

**Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group,
held at the Emergency Management Operations
Centre, Wither Road, Blenheim on
Monday 11 November 2013
commencing at 9.00 am**

- Present:** Councillor Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Kristen Gerard, Victor Koller, Ron Sutherland, Monyeen Wedge, Ken Roush, Graeme Coates, Ian Mitchell, Rob Schuckard, Tim Greenhough, Lynley Perkins, Poneke Rene, David Hayes, Robin Cox, David Speedy, Rica Salamat, Gerard Malcolm and Councillors David Oddie, Laressa Shenfield and Peter Jerram.
- MDC Staff:** Alan Johnson, Steve Ulrich, Pere Hawes, Linda Craighead, Bruno Brosnan, Richard McNamara and Michelle Stanley (Secretary)
- Apologies:** Roy Grose, Joe Heberley, Rachel Drake, Eric Jorgensen, Linda Booth, Judy Hellstrom, Alec McNeil, Graeme Barsanti

Introductions and Housekeeping

Alan outlined the agenda for the meeting and welcomed everyone. Alan advised SAG that the committee to which SAG reports to has changed to the Regional Planning and Development Committee. Trevor is to be recommended as chairperson for SAG at the first meeting of the Regional Planning and Development Committee to be held in November.

Introduction on the new Marlborough-Kaikoura Rural Fire Authority

Richard McNamara introduced himself to the group and spoke on his background. He spoke on how the structure of the Rural Fire Authority has changed from the old system of four fire authorities to the one fire authority. Richard is the Principle Rural Fire Officer for the whole of Marlborough and Kaikoura. Under him there are four Deputy Rural Fire Officers, John Foley (Marlborough District Council (MDC) Admin Zone), Rob Lawrence (MDC), Brian Paton (Department of Conservation (DOC)) and an unfilled position in Kaikoura. The Deputy Rural Fire Officers are responsible for their own zones.

Last year there were 350 fire incidents varying in scale from small to large. Of those 350 fires only 70-80 were rural. Due to the lack of strong winds last summer these fires were kept well in hand. It is predicted to be similar this year.

Richard spoke about taking responsibility for protecting your own properties, especially Sounds residents. This is due to the very rural and isolated location of the various Sounds communities. He said the fire department's turnaround time is five minutes from the time the siren sounds to out of the station and then travel time is added on top of that. Richard said there is a lot people can do such as keeping guttering clear, keeping driveways clear, adequate smoke alarms, having a firebreak of sorts around your home such as an area of grass surrounding the house, and if building new considering installing a sprinkler system into the home. He said that these things will not stop the house from burning down but will save lives.

Monyeen asked Richard for some information to hand out to home owners, especially holiday home owners. She said there is a very big issue of holiday home owners/guests coming in and lighting unpermitted fires and then leaving the embers hot. Richard pointed out that the Rural Fire Authority can prosecute if she finds this is happening regularly. He also gave the website address - www.mkrfra.com.

Lynley asked who to see for fire permits. Richard replied that she can go either through the Council (who start the process and then hand it over to the appropriate area) or contact DOC directly.

Ron asked if Richard would put together a brochure or handout that they would be able to hand out to their respective Resident Associations. This brochure would outline possible fire threats and what residents can do to protect themselves and their properties.

Rob enquired about the regularity of lightning strike fires. Richard said that lightning was not a high risk in Marlborough because our lightning storms come with rain. Rob said that his house has been hit a number of times and suggested adding a section into the brochure especially for holiday home owners outlining the risk of lightning hitting the houses and the importance of pulling out all appliances from power sockets to prevent surges creating fires.

Richard gave out brochures after the meeting, please contact him for more otherwise go to the Rural Fire Authority website <http://www.mkdfa.com/fire-safety-prevention/reducing-the-fire-risk-at-home/> link for some very good information.

Trevor talked about the lack of young fire-fighter volunteers and Richard agreed that this was a nationwide problem.

Fire prosecution was discussed and Robin pointed out that if someone lights a fire and it gets away on them they pay the bill. Also if the fire brigade is called out to put out a forestry fire the Rural Fire Authority will charge and if a house is on fire the Rural Fire Authority will charge after the first hour. Richard said due to this it very important that each resident has **Rural Fire Protection Insurance** otherwise an individual could end up with quite a large bill to pay. See article <http://www.mkdfa.com/news/27/27/A-salutory-and-costly-lesson-in-fire-prevention/>.

