha is increasing in interest and in value and we see the improvements to the course and the spirit of members willing to help their golf club as one of the important recreational factors contributing to this phenomenon.

Recent Highlights:

The opening of the new first green and tee blocks on October 7th was another giant step forward in achieving the long term completion of architect Chris Pitman's 2007 plan. The club has expressed sincere gratitude to the Friends of Omaha led by Richard Brabant who helped finance and assisted with the work to create a first hole that is scenic, challenging, and sets the perfect standard to all our visitors that playing Omaha is going to be an enjoyable experience.



Head Greenkeeper Corey Willcox was given the honour of hitting the first shot at the opening of the new first hole

"Respecting the environment" is an essential requirement in maintaining the beauty of our little piece of paradise. The club has recently changed its fertilizer programme to products that eliminate harsh chemicals. We have removed nearly all the phoenix palms, planted more than 1000 native trees through the generosity of Don Turner, Takana Nursery and we have

undertaken an intensive pest plant eradication programme. Better environmental practices now will bring long-term gains to our community.

The club has received assistance from grant funding from both Pub Charity and the NZ Community Trust for irrigation upgrading and the purchase of fertilizer. We are truly grateful for their help.

New Café Operators

We are pleased to welcome Kat Horne and her son Rory. Kat is known to all golfers as our Golf Director and Rory is a very competent cook. They have introduced a menu that is appealing to all. Kat's Kitchen I am sure will prove to be a popular place for summer dining.

Opening Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 3pm Breakfast and Lunch. Friday and Saturday 8am to 8pm includes dinner. Ring 422 7551 ext 2 for orders, reservations and information on extra opening hours.

The Herald is back, available daily together with milk and Kat's free-range eggs.

Golf Shop and summer golf operation:

We will be open daily and recommend booking in advance to save disappointment during our peak season. Ring 422 7551 ext 1. Hire clubs, golf carts, trundlers, clothing, souvenirs and all the basic essentials are available at very reasonable rates. Take advantage of 10-round concession cards 18 hole \$350 9 hole \$250 or a summer membership from Christmas Day through to the end of Easter for \$495 includes affiliation fees. Lost for inspiration for a Christmas gift? I am sure we will have the answer!

Building upgrade:

The exterior chemwash to the building and the replacement of most of the deck are just two of the many significant improvements undertaken by OBC. We express our appreciation and are pleased to join with you in the interior upgrade. The resurfacing of the floor is now complete and it is hoped that the painting will be underway before Xmas. We are both grateful for the generous assistance from interior designer Deb Crowe, Board and Batten Interior Design in Matakana.

Campsite and Highlife NY Concert:

This event is on again this year and the club is providing the campsite facility. Same location at the Rathe farm.

We look forward to your visit over the summer break. Join us for a wonderful game of golf or just relax on the new deck with a wine or a cold beer enjoying some of Rory's fine cuisine.

We wish you and your families a Happy Christmas.

John Phillis

General Manager.

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- Trees that are drought resistant
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- Phase out those imported species!



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CLUB NOTES

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Phone: (09) 422 7022 (club) or 0274 934 811

The club has four rostered patrols which are rotated each weekend.

Minimum patrol hours of volunteer patrols for October/November/ March/April are 11:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

For the months of December/January/February the minimum patrol hours of volunteer patrols are 11.00am to 5.00pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

During the holiday period paid lifeguards provided by the Northern Region will patrol the beach during the week.

Lifeguards will continue using the beach for training, with formal sessions held Tuesday and Thursday nights at the beach as well as Sunday morning. Training has involved swimming and paddling under the watchful eye of coach Loretta Hogg.

By Christmas our lifeguard numbers will be over 40 with a growing number over this age as well!! Those currently sitting their lifeguard exams include local businessman Kevin Porter and local plumber Steve Jones.

A deep trough and sandbar has formed in front of the club over the winter, and a change in water temperature has seen fish eggs and jellyfish in the warmer water.