There is also information on the Marlborough-Kaikoura Rural Fire Authority on the MDC website <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/Rural-Fire-Control.aspx>.

Rob enquired about a blueprint for disaster management and Trevor suggested if a community is keen to put together a plan then to contact Richard directly to set something up. Trevor highly recommended doing it. Richard's details are email: Richard.mcnamara@marlborough.govt.nz or phone: 03 520 7542.

Policy Group Update

Pere Hawes, Linda Craighead and Bruno Brosnan joined the meeting to speak on the policy group updates and the resource hearing process.

Marlborough Regional Policy Statement

Pere updated the group on the current progress of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Plan. They have almost completed the draft RPS. Linda has been working through the 30 submissions received on the use of the coastal environment provisions draft package that was made public and has been making appropriate tweaks to the draft provisions. Nothing fundamental has changed or been questioned by any of the submissions. The coastal chapter drew the most comment while water quality, landscape, biodiversity, natural character and public access also ranked pretty high.

Water Quality

Monyeen enquired about rumours regarding central government making changes regarding water quality and whether this was going to hold the Plan up and what is it going to do. Pere answered that he was supposed to attend a briefing regarding this on Friday but unfortunately did not make it due flight difficulties. He did not think that these changes would hold it up as the changes are designed to assist regional councils in setting water quality objectives which they are required to do under the Fresh Water National Policy Statement (NPS) anyway. Monyeen questioned whether they are actually lowering the standards. Pere replied that for each parameter there are four levels of quality that you can select as a community, Bands A to D, for each water body in the community.

Pere spoke in detail on the controversial subject of opportunity for offsets whereby the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) are suggesting that to enable some form of economic development in a pristine catchment you can have a lowering of water quality in that catchment provided you improve the water quality in a catchment that is already degraded. Pere suggested looking at the following article (follow link) for more information <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-announces-next-stage-freshwater-reforms>. Please note that there is a link to a discussion document within this article. **If anyone would like a hard copy of this article please let Michelle know.**

Alan said that Council will be talking with individual communities before deciding quantity and quality levels of the water. There are a few technical issues to iron out. Pere mentioned that MfE have been very proactive in helping local councils sort out these issues.

Landscape

Pere spoke a little about the landscape proposal. Since the July meetings that Council had within the communities on the various landscape proposals, most of the effort has been around undertaking site visits for those landowners that requested a site visit on their own properties. All of those site visits have now been completed and letters to confirm the results of those assessments are due to be sent out in approximately two weeks. Pere has not read the results as of yet but he does know that some of the areas that were highlighted by SAG as being omitted were also checked.

Councillors will have to consider the options that they have for protecting those significant landscapes and make a decision in the New Year.

Kristen questioned what feedback the Council will get from the Council's consultant regarding the peer review of the study. Pere replied saying that this was not a peer review but a technical re-evaluation at the landowners' request. Kristen asked that when the final document is released will they then be able to comment on other issues that have not been looked at. Pere agreed. He said once this has been notified there will be an opportunity to make a submission. He also said that they have already picked up on SAG and community concerns and have put them forward to the consultant to consider. Pere said they are thinking about how to release the results to the public due to the sensitivity of some of the information in regards to private properties.

Kristen asked how the feedback was on the questionnaire on the landscape protection proposal that was sent out to the Sounds residents. Pere said that the response was very good. They sent out approximately 2,700 questionnaires and received about 1,350 back. The results of the questionnaire will be reported through the political process in the New Year.

Natural Character

Council is part of a process by DOC to provide guidance on New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement implementation nationally. These areas of natural character, identification and protection have always been quite strong in Marlborough. Over the last 18 months Council has been working very closely with DOC. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires Council to identify any coastal environments that have at least a high natural character. Pere thanked DOC for all their help with this process.

They have a draft natural character assessment completed and will have to put maps into the RPS to identify the areas. Council hopes to have a product, once it is reported through the committee, which will be available for SAG to look at and consider.

Bottom Trawling and Dredging

Pere touched on an issue regarding a proposal which Council is looking at to regulate bottom trawling and dredging in the Marlborough Sounds. Council are open about the issue and went out into the industry to outline the issues and provided information to industry from both DOC and Council's legal team. The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has been very open and supportive regarding this issue. The focus of this proposal is the method and not whether it is recreational or commercial dredging. At this stage there are only two discreet areas that Council are looking at, Croiselles Harbour and offshore of Ships Cove.

Future Management of Aquaculture

Pere and Graeme have been working with MPI and DOC on future management of aquaculture and a way forward. Those discussions have been constructive and collaborative. The anticipated outcome of this working group is to set some key principles that will guide the review in respective marine farming. This is more about the special allocation of space rather than the method of farming.

Ian expressed concern over the validity of the Plan when it can be challenged and overwritten. Trevor said that this is beyond their control and the best they can do is make the Plan as robust as possible and have as much community input as possible into writing the Plan. Rob agreed with Ian and brought up the cost of these challenges to the community when they have to pay to defend the Plan. Trevor replied that this is out of Council's control as legally people have a right to apply for a Plan change.

King Salmon Update

Two parties were successful in appealing to the Supreme Court. Those two appeals will be heard next week in front of all five Supreme Court judges. This judgement will not delay the RPS. Linda spoke on the bigger implications for planning if this judgement is successful.

Resource Consents Update

Bruno spoke on the topic of modifications to applications for resource consent. The following is a handout tabled by Bruno on the subject:

SAG has provided a discussion document outlining their concerns regarding modifications to specific applications prior to a hearing. They articulate a view that the late modifications:

- Lead to a bias in the information available to the Hearings Panel;
- Provide inadequate time for submitters to accurately assess the changes;
- Presentation of inaccurate information not able to be verified; and
- False perception that a smaller application has lesser effects.

The recommendation of the document is that all modifications be provided to submitters before the hearing.

As a matter of law, the applicant is within their rights to modify the application at any stage up until the closing of the hearing. The only caveat is that the application must remain within the scale/scope of the original application otherwise the application has to be re-notified.

I believe that the SAG members are under the mistaken impression that the Hearing process is merely an adversarial process to provide submitters the opportunity to respond to the application. On the contrary, the process is one of exploration by the hearings commissioner to examine the issues raised by all parties and weigh the potential impacts against the statutory documents. It should be expected that the applicant would address issues raised by submitters and Council which may lead to a modification of the application.

It is my experience that modifications/reductions to applications are only disclosed on the day of the hearing and despite the surprise to all parties, the applicant is within their right to do so. If, on the other hand, the modification is notified to the Council in advance, then it is circulated to all parties prior to the hearing.

I understand the concern of the SAG members but they are not alone as the last minute changes affect all submitters and Council. The Council Section 42A report is based on the original application and is provided to the applicant (and submitters) at least five working days before the hearing. This report, outlines Council concerns, paraphrases the submissions and provides a recommendation to the decision maker. It is expected that the applicant will address the issues raised in this report and it is assumed that many of the issues raised will be negated at the hearing through changes and modifications to the application.

My only advice to the members is to focus on the issues that raise concern but be prepared for engagement on these issues which may lead to the applicant reducing scale and intensity.

Trevor asked if Council can do anything to mitigate the last minute changes. Bruno said that Council can only legally make recommendations. They have been trialling pre-mitigation of evidence before the hearing but timelines are not allowing this.

Monyeen asked if the committee can legally direct the applicant to do a prehearing. Bruno replied that they cannot as there is a cost to the applicant to do this therefore they cannot force the applicant to do so.

Kristen expressed concern that the last minute downsizing/changes to the application has become a tactic and is becoming commonplace. Bruno felt that the industry was recognising that it is better to listen to the submitters, reduce their plans and try to find a common ground.

Bruno said that submitters can ask the decision maker/committee for more time to consider new evidence. Ken said that he has done this and has been denied each time.

Ken felt that the issue at hand is getting caught with out of date information. He said it is hard in a hearings situation to absorb the new information and come up with a valid opinion when asked for one. He felt there was also room for misunderstanding the changes as there has been no time to sit down and study them.

Bruno suggested stating in the submission that even if the applicant reduces in scale or intensity that it would still be too much because of said reasons.

Rob felt that there is little understanding of the cumulative effect of all these individual applications. He referred to the Overview of Ecological Effects of Aquaculture (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications.aspx>) by MPI. Rob is concerned about the fact that each application is assessed on its own merits. He stated that although these consented resource consents maybe only a small increase, they are on top of what is already there. He felt this is an illogical step in the whole resource consent process. Pere said looking at the big picture the current zonings in the Plan makes some judgement about cumulative effects. There is a zone which you can apply for and a zone which you cannot. He feels that there will be more certainty for all parties out of the process of which Pere and Graeme are involved with in terms of available space. He said in this process there will be an opportunity for submissions.