REMEMBER

- **Always swim between the flags.**
- **Be prepared, Watch out for yourself and others.**
- **Be aware of the dangers.**
- **Know your limits.**

All lifeguards have First Aid Training with a number over 18 years old having a PHEC (Pre Hospital Emergency Care) qualification. The club has Oxygen and AED's (defibrillators) at their disposal during Patrol times and any after hour callouts that are required.

The annual Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Charity Auction Event is happening on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 for the first

time at The Stables Restaurant located at The Matakana Country Park. The charity auction event will be held inside the restaurant, rather than a marquee like previous years. Planning for the event is coming together nicely - It will kick off with happy hour from 6pm, and once again we have to thank Rhys Darby for his support of the Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, he has been able to find time in his busy schedule to be our MC at this upcoming VIP Charity Event.

There is a limit of 150 tickets and we would like our wonderful Omaha VIP Supporters to have first option to these tickets, so get in quick - email kate@omahasurf.co.nz to book tickets. \$100 per person or a table of ten for \$950. The ticket price includes a fabulous three course dinner and a complimentary glass of bubbles upon arrival and of course our favourite comedian MC Rhys Darby. First in, first served! In addition to this a complimentary shuttle service will be provided on the day from the north and south ends of Omaha for those VIP guests with tickets.

Bayleys is the naming rights sponsor once again and in our next Press Release we will be showcasing all other Businesses, Suppliers and Supporters who have participated in donating, funding and/or sponsoring the charity auction and the club itself. The Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club would not be where it is today without the support from you, our sponsors, suppliers and donators - "We are very grateful for all the support we have received although we still have much to do in order to complete the upgrade of the club which is always limited to funds but without the support from our suppliers, sponsors and donators the club would not be where it is today - a huge Thank You to you all. Once the project is completed we look forward to welcoming all our supporters to the clubhouse to

See what a great job has been done by our team of volunteers and suppliers. I know you will be impressed. This facility together with our great team of volunteer guards provides a world class Surf Lifesaving Service and Facility to the community that we can be very, very proud of." John Williams President. If you would like to donate something toward the auction (either a live or silent item) please let Kate know before 20th December - or for more information contact kate@omahasurf.co.nz

John Williams President

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NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS www.omahabeach.co.nz

CLUB REPORTS

OMAHA BEACH TENNIS CLUB

Contact Amanda Brown
seanamanda13@hotmail.com

In December Omaha Tennis Club keys for the 2011/12 season will be available from Kat in the golf office inside the community centre. As the golf office is operating at its peak time between Christmas and New Year please endeavour to renew your membership before that time. It is also possible to get your key directly from me at the email address above. I am in Auckland and can drop one off or post one to reach you in a couple of days. This will ease congestion for the golf office and also simplify the administration side for me.

Amanda Trail and Rachel Clark are returning to Omaha in January to run our Adult Tennis Fit and Junior Coaching Clinic. Details as follows:-

Thursday 12/Friday 13/Saturday 14/Sunday 15 January

- Adults 8.30-10.00am \$20 per session
- Juniors (6-9) years 10.00-11.00am \$10 per session
- Juniors (9-13) years 11.00-12.30pm \$15 per session

These are very popular so please book early and remember our club members have priority!

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB INC

Contacts: Giles Boyd President (4227392);
Brian Franklin (4229899) and
Jim McKinlay (4229063)

These members are always willing to assist anyone interested in using the green. Same old story. We desperately need members and have run successful events for North Harbour Bowls because they say our green is one of the truest and our hospitality is so good. There are bowls available so why not GIVE BOWLS A GO!

CROQUET AT POINT WELLS

The Warkworth & Districts Croquet Club is located in Point Wells, across the road from the dairy. Association croquet is played all day Wednesday, Saturday morning and Monday afternoon; Golf Croquet is played Saturday afternoon, Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. Golf croquet is easy to play and a lot of fun for all the family. If you'd like to try something a bit different come along and have a go! Contact: Margaret Simpson 422 9717 or Neville Fursdon 422 9463.

HARBOURCARE FUN DAY

Whangateau HarbourCare is holding a Harbour Fun Day on Sunday 29th January at the Whangateau Domain, coinciding with the Whangateau Gala Day. High tide is at Midday, so snorkelling in association with guides from Experiencing Marine Reserves will start around 10am and finish around 1:30pm. All gear will be supplied for snorkellers, or you may bring your own. A koha of \$2 for use of snorkelling gear would be appreciated but not essential. There will also be kayak demonstrations and probably instruction and opportunities to try kayaking, courtesy of North Shore Canoe and Kayak. The Whangateau HarbourCare Group is committed to keeping this very special harbour in the best possible condition for the future. We welcome you to join us: residents around the harbour, visitors and harbour friends from around the country. Annual Subscription: \$5 single; \$10 family. Contact: Len Thompson, 09 425 9252; len@ihug.co.nz



Whangateau Sunset.

MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please do check the address we have used to post you the newsletter. We have to be certain that our address list is accurate in order to continue to receive the postal concession. If a correction is needed please call Glenys McBain 021 543348, OBCdatabase@gmail.com

Do we have your email address? Remember we use these details to make contact in the case of an emergency, to pass on valuable information or by reason of a need to contact an individual owner.

If you have not given this detail to us before please reconsider providing it to our database manager
Glenys McBain obcdatabase@gmail.com.



'SHAKESPEARE IN THE VINES'
7pm Friday 6th and Saturday 7th January 2012

Within the grounds of Ascension Wine Estate, Melbourne's Essential Theatre will transform the vineyard to the Sicilian town of Messina, where a comedic plot of love and meddling families unfolds.

Early bird price \$39pp (purchased before 24th December)
Regular price \$49pp • Special – Dinner & Play \$89pp*

Includes buffet dinner served from 6pm plus reserved seating at the ONLY tables at the performance*.
Limited to just 100 places each night.

Full details and tickets at www.AscensionWine.co.nz/comingevents

SO WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS – SEND TO us@omahabeach.co.nz

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



At the top of the Quarry Walk.

RUBBISH/RECYCLE COLLECTIONS OVER XMAS NEW YEAR

REMONDIS: Green Bags will operate as normal ie Monday 26 Dec (Boxing Day) and Monday 2 Jan and every Monday as usual thereafter. Ph 0800 422 477.

MASON: orange bags and Wheelie Bins (Usual Monday collections will be one day late if falls on a public holiday).

Tuesday 27 Dec, Fri 30 Dec – extra

Tuesday 3 Jan, Fri 6 Jan – extra

Monday 9 Jan, Fri 13 – extra

Monday 16 Jan, Fri 20 – extra

Monday 23 Jan, Fri 27 – extra

RECYCLE BLUE BINS: Two collections week. Public Holidays will not affect the collection. Every Monday and Friday starting 26 Dec for four weeks ie:

Mon 26 Dec- normal, Fri 30 Dec – extra

Mon 2 Jan- normal, Fri 6 Jan – extra

Mon 9 Jan- normal, Fri 13 Jan – extra

Mon 16 Jan – normal, Fri 20 Jan – extra

Ph Smart Environmental 09 259 4500

Please make sure:

- plastics are squashed;
- paper/cardboard is flattened and bound/tied securely in manageable bundles;
- use plastic open topped crates as receptacles (NOT beer boxes, plastic bags etc)

ALL BAGS/BINS TO BE KERBSIDE NO LATER THAN 7:30AM ON DAY OF COLLECTION. PLEASE HANG BAGS ON HOOKS/LAMPOSTS OTHERWISE SEAGULLS CAN RIP OPEN BAGS

We will update as information is provided.

The general litterbins will be emptied daily and the skip bin twice weekly over the high summer season. We are looking at a bar on the skip bin to restrict access for the dumping of larger items and we will also review the size of the bin. The bin is for wharf and boat ramp users, not for the dumping of household/commercial waste.

Photos OBC photo library, Denis O'Callahan, Kim Fisher
Editor Kim Fisher



Household Water Deliveries

425 8454

0800 747 928 or 027 556 6111



Purpose built 11,000 litre stainless steel tank

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS www.omahabeach.co.nz