Graeme said that they are learning to deal with the effects better and part of the on-going management plan for the next 3 years is to adjust farm lines etc. accordingly. He felt that the spatial and productivity issues were being mixed. He said productivity is not controlled by Council. The spatial issue he feels is interesting as there are zones, as mentioned earlier, and there are rules for farms within those predetermined zones such as how close they can be. He said that the Council sets the maximum number of lines on a farm but the farmer can install less, this was a common sense issue. Graeme said that he does not see any problems with reducing the farm within the already predetermined coastal zones but does agree with Ken on the personal issues that he has to go through during these hearings.

Bruno mentioned that there might be a change within the Resource Management Act (RMA) in regards to evidence being circulated prior to the hearing which may curtail some of these problems but the applicant would still be able to turn up to the hearing with modifications.

Ken asked Ron directly whether there is a problem with these last minute changes from the applicant. Ron said that they have tried to do consultation with groups and individuals before the hearing but he said he tended to find people are entrenched in their view and do not get any change. He felt that applicants do take on board what the submitters say and that is where you see change at the hearing.

Pere suggested being proactive and stating in the submission that you have issues with the proposal and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these directly with the applicant prior to the hearing.

Moorings in Anakiwi Bay

There is an issue with large boat moorings popping up within the bay and taking up a large space. Victor is concerned with the management of these moorings. Victor has been challenging individual consent applications. Linda said that they are relying on the Outcome 21 plan change to see if a mooring management area can be implemented. Alan queried whether resources would be needed for this management area and Linda said that they will if the plan change is implemented.

Pere suggested putting forward the issues and an outline of what moorings are already there and submit to the plan changes. Linda also suggested talking to the Harbour Master regarding options.

Aquaculture Best Practice Guidelines

Steve Ulrich presented to the group the Best Practice Salmon Farm Management Guidelines for Marlborough. Please see attachment for presentation. The link to the Social License to Operate is <http://sociallicense.com/measure.html>.

A reminder that the dates for the public talks by Professor Black are Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December (see attachment for times and places). Please let your respective Resident Associations know and encourage public attendance to these talks.

Alan asked Graeme for his help and suggestions regarding the goals. Graeme agreed to help.

It was agreed that SAG would put together a small subcommittee to assist New Zealand King Salmon, Cawthron Institute, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research and Ministry for Primary Industries. It was agreed that Rob, Eric, Monyeen and Kristen would be the subcommittee. Rob and Eric are to attend the workshop in early December and will be attending as SAG representatives. Steve and Alan will liaise directly with the subcommittee.

Kristen suggested SAG sends a message of appreciation and support to Council for appointing Steve. It was unanimously agreed.

Presentation on Drinking Water Standards

David Speedy presented to the group on the subject of drinking water standards (please see Drinking Water Standards attachment). He also tabled a document answering Linda Booth's questions on the standards. Rica, who is the Drinking Water Assistance Programme Facilitator, has templates and information available to anyone who has to establish a water supply or upgrade their current situation. Please email rica.salamat@nmdhb.govt.nz for further information. *[Prior to the meeting Rica sent an email to Michelle with further information on this topic. This was sent out prior to the minutes]*

There was discussion on the problem of mesh blocks which are the zones that central government have put New Zealand into for funding etc. Unfortunately the whole of Marlborough is considered to be rich and will not receive any funding for water schemes. This is being protested by David but he asked that SAG contact the local MP and put a case forward.

It was agreed that SAG would put together a proposal for Mayor Sowman regarding the zoning of Marlborough as a rich area so that the outlying communities might get some funding help.

David is available for questions via david.speedy@nmdhb.govt.nz or phone 520 9892.

Presentation on Whataroa Forest Logging and Permission to Use Public Roads

Gerard Malcolm spoke to the group regarding the application for permission to use public roads for Whataroa Forest logging. Please refer to the document "Summary of Application for Permission to Use Public Roads for Whataroa Forest Logging".

Gerard estimated that out of the approximate 300,000 total tonnage, approximately 30% (100,000) of the logs will go out via the public roads.

It was suggested that they give something to Council for the use of the public road.

Gerard said that they are proposing to have a meeting with all the affected parties to get everyone's view points and address any concerns. He also said that they will have larger setbacks off the foreshore if they are to replant.

DOC Update

The new structure began operating on 2 September 2013 and it would be true to say that it is still bedding down. The last report listed the names of people no longer working in the Sounds. The more senior people remaining are; Roy Grose, Conservation Services Manager, Phil Clerke, Senior Ranger, Biodiversity (formerly there were two program managers; Threats and Assets) and Margot Ferrier, Senior Ranger, Recreation (replaces Mark Nelson, Program Manager, Recreation).

In addition two partnership rangers are based in Picton, Robin Cox, previously Community Relations Program Manager, and a new appointee Wendy Sullivan, who transferred from South Canterbury. The Partnerships Manager for Marlborough, including St Arnaud is David Hayes, previously the South Marlborough Area Manager.

The field staff remain unchanged although the two hunters now report to South Marlborough.

Tennyson Poison Operation

This operation took place on the 2 November after a great deal of negotiation and waiting for suitable weather. In addition to the normal conditions the following conditions were required to remove the objection from the Pelorus Protection Inc:

1. Operation not to occur during Labour Weekend;
2. No baits closer than 15 metres from the coast; and
3. No bait to be dropped within 20 metres of the Nydia Track.

Unfortunately a helicopter bucket was dropped and could not be used further. This may help explain why some baits were found on the Nydia Track as the experienced pilot could not continue to be involved. Staff were on hand to remove any baits that may have been deposited on the track but not before some supporters of the Pelorus Protection Inc found them. At a sowing rate of 1 kilogram per hectare this means there are 166 by 6 gram baits per hectare or one bait per 60 square metres.

In the Ship Cove operation there was no exclusion zone around the Queen Charlotte Track which is a more popular track than the Nydia. Certainly staff removed any baits from the track.

There will be investigations into the reasons why the baits were spread onto the Nydia Track.

Yellow Head Transfer

Thanks to the sponsorship of Blacks Fasteners, 31 yellow heads were transferred from the Blue Mountains, near Tapanui, to Blumine Island in early October. This was done in two stages with no complications. Iwi from Southland and locally (Te Atiawa) were involved in the transfer.

Te Kopi

With the demise of the Pelorus Sanctuaries the land holdings were sold off. A previous manager, Mark Pengally, purchased the headland property called Te Kopi, farmed in previous times by a portion of the Shand family. Earlier investigations indicated high worm counts which is great for Kiwi.

Arrangements are in place to construct a predator fence across the narrow neck and then eradicate the predators. When this is complete Kiwi and Takahe will have a safe haven, although predator control will have to continue. With Maud, Tui Nature Reserve and Te Kopi, this portion of the Pelorus is becoming a mecca of protected areas.

Mistletoe Bay

This eco village continues to be recognized as a fine example of community achievement. After winning the supreme award at the Marlborough Environmental Awards they were the regional winners at the Trust Power Awards. They will now have an opportunity to present their story at the national awards in Invercargill in the New Year. In the 10 years that they have been formed, the Trust has achieved much for the benefit of Marlborough youth.

The Trust is celebrating 10 years of its existence on the 23 November 2013.

Maud

Predators seem to be a common theme in the Sounds. Mice have been found on Maud and from their wide distribution they may have been present for a while. It is unknown at this time how they got there. Apart from attempting to protect some species at risk, frogs and striped gecko, it is likely that a major toxin application will be undertaken next winter when food is less available.

The dates for the summer trips to Maud have been established and the operator, Gary Orchard of Pelorus Tours, has agreed to take several volunteers from Kaipupu as a reward. These trips will run on the 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 January 2014 subject to sufficient numbers, which has been dropping in recent years.

Kaipupu

Volunteers are busy monitoring for predators and are unfortunately finding mice in larger numbers than anticipated. A sustained effort will be required to remove them. They have been fortunate to get over \$43,000 in funding to help in this task.

Campgrounds

The completion of the landscaping at Kenepuru Heads and Cow Shed Bay is underway after the building of new toilets and shelters. Some person thinks they have a greater need of the fuel than we have as fuel has been removed from the plant on several occasions. The quest for camp ground hosts is underway for the more popular sites of Cow Shed, Kenepuru Head and Camp Bay.

Capital improvements have started at Momorangi with the building of an additional toilet and an extended deck fronting the shop. A new vehicle bridge across the stream upstream of the road bridge is yet to be started.

Planning is underway to utilize the Kathmandu sponsorship at Momorangi.

Tracks

The high winds have created lots of windfalls on the Nydia and Pelorus Tracks. These are yet to be cleared as priorities elsewhere have occupied staff.

The Queen Charlotte Track does not appear to have suffered from the winds and there are no reports of problems.

Linked Pathway

A trust has been formed to progress this great initiative. They are now on the road for funds to allow development. In addition to the regular assistance received from Outward Bound, recently an Air Force contingent helped to clear vegetation. The Sounds Restoration Trust will be removing some large pines, that were poisoned and are a threat to the track, in the near future.

Wilding Pines

Most of the Sounds Restoration Trust activity over the recent past has been planning for this summer's work. There has been some work above the French Pass Road paid for by Marlborough Roads but facilitated by DOC.

Private land owners have been active in North West Bay using chemical supplied by DOC. Another landowner in Nydia bay will be controlling pines later in November using chemical and drills supplied by DOC.

David to provide the link for review and factsheets on 1080 to distribute to SAG who will distribute to the Resident Associations. Please refer to <http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/all-publications/evaluating-the-use-of-1080-predators-poisons-and-silent-forests>.

Ticks in the Sounds

Kristen tabled an information sheet outlining what ticks are and who they can affect (please find attached). She has had severe cases with her dogs being infected and wants to get the message out that ticks are out in force at the moment.

Kristen asks that members contact their communities, farmers, hunters and anyone else who might be out and about in rural Marlborough and bring this to their attention.

If you have an infestation of ticks on your animals then contact your local vet. Frontline will hold them at bay. It was noted that ticks overseas carry Lyme disease which can be very damaging for Humans but this disease is currently not present in New Zealand. They can also carry an animal disease (Theilaria) which is only in the North Island at present.

Alan will pass this information on to the Council Animal Control.

[Prior to the meeting Kristen suggested going to the Vet Centre Marlborough's website to read the November newsletter containing information on ticks – www.vetmarlborough.co.nz.]

MDC Update

Styela Clava

Alan spoke to the group on the incursion of Styela Clava. There was a meeting held on this issue and it was agreed that the approach to this incursion will be a containment and spread reduction approach with an increase of education to all recreation and commercial boat owners. There will be an exit strategy built into the management plan of this approach if Styela makes it into the Sounds. There were two surveys done this year, in the first survey there were 100 specimens found and in the second only 12 were found. There will be two dive surveys per year on-going. MDC, MPI and Industry are moving to split the \$18,000 per year cost three ways. MPI has already pledged their support and funding, MDC is yet to make a decision and Industry is currently in negotiations.

For more information on Styela Clava please see:

www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz – Top of the South Partnership.

www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz – A MPI funded website holding a load of marine pest information for New Zealand.

Wasp Management

They have found a new mite that may be able to be used as a tool against wasps. It is currently being tested. There is currently no program for control for wasps but if you wish to kill the queen wasps then fly spray or swatting them is the best approach.

General Discussion

Sounds Advice Newsletter

Kristen said that she has had positive feedback from the newsletter but the size of the PDF needs to be reduced as it is too big to send out. Michelle has talked to Peter regarding this issue.

Ecological Report

If you have any comments on the ecological report that was sent around last meeting then please forward on to Steve - Steve.urlich@marlborough.govt.nz

Complaint

Peter spoke of a complaint letter from a holiday home owner regarding forestry activity making a mess of the roads. Kristen said that MDC Compliance Officers had visited the area and sorted the issues out. The complaint was made after a lot of rain and compounded by lack of road maintenance.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held in Port Underwood, place TBC, on Monday 24 February 2014.

**Agenda items should be sent to
Kay Leach (e-mail kay.leach@marlborough.govt.nz) or
by Friday 7 February 2014.**

Action	Responsibility
Kristen asks that members contact their communities, farmers, hunters and anyone else who might be out and about in rural Marlborough and bring the tick infestation to their attention.	Everyone
Alan to pass information on to the Council Animal Control regarding ticks	Alan
David to provide the link for review and factsheets on 1080 to distribute to SAG who will distribute to the Resident Associations. Please refer to http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/all-publications/evaluating-the-use-of-1080-predators-poisons-and-silent-forests .	David, Everyone
Kristen suggested SAG sends a message of appreciation and support to Council for appointing Steve. It was unanimously agreed.	Alan
Alan asked Graeme for his help and suggestions regarding the goals. Graeme agreed to help.	Graeme
A reminder that the dates for the public talks by Professor Black are Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December (see attachment for times and places). Please let your respective Resident Associations know and encourage public attendance to these talks.	Everyone
If you have any comments on the ecological report that was sent around last meeting then please forward on to Steve - Steve.urlich@marlborough.govt.nz	Everyone